DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 16, 2023

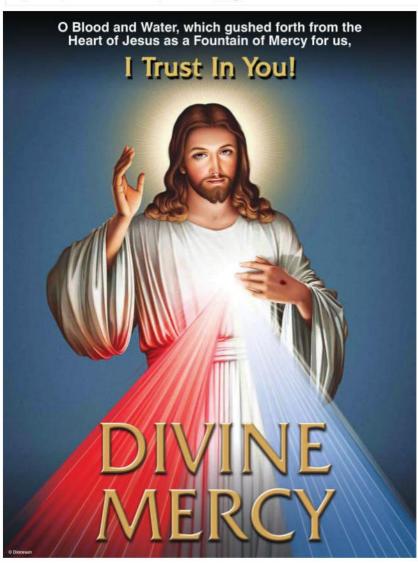
St. Foseph Catholic Church

109 Linden Street Saint Johns, Michigan 48879-1837 (989) 224-8994

Fax: (989) 224-3475

www.stjoecatholic.com

stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com



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

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 church)

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 16, 2023



THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday ● April 17

Acts 4:23-31/John 3:1-8

Tuesday • April 18

Acts 4:32-37/John 3:7b-15

7:00 p.m. Mass †Bob, Dean and Catherine Gilroy

By: Family

Wednesday ● April 19

Acts 5:17-26/John 3:16-21

12:05 p.m. Mass †Donna Eiseler By: Kay and Ron Atkinson

Thursday • April 20

Acts 5:27-33/John 3:31-36

8:30 a.m. Mass †Dan Sandahl By: Family

Friday • April 21

Acts 5:34-42/John 6:1-15

8:30 a.m. Mass †Mary Louise Rhynard

By: Lisa and Charles Wieber

Saturday ● April 22 Acts 6:1-7/John 6:16-21

Acts 6:1-7/30m. C._ 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass †Pamela Filicky

By: Rehmann Family

Sunday ● April 23 Acts 2:14, 22-33/1 Peter 1:17-21/Luke 24:13-35

8:00 a.m. Mass The People of the Parish

10:00 a.m. Mass †Dale Feldpausch

By: Wife and children

12:00 p.m. Mass The Catholic Church

By: Society of St Vincent DePaul

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

†Karl Hufnagel

By: Eric, Monica and Camilla Hufngael

The Sanctuary Lamp Will burn from April 16 to April 22, 2023 In memory of

Kathleen Reynolds

LENTEN ALMSGIVING

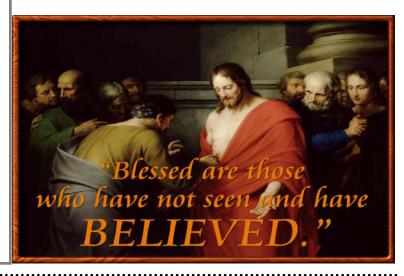
This year's Lenten Almsgiving to our Local Food Banks can be turned in to the parish office at any time.

We ask that you write a check instead of turning in a box of coin. Not only will it ensure your donation is credited to your account, but will also help us tremendously in the office!



The Rosary is prayed every weekend a half hour before all Masses.





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 Sherri Couch Jacob Epling Friend Marcia Goerge Robert Harte Korine Mary Matthew Myah

Noah Danielle P. Patricia Leon Kramer Jenny Pytlowanyj Jerry Schafer Donna Smith Jason Thelen Jeff Wadell **Brad Walker** Millie Wassa

Fr. Don Wieber Bill Darnell Susan Darnell

Please pray for our parishioners in the service, especially: Bryce Bongard William Hess Jake Hoskins Jacob Longoria

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

Eric Martin

name from the bulletin prayer list, please call: 989-224-8994 or email Stiosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 16, 2023



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

"If Given a Choice, I Choose Mercy"

"As long as you're alive, you have a season of mercy. But once you're dead, it's your season of justice." (St. Catherine of Siena)

Let's chew on that for a minute. All of us reading this are in a season of mercy. But when our time on earth is done, then we will face God's justice. It will be too late to ask for God's mercy-too late to ask for forgiveness of our sins. It's not like when we get to heaven's gate Jesus asks "Based on your life, would you rather I grant you justice or mercy?" I know what I would choose.

It's no secret that Reconciliation is a vastly under-used sacrament or that Lent draws a lot of the once-a-year penitents to the sacrament. Those of us who say they confess their sins directly to God, should look at today's gospel from John again. Jesus says to his Apostles:

"Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you (as priests) forgive are forgiven them. Whose sins you retain are retained."

Catholic biblical scholar Brant Pitre has a great take on those words of Christ. Challenging Protestant views that the Lord's statement only gave the Apostles the power to preach well enough to cause people to repent and have their sins forgiven, Pitre says this:

"But that's clearly not what Jesus means here because he doesn't just give the disciples the power to preach, he gives them the power to forgive and to retain someone's sins, which presupposes that somehow a confession of sins would take place so that the apostle would know the sins of the person."

