

St. Joseph Catholic Church

109 Linden Street
Saint Johns, Michigan 48879-1837
(989) 224-8994
Fax: (989) 224-3475
www.stjoecatholic.com
stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com

Peace

Advent

ALL ARE WELCOME!

St. Joseph is a place of refreshment, peace and love, a place of ministry and renewal. We welcome you to be part of our faith community where the Word of God is proclaimed, friendship is offered and the Sacraments are celebrated.

Pastoral Care

Fr. Michael Williams
Deacon Marv Robertson (retired)
Deacon Jerry Fust
Deacon Eric Elstro

Worship

Music • Jeff Richards

Parish Life

Parish Council • Dick Weller
Finance Council • Scott Dzurka
Parish Secretary • Judi Thelen
Business Manager • Susan Mahoney
Maintenance • Dave Klein

Family Ministries

Marriage Preparation • Fr. Michael Williams
Baptism • Please contact the parish office
St. Joseph School • Chris Wells
Religious Education • Jen Nelson
Confirmation • Jen Nelson
RCIA • Amanda Grigar
Youth Group • Chris Groves
Please call the parish office for more information on our Family Ministries.

**Medical Emergencies requiring an
Anointing of the Sick, please call 989-227-1244.**

St. Joseph School: (989) 224-2421

Religious Education Office: (989) 224-8537

Regular Mass Schedule (See page 2 for locations during the church renovation)

Saturday • 5:00 p.m.

Sunday • 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

(Holy Days • Consult the bulletin.)

Sacrament of Reconciliation (in the Day Chapel)

Tuesday • 6:30 p.m.

Saturday • 4:00 p.m.

Prayer Tree

Parish Office: (989)-224-8994

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Mondays at Noon for the following weekend. Send to stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com



THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday • December 5

Isaiah 35:1-10/Luke 5:17-26

No Mass

Tuesday • December 6

Isaiah 40:1-11/Matthew 18:12-14

7:00 p.m. Mass (in the Day Chapel)

†Roger Dershem By: Charlie and Lisa Wieber

Wednesday • December 7

Isaiah 40:25-31/Matthew 11:28-30

12:05 p.m. Mass (in the Day Chapel)

†Deceased members of the Simon and Martin

Family By: Roy and Joann Simon

Thursday • December 8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Genesis 3:9-15, 20/Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12/Luke 1:26-38

8:30 a.m. Mass (in the Wilson Center)

†William Parker By: Brian and Deb Szpont

6:00 p.m. Mass (in the Wilson Center)

†Doris Orson By: Family

Friday • December 9

Isaiah 48:17-19/Matthew 11:16-19

8:30 a.m. Mass (in the Day Chapel)

†Brent Shelton By: Knights of Columbus #3281

Saturday • December 10

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11/Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass (in the Wilson Center Auditorium)

†Agnes Brown By: Dick and Judy Bellant

Sunday • December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10/James 5:7-10/Matthew 11:2-11

8:00 a.m. Mass (in the Wilson Center Auditorium)

People of the Parish

10:00 a.m. Mass (in the Wilson Center Auditorium)

†Dave Motz By: Loving Family

12:00 p.m. Mass (in the Wilson Center Auditorium)

†Ronald and Elaine Pung

By: Mark and Diane Armbrustmacher

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish (in the Day Chapel)

THE SANCTUARY LAMP
WILL BURN FROM DECEMBER 4 - DECEMBER 11
IN MEMORY OF
GERALD AND BEATRICE (MOTZ) JORAE,
PARENTS TO CHRISTINE KURN CZ

Parish Office Hours

Monday- Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to noon
1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. to noon
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Rest in Peace

Our prayers and sympathies
to the family and friends of

Brent Shelton and Dale Kraus

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



"The Heavenly Father has spoken one Word, it was His Son. And He speaks it eternally in an eternal silence. And it is in silence that It can be heard by the soul."

St. John of the Cross

Exposition will be in the Day Chapel during renovation.

