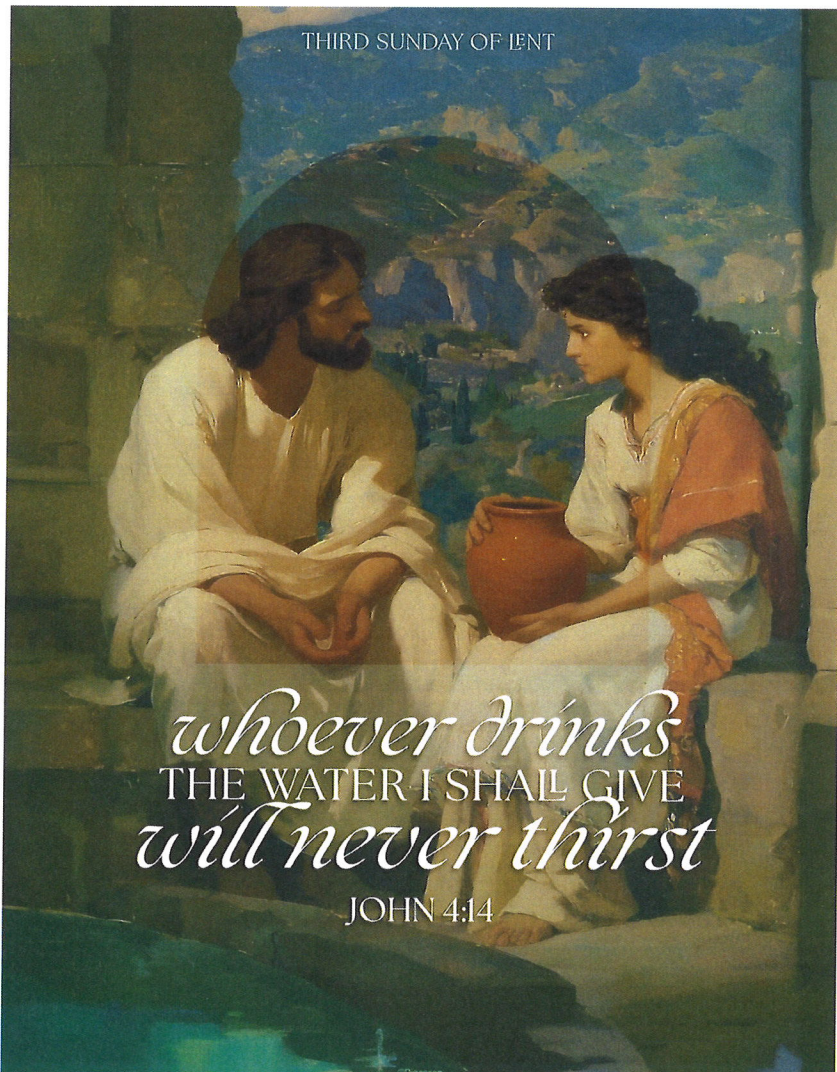


# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 9**

2 Kings 5:14ab/Luke 4:24-30

No Mass

**Tuesday • March 10**

Daniel 3:25, 34-43/Matthew 18:21-35

6:00 p.m. Mass **St. Joseph Educational Trust Fund**

**Wednesday • March 11**

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9/Matthew 5:17-19

12:05 p.m. Mass **†Darrell Garner**

By: Friends

**Thursday • March 12**

Jeremiah 7:23-28/Luke 11:4-23

8:30 a.m. Mass **†Paul A. Pung**

By: Knights of Columbus #3281

6:00 p.m. Mass **Souls in Purgatory**

**Friday • March 13**

Hosea 14:2-10/Mark 12:28-34

8:30 a.m. Mass **†Edgar Conley**

By: Conley Family

**Saturday • March 14**

Hosea 6:1-6/Luke 18:9-14

5:00 p.m. Mass **†Hope Hoskins**

By: Dad

**Sunday • March 15**

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ephesians 5:8-14/John 9:1-41

8:00 a.m. Mass **†Ann Green**

By: Jeff Cuthbert

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

12:00 p.m. Mass **†Howard Blasen**

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.

**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 March 8-14, 2026 In memory of **Hope Hoskins**

**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 [Stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com](mailto: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)

**Settling Down**

"There's a restlessness that hits a man in his mid-20s when he's living for himself. It's that Sunday afternoon realization that while you have the freedom to go anywhere and do anything, "anywhere" feels a bit empty and "anything" feels a bit aimless. The culture tells us that this is the peak of our lives — that we should guard our independence like a dragon guards gold. But what if that gold is actually meant to be spent?"

