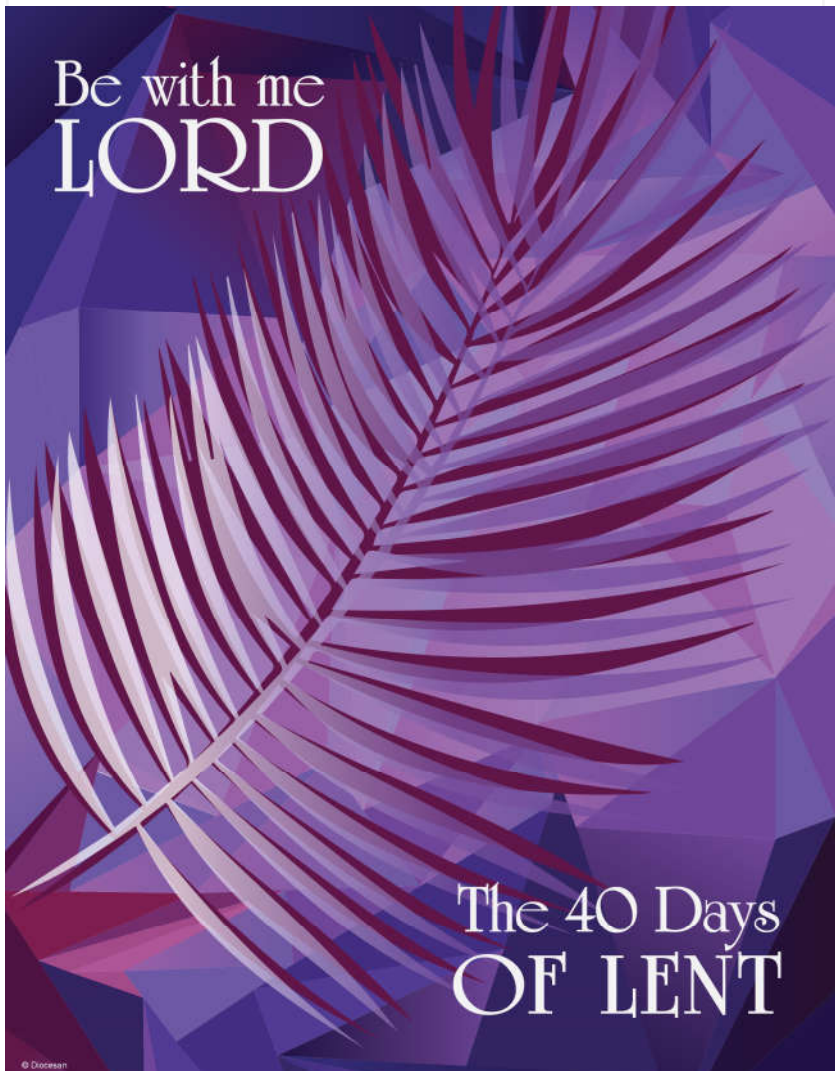


# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 • Glenn Esch  
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 • February 23**

*Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18/Matthew 25:31-46*

No Mass

**Tuesday • February 24**

*Isaiah 55:10-11/Matthew 6:7-15*

6:00 p.m. Mass †Gerald Horak

*By: Peter & Margaret Klein Family*

**Wednesday • February 25**

*Jonah 3:1-10/Luke 11:29-32*

12:05 p.m. Mass †Marie Conley

*By: Conley Family*

**Thursday • February 26**

*Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Matthew 7:7-12*

8:30 a.m. Mass †Margarita Alor

*By: Eric, Monica and Camilla Hufnagel*

**Friday • February 27**

*Ezekiel 18:21-28/Matthew 5:20-26*

8:30 a.m. Mass †Ron McCarty

*By: Charlie and Lisa Wieber*

**Saturday • February 28**

*Deuteronomy 26:16-19/Matthew 5:43-48*

5:00 p.m. Mass †Kathy Reynolds

*By: Family*

**Sunday • March 1**

*Genesis 12:1-4a/2 Timothy 1:8b-10/Matthew 17:1-9*

8:00 a.m. Mass †Celester and Bernita Fedewa & Family

*By: Ken and Mary Jane Fedewa*

10:00 a.m. Mass †Clair Lycia Wineland

*By: The Jury Family*

12:00 p.m. Mass The People of the Parish

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish



**Age 14 and up - Abstain from meat on all Fridays (including Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) of Lent**

**Age 18-59 - Fast Ash Wednesday & Good Friday**

**Fasting ~ eat one full meal, as well as 2 smaller meals, not equaling the one full meal.**

**Abstinence ~ Not eating meat.**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday evening in Lent at 6:00 p.m.



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn from February 22-28, 2026 In memory of

**Ed Harr**

**Eucharistic Adoration**

"If you ate only one meal a week would you survive? It is the same for your soul. Nourish it with the Blessed Sacrament"

St. Andre Bessette

How can we nourish our soul? By receiving Our Lord worthily in Holy Communion and by spending time communing with Him in Eucharistic Adoration.



