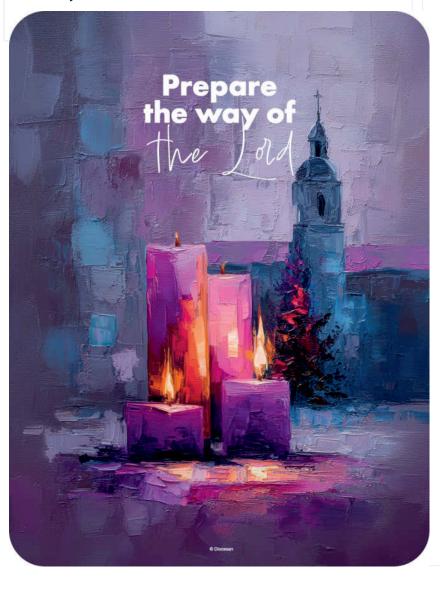
# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

109 Linden Street Saint Johns, Michigan 48879-1837 (989) 224-8994 Fax: (989) 224-3475

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#### **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.

(Holy Days • Consult the bulletin)

Mass in Spanish • 6:00 p.m.

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

### **Prayer Tree**

Parish Office: (989)-224-8994

Monday ● December 8

Genesis 3:9-15, 20/Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12/Luke 1:26-38

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** 

8:30 a.m. Mass *†Frank Favior* 

By: Charlie and Lisa Wieber

6:00 p.m. Mass †Sr. Marcia Andrews

By: Pat and Debbie Thiede

Tuesday ● December 9

Isaiah 40:1-11/Matthew 18:12-14

6:00 p.m. Mass †Susan Darnell

By: Dolores Oliver

Wednesday • December 10

Isaiah 40:25-31/Matthew 11:28-30

12:05 p.m. Mass †Anna Blasen

By: Bernard and Joan Jorae

Thursday ● December 11

Isaiah 41:13-20/Matthew 11:11-15

8:30 a.m. Mass †Clarence and †Joan Mikolajczak,

†Leon Nurenberg

By: Family

6:00 p.m. Mass For the Souls in Purgatory

Friday ● December 12

Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11;19a, 12:1-6a. 10ab/Luke 1:26-38

or Luke 1:39-47

8:30 a.m. Mass †Art Halfmann

By: Monica Klaver and Family

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Saturday • December 13

Sirach 48:1-4. 9-11/Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 5:00 p.m. Mass The People of the Parish

Sunday • December 14

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10/James 5:7-10/Matthew 11:2-11

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Mass The Living and Deceased Members of the

Schneider and Martin Families

By: Chris and Michelle Wells

10:00 a.m. Mass †John Kowatch

By: Terry and Lori Pung

12:00 p.m. Mass †Leo and †Shirley Lawless

By: The Lawless Family

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

**†Luis Porras Narvaez** By: Family



### **Advent Penance Services**

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

St Mary - Westphalia

December 22nd 6:30 p.m.



## **Eucharistic Adoration**

"Prepare the way of the Lord"

Advent offers us a great opportunity to prepare our hearts and souls for Christmas. A perfect way to prepare ourselves is by spending time with Him Who is, was, and is to come by attending Eucharistic Adoration.



This can be as simple as stopping in for some quiet time with our Lord present to us it the Holy Eucharist in the tabernacle. Or, consider joining many others during the beautiful Advent Candlelight Holy Hour on December 19, at 6:00 p.m. here at St. Joseph Church.

## 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 Pytlowanyj
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 Stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com

\*Please note: <u>only</u> immediate family members may add names to the bulletin.



# WE ARE ALL EVANGELIZERS

(AND WHATEVER ELSE IS ON DEACON ERIC'S MIND)

## Don't Judge a Book by It's Cover

Imagine you are camping Up North, in a nice quiet, secluded spot with no one else around –just you and the family, getting away from work and school. Everyone is just relaxing while singing songs around the campfire when all of a sudden someone happens upon your family – a bit of an odd-looking fellow.

To say he looks disheveled would be putting it mildly, because you can see he looks more than unkempt, and way beyond untidy, but you can't think of any word at the moment that means "more than disheveled." He doesn't have a weapon and he issues no threats, but you have trouble getting past his looks. His hair is long and unruly. He is young, yet he has a beard the length of an old man.

He's wearing camel hair clothing and a leather belt. It appeared he has insects stuck on his hands and his clothes, as if he had just dined on honey and locusts, but had yet to find a restroom in which to tidy up. Nonetheless, he delivers a message with confidence – in a manner that belied his appearance, saying: "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

This message is the same today as it was two thousand years ago, when John the Baptist, (or Crazy John for fans of "The Chosen" TV series) came out of the desert to announce that the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was soon to follow him and as such we must "make straight his paths." We don't need to have "The Baptizer" warn us in person to get our act together spiritually, because we do not know the time of Jesus Second Coming.

Now, none of us likes to be told we "have to do this or have to do that." We didn't like it when we were kids and we most certainly don't care for it as adults. And we definitely don't want to be scolded. But each year during Advent we are reminded by the Church through our Sunday Gospels that the Lord has expectations of us to turn away from sin – remember to repent means to not only confess our sins, but to turn away from those sins and toward God.

If you're looking for a new way to

grow spiritually this Advent, try this: pick up a catechism and read through the chapter on the ten commandments. I would be surprised if anyone did that and did not discover all that the Church describes as sins. The Fourth Commandment to honor your father and mother, for example, goes much deeper that respecting two people. The Fifth Commandment has 15 pages of what constitutes sin under the heading of Thou Shalt Not Kill.

