

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

IT IS CHRIST WHOM WE PROCLAIM,
ADMONISHING EVERYONE AND TEACHING EVERYONE WITH ALL WISDOM,
THAT WE MAY PRESENT EVERYONE PERFECT IN CHRIST.

— COLOSSIANS 1:28B



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 • Samantha Neher

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 • July 21

Exodus 14:5-18/Matthew 12:38-42

No Mass**Tuesday • July 22**

Song of Songs 3:1-4b or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17/John 20:1-2, 11-18

No Mass (or Confessions)**Wednesday • July 23**

Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15/Matthew 13:1-9

No Mass**Thursday • July 24**

Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b/Matthew 13:10-17

No Mass**Friday • July 25**

2 Corinthians 4:7-15/Matthew 20:20-28

No Mass**Saturday • July 26**

Exodus 24:3-8/Matthew 13:24-30

5:00 p.m. Mass †Carol Burns

By: Diane Burns and Family

Sunday • July 27

Genesis 18:20-32/Colossians 2:12-14/Luke 11:1-13

8:00 a.m. Mass †Brandon J Klein

By: Charlie and Lisa Wieber

10:00 a.m. Mass The People of the Parish**12:00 p.m. Mass For Michelle Pescatello**

By: Jack and Julie Williams

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Summer Hours for the Parish Office

Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.*(closed from noon - 1:00 p.m.)***Friday****CLOSED (until Labor Day)**The Sanctuary Lamp
will burn from
July 20 to July 26, 2025*Brenda Hogan*

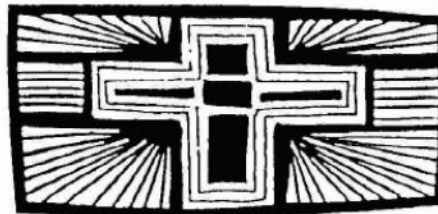
Congratulations on newly baptized

Willow James Whitford

On July 13, 2025

She is the daughter of
Kaleob Whitford
And

Cassidy (Steingreaber) Whitford



Sick or homebound?

Please keep in touch! Let us know your temporary address or your situation/plans. Would you like to receive homebound 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 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.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for
our parishioners
and their families,
especially:

Adam
Ari
Chris
Sawyer Ballinger
Lisa Clarizio
Sherri Couch
Verena DeBoer

Mick Droste
Mary Enneking
Keith Enneking
Trisha Fisher
Friend
Cindy Fontus
Brenda Higgins
David Higgins
Korine
Alissa McKeown
Gabrielle Meece
Teresa Miller

Myah
Patrick
Jenny Pytlowanyj
Deacon Marv & Tita
Robertson
Patricia Rojas
Mary Schmitt
Joan Schrauben
Sherri
Anne Thelen
Jennifer
Jerry

Brad Walker
Millie Wassa
Fr. Don Wieber

Please pray for
our parishioners
in the service,
especially:

William Hess
Jake Hoskins
Jacob Longoria

Eric Martin
Colby Munger
Adam Novak
Alex Rojas
David Seperic
Noel Smith II
Jordan Van Amburg

To add or remove a
name from the
bulletin prayer list,
please call the parish

office: 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)

Truth -- It Sounds Simple

Writing about the truth sounds simple, but as a person who is not well-schooled in philosophy I know that I may fall down a rabbit's hole if I'm not careful. So I guess I will tread softly, while still trying to stimulate some deep thought.

This discussion was triggered by a quote I recently read from St. Thomas Aquinas that has stuck with me. Though his words are more than 800 years old their validity to stimulate thought are apparent. He said:

"The study of truth requires considerable effort. That is why few are willing to undertake it out of a love of knowledge -- even though God has implanted a natural appetite for such knowledge in the human mind.

There are dozens of quotes about truth that are great to ponder, but as Aquinas said, most

people just don't want to exert the effort to examine it. Aquinas was a disciple of the Greek philosopher Aristotle, who famously said: "It is of the nature of man to want to know." We have a desire to know more, but in Aquinas' mind we just don't want to work for that knowledge -- especially when it involves knowledge of truth. So we often settle for some catch phrases, but no more wisdom about truth.

For example, we have the pointed yet whimsical observation of Mark Twain: "If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything." Then we have Galileo's scientific observation: "All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them." Even a line from a movie can have value in the right context, such as Jack Nicholson's: "You can't handle the truth" in *A Few Good Men*.

The first three quotes, although strong assertions, reflect only the secular world, but the following get to core Catholic beliefs. 'My longing for truth was a single prayer.' -- Edith Stein. But the end game on truth is Jesus' 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father

except through me.'

