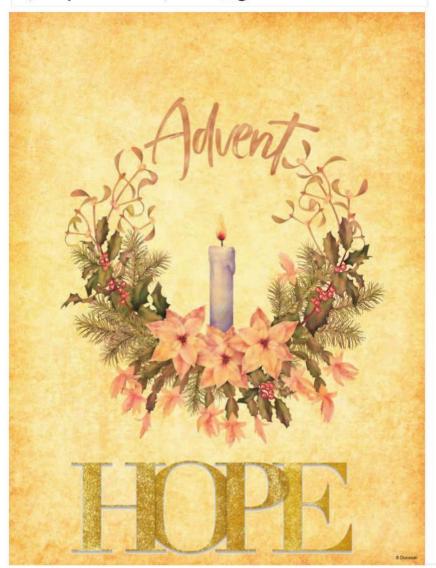
St. Foseph Catholic Church

**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 Christian Initiation of Adults • Amanda Grigar

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. Mass in Spanish • 6:00 p.m. (Holy Days • Consult the bulletin)

Sacrament of Reconciliation Tuesday • 6:30 p.m. Saturday • 4:00 p.m.

Prayer Tree Parish Office: (989)-224-8994



### THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday • December 4 Isaiah 2:1-5/Matthew 8:5-11 No Mass

Tuesday • December 5 Isaiah 11:1-10/Luke 10:21-24 7:00 p.m. †Luis Porras Narvaez By: Monica Hufnagel

Wednesday • December 6 Isaiah 25:6-10a/Matthew 15:29-37 12:05 p.m. Education Trust Fund

Thursday • December 7 Isaiah 26:1-6/Matthew 7:21, 24-27 8:30 a.m. †Carl and †Ellie Bowles By: Gail Wadell

#### Friday • December 8 Solemnity of the 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. †Janice Karber By: Karber Family 6:00 p.m. Joan Schaefer Pung Epkey By: Terry & Sue Brya

Saturday • December 9 Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26/Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 5:00 p.m. †Ron and †Elaine Pung By: Mark & Diane Armbrustmacher Sunday • December 10

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Peter 3:8-14/Mark 1:1-8 8:00 a.m. †Viola and †Francis Fedewa By: The Fedewa Family

10:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

12:00 p.m. **†Tim Wiseman** By: Pat and Debbie Thiede

6:00 p.m. In Honor of Arnold Henning & Family By: A friend HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary Friday, December 8 at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and ushers will be **needed at the 6:00 p.m. service**. There will be a sign up sheet in the gathering space.

# **Parish Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday

Friday

9:00 a.m. to noon 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. 9:00 a.m. to noon 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

<del>؞</del>٤ѿ҉ѿ҉ѿ҉ѿ҉ѿ҉ѿ҉ѿ҉ѿ҉ѿ҉ѿ҉ѿ҉ѿ҉ѿ҉

The Sanctuary Lamp Will burn from December 3 to 9 In Honor of

Mark and Jean Munger

50th wedding anniversary

# **Eucharistic Adoration**

"The Eucharist is a fire which inflames us." St. John Damascene (Memorial Dec 4)

As we begin Advent and as the darkness of winter increases, come spend time with Jesus, the Light of the World. Allow the fire of His love to enfold you and inflame your heart with love.

Please pray for our parishioners and their families, especially: Adam Beverly Sawyer Ballinger Daniel Blair Bob Joan Bozung Carol Burgtorf Sherri Couch Friend Marcia Goerge Melissa Brenda Higgins David Higgins Korine Lynday Lucier Alissa Mckeown Mary Matthew

Myah Noah Danielle P. Patricia Jenny Pytlowanyj Frank Rademacher Jerry Schafer Joany Schrauben Donna Smith Jason Thelen Michael VanElls 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

**KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS** 

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 Stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com \*Please note: <u>only</u> immediate family members may add names to the bulletin prayer lists.

THE SACRAMENTS ARE CELEBRATED



WE ARE ALL Evangelizers

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

# Follow the Light

"Lead, Kindly Light, amidst the encircling gloom, may you lead me on!

The night is dark and I am far from home, may you lead me on! I do not ask to see the distant scene; One step enough for me."

Such are the words of St. John Henry Newman in describing the Light of Christ. In asking for the way out of his own spiritual darkness, Newman gives us some advice that can come in handy for all of us -- we can't safely run out of the dark. We need to move slowly one step at a time. *"I* do not need to see the distant scene," Newman says, accepting the fact that he will go wherever the Light takes him.

We are headed into the darkest four weeks of the calendar year here in the northern hemisphere. For people with seasonal affective disorder (SAD) it is a particularly difficult stretch as they often battle depression. But it's a very difficult time as well for people who are sad for a different reason -- the first holiday season after the loss of a loved one. Please help those who have recently lost a loved one and be a light for them.

