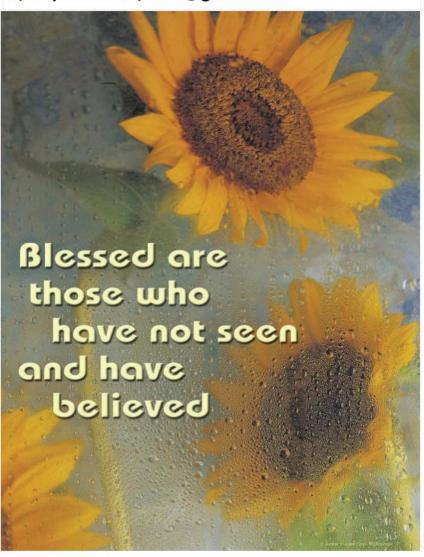
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St. Joseph is a place of refreshment, peace and love, a place of ministry and renewal. We welcome you to be part of our faith community where the Word of God is proclaimed, friendship is offered and the Sacraments are celebrated.

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 • Glenn Esch

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

religious Education Office. (989) 224-6

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 ● April 8

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10/Hebrews 10:4-10/Luke 1:26-38

No Mass

Tuesday ● April 9

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

7:00 p.m. Mass

†Mark and †Margaret Schrauben,

By: Family

†Anthony Papon

Wednesday ● April 10

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

12:05 p.m. Mass

†Dan Sandahl

By: The Sandahl Family

Thursday ● April 11

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

8:30 a.m. Mass

†Jim Clark

By: Lu Anne Cuthbert

Friday

◆ April 12

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

8:30 a.m. Mass

†Josephine Rogers

By: Ĺinda Ritter

Saturday ● April 13

Acts 6:1-7/John 6:16-21

5:00 p.m. Mass

IHO Charlie and Lisa Wieber

By: Jean Schaub

Sunday ● April 14

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/1 John 2:1-5a/Luke 24:35-48

8:00 a.m. Mass †Bill Fox

By: Jane Motz

10:00 a.m. Mass †Marie, †Ken, and †Urban Weber

By: Janet McKeown

12:00 p.m. Mass The People of the Parish

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Holy Souls in Purgatory



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn from April 7 to April 13 2024 in memory of

Leon and Bertine Thelen





Emíly E. Thelen & Bryce D. Harger

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.

Eucharistic Adoration

"We are to be icons of mercy, radiating love and mercy to others. There is no greater way to energize ourselves to this task than by spending time in the Presence of the Source of Love and Mercy,

Our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist."

St. Faustina

Are you interested in spending time in Eucharistic Adoration on a weekly or monthly basis? Please text/call for more information at 989-292-2072.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for our parishioners and their families, especially:

Adam
Beverly
Sawyer Ballinger
Joan Bozung
Carol Burgtorf
Lisa Clarizio
Sherri Couch
Friend

Joe Cindy Fontus Marcia Goerge Melissa Brenda Higgins David Higgins Korine Alissa Mckeown Gabrielle Meece 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:

> 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



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

Spiritual Pruning

I am not a horticulturist, nor do I play one on TV, but since I do know how to look up information on the internet I recently found out that now is a great time to prune plants and shrubs. Late March and April are identified by the sources I looked up as the best time to prepare plants and shrubs for the growing season. That's as far as I'm going to take you, however, if you want to know if different plants, shrubs and trees need more or less pruning than others, you probably should ask someone who knows what he or she is talking about. I researched just enough to get this first paragraph completed. This column actually has nothing to do with plants or shrubs. The pruning I will discuss today involves pruning in our spiritual lives.

I can't even take the credit for that. The idea of spiritual pruning

comes all the way from Ecuador, courtesy of Anna Biewer -- parish secretary-turned-missionary. I suspect many of you received the same newsletter from her that I am referencing. The letter talks about how she is trying to adapt to the jungle culture, mastering Spanish, preparing for marriage and trying to let God prune her life so that her gifts might bloom in ways heretofore unknown. Anna realizes that for maximum spiritual growth we need to let God prune our lives for us to grow.