We know that the bottom line is that Jesus is the Truth. Edith Stein, canonized as Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, followed that truth to heaven. Nicholson's movie character delivered the memorable "You can't handle the truth" line in a secular setting within a work of fiction, but those words could have significant spiritual value in a real life situation.

We all occasionally set aside the truths of the Catholic Church through our sins, yet many of us don't seek absolution in the sacrament of Reconciliation. It may be time to ask ourselves whether we "can handle the truths" in our own lives. If we have serious sins on our soul, it's time to handle our truths in the confessional today.

"Truth" sounds simple -- until we apply it to our souls.

Deacon Eric
deaconeric@hotmail.com
You can now watch and listen to Deacon Eric's column through this link on Youtube.
<https://www.youtube.com/@StJosephCatholicChurch-StJohns>

Summer Faith Formation Series

Adults and teens are invited to join us as we examine two more of the most commonly misunderstood historical events involving the Catholic Church.

Wednesday, July 23 at 6:00 p.m. The Crusades

Wednesday, August 20, at 6:00 p.m. The Inquisition

Despite ending over 750 years ago, the Crusades still provoke passionate discussion. By learning about the people, events, and ideas behind the Crusades, we can clear away misunderstandings to better understand these complex events and what they mean for Catholics today.

St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary Monthly Event August 11, 2025

6:00 p.m. at the Columbian Hall

St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary will hold its next monthly event on August 11th at the Columbian Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. It's a novel event called a "Trade Market Exchange." In order to participate in the exchange, bring some type of product such as flowers, fresh garden vegetables, home baked goods or home canned goods such as jam. Once you have brought an item, you can then exchange your item for an item brought by another. There is no money involved. This will be a fun way to share in the bounty found in our gardens and kitchens. During the exchange, enjoy some snacks and fellowship. We're looking forward to seeing many new faces at this unique event.



Is there something special you would like
Father Mike to bless?

At the top of the ramp entrance, near the sacristy door, there is a table set up for you to place any items you'd like to have blessed. Father will bless them before Mass begins, and you can easily pick them up afterward.

Leading the Rosary
Volunteers needed

Did you know we say the Rosary is prayed a half an hour before each Mass every weekend? In order for these Rosaries to be said on Saturdays and Sundays, we are looking for volunteers to lead the Rosary, **especially at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass and Sunday at Noon.** If you are interested, please call the parish office.

Which One is Funnier?

Two weeks ago I ran my annual summer Catholic Humor column, which included a couple Catholic-related jokes. A well-known Irishman told me that he liked the jokes, though he had heard one of them before -- but with a different punchline. So I thought I'd offer the joke up today and supply both punchlines and let you decide. Send me an email and grade the two punchlines on the laugh-scale. Was the original line or the revised line better?

I'm providing the joke as it ran first, then will follow it with the revised line. Give each line the number one or number two, based on your preference.

An Irish farmer by the name of Muldoon lived by himself out side a small town in the Emerald Isle. His only companion was a faithful dog, who had been the man's best friend for a dozen years before passing away. He immediately went to his pastor, Fr. McCarthy, and asked if he could have a Mass said for the dog. The priest said he was sorry, but he couldn't say a Mass for the dog.

"I understand, Father, I do," said Muldoon. "I guess I'll go down to that new church at the end of my road. Advise me Father Mac, do you think a donation of \$500 would be sufficient to offer for the service?"

"Don't be hasty," said the pastor, "you didn't tell me that your dog was Irish."

("Don't be hasty," said the pastor, "you didn't tell me that your dog was Catholic.")

Deacon Eric
deaconeric@hotmail.com

Liturgical Minsters
July 26/27

Altar Servers:	5:00 p.m.	Volunteer
		Volunteer
	8:00 a.m.	Volunteer
		Volunteer
	10:00 a.m.	Quinn D.
		Palmer D.
	12:00 p.m.	Derek C.
		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.
	8:00 a.m.	Trevor H.
	10:00 a.m.	Rose R.
	12:00 p.m.	Dawn L.

Ushers:	5:00 p.m.	Group 5A
	8:00 a.m.	Group 8A
	10:00 a.m.	Group 10B
	12:00 p.m.	Group 12A

Collection Counters:	July 21	Group 3
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Sanctuary Cleaners: Judi Thelen and Thelma Miller

STEWARDSHIP

For the weekend of July 13, 2025

Adults (326) gifts Including online giving):\$15,515.05
Loose Cash:.....\$619.00
Total:\$16,134.05

Other Gifts Received

Education Trust Fund:\$172.00
Building Fund:\$254.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund:\$203.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2025 is \$18,648.60.
If we continue to keep this average, we will not meet our budgeted goal.

