

# 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

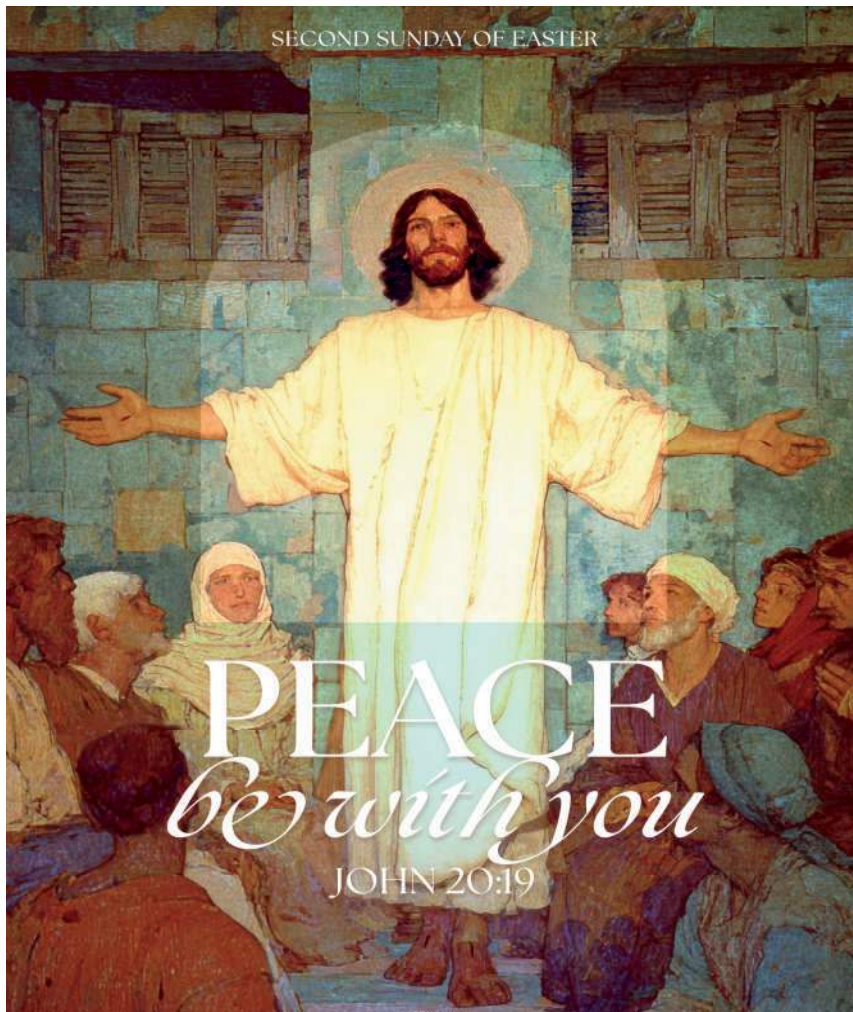
Saturday • 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday • 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.  
Mass in Spanish • 6:00 p.m.  
(Holy Days • Consult the bulletin)

### 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 • April 13**

*Acts 4:23-31/John 3:1-8*

**No Mass**

**Tuesday • April 14**

*Acts 4:32-37/John 3:7b-15*

**6:00 p.m. Mass †Peter W. and †Margaret Mary Klein**

*By: Dan and Margaret Jorae*

**Wednesday • April 15**

*Acts 5:17-26/John 3:16-21*

**12:05 p.m. Mass †Bob and †Germaine Nurenberg**

*By: Family*

**Thursday • April 16**

*Acts 5:27-33/John 3:31-36*

**8:30 a.m. Mass *Living and Deceased members of the Robert Gilroy Family***

*By: Family*

**Friday • April 17**

*Acts 5:34-42/John 6:1-15*

**8:30 a.m. Mass †Art Halfmann**

*By: Monica Klaver and Family*

**Saturday • April 18**

*Acts 6:1-7/John 6:16-21*

**5:00 p.m. Mass *IHO Clare and Elaine Schaefer on their 60th Wedding Anniversary***

**Sunday • April 19**

*Acts 2:14, 22-33/1 Peter 1:17-21/Luke 24:13-35*

**8:00 a.m. Mass †Jim Clark**

*By: LuAnne Cuthbert*

**10:00 a.m. Mass †Nick Kurncz**

*By: Christine Kurncz*

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

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

**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.)*



The Sanctuary Lamp  
will burn from  
April 12-18, 2026  
In memory of

*Donald and Laura Jorae*



**Eucharistic Adoration**

“My Lord, and my God!”

In today's Gospel according to John 20:19-31, we read about St. Thomas and his struggle to believe the disciples' report that they had seen the risen Lord.

When Jesus appears again later that week to His disciples, Thomas is present. Jesus says to him, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.”

While Jesus is patient with our struggles and doubts, He encourages us too, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”



Come and see Jesus in the Holy Eucharist at Adoration!

**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)

**So Now What?**

Lent is over. Resurrection Sunday is also in the rear view mirror. We did the book study with about 80 other parishioners. We met most of our goals in our Lenten plans to increase prayer, fasting and alms-giving. So now what?

Actually, it's a question that comes up at this time every year. And, for the most part, the answer is about, if not exactly the same. All the good we did in Lent, keep doing. If we've broken some bad habits like smoking, drinking or over-eating, by all means stay on that path. The same goes for positive steps we've taken in almsgiving and prayer. Let's not go back to bad habits.

Instead, let's build on what we did well. Let's start with all of us who at least started the book study of Dr. Edward Sri's "Into His Likeness." For those who did not complete the study, we need to finish the book and try to draw something from it that personally advances us on our spiritual journey. That might mean learning to forgive, turning to Jesus

when in a spiritual valley or move on in prayer commitment by trying to build up daily meditation of 30 minutes.

