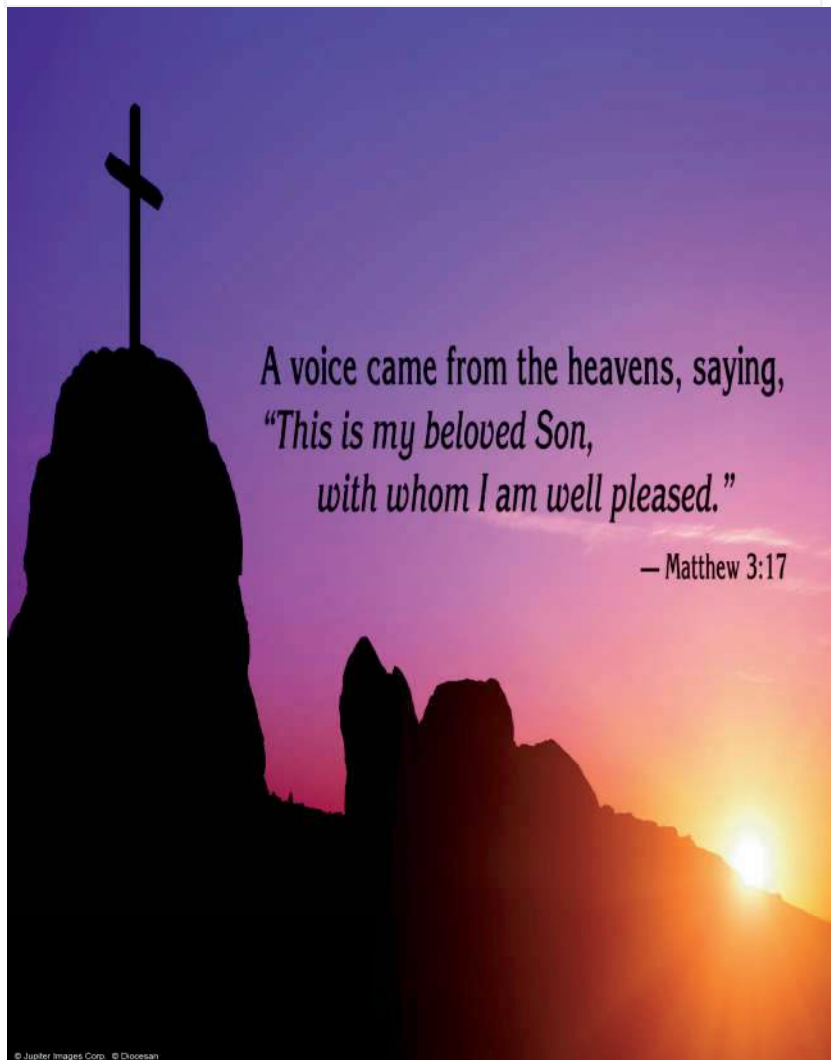


# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 • January 12**

1 Samuel 1:1-8/Mark 1:14-20

**No Mass**

### **Tuesday • January 13**

1 Samuel 1:9-20/Mark 1:21-28

**6:00 p.m. Mass †Dorothy Starrak**

By: Brad and Andrea Rehmann Family

### **Wednesday • January 14**

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20/Mark 1:29-39

**12:05 p.m. Mass †Peter and †Louise Darin**

By: The Sandahl Family

### **Thursday • January 15**

1 Samuel 4:1-11/Mark 1:40-45

**8:30 a.m. Mass †Sister Marcia Andrews**

By: Kathy Orson

### **Friday • January 16**

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a/Mark 2:1-12

**8:30 a.m. Mass †Ron McCarty**

By: Knights of Columbus #3281

### **Saturday • January 17**

1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1/Mark 2:13-17

**5:00 p.m. Mass †Dr. Peter Luea**

By: Brad and Andrea Rehmann Family

### **Sunday • January 18**

Isaiah 49:3.5-6/1 Corinthians 1:1-3/John 1:29-34

**8:00 a.m. Mass †Ronald Cuthbert**

By: Jeff Cuthbert

**10:00 a.m. Mass The People of the Parish**

**12:00 p.m. Mass †Anna Blasen**

By: Jerry and Colleen Smith

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



The Sanctuary Lamp  
will burn from  
January 11-17, 2026  
In memory of

*Stanley Divish*

## Office Hours

**Monday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

(closed from noon - 1:00 p.m.)

**Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

(closed from noon-1:00 p.m.)

## Rest in Peace

Our prayers and sympathies  
to the family and friends of

*Sharon Albrater*

## Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn

The Blessed Sacrament will be Exposed for  
adoration and a time of prayer for the  
legal protection of the unborn on

**Thursday, January 22.**

*Watch the bulletin next weekend for full details.*

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."  
Matthew 3:17

God continues to reveal Himself to us today. We need  
only sit in silence before Jesus, present to us in  
the Blessed Sacrament, and listen to Him.