Of course, what comes in the middle of all this darkness is Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. St. John the Evangelist marks this great event in his opening prologue describing the "Word Made Flesh:"

#### What came to be through him was life,

and this life was the light of the human race;

the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (John 1:4-5, 9)

Even for a strong Christian, it can sometimes be difficult to trust the Lord while we're in our own personal darkness. St. John Henry Newman is trying to help us navigate through the darkness, by showing us how to move slowly toward the Light, while John the Evangelist is shouting about the greatness of the "true Light" and the fact that the darkness cannot overcome it.

When someone tells us about a great book or a great movie and says *"the ending is amazing,"* we don't ask about the ending because we want to take the journey to get to the end on our own. We don't mind if we have to be in the dark for a while in order to reach the amazing. We come out of the darkness one step at a time. Let's follow both of our St. Johns and let the Light guide us out of the darkness.

(A light in our lives has just gone out with the passing of my wife's cousin Bridget. She had a difficult childhood, but nonetheless brought joy and energy every day. She was as happy as I've ever seen a bride on her wedding day. She loved to be loved and she loved loving others, especially her husband David and her three children. Her body struggled through numerous surgeries before giving out as the Lord called her home. She truly was a light in the darkness. May she rest in peace.)

*Deacon Eric* deaconeric@hotmail.com

# THE GIVING TREE

Ornaments are in the baskets located in the gathering space at the back of church. 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 & number

found on the ornament, and place the gift in

the box in the gathering space.

Please remember that the gift you provide is often the only gift that the person receives.

**Please return monetary gifts to the parish office.** Please <u>do not</u> leave in the gathering area

All gifts must be returned by

Sunday, December 10th.



The Clinton Community Thanksgiving team would like to thank all St. Joseph parishioners who helped before, during and after our Thanksgiving Dinner. We

served about 350 dinners, in-house and carry out.

We would like to thank our music director, Jeff Richards, for leading the music for the pre-dinner worship service and for those who sang and read during the service.

We would really like to see some people step up and join our leadership team next year. Please prayerfully consider picking up one small part of the planning or food prep. We won't overburden you!

Peace in Christ,



Deacon Eric and Mary Beth

## K-8th Grade Religious Education News:

Wednesday, December 6th Update: Cookies and Cards with St. Nicholas Night and regular classes at 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Parents are invited to help in the classrooms or with cookie decorating (no large group family night as previously scheduled). Details will be emailed to religious education families.

### The Voice for Clinton County's Children Toys-for-Tots Service Project

# TOYS FOR TOTS

With Advent and the holiday season just around the corner, we are again reminded of the need to keep the focus on the true meaning of Christmas. This year, the **St. Joseph School December service project** is a collection for Toys for Tots. The guidelines are:

- \$35 or less
- Items must be new
- Stuffed animals must have the tags attached
- Unwrapped (donations of wrapping paper are accepted)

For more ideas, go to:

<u>https://www.voiceforclintoncounty.org/toys-</u> <u>for-tots.html</u>

All gifts are due by Friday, December 8th

St. Joseph Catholic School

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

# LUNCH MENU

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4-8, 2023

Monday:	Corn Dog, corn, Strawbe	erry shortcake, and
Tuesday:	Roasted chicken, baked p cheese, fruit, and milk.	ootato with
Wednesday:	Chili, cinnamon rolls, fruit, and milk.	
Thursday:	Hamburger on a bun with cheese, fried chips, fresh fruit, and milk.	
Friday:	Chicken fettuccini, bread sticks, green beans, fresh fruit, and milk.	
Students: \$3.25 (i		Milk \$0.50

Adults: \$5.00 (includes milk)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS				
December 9/10				
Altar Servers:	5:00 p.m.	Volunteer		
		Volunteer		
	8:00 a.m.	Volunteer		
		Volunteer		
	10:00 a.m.	Caroline V.		
		Gracie H.		
	12:00 p.m.	Volunteer		
		Volunteer		
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 A.		
Lecions.	8:00 p.m.	Rich H.		
	10:00 a.m.	Cassondra G.		
	12:00 p.m.	Mary Beth E.		
	12.00 p.m.	Mary Beth L.		
Ushers:	5:00 p.m.	Group 5A		
	8:00 a.m.	Group 8A		
	10:00 a.m.	Group 10A		
	12:00 p.m.	Group 12A		
<i>Collection Counters:</i> December 4 Group 2				
Sanctuary Cleaners: Bonnie Weber and Mary Cole				

# **STEWARDSHIP**

### For the weekend of November 26, 2023

Adults (349 Envelopes/Gifts):	\$14,090.68
(Including online giving)	
Loose Cash:	\$1,283.00
Total:	\$15.373.68

#### **Other Gifts Received**

Education Trust Fund:	\$100.00
Building Fund:	\$137.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund:	\$71.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2023 is \$17,586.82. If we continue to keep this average, we will not meet our budgeted goal.