Reading through the Catholic Catechism chapter on the commandments is very likely to open our eyes. Maybe we'll find a need to repent where we didn't see it before and maybe we'll find a greater urgency to "be prepared" through the sacrament of Reconciliation.

## 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



## 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 candle-

lit 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 10: K-8 Classes (6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.)

and Youth Group (7:30 p.m.)

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.

Contact Jen Nelson for more information at: dre.stjoseph@gmail.com

Dates will vary each month, please see the <u>stjoecatholic.com</u> website.



## 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 food availability from suppliers.

This institution is an equal

opportunity provider.

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8-12, 2025

Monday: Nachos with meat sauce and cheese.

lettuce salad, fruit, and milk.

Tuesday: Pig in a blanket, peas, fruit, and

milk.

Wednesday: Chili with crackers, cinnamon rolls,

fruit, and milk.

Thursday: Hamburger with fried chips, fruit,

and milk.

Friday: Broasted chicken, baked potato with

cheese, 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 13 and 14

Altar Servers: 5:00 p.m. Nolan C.

Zeke B.

8:00 a.m. Miles S.

Kaynin S.

10:00 a.m. Liam K.

Faye K.

12:00 p.m. Averie D.

Kasen D.

## 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. Bob P. 8:00 a.m. Dean H.

10:00 a.m. Steve M. 12:00 p.m. Dawn L.

*Ushers:* 5:00 p.m. Group 5C

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

Collection Counters: December 8 Group 3

Sanctuary Cleaners: Pam Ervin and Karen Feldpausch

## **STEWARDSHIP**

## For the weekend of November 23, 2025

Adults (406) gifts Including online giving):	\$21,002.70
Loose Cash:	\$1,080.00
Total:	\$22,082.70

## For the weekend of November 30, 2025

Adults (348) gifts Including online giving):	\$16,969.08
Loose Cash:	\$693.00
Total:	\$17,662.08

### **Other Gifts Received**

Education Trust Fund:	.\$140.00
Building Fund:	\$86.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund:	\$10.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2025 is \$21,080.61. If we continue to keep this average, we will meet our budgeted goal.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## UPCOMING HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION:

## The Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8, 2025 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

## **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.

## Calling all Men and Women!

## The Annual Church Cleaning

is scheduled for

Monday, December 15 at 6:00 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 Monday, December 8, 2025

We will meet at 6:45 p.m. at Hazel I Findlay Country Manor.

Caroling begins at 7:00 p.m. (If you arrive late, meet up at the cafeteria)



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.

## **THANK YOU!**

## Thank you from the MVH D.J. Jacobetti Veteran Home

Thank you so much for choosing to support the veterans of Michigan Veteran Homes D.J. Jacobetti again this holiday season. Your gifts make a huge impact and helps enrich the lives of the veteran members who call MVH D.J. Jacobetti home.

Like you, we strongly believe veterans deserve the very best quality of care. Your generous support ensures our veteran members have a choice of high-quality goods--with no wait. Thank you!

On behalf of the members and staff at MVH D.J. Jacobetti, we wish you the happiest of holidays and a blessed 2026. Thank you for supporting our veterans--and making this an annual event.

Sarah Johnson Volunteer & Donations Coordinator



Calling families big and small!
We are seeking volunteers to light
the wreath before Masses during
Advent. If a slot is open, it is
available to you - this is open to
ALL families, regardless of age,
size, etc., Sign up online here



## Long-Term Substitute Teaching Position: February - May, 2026

St. Joseph Catholic School in St. Johns, Michigan is accepting applications for a Kindergarten long term substitute teaching position. This position will last for twelve (12) weeks and begins in February, and finishes in May, 2026. Experience in teaching and/or substitute teaching in the classroom is preferred. The classroom also has a part-time aide Monday-Friday each school week.

Interested applicants please contact: Chris Wells, Principal, principal@stjoecatholicschool.org. or call the school office at 989- 224-2421.



## 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.

## The Giving Tree

This Advent you have the opportunity to participate in **THE GIVING TREE project**. Ornaments are in the baskets located at the new gathering space. 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 and number found on the ornament, and return the gift in the gathering space.

## Gifts MUST be returned NO LATER than Thursday, December 11, 2025

Please remember that the gift you provide is often the only gift the person receives. In past years over 200 individuals from Hazel Findlay, Safe Center, Eureka House, and Reach the Forgotten Jail Ministries have benefited from the generosity of St. Joseph parishioners.

Please return monetary gifts to the parish office or place in the collection basket.

## Retirement Fund for Religious Envelope

Our senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. They have spent decades caring for those in need, but years of service for little or no pay have left many religious communities without sufficient retirement savings. Today, over 20,500 elderly religious depend on the Retirement Fund for Religious to help cover their rising health care costs, medication, and daily living expenses. Your gift can help ensure they receive the care they deserve. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime.

Please make checks payable to **St. Joseph Church** with "Retirement for Religious" in the memo line.



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 curte-

sy of YouTube. Just sign in with this link and enjoy!

## https://www.youtube.com/StJosephCatholicChurch-StJohns





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

Eli H. Quinn C. Caleb C. Cam M.

Grace D. Alessandra M.

Elizabeth D. Zoey N. Mya D. Adalyn P. Lynden D. Grace R. Eloise F. Kensington S.

Sadie G. Isla S. Jace G Canaan S. Bryer H. Brinley W.

Benjamin H.

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

Grace B. Sylis M. Kara B. Elizabeth M. Brayden C. Joslynn R. Owen D. Cassandra S. Will G. Adelyn S. Brody K. Lauryn S. Carter K. Paige T. Morgan L. Marie W. Owen M. Ace W.





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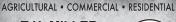
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