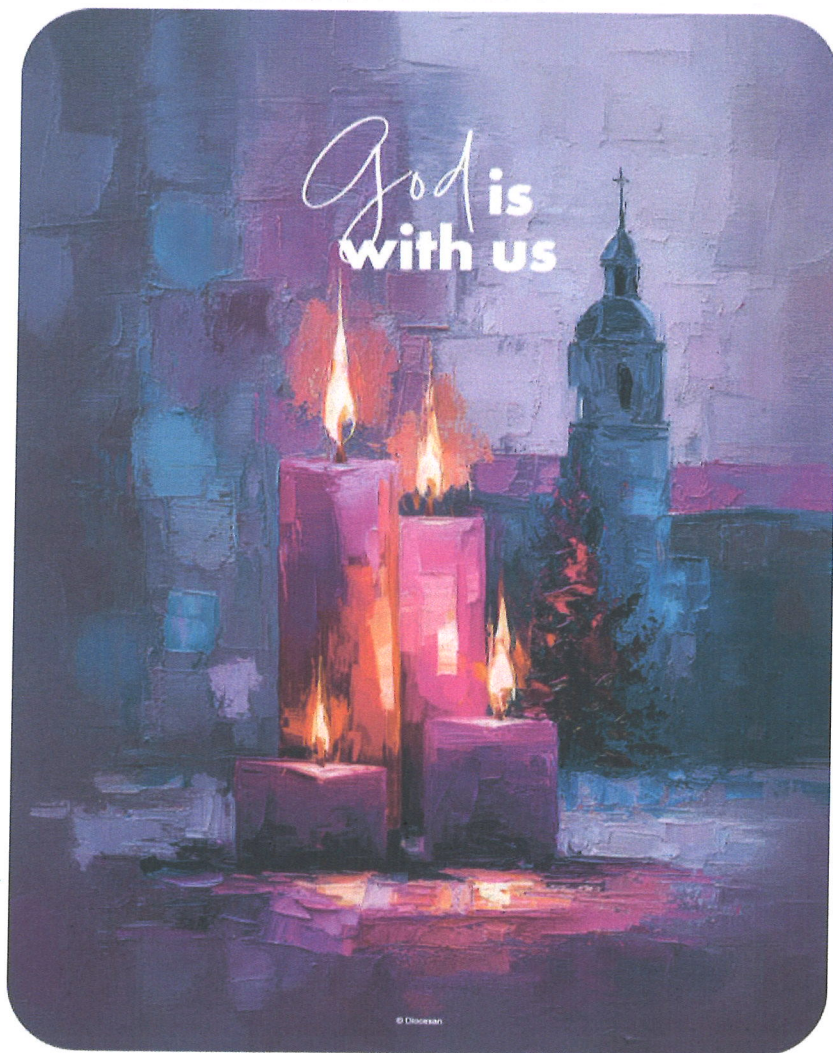


FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 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 •
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



THIS WEEK'S LITURGIES

Monday • December 22

1 Samuel 1:24-28/Luke 1:46-56

No Mass

Tuesday • December 23

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24/Luke 1:57-66

6:00 p.m. Mass †Bill Asher

By: Kathy Randolph

Wednesday • December 24**The Nativity of the Lord**

Isaiah 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Luke 2:1-14

4:00 p.m. Mass †Alexandra Parker

By: Mom and Dad

7:00 p.m. Bi-lingual Mass †Ron McCarty

By: Phil and Cindy Glowacki

10:00 p.m. †Don Randolph

By: Kathy Randolph

Thursday • December 25

Isaiah 52:7-10/Hebrews 1:1-6/Luke 2:1-14

9:00 a.m. Mass †Maurice and †Ethel Eisler

By: Ron and Kay Atkinson

Friday • December 26

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59/Matthew 10:17-22

No Mass

Saturday • December 27

1 John 1:1-4/John 20:1a and 2-8

5:00 p.m. Mass **The People of the Parish****Sunday • December 28**

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14/Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 a.m. Mass †Jack Sira

