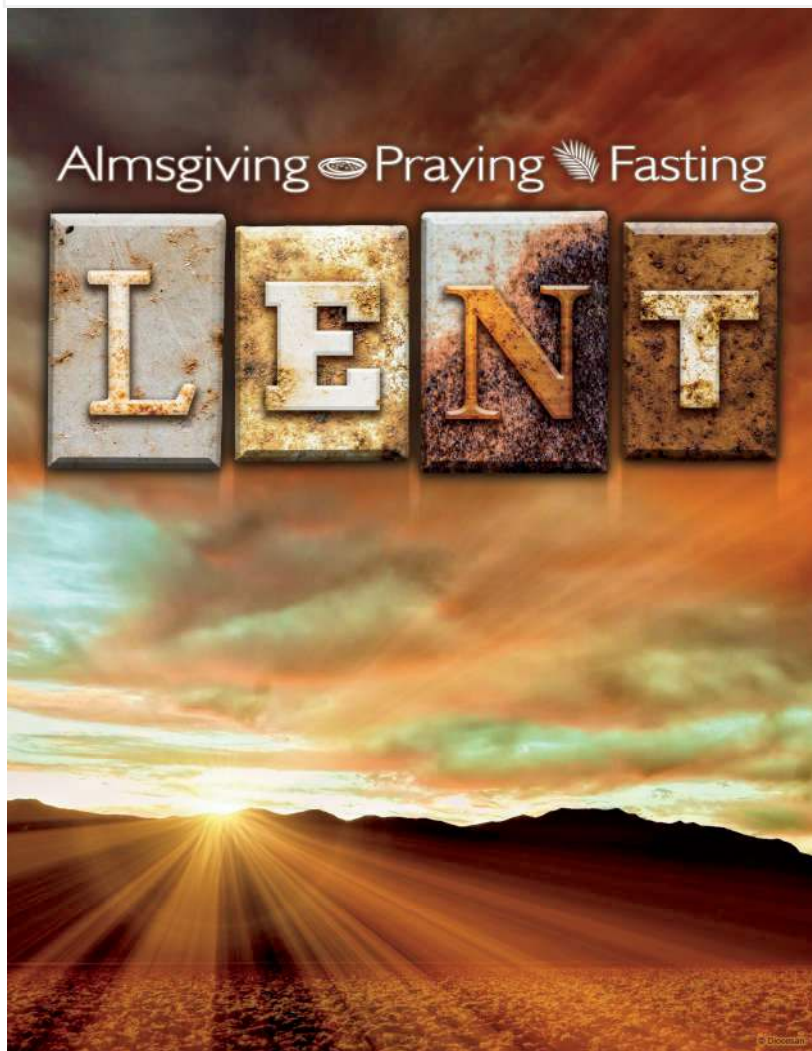


ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 • March 2

Daniel 9:4b-10/Luke 6:36-38

No Mass

Tuesday • March 3

Isaiah 1:10, 16-20/Matthew 23:1-12

6:00 p.m. Mass †Bill McCann

By: His Family

Wednesday • March 4

Jeremiah 18:18-20/Matthew 20:17-28

12:05 p.m. Mass †Margaret Jolynn Elbert

By: Brad & Andrea Rehmann

Thursday • March 5

Jeremiah 17:5-10/Luke 16:19-31

8:30 a.m. Mass †Dale Rhynard

By: Charles and Lisa Wieber

Friday • March 6

Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

8:30 a.m. Mass †Vern Smith

By: Pat and Debbie Thiedt

Saturday • March 7

Micah 7:14-15, 18-20/Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

8:30 a.m. Mass For an End to Abortion

5:00 p.m. Mass †Cynthia Diekema

By: Brad and Andrea Rehmann

Sunday • March 8

Exodus 17:3-7/Romans 5:1-2, 5-8/John 4:5-42

8:00 a.m. Mass The People of the Parish

10:00 a.m. Mass †Gary Brown

By: John and Diane (Birgans) Caudy

12:00 p.m. Mass †Bernard Jorae and †Joan Jorae

By: Jerry and Colleen Smith

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

**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
Tuesdays during Lent at 4:00 p.m.
Saturdays during Lent 9:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.
St. Mary- Westphalia
Parish Penance Service March 23-6:30 p.m.

Rest in Peace

Our prayers and sympathies
to the family and friends of

Paul A. Pung



The Sanctuary Lamp
will burn from
March 1-6, 2026
In memory of

Ron Hartenburg

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
March 7 and 8**

The Blessed Sacrament will be Exposed for Adoration following First Friday Mass on March 7 until Benediction and Mass on March 8.