# BE A PART OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

4

As you are probably aware, Christmas falls on a Monday this year. Some have asked whether attending the Vigil or Mass during the Night on Christmas Eve also fulfills the Sunday obligation. The simple answer is No (There is a complicated answer). We should attend Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Vigil or Sunday Morning) and Mass for Christmas (Vigil, Mass during the Night, Masses on Christmas Morning). There's no 'two for one' I'm afraid! For the Weekend of 23rd/24th December, Masses will be as

normal: December 23rd at 5:00 pm and December 24th at 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 pm. Masses for Christmas will be:

December 24th at 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm and December 25th at 9:00 am. -- Fr. Michael Williams

#### **STEWARDSHIP**

#### For the weekend of November 19, 2023

Adults (298 Envelopes/Gifts):	\$15,121.03
(Including online giving)	
Loose Cash:	\$517.00
Total:	\$15,638.03

Our weekly average since July 1, 2023 is \$17,692.21. If we continue to keep this average, we will not meet our budgeted goal.



#### 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 18th to be included in the memorial list.

.

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

THE WORD OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

# SCRIP gift card fundraising!

## Do you enjoy giving Gift Cards?

For those of you that aren't aware of this, our SCRIP program is open to everyone. You do not need to have a child enrolled at St Joseph's school to utilize this program.

SCRIP is a form of fundraising for our school by simply purchasing gift cards to various businesses that allow a percentage of your purchase to go back to our school **at no cost to you**. You can purchase cards from gas stations, restaurants, and many clothing and accessory stores. Or simply purchase a Visa Gift Card with no activation fee like so many bank and stores require.

You simply fill out our SCRIP order form that lists gift cards from various businesses and restau-rants. Drop off your orders with your check <u>at</u> the school before 10:00 a.m. on Mondays and cards will be available for pick up Thursday in the school office.

You can find the order form on our website at St Joseph Church under School/Supporting St. Joes/ SCRIP or in the parish office.

**Kroger Community Rewards** Kroger donates millions of dollars to charities in Michigan through their rewards program that is **prewards** linked directly to their customers' Kroger Plus Cards.



Sign into your Kroger digital account and begin earning money for our school. Link your Kroger Plus Card to St. Joseph Catholic School, and with each purchase you make, St. Joe's will get a percentage of your spending. Detailed information is available on the parish website under School/ Supporting St. Joe's/SCRIP.

### **DECEMBER 3, 2023**

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass Tuesday, December 12, 2023 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church We invite ALL members of the Parish to attend Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass Celebration Mass will be both in English and Spanish, and will include the representation of the Apparitions of Virgin Guadalupe, and the traditional birthday songs for the Virgin, interpreted by a Mariachi.



# Saint Juan Diego Feast day, December 9th

Saint Juan Diego, you were chosen by Our Lady of Guadalupe as an instrument to show your people and the world that the way of the Christian is compassion, understanding, value repentance of our sin esteem and respect for the crea



that the way of the Christian is one of love, compassion, understanding, values, sacrifices, repentance of our sins, esteem and respect for the creation of God, and above all, one of humility and obedience.

You, who we know are in the Kingdom of our Lord and near our Mother, be our angel and protect us, stay with us while we fight in this modern life without knowing, most of the time, where to place our priorities. Help us to pray to God, through the Heart of our Lady of Guadalupe towards the Heart of Jesus, to obtain the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and to use them for the good the humanity and the Church. Amen.

Share Catholic.com

Soaring Comets Students of the Month The "Soaring Comets" is our inspiration for students to demonstrate behaviors that embody our school expectations. These are the September and October students who exhibited these qualities.

Congratulations and Soar On!



## FRIENDSHIP IS OFFERED

6

# Sick or homebound?

Please keep in touch! Let us know your temporary address or your situation/plans. Would you like to receive Communion after surgery? Are you hospitalized? We're here for you and want to minister to your needs, offer prayers, like to know how you're doing, etc. Just call the parish office with an update, and we'll connect to our Homebound Communion Team and/or add you to our prayer intentions, send mail to a different address., etc.



### All members of the St. Joseph Catholic Parish are cordially invited to join the Knights of Columbus in

## Christmas Caroling.

You are all invited to deck the halls and make things merrier for the residents of Hazel | Findlay Country Manor as we carol in the hallways and provide a 1 hour Christmas Caroling program in the cafeteria on **Monday December 11th.** 



Join us in the lobby of Hazel | Findlay at 6:15 p.m.

We will carol through the hallways prior to the program that begins at 7 p.m. Wear your Santa hats if you have one.

Music song sheets will be provided.

 $\label{eq:please} Please \mbox{ contact the Parish Office if you would like to provide additional instrument accompaniment.}$ 

We hope to see you all there!



© 2023 DIOCESAN

View Our Parish Supporters at www.DiscoverMass.com

DIOCESAN

¥

To

Advertise

1-800-783-1623

Online

at

Diocesan.com/Business

VISA

Contract of the second

DISC VER

1034



© 2023 DIOCESAN