By: Beverly Mohnke

10:00 a.m. Mass †Bill Kissane

By: Judy Kissane

12:00 p.m. Mass †Jeff Wadell

By: Melissa and Scott Smith Family

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

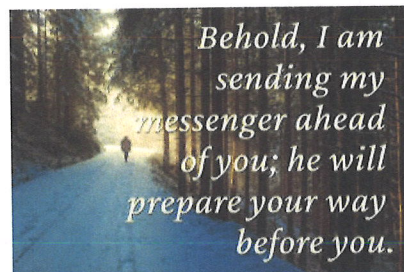
Parish Office Hours this week:
Monday and Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - Noon
1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Closed for Christmas
December 24-26, 2025

Advent Penance Services
 St Mary Catholic Church - Westphalia
 December 22nd 6:30 p.m.



The Sanctuary Lamp
 will burn from
 December 21-27, 2025
 in memory of

Beloved husband, Robert A. Petty



*Behold, I am
 sending my
 messenger ahead
 of you; he will
 prepare your way
 before you.*

Eucharistic Adoration

"O Rising Dawn, splendor of eternal Light and Sun of Justice: come and illuminate those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death." (Traditional O Antiphon)

Today, December 21st, is the longest night of the year. We look forward with joy to the lengthening days and are reminded of the coming of Jesus, the eternal Light and the Sun of Justice.



Come take some time away to bask in the warmth of His light and love as you spend some time in Adoration. O, Come Let Us Adore Him!

Please Note: The office and church will be closed on Friday, December 26, 2025.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for
 our parishioners
 and their families,
 especially:

Adam
 Ari
 Chris
 Danny Ball
 Dena
 Don
 Jill

Kristi
 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

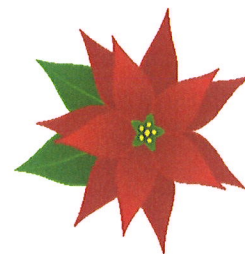
Jake Hoskins
 Jacob Longoria
 Eric Martin
 Colby Munger
 Adam Novak
 Alex Rojas
 David Seperic
 Noel Smith II
 Jordan Van Amburg
**To add or remove a
 name from the
 bulletin prayer list,**

**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.**



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2025



IN MEMORY OF:

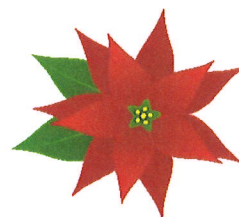
Richard and Doris Andrews
Butch Armstrong
Bill and Yvonne Asher
Harley Aylor
Kathy Babiak
Dale, Isabell, Mike and Dan Baker
Maynard and Shirley Barrett
Jeff Barrett
Amelia Bartkowiak Emmons
Ron Berghorst
Mick Bishop
Howard and Anna Blasen
Louis and Margaret Brya
Bill and Eileen Buggs
Tom and Jean Burns
Larry, Mary and Harry Burns
Cliff Carey
Dennis E Carn
Cathy Chambers
Alphonse and Agnes Caudy
Carl Chatfield, Sr.
Jim Clark
Harold Cole, Jr.
Edgar and Marie Conley
Mark D. Cornell
Ronald and Rose Coultres
Terese Croyle
Ronald and Rita Cuthbert
Jack Cuthbert
Roy and Mary Dieter
Stanley Divish
Lawrence and Stella Donahue
Jim Donahue
L.J. Donahue
Bernadette Doody
For the deceased members of the Droste and Exelby Family
Maurice and Etha Eisler
Kay and Jerry Eisler
Bill Eisler

Meta Licht Elftman
Henry and Betty Elstro
Shelly Elstro
The deceased members of the Empie Family
Sister Joanne Fedewa
Dale Feldpausch
James and Agatha Feldpausch
Stephen Fitzpatrick
Stu Fitzpatrick
Ernest and Anna Fox
Dennis M Fox
Bill Fox
Justin Fox
Paul and Helen Fox
Fox and Wagner Family
George and Agnes French
Frank and Jan Glowacki
John Glowacki
Donald Goerge
Ann Green
Art Halfmann
Tom and Pat Handloser
Neil and Jean Harte
Sally Hettler
Brenda Hogan
Joe and Alma Hogan
Bill and Cindy Horman
Joan Huhn
Donald and Laura Jorae
Sharon Jorae
Bernard and Joan Jorae
Hugh and Julia Jury
Julie Karber
Larry Karber
Bill Kissane
Lawrence and Carolyn Klein
Leo and Phyllis Klein
Peter and Margaret Mary Klein
Peter and Leonora Klein