Interested in making a monthly Holy Hour? Please text or call Rebecca at 989-292-2072.

**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  
Korine  
Gabrielle Meece

Teresa Miller  
Myah  
Patrick  
Jenny Pytlowanyj  
Tom Reynolds  
Deacon Marv & Tita  
Robertson  
Patricia Rojas  
Mary Schmitt  
Joan Schrauben  
Sherri  
Anne Thelen

Katelyn T.  
Jennifer  
Brad Walker  
Millie Wassa  
Dan Yurek

**Please pray for our parishioners in the service, especially:**

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 par-**

**ish office: 989-224-8994 or email Stjosephchurchstjohns@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)

**Let's Hit the Car Wash**

Even when a winter seem long, as it did this year, somehow that time between the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Lent can seem awfully short. "But we just had the Super Bowl, right?" That's correct, but the football season lasts almost until the start of baseball season nowadays. "So baseball is coming up pretty soon, right?" Well, actually it's already started. The Tigers had their first spring training game yesterday.

"Wow, so it really is Lent, huh." Yes it is, and what a wonderful time of year it is – 40 days to get right with the Lord through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. "Wonderful you say— well I say speak for yourself. I'd rather not analyze the state of my soul."

The beginning of Lent catches some Christians off guard no matter the number of weeks between the end of Christmas and Lent. That's because some of us don't want to face

the realities of their behavior, that of a blackened soul. Truthfully, I don't know how many parishioners classify Lent as "wonderful," but it can be if we put our minds to it. I believe that most of us let out a collective sigh when Ash Wednesday appears on the weekly calendar. We know it's around the corner once we hit February, but we don't want to go "round that corner" because we know it's probably going to be pretty messy.

That thought triggers a memory of a story I first read in one of Matthew Kelly's books and it concerns the sacrament of Reconciliation. Kelly asks the reader to picture how we feel when we drive out of a car-wash on a sunny afternoon in February. We glance down at the freshly vacuumed floors and look out of the immaculately cleaned windows as the outside of the car shimmers in the sunlight.

For a week or so, we are able to avoid mud puddles and we make sure we always remove anything we brought into the car when we reach our destinations. Then one day, we are pressed for time and grab a drive-through burger, tossing the wrapper in the back seat and forget-

ting about it. The next day, we leave some business papers in the back because we know we're going to need them in a day or two. The we hit a puddle, maybe a couple. The wrappers and the business papers start to pile up in the back seat and a few weeks down the road we realize that our cars look filthy inside and out.

That same scenario plays out in our spiritual lives. We go to confession and for a period of time we successfully avoid dirtying our soul but eventually we give into a temptation and the devil keeps steering us away from Jesus. That's why we need Ash Wednesday. That's why we need Lent. We have got to regain control of our spiritual destiny by hitting the car wash and working harder to keep our car clean inside and out.

*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)

**Disciple Maker Index Parish Survey**

St. Joseph Parish will be participating in the **Disciple Maker Index (DMI) during the Lenten season.** This confidential survey helps both parish leadership and the bishop understand how we are growing as disciples of Jesus Christ and where we can do better.

Your participation matters. This survey provides valuable insight so we can strengthen what is working and respond more thoughtfully to the spiritual needs of our community.

The survey takes **10-15 minutes** to complete and will be available **through March 31.** All responses are confidential, and the results are shared only in summary form. Access the online survey by scanning the QR code, or stop by the parish office for a pepper copy of the survey. Online and paper options are available.

Please prayerfully consider taking part. Together, we can help St. Joseph Parish continue to grow as a place to know, love, and serve Christ.



**St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary  
Lenten Soup Suppers**

St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary invites all parishioners to our Lenten soup suppers on February 25 and March 18 at the Columbian Hall. The meal begins at 5:30 p.m. These free meals of soup and bread offer an opportunity to enter into the fasting and almsgiving of the Lenten Season. There will be presentations from a local charity during the meal and then an opportunity to donate to that charity. **The local charity on February 25 will be Safe Center** who will provide information about their work with women who are involved in domestic violence situations. Your support of this charity will be greatly appreciated. Also, any soup or bread donations for the meal will be gladly accepted.



Please watch for sign-up sheets. May we all be blessed as we enter into the holy season of Lent.

