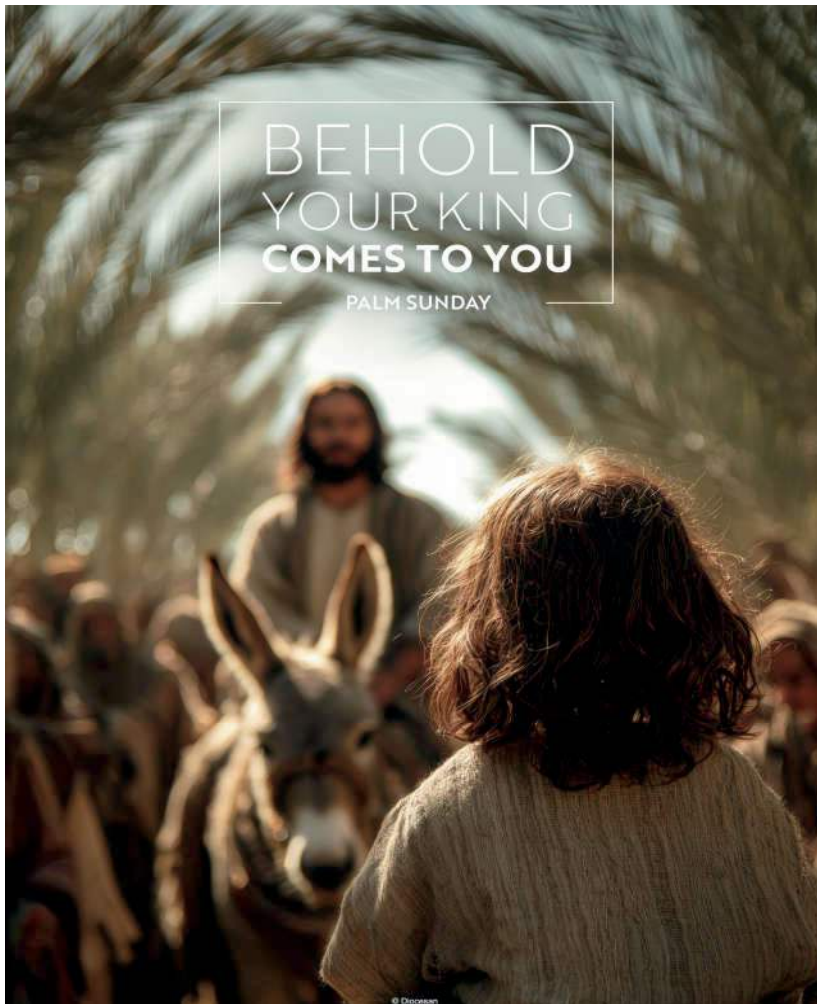


# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 30**

*Isaiah 42:1-7/John 12:1-11*

No Mass

**Tuesday • March 31**

*Isaiah 49:1-6/John 13:21-33, 36-38*

6:00 p.m. Mass †**Carol Murphy**

*By: Art and Mary Porubsky*

**Wednesday • April 1**

*Isaiah 50:4-9a/Matthew 26:14-25*

12:05 p.m. Mass †**Art Porubsky**

*By: Knights of Columbus #3281*

**Thursday • April 2**

*Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14/1 Corinthians 11:23-26/John 13:1-15*

6:00 p.m. Mass **For the Priests and Deacons of the Diocese of Lansing**

**Friday • April 3**

**Good Friday - Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion**

*Isaiah 52:13--53:12/Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9/John 18:1--19:42*

1:00 p.m.

**Saturday • April 4**

**Holy Saturday Easter Vigil**

*Genesis 1:1, 26-31a/Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Exodus 14:15--15:1/Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28/Romans 6:3-11/Matthew 28:1-10*

8:00 p.m. Mass *For those being received into the church*

**Sunday • April 5**

**Resurrection of the Lord - Easter**

*Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Colossians 3:1-4/John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10*

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

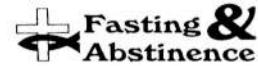
10:00 a.m. Mass †**Urban and †Marie Weber**

*By: Janet McKeown*

12:00 p.m. Mass †**Anna Blasen**

*By: Jim and Kathy Voisinett*

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.