And that's how writer William Nardi starts out his article on the benefits of men marrying young – assuming they've met their beloved, of course. I found Nardi's article on my daily news feed known as "The Loop," and though his advice in "Slay Dragons: Why Men Should Marry Young" does not affect me (I didn't meet my bride-to-be until age 26), I felt it to be a noteworthy topic for young Catholic men.

Nardi says the average age of American men marrying for the first time is 31. Nardi, who married at age 24 and now has three children at age 28, claims that society has it wrong in telling young men that they have to

have all their ducks in a row (i.e. accumulation of cash), saying: "Marriage isn't the finish line you cross once you've lived your life; for many of us marriage is the spark that finally makes life make sense."

"When you marry young," he says, "you stop chasing the shadow of fulfillment and start holding the substance...It turns out the 'freedom' that we're told to protect is just a fancy word for being alone." Marriage allows us to replace hollow independence with purpose.

What Nardi proposes coincides with Catholic teaching. By the time young men are into their 20s, they should be dating with the purpose of discovering with whom they want to spend their lives and with whom they wish to raise a family. It's up to the individual to search, especially when today's digital universe discourages person-to-person dialogue in favor of text-to-text conversations. But there are avenues in which to meet.

For example, the Diocese of Lansing recently held a speed-dating event at our Columbian Hall that drew close to 100 single men and women. It was an opportunity for Christian singles to meet. Parishes across the diocese hold special events often, but one has to look. And for those inclined there are Catholic dating services. But Nardi's article is

not a "How to meet a girl" piece, but much more of a "what are you waiting for?" message for guys in their 20's who've dated one woman for a few years.

The author just wants to offer a little encouragement for guys reluctant to pop the question. The longer you wait, guys the more you and the young women get set in your ways. Why not grow your love united? In Nardi's words: "when you marry young, you grow up together. You learn how to navigate a tight budget, how to furnish a first apartment on a prayer, and how to support one another through those early career pivots." So grow.

*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>**



**Lenten Holy Hour and Confessions  
Wednesday, March 11, 2026  
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 closers to Christ.

All are welcome!

**St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary  
Soup Supper**

March 18, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.  
Columbian Hall  
1108 Old US 27, St. Johns

St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary invites all parishioners to the second soup supper on March 18 at the Columbian Hall at 5:30 p.m. This free meal of soup and bread offers an opportunity to continue fasting and almsgiving for the Lenten Season. The charity being featured at this supper is **St. Vincent DePaul's work with the homeless issue in Clinton County**. This new service in the area will be needing support, so come learn about it. Also any bread and soup donations for the meal will be gladly accepted. Please see the sign-up sheet in the gathering space. May we all continue to be blessed during this holy season of Lent..



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

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.)
<b>March 24 Confirmation Mass</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
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

**The Children's Collection for February will be donated to: Angel's Outreach Ministry**

February 28/March 1 donation is: **\$54.25**  
 February's donation Total is: **\$121. 25**

**The March collection will be donated to: Elle's Place**

*Children's envelopes are available in the back of the Church.*

**Do you have questions about St. Joseph Catholic School or are interested in registering this 2026/27 school year?**

**Please contact Chris Wells at [principal@stjoecatholicsschool.org](mailto:principal@stjoecatholicsschool.org).**

**St. Joseph School LUNCH MENU**

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

**FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 9-13, 2026**

- Monday: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit, and milk
- Tuesday: Lasagna with breadstick, green beans, fruit, and milk.
- Wednesday: Broasted chicken, rice, carrots, fruit, and milk.
- Thursday: Hot dog, french fries, fruit, and milk.
- Friday: Cheese pizza, fresh veggie, fresh fruit, and milk.

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

Lunches are \$3.25                      Milk \$0.50

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**Liturgical Ministers**

**March 14/15**

<b>Altar Servers:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Caroline V. Blaze V.
	8:00 a.m.	Audrey D. Cora D.
	10:00 a.m.	Liam K. Faye K.
	12:00 p.m.	Max S.. Volunteer

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

5:00 p.m.	Group 2
8:00 a.m.	Group 2
10:00 a.m.	Group 2
12:00 p.m.	Group 2

<b>Lectors:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Ann P.
	8:00 a.m.	Bob P.
	10:00 a.m.	Cassandra G.
	12:00 p.m.	Linda S.