God, of course, is a master gardener, having significant experience with some well-known gardens. His pruning is not limited to some specific time of the year, but since we are in a traditionally good month for pruning, why not now for some spiritual pruning as well. I think a good place to start is analyzing the relative success or disappointment in meeting our Lenten goals. If our plan was to increase our spiritual reading during Lent and we failed because we fell asleep in the chair in which we usually watch TV (and sometimes fall asleep),

maybe we need to prune the chair and not the spiritual reading. Maybe the Lord can reach us if we find a room or a chair in which we only sit to pray or do spiritual reading.

Analyzing our prayer life can lead to another way we can prune. Maybe we feel we don't get anything out of our evening prayer. Again, assist the Lord in his pruning by changing the prayer selection. We may be blazing through our prayers so quickly that we don't even realize what words we are saying. Try slowing down, try a different set of prayers, try a new daily devotional -maybe kneel to say prayers instead of sitting or laying down. All of these suggestions are a form of pruning something that was once successful in our spiritual life, allowing for new growth. God can then take up our efforts and prune us so that we may become closer to him. Let's let the master gardener help us to bloom in ways we never imagined.

Deacon Eric deaconeric@hotmail.com



St. Monica
Ladies Auxiliary
Monthly Meeting
Monday, April 8th
at 6:30 p.m.
at the Columbian Hall

Our main topic will be planning our annual Ladies Tea followed by faith sharing and fellowship. We invite ALL ladies of the parish to join us for this fun evening.

Please call Mary Beth at (989) 227-0088 for more information.



St Monica Ladies Auxiliary is very grateful for the many donations received during our drive for St. Vincent Catholic Charities. The staff person at SVCC who received the donations was overwhelmed by your generosity. She offered thanks on behalf of the numerous immigrants who will be helped by our donation.

Thank you again for your loving response to our neighbors in need.



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 <u>write a</u> <u>check</u> (to St. Joseph Church with "food bank" on

the memo line) 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!

je is risen-le is alive!

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

School LUNCH MENU

St. Joseph Catholic

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 8-12, 2024

Monday: Chips with cheese, meat and cheese sauce, corn,

roll, applesauce, and milk.

Tuesday: Chicken noodle soup with crackers, blueberry

muffin, peas, mixed fruit, and milk

Wednesday: Cheese stuffed breadsticks with dipping sauce,

green beans, raisins, and milk.

Thursday: Hamburger on a bun with cheese, sweet potato

fries, fresh apple, and milk.

Friday: Corn dog, lettuce salad, peaches, and milk.

Lunches are \$3.25 Milk \$0.50

Liturgical Minsters April 13/14

Altar Servers: 5:00 p.m. Averie D.

Charleigh F.

8:00 a.m. Miles S.

Volunteer

10:00 a.m. Elijah S.

Anna H.

12:00 p.m. Nolan C.

Emalie C.

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. Sheila B.

8:00 a.m. Trevor H. 10:00 a.m. Jane M. 12:00 p.m. Mary Beth E.

12.00 pmil mary Been

5:00 p.m. Group 5C 8:00 a.m. Group 8D 10:00 a.m. Group 10C 12:00 p.m. Group 12A

Collection Counters: April 8 Group 2

Sanctuary Cleaners: Jane Randolph/Veronica Rozen

STEWARDSHIP

Ushers:

For the weekend of March 31, 2024

Adults (327 gifts Including online giving):\$21,013.02 Loose Cash:....\$1,347.75 Total:\$22,360.77

Other Gifts Received

Education Trust Fund: \$35.00
Building Fund: \$260.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund: \$120.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2023 is \$19,330.70. If we continue to keep this average, we will not meet our budgeted goal.