**K-12 Religious Education Program  
February Program Calendar**

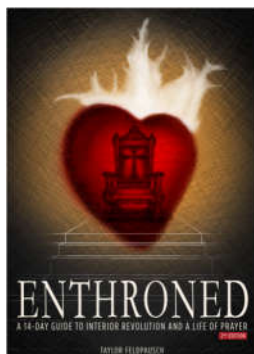
February 25: K-8 Classes (6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.)  
Confirmation Class (7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)

**Save the Date: Rite of Enrollment Mass  
for 8th Grade Students**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

Tuesday, March 10th at 6:00 p.m. is the Rite of Enrollment for all 8th graders seeking Confirmation in 9th grade, 2027. Please arrive at 5:30 p.m. in the lower level of the church.

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



**LENTEN PRAYER  
TALK SERIES  
FOR ALL 6th - 8th GRADERS!**

St. Joseph Parish is hosting a 2 week Prayer Talk Series by Enthroned Prayer Ministries on **Wednesday, February 25 and March 4th FOR ALL 6th - 8th GRADE STUDENTS.**

The speaker is Taylor Feldpausch from St. Mary's in Westphalia and author of the book called "Enthroned".

The two nights are scheduled from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. in the lower level of the church. His book will be distributed to all the youth that attend.

**St. Joseph School  
LUNCH MENU**

**FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23-27, 2026**

- Monday: Taco, lettuce salad, fruit, and milk,
- Tuesday: Pig in a blanket, carrots, fruit, and milk.
- Wednesday: Macaroni and cheese with warm pretzel, green beans, fruit, and milk.
- Thursday: Hamburger with cheese, fried chips, fruit, and milk.
- Friday: Cheese pizza, fresh veggies, fresh fruit, and milk.

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

Lunches are \$3.25

Milk \$0.50

Menu is subject to change, based on food availability from suppliers.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**Liturgical Ministers**

**February 28 and March 1**

<b>Altar Servers:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Nolan C. Zeke B.
	8:00 a.m.	Ace W. Beau H.
	10:00 a.m.	Paisley S. Eli P.
	12:00 p.m.	Derek C. Graham C.

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

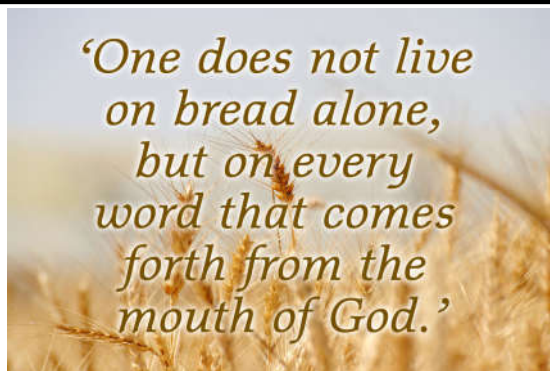
5:00 p.m.	Group 3
8:00 a.m.	Group 3
10:00 a.m.	Group 3
12:00 p.m.	Group 3

<b>Lectors:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Lisa W.
	8:00 a.m.	Lu Anne C.
	10:00 a.m.	Jane M.
	12:00 p.m.	Debbie T.

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

**Collection Counters:** February 23 Group 3

**Sanctuary Cleaners:** Teisha Schmitt and Janet Thelen



**The collection from the weekend of February 15, 2026 will appear in a later bulletin.**

**Fr. Mike will be offering Confessions  
Every Wednesday of Lent  
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

**Other Lenten Penance Services**

Most Holy Trinity -Fowler	March 16 - 6:30 p.m.
Community of St Jude - DeWitt	Tuesdays during Lent at 4:00 p.m. Saturdays during Lent at 9:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.
St. Mary- Westphalia Parish Penance Service	March 23-6:30 p.m.

**Lenten Holy Hour and Confessions  
Wednesday, March 11 at 6:00 p.m.  
St. Joseph - St. Johns**

Join us for an opportunity to spend time with Our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration this Lent. This led-holy hour will include prayers, silence, and an opportunity for sacramental confession. Bring your family and friends. All ages are welcome!

**Lenten Book Study**

As we begin the second week of our book study, remember that it is not too late to begin. Jesus wants to draw you closer to Him this Lent. This week, consider how you might encounter Jesus each day. Perhaps spend time with the Gospels, deepen your prayer, receive the sacraments, or serve Him in the people around you.

**Parents with one or more students attending Lansing Catholic High School** may apply for a parish subsidy grant from St. Joseph Church to help with tuition costs. There are basic requirements to apply and forms are available through the parish office or on our website: [stjoecatholic.com/forms/](http://stjoecatholic.com/forms/)

Application deadline is  
March 31, 2026  
for the 2026-27 school year.