In essence, the answer to the question "Why do I have to confess my sins to a priest?" is a simple one. Pitre says:

"It is because Jesus willed it to be so."

Today is the eighth day in the Octave of Easter, now known as Divine Mercy Sunday, as so-named in April, 2000 by

then-Pope John Paul II. It's origin is in a 1931 revelation to St. Faustina in which Jesus told her:

"Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you... Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death... When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the merciful savior." "I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy."

The mercy of God is endless and we should never believe that we are unworthy of his forgiveness. As I mentioned in my Easter homily, Jesus forgave Mary Magdalene of what St. Gregory identified as the seven deadly sins and then granted her the honor of being the first to see him after his Resurrection. Such mercy is born of love, and, of course, God is love.

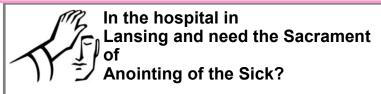
Deacon Eric

deaconeric@hotmail.com

St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary

With deep regret. St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary is <u>canceling the Spring Ladies Tea</u> for this year. There were several circumstances beyond our control that led to this decision. Plans have already begun for a beautiful tea next spring.

May the blessings of Jesus, our Risen Lord, be with you during this Easter Season.



Don't waste precious time! If your loved one is in Sparrow Lansing or McLaren Hospital and needs the Anointing of the Sick, please let your attending nurse know. Our parish provides funding for a chaplain (lay person) who will call a local priest who is "on call." This is the quickest way for you or your loved one to receive the sacrament, rather than trying to contact Fr. Mike or another local priest.



Silent Ignatian Retreats at St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI 3-Day Ignatian Retreat: (May 26-28, 2023) or 5-Day Ignatian Retreat (May 26-31, 2023)

Come away from the noise of the world for a three or five day silent retreat to learn more about how God talks to you through the Scriptures and in the movement of your own heart. Expect daily talks, time for silent and guided prayer, opportunities for Mass, confession and meetings with spiritual directors. The retreat will be facilitated by Dawn Hausmann and Karen Ervin.

Cost of the 3 Day Retreat is \$225 and cost of the 5-Day Retreat is \$575. To register or find more information, please visit https://www.stfrancis.ws/ignatianretreats.

First Communion Parent/Child Session

Families with children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion in May are scheduled to meet for a "practice" in the church on Thursday, April 27, at 6-7:00 p.m. Please contact Jen Nelson if you have any questions at dre@stjoseph@gmail.com

St. Joseph Catholic School

is currently enrolling for the 2023 - 2024 School Year



Contact the school at 989-224-2421 for more information on enrolling your child at St. Joseph Catholic School.





Parents with one or more students attending Lansing Catholic High School may apply for a parish subsidy grant from St. Joseph Church to help with tuition costs. There are basic requirements to apply and forms are available through the parish office or at our website: stjoecatholic.com/forms.

Application deadline is April 24, 2023 for the 2023/24 school year.

St. Joseph Catholic School LUNCH MENU

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

This institution is an equal

opportunity provider.

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 17-21, 2023

Monday: Tortilla chips with cheese and meat, broccoli,

fruit, and milk.

Tuesday: Turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn,

applesauce, and milk.

Wednesday: Ham, scalloped potatoes, cherry crisp, and

milk.

Thursday: Sloppy joe on a bun, french fries, dried

cherries, and milk.

Friday: 1/2 day, No lunch will be served. Students

dismissed at 11:00 a.m.

Lunches are \$3.25 Milk \$0.50

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

April 22/23

Altar Servers:

5:00 p.m. Lizzy Murray

Averie Downing

8:00 a.m. Maggie Koenigsknecht

Quinn Densmore

10:00 a.m. Kara Brewbaker

Caroline Vollman

12:00 p.m. Cassie Schrauben

Nolan Parker

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

5:00 p.m. Group 2 8:00 a.m. Group 2 10:00 a.m. *Group 2* 12:00 p.m. *Group 2*

Lectors: 5:00 p.m. Diane Armbrustmacher

8:00 a.m. Trevor Hollis 10:00 a.m. Joe Tomczyk 12:00 p.m. VOLUNTEER

Ushers: 5:00 p.m. Group 5A

8:00 a.m. Group 8C 10:00 a.m. Group 10D 12:00 p.m. Group 12B

Collection Counters: April 17 Group 1

Sanctuary Cleaners: Judi Thelen and Thelma Miller



STEWARDSHIP

For the weekend of April 9, 2023

Adults (268) Envelopes/Gifts:\$27,876.85 (Including online giving)

Loose Cash: \$1,630.61 Total: \$29,507.46

Other Gifts Received

Education Trust Fund: \$148.00
Building Fund: \$122.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund: \$92.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2022 is \$19,060.79. If we continue to keep this average, we will not meet our budgeted goal.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 16, 2023



SAVE THE DATE

for

Vacation Bible School

and

PREPARE TO TAKE OFF!!