BE A PART OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY





Eight people received at least one sacrament at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 30

From left to right:
Grace Studer,
Xenos,
Dustin Sulcer,
Aaron Fox,
Zackery Manning,
Nixie,
Ben Studer
and Max

Congratulations and Welcome!



Divine Mercy Devotions
St. Isidore Church,
310 N Crum St., Laingsburg
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
April 7, 2024

On Divine Mercy Sunday, which falls this weekend, we will have our devotions to the Divine Mercy at St. Isidore again this year. The devotions will last from 2:00-3:00 pm and will include - Eucharistic adoration, readings from some of the diary texts of St. Faustina concerning the Divine Mercy, the chaplet of Divine Mercy and the final day of the Divine Mercy novena.

We will also have **confessions and there will be 2 extra priests** who will come to assist with making that possible for all who wish to take part in the sacrament. It is a day when we can receive a plenary indulgence if we go to confession within three weeks, receive Holy Communion and pray for the Holy Father. Please come and pray with us to honor and beg for the Divine Mercy of Our Lord, especially praying for peace and a return to God for our country, our world and all our family members and friends who have fallen away from Him.

As Jesus said to St. Faustina: "Souls who spread the honor of My mercy I shield through their entire lives as a tender mother her infant, and at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior. At that last hour, a soul has nothing with which to defend itself except My mercy. Happy is the soul that during its lifetime immersed itself in the Fountain of Mercy, because justice will have no hold on it."



Catholic History We all want to be inspired by the stories of heroism and sanctity we find throughout Church history, but how do we handle discussions about the not so savory people and events we encounter? In this talk, Catholic history author Phillip Campbell will discuss the problem of scandal and corruption throughout Church history. This talk will help empower you to

handle these conversations with confidence and grace when others bring them up, remembering St. Paul's dictum, "Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more" (Rom. 5:20)

> Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Parish 109 Linden St., St. Johns

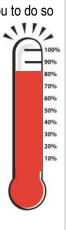


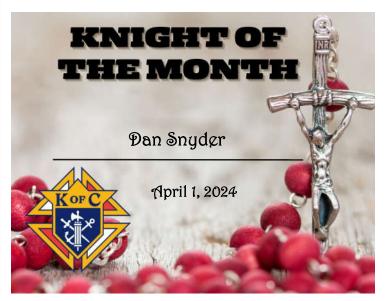
Phillip Campbell is a history teacher for Homeschool Connections and a prolific author of historical works, most known for the Story of Civilization series from TAN Books. Phillip received a Bachelor of Arts in History from Ave Maria University and a certificate in Secondary Education from Madonna University. Phillip has appeared on EWTN, Ave Maria, the Catholic Faith Network, and numerous other programs and podcasts promoting historical literacy.



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.

In our fourth weekend we reached 83.4% of our DSA goal of \$98,185.00 from only 205 of our 1010 families with total pledged at \$81,904.85. We are grateful for these contributions and invite others to join together to push us over goal for the benefit of our parish and the wider church.







Catholic Women's Club

Luncheon April 11, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. Coral Gables Restaurant 2838 Grand River Ave., E. Lansing Guest Speaker - Fr. Dwight Ezop

Attention all women of the Lansing area. The Catholic women's club is looking for you.. The Catholic women's club is women joining together to foster friendship, spiritual enrichment and to provide assistance to those less fortunate regardless of their faith. Our speaker will be Fr Dwight Ezop.

If you want and more information contact Janice Thelen at Thelenjanice@gmail.com



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Job Fair St. Francis Retreat Center

703 E Main Street., DeWitt MI

Looking for a part-time job? St. Francis Retreat Center is hosting a job fair! They are hiring in the housekeeping and kitchen departments. The job fair will take place on Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon in the

Retreat House at St. Francis Retreat Center. In addition to filling out applications, there will be an opportunity for on-site interviews with the managers. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. For more information or any guestions, please call our main office at (517)669-8321.

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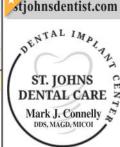
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