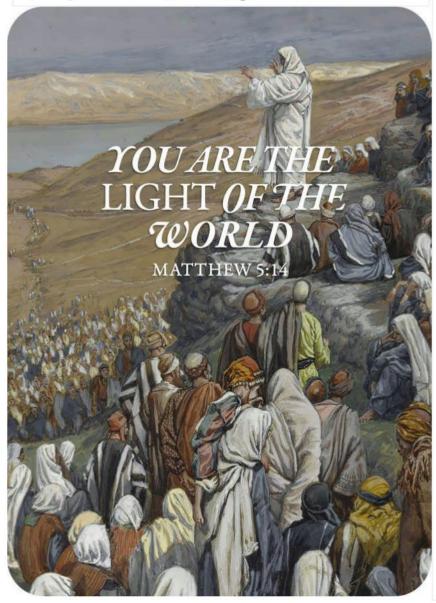
St. Foseph Catholic Church

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



FEBRUARY 5, 2023

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 High School Catechesis • 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.

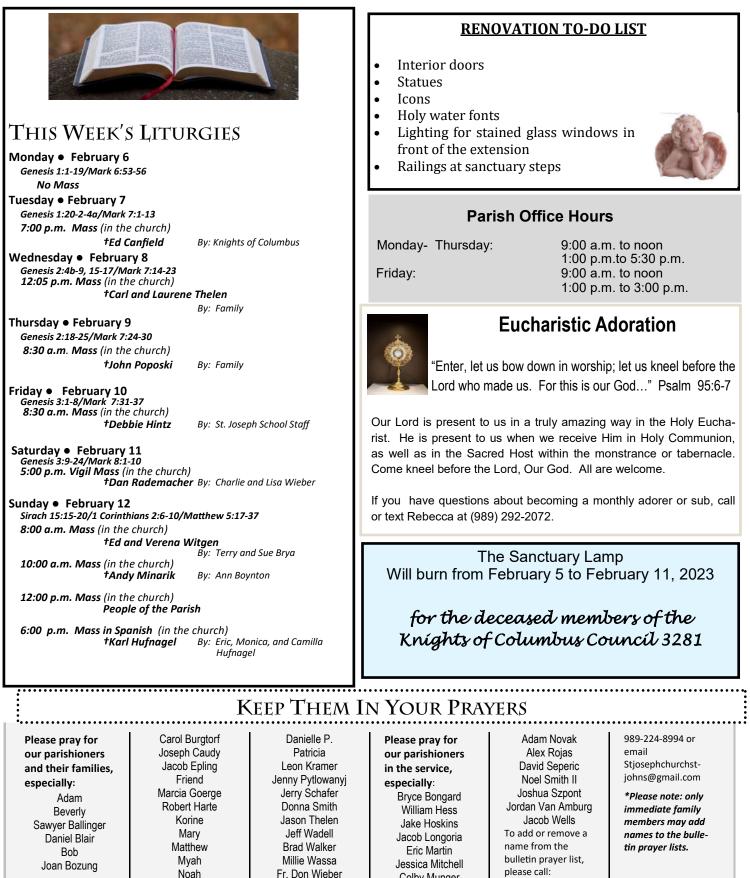
St. Joseph School: (989) 224-2421 Religious Education Office: (989) 224-8537

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



Colby Munger

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THE SACRAMENTS ARE CELEBRATED



WE ARE ALL

EVANGELIZERS (and whatever else is on Deacon Eric's mind)

Who are the Scapegoats in Our Lives?

The gospel of the day for today, Monday, January 30th, is Mark 5:1-20 which is the story of a man chained in a tomb and battling numerous demons. He broke his chains and roamed the countryside, often bruising himself with stones and calling out loudly on the countryside. Jesus ordered out the demons and directed them into a herd of swine. The herd of two thousand pigs ran into the sea and drowned, freeing the man who had been possessed.

The incident, we're told, took place in Gerasenes, a region east of the Sea of Galilee and inhabited by Gentiles. So, to the Jewish followers of Jesus, this was like winning a baseball doubleheader, (or for shoppers, a two-for-one special) -the demons are expelled, freeing not only the terrorized man and those who lived near him, but drowning two thousand "ritually unclean" swine as well. Philosophers, however, have a different view of this story.

As most people know, I am not a philosopher, nor do I play one on TV, so I'm going to lean on the renowned Bishop Robert Barron to navigate our way here. Bishop Barron notes that this biblical story actually showcases "scapegoating violence," an area of expertise researched by philosopher Rene Girard. Bishop Barron summarizes Girard's work in this area as such:

Scapegoats perform an important function in the maintenance of human societies, effectively channeling away the competition and violence that would, otherwise, tear a community apart.

