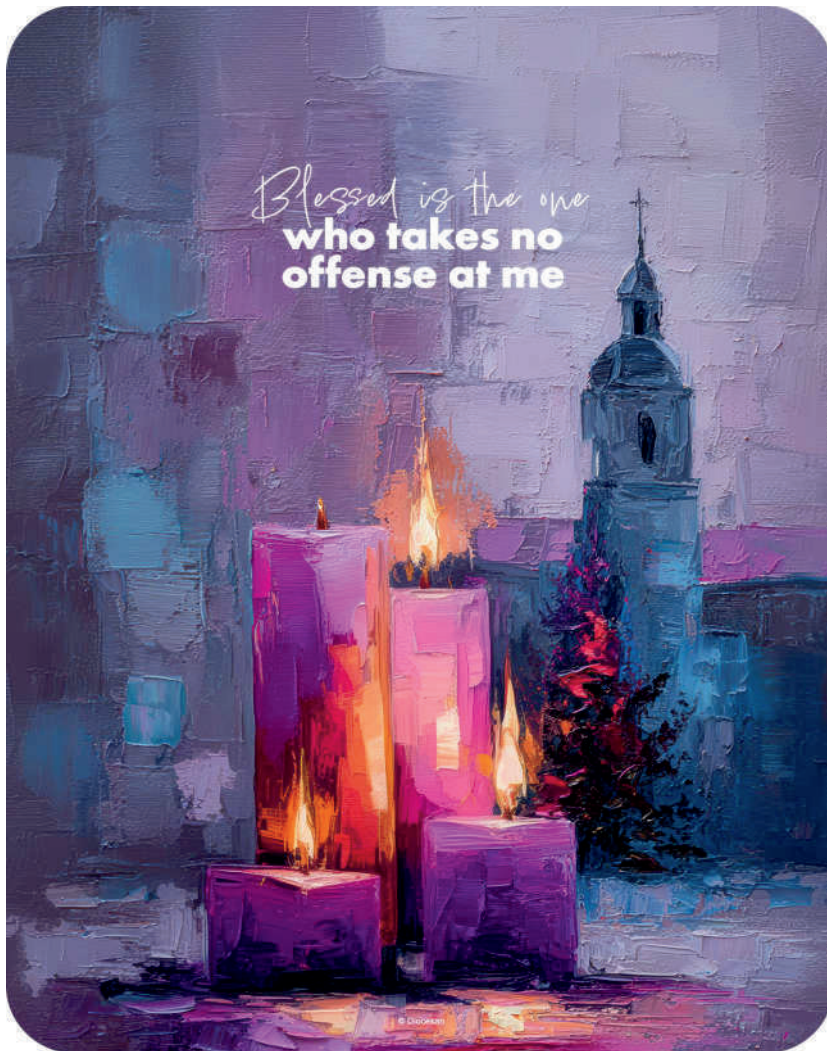


THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

# 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



## 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 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 • Steve Thelen  
Maintenance • Randy Wills  
School Custodian • Steve Dyer

### 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 • 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday • 4:00 p.m.

### Prayer Tree

Parish Office: (989)-224-8994

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025



### THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

#### **Monday • December 15**

*Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a/Matthew 21:23-27*

**No Mass**

#### **Tuesday • December 16**

*Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13/Matthew 21:28-32*

**6:00 p.m. Mass** †**Charles Wadell**

*By: Gail Wadell*

#### **Wednesday • December 17**

*Genesis 49:2, 8-10/Matthew 1:1-17*

**12:05 p.m. Mass** †**Carol Fust**

*By: Deacon Jerry and Alice Fust*

#### **Thursday • December 18**

*Jeremiah 23:5-8/Matthew 1:18-25*

**8:30 a.m. Mass** †**Daniel Becker**

*By: John Sira Family*

#### **Friday • December 19**

*Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a/Luke 1:5-25*

**8:30 a.m. Mass** †**Rita Thelen**

*By: Gail Wadell*

#### **Saturday • December 20**

*Isaiah 7:10-14/Luke 1:26-38*

**5:00 p.m. Mass** †**Cindy Nunn**

*By: Mom and Dad*

#### **Sunday • December 21**

*Isaiah 7:10-14/Romans 1:1-7/Matthew 1:18-24*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**8:00 a.m. Mass** †**Bill Eisler**

*By: Charles and Lisa Wieber*

**10:00 a.m. Mass** †**Nora, †Corey, and †Craig Linzey**

*By: Terry and Lori Pung*

**12:00 p.m. Mass** *For the People of the Parish*

**6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish**

*For the healing of Emeli Rodriguez Cruz*



The Sanctuary Lamp  
will burn from  
December 14-20, 2025  
in memory of

*Charles Wadell*

### **Advent Penance Services**

Most Holy Trinity - Fowler December 15th 6:30 p.m.  
*(Multiple Priest available to hear confession)*

St Mary - Westphalia December 22nd 6:30 p.m.