We are in need of subs at the following times:

Friday, March 7: 11:00 a.m. (2 needed), 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m.,
5:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 8: 1:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m.

Please text or call Rebecca 989-292-2072 if you will attend one of these hours, or sign up in the church gathering space.

There will not be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the First Friday/Saturday of April because that will be Good Friday. Please plan on spend time in Adoration on Holy Thursday following the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper if you are able.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for our parishioners and their families, especially:

Adam
Ari
Chris
Danny Ball
Dena
Don
Jill

Kristi
Michael
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 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)

Rocky (Raccoon) Road

At the beginning of my first session moderating our parish book study, I put up a couple of different graphs that could represent the apostle Peter's walk toward true discipleship. I called one of them, the Simon-Cephus-Peter graph to portray the ups and downs of Peter's struggle in his walk toward true discipleship. I have since renamed it the Rocky (Raccoon) Road for reasons more obvious to some than others. Hint: it has nothing to do with ice cream.

In a related development, my handy-dandy flip calendar delivered up a pertinent quote from the great Catholic quipster G. K. Chesterton who once said: "Jesus promised his disciples three things – that they would be completely fearless, absurdly happy, and in constant trouble." We can make the case that Peter fit that description.

He showed some fearlessness in dropping his nets and immediately following Jesus. He must have been quite happy when Jesus announced that Peter would be the rock upon which his church would be built. And Peter filled the constant trouble category

only five verses later (in Matthew's gospel) when after rebuking Jesus, the Lord told Peter "Get behind me Satan." The path to discipleship is not an easy one. It takes imitation, commitment and surrender.

As I've promoted the book "Into His Likeness" over the past month or so, I've stated repeatedly that the book is an easy read. What I did not emphasize enough is that there is great spiritual growth opportunities available in reading this book. As the chapters move on, we will find advancing toward true discipleship will require more discipline. The book's author, Dr. Edward Sri, walks his rocky road past all the readers.

He was a faithful Catholic, but while on a retreat realized how much he became like the rich young man in the gospel. Sri had been following his faith like the rich young man, but he was not happy. He knew he had to surrender and make Christ, not a part of his life, but the center of it to be, as Chesterton put it "absurdly happy."

As we all make our way through Lent, let's each of us realize that we are all walking a path similar to that of Peter. We will have good days and not-so-good days. In the last episode of season five of "The Chosen" Jesus shows his frustration with Peter a couple of times by calling him Simon. In other

words, he misses Jesus' statement or action as if Peter were still the fisherman who had never met Jesus. Sometimes, we don't hear Christ clearly either, we slip into Simon mode. But Jesus stuck with him and after the Holy Spirit appeared to the apostles at Pentecost he became the disciple Jesus knew he would be. We, too, can become like New Testament Peter, if we are willing to surrender ourselves and put Christ in the center of our lives.

REMINDER: I have noticed in recent months that there seems to have been a drop-off in the number of Mass-goers responding to "The Mystery of Faith" proclamation after the Consecration. It is not just the cantor or choir who should be responding, but everyone should declare: "We proclaim your death O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again." That sentence affirms our core belief that Jesus died and rose from the dead for us and that he will come again on the last day.

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>

Disciple Maker Index Parish Survey

Our parish is participating in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) during Lent. This brief, confidential survey helps parish leadership and our bishop understand how we are growing as disciples of Jesus Christ and where we are called to grow.

Why this matters: Your feedback will help shape the future of St. Joseph Parish and the Diocese of Lansing.

This year is especially significant. As Bishop Boyea prepares to submit his resignation upon turning 75, the insight gathered through the DMI will help prepare our diocese of its next Bishop.

The survey takes just 10-15 minutes and is available through March 31. Responses are confidential and shared only in summary form. Scan the QR code or complete a paper copy of the survey, available near the entrances or in the parish office. Your response is a gift to our parish and our diocese.



St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary

Monthly gathering
Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary monthly gathering will be held on Monday, March 9 at the Columbian Hall at 6:30 p.m. Our last meeting brought together many new ladies who were a great blessing and we're hoping there will be more *rookies* on the 9th. We will continue the work of planning for the year.