**Office Hours**

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

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

**Friday - Good Friday - Closed**



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn from March 29-April 4, 2026 In memory of

*Marie Leonard*

**Holy Thursday Eucharistic Adoration**

"...the Lord Jesus, on up the night He was handed over, took bread, and, after He had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is My body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me. "

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

Following Thursdays 6:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper, there will be a time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the former "Day Chapel" until 10:00 p.m.

The former "Day Chapel" is located off the north Parking lot (ramp side) through the glass door to the school. Please join us in keeping watch with our Lord.

Please note: There will be **NO** First Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in April since it is Good Friday. There is no scheduled Adoration that day or night.



**KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Please pray for our parishioners and their families, especially:

Adam  
Ari  
Chris  
Dena  
Don  
Jill  
Kristi

Michael  
Sawyer Ballinger  
Ed Chope  
Jan Coffman  
Sherri Couch  
Verena DeBoer  
Mary Enneking  
Keith Enneking  
Trisha Fisher  
Friend  
Jack Hagerty  
Korine

Teresa Miller  
Myah  
Patrick  
Jenny Pytlowanyj  
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  
Murray Palmatier  
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: only immediate family members may add names to the bulletin.*



## WE ARE ALL EVANGELIZERS

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

### Passing Life's Tests

I remember graduating from college with the thought: "I'm free, all my tests are done." Well that was a joke – the rest of life is a test. The devil tests us on a daily basis, our bosses test us, our spouses and children test us at times and I can go on and on about being tested. This is the week on the liturgical calendar in which the apostles are tested in their faith and trust in their rabbi, Jesus. They all failed in their support of Our Lord, except for John, who is often referred to as "the one whom Jesus loved" and who was the only apostle who stayed with Jesus as he was crucified.

There are times in our lives when there is nothing going right. We think that God has abandoned us the way the apostles abandoned Jesus after he was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. We are so overwhelmed that we can't see Jesus is carrying us, as in the great poem "Footprints." Or that he

is there to share our yoke when the sledding gets tough.

My younger brother is at that point as I am writing this. He was supposed to be starting a new job today, after being out of full-time work for almost two years. Instead he has just gone under the knife for surgery for neurological issues. His health is on the front burner at this exact moment, but assuming the surgery is successful, the question of "will the new job still be there once he recovers?" will move to that front burner. His faith has been tested in recent years, but never more than now.

The apostles had been with Jesus for three years and by the time this fateful week arrived for them, their love for Jesus was strong. Still, when push came to shove, they were shoved away from supporting the Lord, with Judas betraying him and Peter denying that he even knew Jesus – not once but three times. With the exception of John, the apostles showed a great lack of faith and a bundle of fear.

Palm Sunday is a great example of how life's events can take a turn for the worse. Jesus, who was

aware of the end result, rode into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna" and the apostles were reveling in the Lord's glory as the crowds closed in on him. Jesus' closest followers were sensing that this king would be the earthly ruler to return Israel to its Davidic power. By the end of the day, Jesus, in anger, had overturned the tables of the money-changers and merchants and by the end of the week would be hanging from a cross. We see this in today's liturgy, with the Palm Sunday procession gospel leading off Mass, but ten minutes later we read the Passion of Christ – noting the cracks in the armor of the apostles' faith.

I know the Lord is with my brother. I pray there are no cracks in his armor of faith.

*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>

## LAST CALL:

### Disciple Maker Index Survey

Our parish is participating in the Disciple Maker Index this 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.*

The survey takes about 20 minutes and **closes Tuesday, March 31, at 11:59 p.m.** Responses are confidential and shared only in summary form. Scan the QR code or complete a paper copy available near the entrances or in the parish office.

Your response is a gift to our parish and our diocese.



# THANK YOU


St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary sends out a very heartfelt thank you to all those who supported our Lenten soup suppers. Thanks also to those who provided the delicious soups. What great cooks! Thank you to those who provided the very tasty bread in its many forms. Thank you for all those who attended the soup suppers and donated to our special charities. Your generosity netted over \$400 to the Save Center and another \$600 to the homeless work being done through St. Vincent DePaul. Our charities were overwhelmed by your generosity. And finally, a special note of thanks to all who helped set up, serve and clean up after the suppers. That work is essential to keep our work running smoothly. God bless you all and keep you faithful to your Lenten journey.