Nicholas Kurncz
Deceased members of Otto and Donna Kus family
Hilda M. Lewis
Bob Lineberger
Curt Luttig
Ed and Betty Mankey
Miguel and Felicitas Medina
Cindy Miller
Bob Miller
Dave Motz
Carl Murray
Cindy Nunn
Bob, Germaine and Debra Nurenberg
Nurenberg and Pung Families
Deceased members of the Ohlemacher Family
Francis, Alice and Glen Pline
Dorothy Quick
Don Rademacher
Larry Randolph
Don Randolph
Brian Ritter
Roland and Esther Ritter
Fred and Josephine Rogers
Trudy Rogers
Joaquin Rojas
Mark Rosner
Susan Kay Scarchilli
Mark L Schafer
Kevin J Schafer
Joseph and Dora Schafer
Edward J. Schmitt
Deceased members of Julius and Martha Schmitt Family
Ron Schneider
Don and Alice Schneider
Ed and Alice Schneider Family
Dave Schroeder
Deceased members of the Schroeder & Fernholz Families
Alan Simon
Clarence and Genevieve Simon
Frank, Maxine and Janet Sipkovsky
Vernor Smith
Stan and Joan Smith
Janet Smith
Mr and Mrs Clare Smith
Linda and Donna Smith

Sister Donna Marie Koenigsknecht
Leonard and Bernita Koenigsknecht
John Kowatch
Lewis Kramer
Clayton, Betty, Clare and Leon Kramer
Cecil & JoAnn Smith Family
Tank and Gert Smith
Clarence and Genevieve Simon
Janice Terrabrood
Julius Theis
Carl and Laurene Thelen
Diane (Klein) Thelen
Leon and Bertine Thelen
Arnold and Irmina Thelen
Stan and Rita Thelen
Clair and Margret Thelen
Ryan Thelen, Jr.
Elmer and Wilma Thelen
Linda (Klein) Torres
Dick and Rosie VanElls
George, Lucille, Kathy and Skip Vasilenko
Alex and Bernita Vitek
Charles and Jeff Wadell
Harry and Mary Wadell
Stan Wassa
George and Therese Weber
Urban and Marie Weber
Herman and Roberta Weber and Family
John and Mary Werbish
Connor Whitford
Elenore Whitford
Herb and Doris Wieber
Ed and Verena Witgen
Dennis and Doug Worrall

Flowers dedicated in honor of someone
is on page 3 of this bulletin.





WE ARE ALL EVANGELIZERS

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

Obedience

On this last Sunday of Advent, the Church asks us to turn from the call to repentance as we've done for the last three weeks, and to look to obedience. And if you're looking for role models for obedience, you need look no further than St. Joseph and Our Blessed Mother. Mary's "Yes" to the Angel Gabriel set in motion a series of events unprecedented in history.

Joseph, a carpenter from Nazareth two thousand years ago, simply accepted the Angel of the Lord's proposal, as we heard in today's gospel from Matthew. No back-and-forth dialogue between heaven and earth like we heard from the likes of Zechariah, Abraham and Jonah. Just a non-verbal "Yes."

It sounds simple, but it certainly was not. The angel in today's gospel did not make a simple request of Joseph - - but rather a request that he alter his life in a way that changed salvation history. Remember, he was just an ordinary guy

betrothed to a woman named Mary. But he had just discovered that she was with child through the Holy Spirit. Torn between the law of Moses, and his own compassion for her well being, he planned to divorce her quietly.

After all, the Jews were tied to the letter of the law of Moses and its 613 precepts. Jesus' ministry, in a nutshell, was rooted in two commandments: love God and love thy neighbor. But his ministry is a topic for another time.

Today's focus is Joseph, who despite his intention to divorce Mary, said "Yes" to both of the angel's two requests—to take Mary quietly into his home as his wife (being betrothed they were considered married) and to name the child Jesus. The right to name children, by the way, was typically the responsibility of the Father in first century Judaism.