It can be difficult to find moments of silence in our busy world, especially during the Advent season. Stop by our chapel for some quiet time and listen to what the Word Made Flesh would like to say to you.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for our parishioners and their families, especially:

Adam
Beverly
Sawyer Ballinger
Daniel Blair
Bob
Joan Bozung

Carol Burgtorf
Joseph Caudy
Jacob Epling
Friend
Marcia Goerge
Korine
Mary
Matthew
Myah
Noah

Danielle P.
Patricia
Jenny Pytlowanyj
Jerry Schafer
Donna Smith
Jason Thelen
Jeff Wadell
Brad Walker
Millie Wassa
Fr. Don Wieber

Please pray for our parishioners in the service, especially:

Bryce Bongard
William Hess
Jake Hoskins
Jacob Longoria
Eric Martin
Jessica Mitchell

Colby Munger
Adam Novak
Alex Rojas
David Seperic
Noel Smith II
Joshua Szpont
Jordan Van Amburg
Jacob Wells

To add or remove a name from the

bulletin prayer list, please call: 989-224-8994 or email Stjosephchurchst-johns@gmail.com

***Please note: only immediate family members may add names to the bulletin prayer lists.**



**WE ARE ALL
EVANGELIZERS**
(and whatever else is on
Deacon Eric's mind)

CRAZY JOHN

We started Advent last week with St. Paul and Jesus telling us in the Sunday readings that those who are sleeping need to "wake up" and those who are awake must continue to stay awake. That message was to get (and stay) prepared for the Second Coming of Christ. Today we get an earful from John the Baptist about repentance. And to say he doesn't mince his words would be an understatement.

In the streaming TV series "The Chosen", John the Baptist is called "Crazy John" by Simon (Peter); and as he is presented in the series, one can see why that nickname is fitting. Today's gospel does nothing to dispel that. When confronting Pharisees and Sadducees, he calls them a "brood of vipers" -- an especially deep insult since it is known that viper babies eat their way out of their mothers, killing the mother in the process.

The accusation was about as low as one could go.

There is no biblical confirmation that Jesus and John had any conversations as their ministries developed, but the writers of "The Chosen" did present an interesting possibility of them meeting for a short while. From their conversation, John is pictured as a wild bull willing to charge into situations, and he tries to put Jesus in that mode as well. John thinks Jesus is just going too slowly, but Jesus tells him that he has a longer range plan of ministry to follow. Again, this is a writer's perception of what might have happened but likely paints a good picture of their personalities. "Crazy John" was a "stir things up right now" kind of guy, while Jesus was a "in due time" kind of guy. In the end, Jesus assures him that before his ministry would end he would do plenty of stirring up.

So "Crazy-John" is the prophet I see when I read today's gospel, but his message to "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" is spot-on. We too often look at the month of December as a Christ-

mas-prep period instead of seeing the season of Advent for what it is -- a spiritual preparation for meeting the Lord at the end of our lives. To be prepared we have to cleanse our souls. That means repenting -- confessing our sins and changing our ways. John's call today is not to a simple purification but to a conversion to a new life in Christ.

The Baptizer's words to the Pharisees and Sadducees were extremely sharp. But his warning to us at the end of today's gospel is just as pointed. He tells us that every tree that bears good fruit will be thrown into the fire. He's even more descriptive when he says that after God separates the wheat from the chaff, the chaff will "burn in an **unquenchable** fire."

The message today is clear--repent. We need to strive toward producing good fruit. And true to "Crazy John's" personality, we need to start "right now."

Deacon Eric

deaconeric@hotmail.com

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
THE 9TH ANNUAL **ST. JOSEPH'S
FEAST & RAFFLE**

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| | DECADES OF DISTINCTION | |
| | ST. JOSEPH COMETS | |
| | THE BEST OF EACH ERA | |

**SAVE
THE
DATE** **SATURDAY
MARCH 18, 2023**

MORE INFORMATION TO COME. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATION*



If you would like to make a donation of any amount towards our Christmas Poinsettias in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please use the form found below. Place in your red Christmas flower envelope.

Donated by: _____

In memory of (For the deceased)

In honor of (For the living)

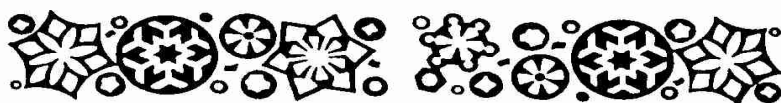
Please return to the parish office by **Monday, December 19th** to be included in the memorial list.

**Donations received in excess of flower costs will be applied towards decorations and other liturgical expenses.*

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:
Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary
Thursday, December 8
at 8:30 a.m.* and 6:00 p.m.
both Masses will be celebrated at the
Wilson Center Auditorium

**Our school students will be at this Mass so there will be limited seating for other parishioners.*

Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and ushers will be needed at the 6:00 p.m. service. Please call or email the parish office if you would be able to serve.