**Lenten Fish Fry 2026**



**Knights of Columbus #3281**

1108 N Us 27, St. Johns MI

**Serving from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Fridays:**  
February 27  
March 6, 13, 20 and 27

*Baked fish, fried fish, baked potato, steak fries, macaroni and cheese, green beans, coleslaw, and dinner roll*

*Coffee, juice, and water provided*

\$15.00 for adults  
\$8.00 for children ages 6-12  
Children under 6 are free  
Cash and Check only  
"Take out" meals available  
Call (989) 224-1225

*Rest in Peace*

Our prayers and sympathies  
to the family and friends of

*Don Panik*

*(Anna) Marie Leonard*



The spring session of 40 Days of Life has just begun. 40 Days of Life is a prayer vigil that is held outside of abortion clinics and Planned Parenthood sites around the world to silently pray to save the lives of unborn babies often lost to abortion. Prayers are also offered for those who work for and support the abortion industry so they will have a change of heart.

The local 40 Days for Life vigil is held outside the Planned Parenthood at Frandor Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. You can go to pray at any time at this site or to sign up for a specific time, just go to the website: [40daysforlife.com/Lansing](http://40daysforlife.com/Lansing). I will be going to pray every Thursday at 2:00 p.m. so you can join me at that time to get initiated. Fore more information, call Mary Beth at (989) 227-0088.

**Things Every Catholic Should Know:**

**Why do we give up stuff for Lent?**

*Answer: The practice of abstinence (doing without certain things) goes back to the Old Testament and the Jewish dietary laws which were carried over into parts of the early Christian church until the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15). The theological reasoning is that it is a method of atoning for sin since chastising the body brings it under control of the spirit. Abstinence is first mentioned in a Church document in a decree of the Council of Toledo in the year 447 A.D. where the custom was to abstain primarily from meat on all Fridays and on days of penance. Canon 1251 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law prescribes "abstinence from meat, or from some other food as decided upon by the Episcopal Conference (conference of bishops) on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday." The National Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States (USCCB) made abstinence from meat mandatory on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent and recommended that it be observed on all Fridays of the year but has allowed individual Catholics to substitute another penance on Fridays if they could not abstain from meat..*



**EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS**

If you would like to make a donation of any amount towards our various Easter flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, please use this form and place in the pink trimmed "Easter flowers, Decorations & Other Liturgy Expenses" envelope found in your March/April packets.

Dedicated by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
In Memory of            or            In Honor of  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the parish office by Monday, **March, 23rd** to be included in the Memorial List

\*Donations received in excess of flower costs will be applied towards decorations and other liturgical expenses.

**SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2026**  
**St. Joe Feast & Raffle**  
**WAYS TO SUPPORT:**

**ATTEND THE EVENT**  
**USE THE QR CODE TO GET YOUR TICKETS!**

**PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS**  
**VISIT THE SCHOOL OR CHURCH OFFICE**

**DONATE ITEMS, EXPERIENCES OR MONETARILY**

**QUESTIONS? CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE OR EMAIL US:**

**FEASTANDRAFFLE.COM**  
**STJOEFEAST@GMAIL.COM**



**A note from Fr. Mike**

As we celebrate the 101st year of St. Joseph School, I'd like to invite each of you to join me for the **Feast and Raffle celebration on Saturday, March 21st at 6:00 p.m.** Each year we have a wonderful time as we together for this main fundraiser for our school. This year's event is shaping up to be, like our past celebrations, an evening of fellowship and fun unlike anything else.

To purchase tickets, please go online at [www.feastandaffle.com](http://www.feastandaffle.com)



**ATTENTION - HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**  
**Annual Right to Life Oratory Contest**  
**Saturday, March 14, 2026**

Clinton County Right to Life announces their annual Oratory Contest for high school students on Saturday, March 14, 2026. The contest consist of a 5 to 7 minute speech on a pro-life issue such as abortion, infanticide, or euthanasia. A panel of judges will select the best of the speeches. **The top three speeches win cash prizes of \$200, \$175, or \$150.** The first place winner moves on to the state competition in Lansing on April 18, 2026. For an application or more information, please contact Mary Beth at (989)277-0088.

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

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

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

Quinn C.	Benjamin H.	Remi S.
Caleb C.	Eli H.	Adeline S.
Grace D.	Cam M.	Luke T.
Elizabeth D.	Alessandra M.	Brinley W.
Mya D.	Zoey N.	
Lynden D.	Adalyn P.	
Eloise F.	Grace R.	
Ruby F.	Kensington S.	
Sadie G.	Isla S.	
Jace G.	Canaan S.	
Bryer H.	Maxwell S.	