# ST. JOSEPH PARISH CALENDAR

# APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><b>5</b> Mass: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and Noon</p> <p><b>6</b> No Mass</p> <p><b>7</b> No Mass</p> <p><b>8</b> No Mass</p> <p><b>9</b> 8:30 a.m. Mass</p> <p><b>10</b> 8:30 a.m. Mass</p> <p><b>11</b> No School</p> <p><b>12</b> Mass: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and Noon</p> <p><b>13</b> No Mass</p> <p><b>14</b> No School</p> <p><b>15</b> 12:05 p.m. Mass</p> <p><b>16</b> 8:30 p.m. Mass</p> <p><b>17</b> 8:30 p.m. Mass</p> <p><b>18</b> No School</p> <p><b>19</b> Mass: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and Noon</p> <p><b>20</b> No Mass</p> <p><b>21</b> No School</p> <p><b>22</b> 12:05 p.m. Mass</p> <p><b>23</b> 8:30 p.m. Mass</p> <p><b>24</b> 8:30 p.m. Mass</p> <p><b>25</b> No School</p> <p><b>26</b> Mass: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and Noon</p> <p><b>27</b> No Mass</p> <p><b>28</b> No School</p> <p><b>29</b> 12:05 p.m. Mass</p> <p><b>30</b> 8:30 p.m. Mass</p> <p><b>31</b> No School</p>	<p><b>1</b> 12:05 PM Mass</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Book Study (L)</p> <p>No RFC/No Youth Group</p> <p>No School</p> <p>8 No Mass</p> <p>6:00 p.m. K-8 Rel Ed (RR)</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Youth Group (RR)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (CL)</p> <p>15 12:05 p.m. Mass</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Kindred Friends (L)</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Holy Spirit Bible Study (L)</p> <p>6:00 K-8 Rel Ed (RR)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (CL)</p> <p>22 12:05 p.m. Mass</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Holy Spirit Bible Study (L)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Rel Ed K-8 (RR)</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Youth Group (RR)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (CL)</p> <p>29 12:05 p.m. Mass</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Holy Spirit Bible Study (L)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. K-8 Rel Ed (RR)</p> <p>1st Communion Practice (Rel Ed students)(C)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (CL)</p>	<p><b>2</b> Holy Thursday</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper</p> <p>No School</p> <p>9 8:30 a.m. Mass</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Mass Souls in Purgatory</p> <p>7:00 p.m. OCIA (L)</p> <p>16 8:30 p.m. Mass</p> <p>6:00 p.m. 1st Communion Child/Parent Workshop (RR)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. OCIA (L)</p> <p>23 8:30 p.m. Mass</p> <p>7:00 p.m. OCIA (L)</p> <p>30 8:30 p.m. Mass</p> <p>7:00 p.m. OCIA (L)</p>	<p><b>3</b> FASTING and ABSTINENCE</p> <p><b>Good Friday</b></p> <p>1:00 PM Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion</p> <p>Parish Office is Closed</p> <p>No School</p> <p>10 8:30 a.m. Mass</p> <p>Adoration (C) from after Mass until 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>17 8:30 p.m. Mass</p> <p>Adoration (C) from after Mass until 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>24 8:30 p.m. Mass</p> <p>Adoration (C) from after Mass until 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Easter Basket Blessing (C)</p> <p><b>Holy Saturday</b></p> <p>8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass</p> <p>(No Confession)</p> <p>11 No School</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Average Joes (RR)</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Confessions</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Mass</p> <p>18 No School</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Average Joes (KCH)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. OCIA Retreat (RR and L)</p> <p>4:00 PM Confession</p> <p>5:00 PM Mass</p> <p>25 No School</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Average Joes (RR)</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Confession</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Mass</p>		

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

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

**Things Every Catholic Should Know:**

**Question: Is a person who doesn't believe that the Eucharist is truly the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus really a Catholic?**

**Answer:** No, they are not. Although we may not understand the doctrines of the Catholic Church, we must accept them. The Catholic faith is not a cafeteria style faith where we can go down the line of dogmas taking some of this, some of that, a double portion of something else, and avoiding the things we don't like. There are many things about which we do have a choice as to whether to accept them or not (for example, Marian apparitions and devotion to the Sacred Heart), but the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is not among them. Examples of dogmas (those truths that the Catholic Church requires the faithful to accept as doctrine revealed by God), although not by any means a complete list, are: the divinity of Christ, the Blessed Trinity, the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the Immaculate Conception, the bodily Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Remember, there is an important difference between "believing something" and "understanding something." We can believe something is true without understanding how it is true.