### **Adoration of Our Lord**

God dwells among His people in the flesh of Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, present in the Eucharist.



God is made present to us in the Holy Eucharist at Holy mass for us to receive as our Spiritual Food. He dwells in our tabernacle and is enshrined in the monstrance for us to adore. He will be with us until the end of time.. Please join us for the **Advent Candlelight Holy Hour** on December 19, at 6:00 p.m.

### **KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**Please pray for our parishioners and their families, especially:**

Adam  
Ari  
Chris  
Danny Ball  
Sawyer Ballinger  
Jan Coffman  
Sherri Couch

Verena DeBoer  
Mick Droste  
Mary Enneking  
Keith Enneking  
Trisha Fisher  
Friend  
Jack Hagerty  
David Higgins  
Korine  
Alissa McKeown  
Gabrielle Meece  
Teresa Miller

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

### Waiting is Hard, But Worth-while

We've talked about repentance as a key part of Advent – God wants us to repent, which includes not only asking his forgiveness for our sins, but also to turn away from sin and toward God. A second aspect of Advent that often gets overlooked is "waiting."

Our second reading at Mass today from the Letter of James, tackles that subject and its' relevance to developing patience. Patience is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and goes a long way toward developing endurance and prudence, as well as a stopgap for anger. With regard to Advent, we need patience to await the coming of the Lord on Christmas. James' letter not only tackles patient waiting, but includes an element of diligence as well.

To illustrate diligence in our waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus, James uses an example that many of us can appreciate with this being a rural community. He writes of a farmer waiting for crops to grow, knowing that it takes time for

seeds to germinate, grow and ripen in accord with the seasons – patiently awaiting the early and late rains in a growing season. Be patient, he says, because "Behold the Judge is standing before the gates."

In our world, everybody is in a hurry. Waiting is hard because we are always anxious to get to the end. Intellectually, we know that we can't plant seeds one day and harvest corn on the next day. In his homily last week Father Mike Schmitz broke down waiting in line into four categories: Unoccupied time, uncertain wait times, unexplained waits and unfair waits.

Occupied time, thus, feels shorter than unoccupied time – we hate waiting in line without doing anything. Uncertain waits, seem longer than known waits. Unexplained waits seem longer than explained waits (I want to know why). Unfair waits seem longer than perceived "fair" waits. (Hey, I was here before him). In sum, we want to know why we are waiting and when the wait will be over.

In our Average Joes get-together last week we used Fr. Schmitz's homily as the starting point on a discussion of dealing with waits

and the need to not let them control us. It's really harder now to wait because we live in a right now culture. We used to have to wait for a newspaper to come out, or at least to the evening news to learn details of a big story. Now we just whip out our phones and check out the details in a matter of seconds.

When it comes to special days like Christmas, we have trouble enjoying the four-week journey to the celebration of Our Lord's birth. We want to jump to it. We are still eleven days away from Christmas and many of us have already been to a couple Christmas parties – we have trouble patiently waiting to celebrate with family and friends. We feel the need to be there, without appreciating the journey. So let's hit the brakes and patiently enjoy the ride.

*Deacon Eric*

[deaconeric@hotmail.com](mailto:deaconeric@hotmail.com)

**You can now watch and listen to Deacon Eric's column through this link on Youtube.**

[https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/StJosephCatholicChurch-StJohns)

[StJosephCatholicChurch-StJohns](https://www.youtube.com/StJosephCatholicChurch-StJohns)



## Advent Candlelight Holy Hour:

Friday, December 19, 2025

6:00 p.m.

*in the church*

Step away from the busyness of the season with a led holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration. This candlelit event will feature music, a reflection, quiet moments with Our Lord, and more, as we prepare to step out of the darkness and into the light of Christ. Bring your family and friends; young children are welcome!



## What are you doing to prepare for the coming of Christ this Advent?

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel:**

**Reflections on the O Antiphons**

This Advent, journey with your parish family through a seven-part series on the Church's timeless cry for the coming Light, Who is Christ. In response to your adult faith formation survey preferences, this series will be available online. To receive the reflections directly via text or email, scan this QR code, or text joe48879-liturgy to 55321. Please check your email and text spam filters if you do not receive a confirmation.