Are you interested in making a positive change  
in your spiritual life in the New Year? Join our  
group of regular adorers and subs. Text or call  
Rebecca at 989-292-2072 for more information.

## 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  
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)

### Story Time—600

‘Oh, somewhere in this favoured  
land the sun is shining bright,  
The band is playing somewhere,  
and somewhere hearts are light;  
And somewhere men are laughing,  
and somewhere children shout,  
But there is no joy in Mudville—  
mighty Casey has struck out.”

(Ernest Lawrence Taylor)

That is the paragraph with which I ended the 500th installment of “We Are All Evangelizers” in January of 2024 and it seemed appropriate to lead today’s 600th installment with the same excerpt from the classic poem “Casey at the Bat.” It just so happens that I deemed the closing lines from “Casey” appropriate in 2024 because the sentiments of emptiness felt by Mudville fans (though in the context of the sport of baseball) mirrored those of Detroit Lions fans whose football season had just ended shy of the Super Bowl. Once again, here in 2026, we saw the Lions season end yesterday one win short of the playoffs.

But a second reason I brought up the poem was because it is a great

example of story-telling, and that’s really my focus today. There’s a wonderful column in this month’s “Liguarian” magazine entitled “The Power of Story.” Here’s what author Vinita Hampton Wright states in the opening paragraph:

I love that the sacred book of Christianity is full of stories... the bible is a marvelous collection of stories, told by historians and prophets, poets and evangelists. And we have stories within stories, such as when Jesus shares parables.”

If we think of the most interesting people in our lives, we will find that most of them are good story-tellers. That doesn’t make them great people, of course, but whether we are going to a party or a medical conference, we will find we remember more when someone is able to communicate via a story. Wright tells us that “storytelling is simple enough to hold the attention of small children, yet this sort of learning can also be an effective and sophisticated process of human development.”

Wright also says that we remember grand plots of novels and people of literature more than historical facts, saying: “Stories are facts arranged meaningfully. Without a plot, actions have little meaning. Without a motive, a character is unconvinc-

ing.” Wright’s article is part of several in this month’s issue of “Liguarian” encouraging Catholics to read more about the faith, about saints, about Scripture saying: “the Holy Spirit is still writing stories, even though the biblical canon is closed.” (No more books can be added to the bible.)

“Please, Wright writes, “allow yourself to enjoy stories. Find new ones and rediscover the old ones. Allow your spirit to learn wisdom and hope with the delight of a child.”

So now installment 600 of “We Are All Evangelizers” is winding down and I’m thinking how different so many of the stories I’ve written have been. Some have been stories about my life, others have been about people of the parish. Some have been attempts at humor, some more poignant. I hope, though not all masterpieces, that at least, they contained something interesting. In the end I think, they are like Forrest Gump’s chocolates: “You never know what you’re going to get.”

*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/>

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

## 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)



I’d like to take a moment to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, food, and gifts that I received this Christmas. I really appreciate it. However, more than anything else, I truly appreciate and consider myself blessed to be among such a great group of people.

I am truly blessed as your pastor.

*Fr. Mike*





## Lansing United for Christ

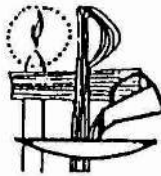


**Sunday, January 25, 2026 | 3:00 p.m.**  
**Held at "One Church" | 3355 Dunckel Rd, Lansing**

Join Christians from across Greater Lansing as we gather to proclaim Jesus as Lord, pray for spiritual revival, the spread of the Gospel, care for the poor and needy, and God's blessing upon our leaders. To view the full order of service, scan the QR code.

### Remembering the Parish

After providing for families and loved ones, you may wish to include St. Joseph Parish in your will. All gifts are welcome, and we ask that you prayerfully consider whether a portion of your estate should be used to continue the ministries of the parish. This can be accomplished with the words: *I bequeath to St. Joseph Parish of St. Johns, Michigan, [insert amount being given or percentage of residue] to be used to support the ministry of the parish.* A bequest can be a specific dollar amount, a specific piece of property, a percentage of an estate, or all or part of the residue of an estate. It is always recommended that you consult a lawyer for drafting or amending a will.