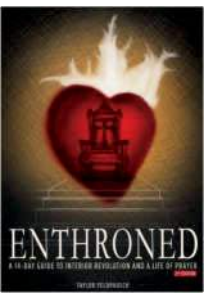
Our soup suppers are the first event this year to provide a special night during Lent for fasting and almsgiving. The soup suppers also provide a chance to learn about a charity as you share fellowship with new friends. All ladies of the parish are invited to come to this gathering to share ideas, faith, fellowship and a little snack. Looking forward to seeing you.

(Just a reminder, do bring your yearly dues at this time).

K-12 Religious Education March Program Calendar

March 4:	K-8 Classes	(6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.)
March 11:	K-8 Classes	(6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.)
	Youth Group	(7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)
March 18:	K-8 Classes	(6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.)
	Confirmation Class	(7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)
March 24	Confirmation Mass	6:30 p.m.
March 25:	K-8 Classes	(6:00 p.m. - 7:15 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.

Liturgical Ministers
March 7/8

Altar Servers:

5:00 p.m.	Charleigh F. Volunteer
8:00 a.m.	Miles S. Kaynyn S.
10:00 a.m.	Quinn D. Claire N.
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.	Ignacio O.
8:00 a.m.	Rich H.
10:00 a.m.	Joe T.
12:00 p.m.	Dawn L.

Ushers:

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

Collection Counters: March 9 Group 1

Sanctuary Cleaners: Ramona Smith & Leona Thayer

St. Joseph School LUNCH MENU

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 2-6, 2026

Monday: Pancakes, sausage, hash brown, fruit, and milk.

Tuesday: Chicken tenders, carrots, fruit, and milk

Wednesday: Chili with cinnamon roll, fruit, and milk

Thursday: 1/2 Day - no lunch served.

Friday: 1/2 Day - no lunch served.

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.

STEWARDSHIP

For the weekend of February 15, 2026

Adults (382) gifts Including online giving:\$25,118.04
 Loose Cash:.....\$671.00
 Total:.....\$25,789.04

For the weekend of February 22, 2026









Adults (452) gifts Including online giving:\$21,452.17
 Loose Cash:.....\$543.00
 Total:.....\$21,995.17

Other Gifts Received

Education Trust Fund:\$141.00
 Building Fund: \$204.00
 Tuition Scholarship Fund: \$235.00
 Our weekly average since July 1, 2025 is \$21,981.31. If we continue to keep this average, we will meet our budgeted goal.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH CALENDAR

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Masses: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and Noon KC Coffee/Donuts (RR) 	2 No Mass	3 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (L) 5:30 p.m. Confessions 6:00 p.m. Mass 6:30 p.m. Book Study (RR) 7:00 p.m. KC Meeting (KCH)	4 12:05 p.m. Mass 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Confessions 1:00 p.m. Book Study (L) 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Confessions 6:00 p.m. K-8 Rel Ed (RR) 7:00 p.m. Cristero Event (L) 7:00 p.m. Choir practice (CL)	5 8:30 a.m. Mass 9:00 a.m. Bible Study (L) 7:00 p.m. OCIA (L)	6 8:30 a.m. Mass 1 st Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (from after 8:30 a.m. Mass thru 8:30 a.m. benediction Saturday) 4:7:00 p.m. KC Fish Fry (KCH) 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross 6:30 p.m. Book Study (L)  7:00 p.m. Stations – in Spanish (C)	7 8:30 a.m. Benediction and 1st Saturday Mass 9:00 a.m. Average Joes (RR) 4:00 p.m. Confession 5:00 p.m. Mass
8 Masses: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and Noon 6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish	9 No Mass 6:00 p.m. PSC Meeting (TL)	10 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (L) 5:30 p.m. Confessions 6:00 p.m. Mass – 8th grade Rite of Enrollment 6:30 p.m. Book Study (RR)	11 12:05 p.m. Mass 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Confessions 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (L) 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Confessions 6:00 p.m. K-8 Rel Ed (RR) 6:00 p.m. Lenten Holy Hour 7:30 p.m. Youth Group (RR) 7:00 p.m. Choir practice (CL)	12 8:30 a.m. Mass 9:00 a.m. Bible Study (L) 6:00 p.m. Mass – Souls in Purgatory 7:00 p.m. OCIA (L)	13 8:30 a.m. Mass Adoration (C) from after 8:30 a.m. Mass until 6:00 p.m. 4:7:00 p.m. KC Fish Fry (KCH) 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross 6:30 p.m. Book Study (L) 7:00 p.m. Stations – in Spanish (C) 	14 9:00 a.m. Average Joes (RR) 4:00 p.m. Confession 5:00 p.m. Mass
15 Masses: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and Noon 6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish	16 No Mass	17 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (L) ST. PATRICK'S DAY 5:30 p.m. Confessions 6:00 p.m. Mass 6:30 p.m. Book Study (RR)	18 12:05 p.m. Mass 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Confessions 10:30 a.m. Kindred Friends (L) 1:00 p.m. Book Study (L) 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Confessions 6:00 p.m. Rel Ed (RR) 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (RR) 7:00 p.m. Choir practice (CL)	19 8:30 a.m. Mass FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH 9:00 a.m. Bible Study (L) 7:00 p.m. OCIA	20 8:30 a.m. Mass Adoration (C) from after 8:30 a.m. Mass until 6:00 p.m. 4:7:00 p.m. KC Fish Fry (KCH) 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross 6:30 p.m. Book Study (L)  7:00 p.m. Stations-in Spanish (C)	21 9:00 a.m. Average Joes (RR) 4:00 p.m. Confession 5:00 p.m. Mass 6:00 p.m. Feast and Raffle (G)
22 Masses: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and Noon 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Practice (C)	23 No Mass	24 9:00 a.m. Bible Study (L) NO Confessions 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Mass	25 12:05 p.m. Mass 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Confessions 1:00 p.m. Book Study (L) 4:00 p.m. Grief Ministry (L) 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Confessions 6:00 p.m. K-8 Rel Ed (RR) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (CL)	26 8:30 a.m. Mass 9:00 a.m. Bible Study (L) 7:00 p.m. OCIA (L)	27 8:30 a.m. Mass Adoration (C) from after 8:30 a.m. Mass until 6:00 p.m. 4:7:00 p.m. KC Fish Fry (KCH) 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross 6:30 p.m. Book Study (L)  7:00 p.m. Stations in Spanish (C)	28 9:00 a.m. Average Joes (RR) 4:00 p.m. Confession 5:00 p.m. Mass 6:00 p.m. Feast and Raffle (G)
29 Masses: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and Noon 	30 No Mass	31 5:30 p.m. Confessions 6:00 p.m. Mass	Abstaining: During the season of Lent, Catholics 14 years and older are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays of Lent (Designated on the calendar with a fish symbol) 			