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT

The children of St. Joseph School is having their December service project go towards collecting for Toys for Tots. With Advent and the holiday season just around the corner, they are again reminded of the need to keep the focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

If you would like to be a part of this event, gifts would need to be returned to the school by **Wednesday, December 7th.**

Please go to this website:

<https://www.voiceforclintoncountychildren.org/toys-for-tots.html> to look at some of the specific wish list items.



St. Joseph Catholic School LUNCH MENU

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 5, 2022

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Menu is subject to change, based on food availability from suppliers.

Monday: Macaroni and cheese, pretzel, broccoli, fruit, and milk.
 Tuesday: Grilled cheese sandwich, loaded bake potato soup with crackers, fruit, and milk.
 Wednesday: Pigs in a blanket, tator tots, fruit, and milk.
 Thursday: Sloppy joe on a bun, french fries, fresh fruit, and milk.
 Friday: Cheese stuffed breadsticks with dipping sauce, corn, fruit, and milk.

Lunches are \$3.25

Milk \$0.50

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

December 10/11

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| Altar Servers | 5:00 p.m. | Group 1 |
| | 8:00 a.m. | Volunteers |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Volunteers |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Group 1 |

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

| | |
|------------|---------|
| 5:00 p.m. | Group 1 |
| 8:00 a.m. | Group 1 |
| 10:00 a.m. | Group 1 |
| 12:00 p.m. | Group 1 |

| | | |
|----------------|------------|---------|
| Lectors | 5:00 p.m. | Lisa W. |
| | 8:00 a.m. | Rich H. |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Jane M. |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Dawn L. |

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|---------|-----------|
| Ushers | 5:00 p.m. | Dave P. | Group 5C |
| | 8:00 a.m. | John T. | Group 8D |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Jim S. | Group 10A |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Ron D. | Group 12A |

Collection Counters

December 12 • Group 2

Sanctuary/Day Chapel Cleaners

On hiatus until after renovation

STEWARDSHIP

For the weekend of November 20, 2022

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Adults (175) Envelopes/Gifts: | \$19,398.10 |
| (Including online giving) | |
| Loose Cash: | \$630.00 |
| Total: | \$20,028.10 |

For the weekend of November 28, 2022

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Adults (160) Envelopes/Gifts: | \$11,772.98 |
| (Including online giving) | |
| Loose Cash: | \$472.27 |
| Total: | \$12,245.25 |

Other Gifts Received

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Education Trust Fund: | \$25.00 |
| Building Fund: | \$120.00 |
| Tuition Scholarship Fund: | \$25.00 |

Our weekly average since July 1, 2022 is \$17,321.02. If we continue to keep this average, we will not meet our budgeted goal.

THE CHILDREN'S COLLECTION

The Children's Collection will be donated to:

ST JOHNS BABY PANTRY

The Giving Tree

This Advent you have the opportunity to participate in **THE GIVING TREE project**. If there are any ornaments left, they will be available on the table at the main entrance of the Wilson Center Auditorium. Each ornament has an item that you can provide for someone in need.

Your responsibility is to bring the wrapped gift, marked with the name and number found on the ornament, and return on either December 3/4 or December 10/11 to the Wilson Center.

Please remember that the gift you provide is often the only gift the person receives. In past years over 200 individuals from Hazel Findlay, Safe Center, Eureka House, and Forgotten Man Ministries have benefited from the generosity of St. Joseph parishioners.

Please return monetary gifts to the parish office or place in the collection basket.

Due to our church renovation, donations will **ONLY** be accepted before and after weekend Mass on December 3 and 4, and December 10 and 11. The deadline for donations will be **no later** than December 12, 2022.



If you can help with sorting or distribution, please call the church office.

When . . .

will we be back in our own building for Mass??

Work is moving along on our worship space renovation, but occasional glitches have affected the schedule. As of last week, the estimated date for our contractor to be done is the middle to the end of January. When we return to the church, there may still be small items we're waiting on, but the biggest thing that won't be finished are the new pews. Those are scheduled to be installed in early February.

We're sorry that we won't be able to celebrate Christmas in our worship home, but we're excited about the changes you'll see just a few weeks later when we return to our beautiful building.