### **K-12 Religious Education Program for December**

December 17: K-8 Classes (6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.)  
and Confirmation Class (7:30 p.m.)  
December 24 and 31: No Classes

#### **YOUTH GROUP NEWS:**

No QR code will be needed for the remainder of High School Youth Group Nights! The Youth Group is diligently working on the production of a YouTube Video with Mr. Dave Collins. Stay tuned for updates, and please pray for the youth as they grow and encounter Christ in new ways this year. Youth Group will continue to meet the second Wednesday of the month from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. until MAY.

#### **First Reconciliation Parent/Child Workshop**

Families with second graders who are preparing for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are scheduled for a parent/child workshop on Thursday, January 8th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the lower level of the church. This workshop is for all school and religious education program children to attend with their parent/s.

Contact Jen Nelson for more information at:  
[dre.stjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:dre.stjoseph@gmail.com).



**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS MUSICAL**  
Join us on Thursday, December 18th  
at 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
in the school's gymnasium  
All Are Welcome!

### **St. Joseph School LUNCH MENU**

Menu is subject to change, based on

This institution is an equal  
opportunity provider.

#### **FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 15-19, 2025**

Monday: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes with gravy, fruit, and milk.  
Tuesday: Grilled cheese with tator tots, fruit, and milk.  
Wednesday: Chicken fettuccine alfredo with bread stick, broccoli, fruit, and milk.  
Thursday: Hot dog on a bun with French fries, fruit, and milk.  
Friday: Cheese stuffed bread stick, chef's choice veggie, fresh fruit, and milk.

*Milk choice includes chocolate fat free milk  
or white 1% Low fat milk*

Lunches are \$3.25

Milk \$0.50

### **Liturgical Ministers December 20 and 21**

<b>Altar Servers:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Charleigh F. Volunteer
	8:00 a.m.	Audrey D. Cora D.
	10:00 a.m.	Palmer D. Scarlett S.
	12:00 p.m.	Max S. 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

<b>Lectors:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Lisa W.
	8:00 a.m.	Lu Anne C.
	10:00 a.m.	Tori S.
	12:00 p.m.	Linda S.

<b>Ushers:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Group 5A
	8:00 a.m.	Group 8B
	10:00 a.m.	Group 10C
	12:00 p.m.	Group 12A

**Collection Counters:** December 15 Group 4

**Sanctuary Cleaners:** The Schroeder Girls



### **STEWARDSHIP**

#### **For the weekend of December 7, 2025**

Adults (2308) gifts Including online giving): .....\$26,328.04  
Loose Cash:.....\$749.00  
Total: .....\$27,077.04

#### **Other Gifts Received**

Education Trust Fund: .....\$210.00  
Building Fund: .....\$108.00  
Tuition Scholarship Fund: .....\$47.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2025 is \$21,341.06. If we continue to keep this average, we will meet our budgeted goal.

## UPCOMING HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION:

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:**

Wednesday December 24:

\*4:00 p.m.

\*7:00 p.m. - Bilingual  
10:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 25:

9:00 a.m.

**Solemnity of Mary**

Wednesday, December 31: \*6:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 1: 8:30 a.m.

\* *Incense Free Masses*

Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Altar Servers are need and can sign up for any of the Holy Days Masses at this time. Please call or email the parish office or sign up on the sheets in the gathering space.

**Sick or homebound?**

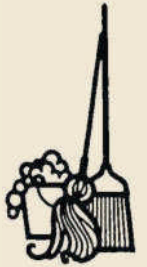
Let us know your temporary address or your situation/plans. Would you like to receive Communion after surgery? Are you hospitalized? We are here for you and want to minister to your needs, offer prayers, like to know how you're doing, etc. Just call the parish office with an update, and we'll connect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

**Calling all Men and Women!****The Annual Church Cleaning**

is scheduled for

**Monday, December 15****at 6:30 p.m.**

Please bring your cleaning cloths and a friend to help clean and beautify our church for the Christmas Season.

***Many hands make light work!***

All members of the  
St. Joseph Catholic Church family  
along with the choir are invited to  
join the



Knights of Columbus Council #3281  
for Christmas Caroling on at  
Grace Haven Assisted Living  
1507 Glastonbury, St Johns

**Monday, December 15, 2025**

We will meet at 6:45 p.m.

Caroling begins at 7:00 p.m.

*(If you arrive late, meet up at the dining room)*

Please join us to share a little Christmas joy with the residents. Dress festive and wear a Santa hat if you wish. Song books and refreshments will be provided to all who participate. Invite your neighbors and friends and as always, other musical instruments are always welcome.