Abbreviation Key: (C) Church (CL) Choir Loft (G) Gym (K) Kitchen (KC) - Knights of Columbus (KCH) KC Columbus Hall (L) Library (OCIA) – Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (Rel Ed) Religious Formation/Class (SH) Social Hall/Cafeteria (Sch) School (RR) Reception Room (RoR) Reception overflow room (TL) Teacher's Lounge

Please Note: events on this calendar can change without notice, please see the bulletin for most up to date information

Things Every Catholic Should Know:

Question: Who is revered as the first Pope?

Answer: Saint Peter

St. Peter was the first Pope. 'And I say to you, you are Peter. And on this rock will I build my Church...I give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven.'

St. Matthew 16:18.

The Catholic Church can trace every single successor of Peter up until Francis I - all 266 of them!



DYLC

Diocesan Youth Leadership Camp

Registration is open for DYLC (Diocesan Youth Leadership Camp). DYLC is a 6-day camp (June 21-26, 2026) focused on creating Missionary Disciples, by equipping the teens with the tools and skills needed to go and make more disciples. Through sessions, activities and unique prayer experiences, they train those that come to go out and bring others to Jesus. A team made of youth and adults, plan and present this week long camp at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt. DYLC teaches basic leadership skills in the context of discipleship like communications and small group dynamics; but also emphasizes the importance of building trust and emphasizing servant leadership. This camp is for teens currently in high school.

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



Lent



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

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: stjocatholic.com/forms/

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

Lenten Book Study Week 3

This week, we read Chapters 6-7 and reflect on discipleship as steady growth rather than perfection. As apprentices learning from Christ, consider how He may be meeting you "in the valley" in the ordinary moments of your life.

Lenten Holy Hour and Confessions

Wednesday, March 11

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

St. Joseph - St. Johns

Parishioners of all ages--young, old, and everyone in between--are invited to step away from the busyness of life this Lent and encounter Jesus in prayer, silence, and reflection in a child-friendly atmosphere. Confessions will be available throughout the hour, and adoration materials will be available for all ages. Don't miss this opportunity to grow closer to Christ; all are welcome!





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 Fran-dor 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. I will be going to pray every Thursday at 2:00 p.m. so you can join me at that time to get initiated. For more information, call Mary Beth at (989) 227-0088.

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.

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