It's important for all of us to note that Joseph's willingness to change his whole life in obeying the Lord's wishes—then contrast it with our maybe/maybe not attitude of obeying Church doctrine. We too often look at the world only from our point of view, instead of the view of the Lord. On the hot topic social is-

sues of the day, Catholics believe in, and vote for, these issues at the same rate as the general population.

As Christians, we know we have to make difficult ethical and moral decisions throughout our lives. We need to always allow love to guide us, the way it led Joseph. It was not "me first" but "God first" for him. In making his love-based decision to say "Yes."

Christmas is a season of giving, when we focus on others more than ourselves. Let's pray in this last week of Advent, to not only vow to maintain focus on being other-oriented, but to listen closely for God's direction. He won't be asking us to take the Mother of God into our home, but he will remind us that we need to obey the two great commandments to love God with all we have and to love our neighbor as ourselves, just by saying "Yes."

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>

Christmas Flowers in HONOR of:

Deb Blade
Trevor L. Brya
CAASA

For the men and women who lead us in the Rosary

Sally Kramer
People of the Parish
Alex Pung
Paul and Eugenia Pung
Patricia Rojas
Roy and JoAnn Simon

Larry Thelen
Rick Thelen
Wadell children and grandchildren
Ann Wieser
Fr. Michael Williams

Four men were recently welcomed as catechumens (unbaptized) and candidates (baptized).

Please pray for Kaleob, Tyler, David and John as they prepare to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. If you or someone you know has questions about Catholicism or is interested in becoming Catholic, you are welcome to contact the parish office at any time.



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, Altar Servers and Ushers are needed 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.

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

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.**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

from

Mrs. Denovich, Ms. Duke
and Mrs. Klein

**Liturgical Ministers****December 27/28**

Altar Servers:	5:00 p.m.	Caroline V.
		Blaze V.
	8:00 a.m.	Ella C.
		Ella S.
	10:00 a.m.	Madison W.
		Morgan W.
	12:00 p.m.	Mabel R.
		Willow R.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

5:00 p.m.	Group 3
8:00 a.m.	Group 3
10:00 a.m.	Group 3
12:00 p.m.	Group 3

Lectors:	5:00 p.m.	Ignacio O.
	8:00 a.m.	Rich H.
	10:00 a.m.	Ted S.
	12:00 p.m.	Mary Beth E.

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

Collection Counters: December 22 Group 1**Sanctuary Cleaners:** Bonnie Wohlfert & Jodie George**STEWARDSHIP****For the weekend of December 14, 2025**

Adults (362) gifts Including online giving):\$23,567.48
 Loose Cash:.....\$964.00
 Total:\$24,531.48

Other Gifts Received

Education Trust Fund:\$185.00
 Building Fund:\$240.00
 Tuition Scholarship Fund:\$65.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2025 is \$21,473.99. If we continue to keep this average, we will meet our budgeted goal.

Miscellaneous Money Matters

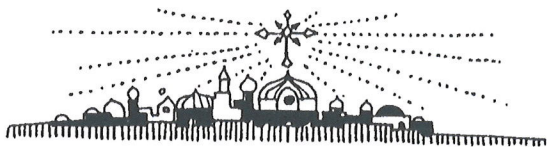
Year-End Contribution Statements for 2025 will be mailed by the end of January. In compliance with the IRS, any donations postmarked after 12/31/25 or received in the office after 12/31/25 will be recorded as 2026 gifts. Your generosity this year toward the support of our parish has been appreciated!

Thinking about starting automatic contributions? Click on the Online Giving link at www.stjoecatholic.com/donate 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.

**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:

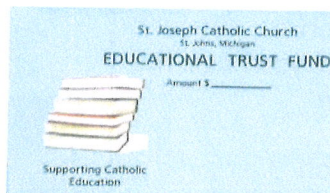
- Perform an extraordinary work of mercy such as a generous gift to the poor, or visiting nursing homes or prisons.
- Fasting for a day from "futile distractions" such as social media, television video games, and certain phone use.
- Make a brief pilgrimage to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception 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.

**Merry Christmas from the staff at
St. Joseph Catholic Church and
St. Joseph School!
May you have a
blessed Christmas!**

In a Lansing Hospital 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.