Renovation Prayer

St. Joseph, patron of craftsmen, through your intercession may the Holy Spirit guide all who work to renovate our worship space.

May God provide them the grace to safely transform our historic faith home into a lasting, beautiful, and welcoming place of worship.

St. Joseph, patron of families and our parish, be with us as we undertake this journey together.
Amen



Christmas Caroling

Knights of Columbus invite parish members of St. Joseph Catholic church to join them for Christmas Caroling at Hazel I. Findlay on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Please arrive by 6:45 p.m. in the lobby and dress in holiday attire. Songbooks will be provided.



PARISH VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

The St. John Knights of Columbus would like to create a Veteran's Memorial for the front of St. Joseph's School near the flag pole.

Please submit names of any member of the parish that is or has been in the military to Mike Huhn either by phone or text (517)230-8509.

The deadline is December 9, 2022.

Are You or Someone You Love Struggling with Same-Sex Attraction?

Courage is a group of Catholics who experience same-sex attractions and who are committed to helping one another to live chaste lives marked by prayer, fellowship and mutual support. Our members are guided by caring priest chaplains who offer reconciliation and direction for the spiritual life. Encourage is a group of family and friends of those who have loved ones struggling with same-sex attraction. It is a way to gain greater understanding of what your loved one is going through and how you can best support them.

There is currently a chapter of Courage and EnCourage in the Brighton area. If you are interested in either ministry please call (517) 342-2440

From Fr. Mike:

The Importance of Mass

If I can't receive Communion because I have not been to Confession, or am living in a manner than I know the Church teaches is mortally sinful, do I still have to attend Mass?

Yes. The obligation still applies even if you may not receive Holy Communion. Besides, at Mass we are in a place to hear God's word proclaimed, and to receive the graces of conversion that the Holy Spirit bestows in the community worship. The celebration of the Mass is important for all because we are in the community of the Church where we are loved, and where great spiritual things happen. If we stay away, we make it impossible for these things to happen. Maybe that's where God wants us so that He can communicate a special grace for conversion to us.

What is the Prayer Tree?

The Prayer Tree is an organized group of individuals who pray for our parish family. Prayer requests are confidential and are not shared with anyone outside of the prayer tree members. Parishioners can add their prayer requests for themselves, family members, or friends by contacting the Parish Office at 989-224-8994. The prayer request will be passed on to the prayer tree participants within one business day.



The prayer list published in the bulletin is not the same as the Prayer Tree.

To add an immediate family member to the bulletin prayer list call the office 989-224-8994.

Do you feel called to serve your parish in a quiet, but important way?

We are in need of parishioners to visit our homebound serving as extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers. Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers serve as an important link between our parishioners who gather together for Mass and our parish family members who can't join us for the Eucharistic Celebration. If you are interested in this very special ministry, please call the parish office.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Friday, December 9, 2022

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

St. Mary Cathedral
219 Seymour Ave Lansing

The Diocese of Lansing is hosting its first annual Diocesan "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" to commemorate Mary's Immaculate Conception and the anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral. The Diocesan combined choir from local parishes will sing sacred choral works by Rachmaninoff, Biebl, and other composers; hymns; and other treasures of the Church's inestimable musical tradition.

This event is a wonderful way to dive deeper into the inseparable mysteries of Mary's Immaculate Conception and the Incarnation of Jesus in the God made flesh at Christmas. This is sure to be a profound spiritual event. **Please consider attending and supporting this major musical event of our fellow parishes and our Diocese.**

You can sign up for FORMED for free at:
stjoecatholic.formed.org.

Formed, a revolutionary online platform, provides access to the best Catholic audio talks, movies, ebooks, and video based studies from trusted providers.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2022

THANK YOU!

The Shared Pregnancy Women's Center would like to thank all those who donated baby products during October's Dresser Ministry. The number and variety of items was overwhelming. The volunteers and the families of those they serve are grateful for your generosity.

A special thanks to **Ann Gifford** and **Theresa Owens** who chaired this project.

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Celebration of
Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday, December 10, 2022
Columbian Hall, 1108 N US 27

6:00 p.m. Mass and Apparitions
of Our Lady of
Guadalupe

7:15 p.m. Typical Dance

7:30 p.m. Mariachi and
Coronation

8:00 p.m. Dinner and Celebration

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