When: June 19-22, 2023.
Who: Kids ages 4 - 12 years old
Where: St. Joseph Parish/school

Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Cost \$25.00 and includes a T-Shirt.

Registration Forms will be available soon!

HEART OF ITALY PILGRIMAGE

Fr. Marcel Portelli invites you to join him on a memorable pilgrimage through the heart of Italy this October. Pray at the mountain-top monastery of St. Benedict, the tombs of saints Francis and Clare in Assisi, the tomb of the incorrupt body of St. Padre Pio, and the grotto of St. Michael the Archangel. Tour magnificent Florence and the Amalfi Coast. In Rome, we'll venerate the relics of St. Paul, visit St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican museums, then attend an audience with Pope Francis. Call (989) 426-7154 or download full brochure here:

https://bit.ly/3SxeqQw

Full time teacher position at Most Holy Trinity School in Fowler.

MHT is looking for a full-time teacher for a combined third/fourth grade classroom starting in the fall of 2023. This teacher will be responsible for teaching all subject areas in a self-contained classroom of third and fourth grade students. All applicants must hold a current elementary teaching certificate from the State of Michigan, preferably with emphasis on reading and language arts. The successful candidate must be dynamic, energetic, and willing to work collaboratively in a team environment. Applicants should be practicing Catholics who are enthusiastic about incorporating the Catholic faith in their teaching. The ideal applicant will be a teacher who has a genuine passion for teaching in a Catholic school, a high comfort level in managing a classroom of fully engaged learners, a commitment to joyful collegiality, an ability to communicate effectively with parents, and a strong foundation in subject matter

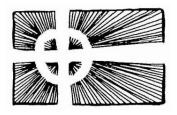
Applications can be sent to Mrs. Anne Hufnagel via email (<u>principal@mhtparish.com</u>), dropped off at the school, or sent to the following address: Most Holy Trinity School, 545 N. Maple St., Fowler, MI, 48835.



Thank you to everyone who has made a gift or pledge commitment to our Diocesan Services Appeal. Our gifts to DSA enable our diocese to provide services crucial to our parish. The programs and services funded by DSA offer direct assistance to individuals and families, and to parishes, schools, and Catholic Charities agencies. A "Sacrifice of Thanksgiving" is occurring in the Church right now through our contributions to DSA helping to support dozens of ongoing ministries

As of 4/9/2023, 249 families have donated \$95,028.34, which is 90.2% of our goal of \$105,307.00 or 25.2% of our 990 active families. Any pledge over and above our goal will be returned 50% to our parish. If you have not yet made a gift or a pledge, I invite you to do so today. Gift envelopes are available in church or the parish office. Or you may submit your gift online at

www.dioceseoflansing.org/appeal. Your DSA gift will support the vital services and ministries that help bring the love of Christ to all we encounter.



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.



20%

Tuesday, April 18

9:30 a.m. Bible Study (L) 6:30 p.m. Confessions (C) 7:00 p.m. Mass

Wednesday, April 19

12:05 p.m. Mass 5:15 p.m. Bible Study (C/D)

6:00 Religious Ed

7:00 p.m. H.S. Catechesis

Thursday, April 20 9:00 a.m. Bible Study (L)

Friday, April 21

Saturday, April 22

8:30 a.m. Average Joes Sunday, April 23

3:45 p.m. Spanish Ministry (C/D)





Natividad Cabrera (Nani) received the sacrament of Baptism.

First, she renounced sin and made a profession of faith.



Then she was baptized, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," washing away all her personal and original sin.



Next, Nani was anointed as a member of Christ as "Priest, Prophet, and King."



Three adult members of the parish received the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. Natividad (Nani) Cabrera, Cristopher Fry, and Joana Gutting.

Newly-initiated Catholics are considered neophytes, or "newly planted," for a year after receiving the sacraments. They will continue to receive instruction and special support from the parish for the next year.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, or is interested in joining the Church, please reach out to rcia.stjosephparish@gmail.com or contact the parish office.



Then, Nani received the light of Christ, to remind her to keep the flame of faith alive in her heart always.



Christopher Fry, Joana Gutting, and Natividad (Nani) Cabrera

Welcome



First, the candidates for confirmation made a profession of faith, supported by their sponsors.



Then they received the sacrament of Confirmation which consists of the Laying of the Hands, followed by anointing with Chrism.



Stewardship Prayer

Loving Father,

We know the truth of the Easter proclamation. Christ is risen and with him all creation! Light replaces darkness, joy replaces sadness, life replaces death. Through the power of your Spirit. there is no failure His love and mercy cannot reverse. no humiliation He cannot exchange with blessing,

no anger He cannot dissolve. no routine He cannot transform.

All is embraced by the victory of your son's cross and resurrection. Help us always be good stewards of Easter's light.

see Resurrection as a daily event.

and yearn for the love of Christ as intensely as He yearns for our love. We pray this in Jesus' name Amen.

International Catholic Stewardship Council

All



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