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

**Collection Counters:** March 9                      Group 1

**Sanctuary Cleaners:** Mary Beth Elstro and Deb Szpont

**STEWARDSHIP**

**For the weekend of March 1, 2026**

Adults (452) gifts Including online giving:	.....\$18,172.76
Loose Cash:	.....\$622.40
<b>Total:</b>	<b>.....\$18,795.16</b>

**Other Gifts Received**

Education Trust Fund:	.....\$570.00
Building Fund:	..... \$628.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund:	..... \$117.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2025 is \$21,894.23. If we continue to keep this average, we will meet our budgeted goal.

**Things Every Catholic Should Know:**

**Question: When Moses went up the mountain to get the Ten Commandments, it took him some time - a time of trial and tribulation for the Israelites. How long is it written that Moses was atop the mountain?**

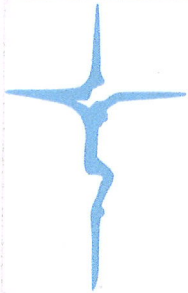
*Answer: Forty days and nights*

*Moses received the Ten Commandments through a direct encounter with God on Mount Sinai. The commandments were first spoken by God and then written on stone tables by God's finger. Moses went up the mountain and stayed there for forty days and forty nights. These days and nights that Moses spent on Mount Sinai were a time of intense communion with God. During this period, Moses received the detailed instructions for the Tabernacle, the priesthood, and various laws, in addition to the Ten Commandments (Exodus 24:18, 31:18)*

*The forty days and nights that Moses spent on Mount Sinai hold significant symbolic and theological meaning in the Bible. This period is mentioned in context of several important biblical events and themes. This prolonged period allowed Moses to prepare spiritually to receive and transmit God's laws to the Israelites. Furthermore, it highlighted the seriousness and sanctity of the laws being given. The number '40' appears multiple times in the Bible as a symbol of testing, trial, and preparation, like the duration of the deluge in Noah's time or the years of wandering of the Israelites after the exodus from Egypt.*

**Lenten Book Study Week 4**

This week, we read Chapters 8-9 and reflect on the truth that spiritual transformation is ultimately God's work. As you consider Jesus' words, "Apart from me you can do nothing." ask how deeper dependence on Him can move your faith from self-reliance to a personal encounter with His sustaining love.



All K-12 parents are invited to join us for a new, free lecture series, *Partnering with Parents*, on **Wednesday, March 18, 2026 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** in the LCHS Auditorium.

Join local Catholic Counselor Jim Owens and Lansing Catholic's Director of Infrastructure and Technology, Ben Pohl, as they examine how technology and changing social trends impact today's youth. They will also equip parents with tools and insights to help children thrive in adolescence and beyond.

For more information, please visit [lansingcatholic.org/pwp](http://lansingcatholic.org/pwp)

**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.



**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.



This weekend is our Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) Commitment Weekend. All members of our parish are invited to join in support of our annual appeal. If this is your first time giving to our DSA, please join us. Your DSA gifts help the Church to be the hands and feet of Jesus - giving care and support to those who need it most. Our parish goal is \$101,412.00. No gift is too small. Every dollar donated helps those in our parish and in our unified efforts in the wider church. Further, one-half of all paid contributions received, over and above our parish goal, will be returned for our local use here at St. Joseph Parish.

You can submit your DSA pledge envelope during Mass this weekend - or take your DSA envelope home to prayerfully consider your DSA gift. Those giving a DSA gift by cash or check are invited to return their completed pledge form in the DSA envelope to our parish office. Those who wish to pay by credit card or electronic funds transfer may enter your gift online at [www.doceseoflansing.org/appeal](http://www.doceseoflansing.org/appeal).

### 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.

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

#### 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**

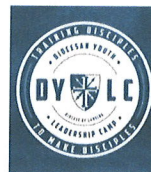
QUESTIONS? CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE OR EMAIL US:

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: [stjoecatholic.com/forms/](http://stjoecatholic.com/forms/)

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



### 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](mailto:dre.stjoseph@gmail.com)



# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

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. For more information, call Mary Beth at (989) 227-0088.

## Lenten Fish Fry 2026 Knights of Columbus #3281 1108 N Us 27, St. Johns MI

**Fridays: March 13, 20 and 27th**

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

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