Diocese of Kumbakonam
Our 2025 Missionary Cooperation Plan Appeal
Message from Rev. M. S.Selva Raj:

I humbly request you to publish this for a short message on Mission Appeal in your parish bulletin. The universal human tragedy, loss of life and financial resources, pain and deprivation of all sorts, caused by Covid-19 pandemic is beyond my description. Therefore, the mission Diocese of Kumbakonam needs your prayerful and financial help all the more.

*With deep and prayerful gratitude,
Rev. M. S.Selva Raj*

The Propagation of the Faith office of our archdiocese has invited the Diocese of Kumbakonam, India to participate in the Mission Cooperative Appeal in our parish this year. Here is an overview of the missionary assets, activities, challenges and the needs of the Diocese of Kumbakonam. **Rev. Antony Rejesh will be here at St. Joseph Church the weekend of July 26/27, 2025**

This Diocese, started in 1899 in the state of Tamil Nadu, India, has an area of 7,824 sq.km and a Catholic population of 213,000 (6% of the population), living in 94 parishes and 618 missions, served by 218 diocesan and 68 religious priests, 620 nuns, 12 trained catechists and 330 untrained lay catechists and two social service centers. These are the most pressing missionary needs:

1. Establishing 8 more new parishes, each with a new church and rectory. The large missions need to be made independent parishes with the resident priest for better pastoral ministry, but the people are unable to give financial support.
2. Providing the 136 Catholic schools and 22 Orphanages in the missions with better facilities, building, infrastructure, educational and technical tools, children's Bibles, a projector, catechetical materials in the form of videos, pictures, text-books and workbooks to improve the quality of religious and faith formation of Catholic and non-Catholic students in mission-schools. Schools are our main means of ushering in progress at all levels. Education is a main means of evangelization and boosting the future prospects of the youth.
3. Enabling 480 nuns and 4955 Catholic Teachers in charge of catechetical, educational, medical and social ministers throughout this rural diocese, to educate the children and adults in the Catholic faith and to help the people, particularly the poor and the marginalized for their integral development, through annual seminars on Scripture and Catechetics.
4. Projecting the healing touch and loving care of the Divine Healer through our diocesan hospitals for lepers, homes and schools for hearing impaired children, children of HIV patients and the many rural medical clinics.
5. Education of more young men in the seminary since the diocese abounds in vocation to priesthood and religious life so that some could be sent as missionaries to missions abroad where there is a shortage of priests. **Note: Every year an average of 120 young men and women go out of this diocese to other missions and religious orders in India and abroad as missionaries.**
6. Educating 4800 very poor or orphan children, from families of single mothers and widows, and of addictive and abusive fathers by providing them with free board & lodging, in order to eradicate child labor. Such children are forced to tend cattle, work in hazardous conditions in factories, hotels or farms in order to eke out a living for the family.

All the above mission projects are 80% dependent on MCP funds. Due to acute poverty of 65% of the Catholics the diocese depends mostly on funds from annual mission appeal for the pastoral, educational, medical, and socio-economic emancipation of the marginalized and poor converts

Your Christ-like intervention and sacrifice of:

1. \$20 will feed a poor child or an orphan for a month. (\$200 annually).
2. \$50 will enable a single mother or widow to feed her family of 3 for a month.
3. \$100 will go for monthly pay for a catechist.
4. \$250 provides 4 goats to maintain a family of four.
5. \$500 will educate a physically challenged child (annually).
6. \$600 will pay the bill for healthcare and family maintenance of a leprosy patient for a year.
7. \$700 will fix the roof of a poor man's hut.
8. \$800 will provide a cow to feed an entire family of 5 or more.
9. \$900 will provide a grocery store, and employment to feed a family of 10 with elderly parents and grandparents.
10. \$1,000 will be used for treatment and rehabilitation of a leper.
11. \$2,000 to sponsor a seminarian for a year.
12. \$6,000 will provide a home for a family.
13. \$25,000 will build a mission chapel.

You may please offer a donation through your parish.

Thank you!

Rev. M. S. Selva Raj
Mission Director
Diocese of Kumbakonam, India.

PLEASE make checks payable to St. Joseph Church with "Diocese of Kumbakonam" in the memo line.