**Who inspires you to be stronger in your faith?**

For Catholics, the saints are powerful companions in times of struggle. Some striking examples come from the 1920s, when Catholics in Mexico displayed heroic faith in the face of government efforts to suppress their religious.



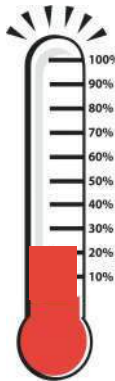
Join us at **St. Joseph Parish** on **Friday, May 8**, for an evening of fellowship, prayer, and reflection on this often overlooked chapter of Catholic history. The evening begins with a **potluck at 5:30 p.m.**, followed by a presentation, ***The Cristero War: Faith Under Fire***, with Catholic history author **Phillip Campbell**.

A children's ministry will be available during the presentation.

RSVP by scanning this QR code.

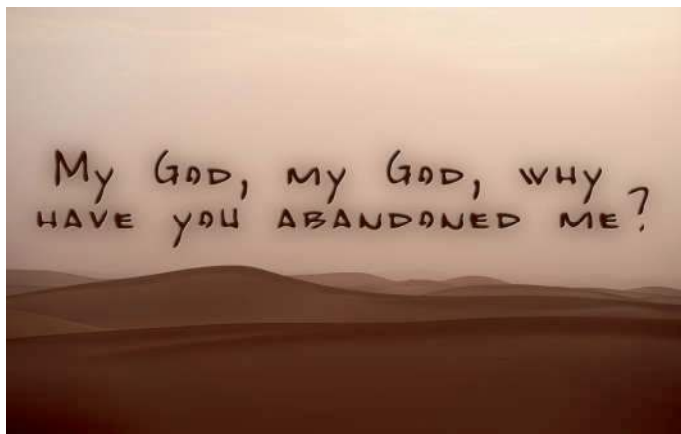


Thank you to everyone who has made a gift or pledge commitment to our Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA). As of March 20, 2026, we reached \$ 23,356.00 (or 23%) of our DSA goal of \$101,412.00. Thus far 64 families have contributed to this year's appeal which is 6.25% of our 1026 families. We are grateful for these contributions and invited others to help push us over the goal for the benefit of our parish and the wider church.



Our gifts to DSA enable our diocese to provide services crucial to our parish. The programs and services funded by DSA offer direct assistance to individuals and families, and to parishes, schools, and Catholic Charities agencies.

If you have not yet made a gift or a pledge, I invited you to do so today. Gift envelopes are available in church or the parish office. Or you may submit your gift online at [www.dioceseoflansing.org/appeal](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/appeal). Through your generosity, we live out our faith in action, demonstrating charity as a reflection of God's love.



**Blessing of Easter Baskets**  
**April 4th (Holy Saturday)**  
**10:30 a.m. in the church**



This is a great opportunity for families to prepare for their Easter celebration. Holy Week is long with waiting and watching. Putting together this basket gives kids (of all ages) a wonderful way to spend some time on Saturday morning preparing for our Easter Celebration.

We will gather around at the front of the altar to have this blessing. The tradition of this Easter Basket of blessed foods is shared at Easter morning breakfast. Be sure to include some Easter candy in the basket that will be the first Easter candy eaten. Some items to include may be:

- BREAD** which symbolizes our Lord himself, who is the Living Bread, come down from heaven to give eternal life.
- MEAT** (ham, sausage) which ends our time of fasting and waiting.
- EGGS** symbolize new life and resurrection.
- SALT** reminds us of our Christian duty to others.
- CHEESE** symbolizes the moderation that Christians should have in all things.
- BUTTER** molded in the shape of a Lamb reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have towards all things.
- CANDLE** which reminds us of the light of Christ and can be used during the Easter season.
- FLOWERS** for the joy of spring and new life.

If you have any questions, email [families.stjosephchurch@gmail.com](mailto:families.stjosephchurch@gmail.com) or call the parish office. Lots of information can be found by an internet search of Catholic blessings of Easter baskets.





The Knights of Columbus Council #3281 would like to extend a **Thank You** to all who supported our recent Paper Product and Personal Hygiene collection. It was a huge success. The recipients at **The Basic Needs Center, The Beacon of Hope, and The Safe Center** were very appreciative of your generosity. The donated items are critical to their ministries as these items cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits. Please know that these types of products can also regularly be donated in the collection box in the rear of the church.



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