**Plenary Indulgence**

As we come to the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope, this is a gentle reminder of the special graces available to the faithful through the Jubilee Indulgence. There are multiple ways to receive the indulgence, but they must be completed by January 6, 2026 (the Cathedral Plenary Indulgence lasts only through December 28, 2025)

To obtain an indulgence, the usual conditions of detachment from all sin, sacramental confession, holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the pope must be met, in addition to completing the indulgenced work, as a sign of your deep desire for true conversion and hope in God's goodness:

- Perform an extraordinary work of mercy such as a generous gift to the poor, or visiting nursing homes or prisons.
- Fasting for a day from "futile distractions" such as social media, television video games, and certain phone use.
- Make a brief pilgrimage to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Lansing. While there, participate in the Holy Mass, a celebration of the Word of God, Liturgy of the Hours, Way of the Cross, Rosary, or a penitential celebration that ends in the individual confessions.

A plenary indulgence can be gained only once per day, and may be applied either to oneself or a soul in purgatory.



**St. Joseph Church-St. Johns**  
**Position Opening:**  
**Maintenance/Custodial Worker**

We currently have an opening for the Maintenance/Custodial position at St. Joseph. This position is responsible for all routine, preventative, and operational maintenance on all St. Joseph buildings, equipment, and grounds as well as custodial work primarily in the church. Applicants should have previous experience in custodial and maintenance duties including safety and reporting procedures. There will be more information to follow. Questions can be directed to Steve Thelen, Business Manager at 989-224-8994 or email to [business.stjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:business.stjoseph@gmail.com)



**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 this form and put it in the red trimmed "Christmas Flowers, Decorations & Other Liturgy Expenses" envelope found in your November/December packets.

Dedicated by \_\_\_\_\_  
 In memory of (For the deceased) \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of (For the living) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the parish office  
**no later than**  
**Monday, December 15th**  
 in order to be included in the memorial list.

**Attention All Widows/Widowers**

Please join  
**"Kindred Friends"**  
 at our next meeting on  
**Wednesday, December 17, 2025**  
 at 10:30 a.m.  
 In the church basement

A Valentine's Speed Dating  
 Saturday, February 14, 2025  
 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
 Columbian (KC) Hall, St. Johns  
 Join other young adults Catholics (ages 21-35)  
 for an evening of fun, faith, and the chance to  
 spark something special.  
<https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/ValentineSD>

Follow us on the **St Joseph Catholic Church YouTube channel** where you can watch videos produced with the help of our St. Joseph School students, view the video about the Advent reflections online here, and listen to Deacon Eric's weekly column. All through the curtesy of **YouTube**. Just sign in with this link and enjoy!



<https://www.youtube.com/StJosephCatholicChurch-StJohns>



**Miscellaneous Money Matters**

**Year-End Contribution Statements** for 2025 will be mailed by the end of January. In compliance with the IRS, any donations postmarked after 12/31/25 or received in the office after 12/31/25 will be recorded as 2026 gifts. Your generosity this year toward the support of our parish has been appreciated!

**Thinking about starting automatic contributions?** Click on the Online Giving link at [www.stjoecatholic.com/donate](http://www.stjoecatholic.com/donate) to get started.

**Are you already using Online Giving?** Sometimes we set up automatic systems and forget to check them to make sure everything is current. Please take a few minutes to make sure that your donation amount is correct and that your credit card or bank card hasn't expired.

**IRA Required Minimum Distributions:** If you're 73 years or older, donating your IRA required minimum distribution to the parish can be a way to pay less taxes. Contact your investment advisor and the parish office to make a direct transfer so that the distribution doesn't have to be claimed as income.

**Donate stocks, bonds, or mutual funds:** To avoid capital gains tax on appreciated securities, consider transferring them to St. Joe's as your donation. Contact your investment advisor and the parish office to make this transfer.

Please pray for the following children preparing for **First Holy Communion** this 2026 Spring.

Quinn C.  
Caleb C.  
Grace D.  
Elizabeth D.  
Mya D.  
Lynden D.  
Eloise F.  
Sadie G.  
Jace G  
Bryer H.  
Benjamin H.

Eli H.  
Cam M.  
Alessandra M.  
Zoey N.  
Adalyn P.  
Grace R.  
Kensington S.  
Isla S.  
Canaan S.  
Brinley W.

Please pray for the following **Confirmation Candidates** that will be Confirmed in March 2026.

Grace B.  
Kara B.  
Brayden C.  
Owen D.  
Will G.  
Brody K.  
Carter K.  
Morgan L.  
Owen M.  
Isabelle M.

Sylis M.  
Elizabeth M.  
Joslynn R.  
Cassandra S.  
Adelyn S.  
Lauryn S.  
Paige T.  
Marie W.  
Ace W.

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