The demoniac was chained so that the local community could keep an eye on him. The bishop speculates that this quite probably also meant the possessed man was teased and taunted and looked down upon the way some might do nowadays at a bargain-basement carnival freak show. The tormented man called himself Legion which translates to "many." Bishop Barron asks: "Could the 'many' in question be the citizens of the town who have projected their hateful shadows onto him?"

In freeing the man from his demons, Jesus is trying to break the pattern of scapegoating, which is not limited to Jesus' time. It most certainly still exists today. We all know someone who always has excuses for poor decisions, always placing blame on someone else. Perhaps we too, sometimes make a spouse, a boss, a sibling or even society-at-large a scapegoat for a negative situation we find ourselves in. We may want to ask ourselves: "Who are the scapegoats in my life?"

Maybe, in Bishop Barron's words, "Instead of projecting (our) violence and negativity onto an innocent other, (we) should turn to the difficult but ultimately soul-enlarging task of self-criticism and conversion."

Deacon Eric deaconeric@hotmail.com

The CHOSEN

Whether you have been following "The Chosen" through its first seasons or not, I invite all to join us as we watch and discuss season three on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. starting February 9th in the St. Joes Church basement.

See what the hubbub is all about. Give it two weeks and chances are you'll want to stay with us throughout Lent. You're planning to do something Scriptural for Lent anyhow, "Right?"



St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary

Attention all Ladies of the parish! The St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary would love to see you at the next meeting, **Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Columbian Hall, 1108 Old US 27., St. Johns

The plans for Lenten Soup Suppers to be held on March 15 and March 29 will be finalized. Your input will be greatly appreciated. There will also be time during the evening for Faith sharing and conversation. Discussion of Jesus's difficult teachings will continue. As always, there will be snacks to share. Please come to join in this faith-filled evening. For more information call Mary Beth at (989) 227-0088.

9th Grade Confirmation Candidate and **Sponsor Session**

February 15th is scheduled for the next 9th grade Confirmation session for the candidates and sponsors. Session is at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. February 15th is also the due date for teens to turn in Confirmation letters and service reflection sheets if you haven't already done so. Contact Jen Nelson at dre.stjoseph@gmail.com for questions.

Prayers from parishioners Please pray for all the 9th grade Confirmation candidates and their families as they will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation on March 26th. Pray for an increase in their desire to know and follow Jesus as a disciple.

Thank you!

Reconciliation

When was the last time you felt renewed by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation? It is so easy to celebrate Reconciliation with Fr. Mike. St. Joe has scheduled times of Tuesday's at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday's at 4:00 p.m. If you can not make one of these times, call the parish office to schedule an appointment with Fr. Mike, it can be very confidential, no name is needed. Schedule a time, and meet Fr. Mike by the confessional.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Parish Office Closure When St. Johns Public School closes for Inclement Weather, so



does St. Joseph Catholic Church parish office. If there is a weekday Mass scheduled that day, the Mass will still take place. Please consider all precautions if you still plan on attending the weekday Mass. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the parish office.

St. Joseph Catholic School LUNCH MENU

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6, 2023 Menu is subject to change, based on food availability from suppliers.

Monday:	Chicken fettuccini, bread sticks, lettuc and milk.	e salad, fruit,
Tuesday:	Chili with crackers, cinnamon rolls, warm apples with cinnamon, and milk.	
Wednesday:	Chicken poppers, corn, dried cherries, mozzarella stick, and milk.	
Thursday:	Hot dog on a bun, french fries, fresh milk.	fruit, and
Friday:	Cheese stuffed breadsticks with dippin carrots, fruit, and milk.	ng sauce,
Lunches are \$3.2	5	Milk \$0.50

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FEBRUARY 5, 2023

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

February 11/12

Altar Servers	5:00
	8:00
	10:00
	12:00

Volunteers p.m. Volunteers a.m. Volunteers a.m. 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.	Diane A.
	8:00 a.m.	Dean H.
	10:00 a.m.	Steve M.
	12:00 p.m.	Linda S.