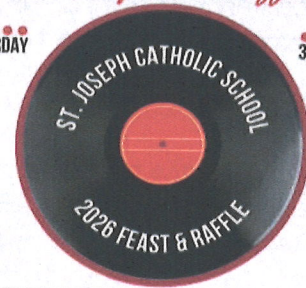
Did you know that a blue envelope donation goes to the Educational Trust Fund? The Educational Trust Fund supports education of our school students, religious education programs and RCIA. Please consider either donating to the Educational Trust Fund in the collection basket on

Sunday or online at: www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=1479

SAVE the DATE**BOOTS, BLING,
& BLESSINGS***A Country Formal Affair*

SATURDAY

3.21.2026



EMAIL: STJOEFEST@GMAIL.COM FOR
MORE INFORMATION

What is the Prayer Tree?

The Prayer Tree is an organized group of individuals who pray for our parish family. Prayer requests are confidential and are not shared with anyone outside of the prayer tree members. Parishioners can add their prayer requests for themselves, family members, or friends by contacting the Parish Office at 989-224-8994. The prayer request will be passed on to the prayer tree participants within one business day.

The prayer list published in the bulletin is not the same as the Prayer Tree.

To add an immediate family member to the bulletin prayer list call the office 989-224-8994.

"Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

To the parents of young children:

Bring your children to church.

God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house.

Bring your children to church.

Saturate their lives with the Word of God.

Even if they lay on the floor. Even if they need 316 goldfish and a sucker to be quiet.

Even if you stand in the cry room holding them, swaying for 10 minutes.

Even when it's hard.

Bring them to church.

Relax. Let them see you worship. Let them hear you praying, voicing the responses, and singing. Let them see you running toward our Lord—because if they don't see and learn these things from you, the world will teach them it's not a priority. The world won't teach them about Jesus.

To the members of our parish:

The presence of children is a gift to the church, and they are a reminder that our parish is growing. The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to one another. Help them learn liturgical behavior by praying, singing, and responding. Let them know that they are at home in his house of worship. (And give a smile of encouragement to their parents.)

St. Joseph Church-St. Johns Position Opening:

Maintenance/Custodial Worker

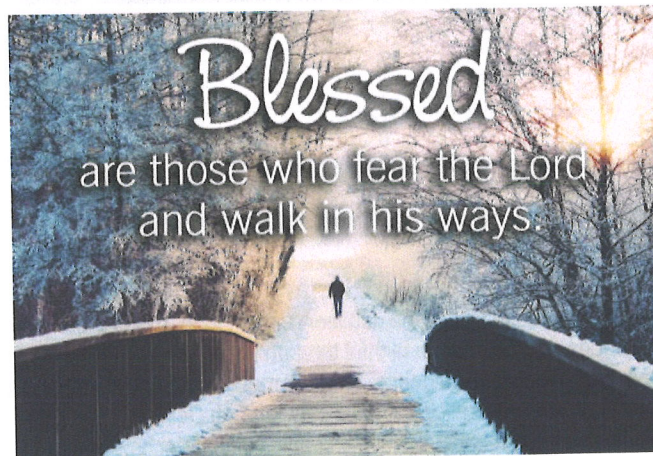
We currently have an opening for the Maintenance/Custodial position at St. Joseph. This position is responsible for all routine, preventative, and operational maintenance on all St. Joseph buildings, equipment, and grounds as well as custodial work primarily in the church. Applicants should have previous 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

Have you Heard?

You can receive the St. Joseph Parish bulletin and other Communications via email or text messages.



Scan this QR code or visit eva.us/joe48879



Traveling Chalice for Vocations

If you love the Catholic faith and want to contribute in a meaningful way, please pray for vocations. The Knights of Columbus has provided a traveling chalice that you can take home for a week of daily prayers. The chalice is located on a table in the front of the annex (near the ramp entrance). Simply sign up for the week that you want, and the Chalice as well as suggested prayers are yours for that week.



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.

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.
Luke T.
Brinley W.

A Great Smile Lasts a Lifetime!



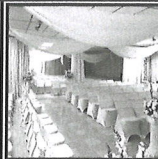
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