Spiritual and Missionary Productivity of MCP: Personal witness:

I was pastor (1980-1984) of St. Paul's mission founded in 1935 by a holy priest and some dedicated nuns, with 18 sub-stations, spread over an area with a radius of 28 miles, located in a jungle. Around midnight one day Kumar a Hindu adult was rushed to my rectory, at the point of death due to cobra-bite on his shoulder. After giving him a powerful, herbal anti-venom stand-by medicine, I had to rush him, already unconscious, to a hospital 30 miles away with three of us on my motor cycle, to give him anti-venom injection to be doubly sure of saving his life.

A year later, the Hindu fundamentalists had the police arrest Kumar and 22 other Hindus to prevent their conversion. Meanwhile the Holy Spirit had transformed Kumar to come forward with a bold defense through his powerful, personal and convincing witness: "It is through the selfless ministry of the priests and the nuns during the past 50 years that this entire area is booming with life (in the jungle) through good education, medical care, moral standards, culture of life and civilization of life, provided by them. But for the Catholic Missionaries we would still live in dark ages. Whereas you, the zealots of Hinduism and your government have never cared for us in our misery and distress. My family and I would have vanished into oblivion had the priest not intervened at the right time to save me from death. As for me and my family Jesus is the only Savior and true God. Any amount of your vile tactics of physical extortion, deprivation of social and economic benefits and social castigation, cannot prevent me from embracing Christianity."

His personal conviction and courageous witness, supported by 22 of his peers, saved our mission from further harassment. Undoubtedly this powerful endorsement from a group of Hindus delivered a rude shock to those who opposed our missionary work. In truth such a manifold ministry through mission school, clinic and orphanage for boys and girls, mostly non-Christians, trying to mirror God's love for the poor and forsaken, was made feasible mainly through Mission Appeal and Propagation of Faith in U.S. and Rome.

Yours sincerely in O.L

Fr. M. S. Selva Raj

Appeal submitted by: Rev. M. S. Selva Raj, Mission Director, Diocese of Kumbakonam, India
Live In His Love 369 Broadway, Staten Island, N.Y – 10310- USA
E-mail: frmssselva@hotmail.com

Why is it so important to register in a parish?

Registration is the official way we join a parish community. Many people think that because they attend a particular parish they automatically belong. At times young adults who have moved away for years or are still living with their parents think they are still signed up under their parent's registration. But membership requires signing up, formally enrolling yourself in a parish. Registration is a commitment to a community, a way to be included in the religious, social and ministerial activities of your parish. We encourage and invite all adult members of our faith community (18 years or older) to register. Registration shows you belong. Being a registered parishioner makes the process much easier when it is time for infant baptisms, weddings, and when asked to be a Godparent or sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. Registering in your parish is a statement of faith and confidence in the life and work of your parish. To register in our parish please stop by the office to fill out a registration form or go online on our website stjoecatholic.org/forms.

St. Mary, Westphalia
5K Run/Walk and Kids Run
Saturday, September 20, 2025 8:00 a.m.
Registration now open!

Registration is now open! Register online at
<https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Westphalia/StMaryFamilyFest>.
In addition, paper registration forms are available for download at this site.



Please contact
Darren and Becky Kramer's at
stmaryrunwalk@gmail.com
with any questions.
Thank you in advance
for your support.
See you at the starting line!

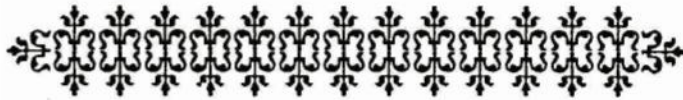
Career Opportunity **Office of Human Resources**

The Diocese of Lansing is now accepting resumes for a Regional Staff Accountant to join the Parish Financial Services Team. To learn more about this position and to apply, please visit the Diocese of Lansing [Careers Page](#).



Lansing and need the Anointing of the Sick?

When you or your loved one is ill, receiving the Sacrament of the Sick is important. When in a Lansing area hospital, please let your attending nurse know you would like the Anointing of the Sick. They will contact the chaplain who will, in turn, contact a local priest who is "on call" to come and give you the sacrament. This is the quickest way for you or your loved one to receive the sacrament, if they didn't already receive it before going into the hospital.



Traveling this summer?

MassTimes.org provides worship times, locations, contact info, websites and maps of over 117,000 churches in 201 countries and territories.

Prayer for Travelers

Lord, be our guide and our protector on the journey we are about to take. Watch over us. Protect us from accidents. Keep us free from harm to body and soul. Lord, support us with Your grace when we are tired. Help us be patient in any trouble which may come our way. Keep us always mindful of Your presence and love. Amen.

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