Ushers

5:00 p.m.	Dave P.	Group 5C
8:00 a.m.	Tom K.	Group 8C
10:00 a.m.	Cindy C.	Group 10B
12:00 p.m.	Dennis P.	Group 12A

Collection Counters

February 6 • Group 2

Sanctuary Cleaners

On hiatus until the renovation is finished



BE A PART OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

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FEBRUARY 5, 2023

Stewardship Parish

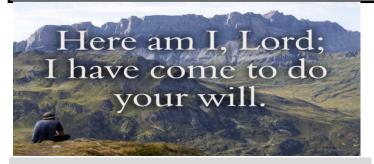
Reflection on Life in a Parish

My parish is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. It will be holy, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will be prayer-ful It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am a generous giver.

It will bring others into worship, if I invite and bring them. It will be a parish of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity, and mercy, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all things that I want my parish to be.

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Ushers

You should have received your new schedule in the mail. We are in the process of renovating our usher groups. If you are interested in becoming an usher or are currently in an usher group and would like to be removed, please call the parish office by March 1, 2023.

Sanctuary Cleaner Ministry

We will be starting up our Sanctuary Cleaner ministry soon now that the renovation is almost complete. Volunteers clean the Sacristy area of the Church weekly, usually on Friday or Saturday. Pairs are scheduled approximately once



every three months; the cleaning takes about one hour.

If you would like to be added to this year's schedule, or if you are already on the list and would like to be removed, please contact the parish office by February 20, 2023.

AVERAGE JOE'S MEN'S GROUP

Attention: Husbands, dads, brothers, sons and grandsons All are invited!

The Average Joes Men's Group meet each Saturday morning in the church basement from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to discuss issues affecting men in society today.

Gatherings include speakers and videos to provide a variety of perspectives on how men think about and act on challenges in every day life.

The informal meetings also provide an opportunity for men of the parish to learn from each other.

All faiths are welcome

Large-Print Living Faith Daily Devotionals

A parishioner recently donated about 10 large print Living Faith daily devotionals. Please stop into the parish office to get your copy. Enjoy!

STEWARDSHIP

For the weekend of January 29, 2023				
Adults (173) Envelopes/Gifts:	\$13,560.38			
(Including online giving)				
Loose Cash:	\$689.00			
Total:	\$14,249.38			

Other Gifts Received

Education Trust Fund:	\$146.06
Building Fund:	\$145.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund:	\$60.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2022 is \$18,665.61689. 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

FRIENDSHIP IS OFFERED

FEBRUARY 5, 2023



- Married Couples Weekend A Celebration of Holy ٠ Matrimony: February 10-12, 2023
- The Urgency of the Message with Fr. Jim Rolph: • Saturday, February 11, 2023 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Women of Spirit Retreat "Joy" featuring Sheri • Wohlfert: March 3-5, 2023
- Men's Retreat Rescue and Response: March 10-12, • 2023
- Women's Retreat Rescue and Response: March 17 -19, 2023.

More information and registration for any of these events can be found at <u>www.stfrancis.ws</u> or call 517-669-8321.

Mid-life Singles (mid-30s to 50s):

Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging?

Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), on Feb 24-26, 2023. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$215 for meals and a single room.

Visit <u>www.ReflectRetreat.com</u>, e-mail <u>reflect.michigan@gmail.com</u>, or call (586) 770-1772 for details.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Looking for the perfect Valentinés Day gift for your spouse? How about the gift of better communication, stronger faith, more romance, and 44 hours alone together? Discover all of this and more on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience March 24-26 in Saginaw or April 14-16 in Grass Lake. Apply today at wwme.org

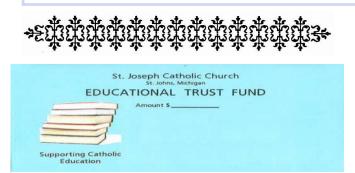
TAKE YOUR LIFE TO THE **NEXT LEVEL**

you were made for this

St. Thomas Acquinas School Gym 951 Alton Rd., East Lansing Saturday, February 11, 2023 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. \$15 which covers refreshments, lunch, and materials.

We always talk about what makes us unhappy. This is an opportunity to discuss what will make us happy. If you are wondering what really matters or if you feel stuck, this event is for you. You will come away with a new way to talk about happiness and be happy no matter what your circumstances are. Others have found this multimedia presentation to be a good mix of speakers, video and discussion; theory and practical steps; humor and a very vital message. Bring a friend or family member who needs to hear that message!

> Register at fourlevels.org or learn more at elcatholics.org/happiness



Did you know that the blue envelope in your packet goes to the Educational Trust Fund that support education of our school students, religious education programs and RCIA. Please consider using this envelope .

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

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FEBRUARY 5, 2023



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