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## Knights of Columbus Valentine's Dance

**Friday, February 13, 2026**

**Columbian Hall 1108 Old US 27, St Johns MI**

**dinner served at 6:30pm by Country Spice Catering**

**music by 33 1/3 Street Sound and Video**

**Cost \$30 per person everyone 21 and over welcome!!**

**Get tickets today: email at [kofc3281@gmail.com](mailto:kofc3281@gmail.com) or**

**pickup at RESA at the Southpoint Mall**

### "The Chosen"

Season Five entitled "Holy Thursday"

**Fridays - January 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2026**

**9:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

**Please come and enhance your understanding of the Gospel through this unique TV series.**

*Deacon Eric*

### Epiphany House Blessing

"Chalking the door" is a centuries-old custom in which Christians gather on the feast of Epiphany (January 6) to ask God's blessing on their home. A traditional way of doing this is to take a piece of blessed chalk and inscribe the following above the entrance door at the home:

**20 + C + M + B + 26**

The "20" and the "26" refer to the year. The "+" between the letters symbolizes the cross of Christ. The "C M B" initials have two meanings:

1. The initials represent the three Magi: Casper, Melchior and Balthazar.
2. The initials are an abbreviation for the Latin "Christus mansionem benedict" (May Christ bless this house)

**Be sure to pick up your Home Blessing Kit near the church entrance which includes a piece of blessed chalk and instructions.**



### 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!

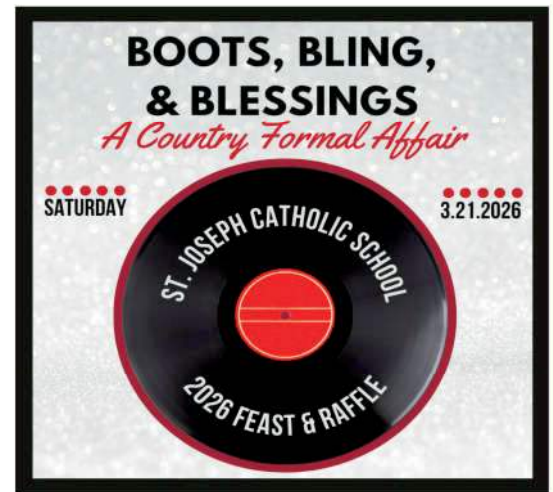
**Thinking about starting automatic contributions?** Click on the Online Giving link at [www.stjoecatholic.com/donate](http://www.stjoecatholic.com/donate) to get started.

**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.

## SAVE *the* DATE



Email: [Stjoefeast@gmail.com](mailto:Stjoefeast@gmail.com)  
for more information



Join us for Prospective Family Night on Wednesday, January 14, from 6:30–8:00 PM. Discover the difference WITHIN at Lansing Catholic High School and experience a place where students are known, loved, and challenged to grow spiritually, intellectually, and socially. Student ambassadors will lead tours starting at 6:30 pm. The evening ends with President Dominic Iocco speaking on our mission followed by a student Q & A panel. Bring the whole family and see what sets Lansing Catholic apart. Pre-register at [lansingcatholic.org/visit](http://lansingcatholic.org/visit) or contact [admissions@lansingcatholic.org](mailto:admissions@lansingcatholic.org) with any questions.



**Mid-life Singles (mid-30s to 50s):** Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), on Jan 30-Feb 1, 2026. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$240 for meals and a single room. Visit [www.ReflectRetreat.com](http://www.ReflectRetreat.com), email [reflect.michigan@gmail.com](mailto:reflect.michigan@gmail.com), or call (586) 770-1772 for details.

### Some Adult Formation Opportunities to Look Forward to in 2026

*A partial sneak peek at what lies ahead*

- ♦ **Lenten Book Study: Into His Likeness by Dr. Edward Sri.** Watch for details in January
- ♦ **May 8, 2026: The Cristero War: Faith Under Fire with Phillip Campbell** This family-friendly event will feature a talk in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Cristero War by your favorite Catholic history author-teacher, as well as a Mexican-themed meal. This was the winner of the parishioner vote in September regarding the formation opportunity you would most like to see.
- ♦ **Summer Faith Series:** June/July/August the summer faith series returns! We'll address three more relevant and often misunderstood historical events related to Catholicism.

And more! Watch the bulletin for additional information concerning these and other opportunities to grow in your faith.





## If you were raised as a child in the parish:

- And are now over 18 years of age
- And you did not fill out a parish registration form
- You are NOT a registered parishioner!

## Why is it important to be registered in the parish:

- We can reach you with important information about the parish and it's ministries
- We have a more accurate idea of the number of parishioners we have in the parish.
- It allows us to seek your input and feedback.
- It allows you to formally support the parish financially, since envelopes will be issued to you for your use.
- We can start a sacramental record for you.
- Finally, registering can also help you have a greater sense of belonging to and ownership of the parish.

## Please note:

The **envelopes** you receive when registering **will now play an important role in the reception of the sacraments.** (i.e. Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation and Marriage along with Godparent and Confirmation Sponsor selection) in the parish. We're asking *all* parishioners to get into the habit of using your envelopes in the weekly collection. Even if you give online or don't have anything to put in the envelope, please submit an empty envelope. It will help us know how many registered parishioners attend a given Mass and it will also come in handing for determining if a person, presenting themselves for a sacrament, is attending Mass regularly as is required.

You can obtain a registration form from our website at [www.stjoecatholic.com](http://www.stjoecatholic.com) under forms or stop in the parish office.

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