Perhaps we can build up prayer groups from classmates with whom we've just studied. I know one of the book study groups has organized a prayer group, but there's plenty room for another group. Perhaps there's a few men looking to form a bible study or prayer group beyond what the Average Joes or Knights of Columbus are doing. (I would be willing to help get that started if there is a group of men seeking such a group.)

Since I was focused on St. Joe's book study, I didn't follow Matthew Kelly's 2026 edition of "Best Lent Ever," but I did listen to his closing talk in which he emphasized that we all follow Pope Leo XIV's recommendation for all Catholic's to read "The Practice of the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence. (Kelly says Brother Lawrence was so humble that he didn't use a last name in his writings.)

This book is a simple read and consists not of a narrative, but of a collection of Brother Lawrence's thoughts and maxims: It's described as such:

In a world marked by distraction and constant striving, Brother Lawrence offers a revolutionary yet simple truth: holiness is found not in extraordinary deeds, but in a continual awareness of God's presence. Drawn from the letters and conversations of this humble seventeenth-century Carmelite lay brother, *The Practice of the Presence of God* presents a clear and attainable path to lasting peace, joy, and communion with the Lord.

This book would be a logical extension of our recent book study, but appears to be also for anyone who wants to work on their personal relationship with Jesus.

NOTE: Please take note of our remembrance of the 100th anniversary of "The Cristero War" with a family friendly event on Friday May 8th at St. Joe's School. It will feature a potluck dinner and another inspiring talk from author Phillip Campbell.

*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/hCatholicChurch-StJohns>



**Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions**

**St. Isidore Catholic Church**

**310 Crum St., Laingsburg**

**April 12, 2026**

**2:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

This year we are once again gathering to pray and beg for Divine Mercy for ourselves and our world. It is an opportunity for us to immerse ourselves, our loved ones, our enemies and our hearts in the ocean of the Divine Mercy of our Lord.

We will have mediations on the Mercy of God, Eucharistic Adoration, confessions (with multiple priests), the sun chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction. It is an opportunity for all of us to fulfill the majority of the requirements for the plenary indulgence which we can offer for ourselves, our loved ones who have passed or for the holy souls in purgatory.

**Come praise and celebrate the great mercy of our God!**

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

April 15: K-8 Classes (6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.)  
 April 22: K-8 Classes (6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.)  
 April 29: K-8 Classes (6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.)  
 and Youth Group (7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)

**First Communion Parent/Child Workshop**

The First Communion parent/child workshop is scheduled to meet on **Thursday, April 16 at 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** in the lower level of the church. This is for all children/families who are currently preparing for First Holy Communion, May 2, and 3, 2026.

Contact Jen Nelson for more information at [dre.stjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:dre.stjoseph@gmail.com)



The Children's Collection for April will be donated to:



April 5/6 donation: \$ 64.25  
 Total for the month: \$ 64.25

Children's and youth envelopes are available in the back of the Church and from the Parish Office

**St. Joseph School LUNCH MENU**

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 13-17, 2026

- Monday: Breaded chicken leg, carrots, fruit, and milk.
- Tuesday: *New Lunch Item Alert!*  
Cheese tortellini with meat sauce, breadstick, green beans, fruit, and milk.
- Wednesday: Scalloped potatoes with ham, fruit, and milk.
- Thursday: Hamburger with cheese, fried chips, fruit, and milk.
- Friday: Cheese pizza or pepperoni, 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

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**Liturgical Ministers April 18/19**

<b>Altar Servers:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Charleigh F. Volunteer
	8:00 a.m.	Miles S. Kaynin S.
	10:00 a.m.	Paisley S. Eli P.
	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

<b>Lectors:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Ann P.
	8:00 a.m.	Rich H.
	10:00 a.m.	Steve M.
	12:00 p.m.	Linda S.

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

**Collection Counters:** April 13 Group 3

**Sanctuary Cleaners:** Christine Boak and Mary Jane Boak



**STEWARDSHIP**

For the weekend of April 5, 2026

Adults (412) gifts Including online giving: .....\$24,018.45  
 Loose Cash:.....\$1,420.30  
 Total:.....\$25,438.75

**Other Gifts Received**

Education Trust Fund: ..... \$715.00  
 Building Fund: ..... \$ 56.00  
 Tuition Scholarship Fund: ..... \$ 75.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2025 is \$21,848.01. If we continue to keep this average, we will meet our budgeted goal.

**Things Every Catholic Should Know:**

**Question: Apart from conferring a name upon an infant and welcoming it into the family of Christ, for what other symbolic liberating purpose was Baptism carried out?**

*Answer: Washing away original sin.*

*Baptism is carried out within a week or so after birth for a healthy Catholic infant. This holy ceremony is also carried out for older converts to the faith. Catholics look upon this ceremony as one of admission into the church and the family of God. Many churches use full immersion under water for their ceremonies of Baptism, but for a Catholic child, the holy oils placed on its head and the ritual of the pouring of water on same, represent that immersion. Because Catholics believed that Baptism was necessary for salvation, and that it washed away original sin inherited from Adam and Eve, it was considered important to have the infant baptized quite soon after birth, so that the child, should he/she unexpectedly pass away, would die in Christ.*

The scene is Mexico in the 1920s: when churches were closed, and priests were hunted, the Mass did not disappear--it moved into homes, fields, and hidden places. Families risked everything to worship.



Discover how the Catholic faith endured in secret, and how ordinary Catholics lived lives of deep faith even in the face of persecution. **St. Joseph Parish on Friday, May 8, 2026. 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 program will be available during the presentation. RSVP for the event in the gathering space or by scanning the QR code.

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

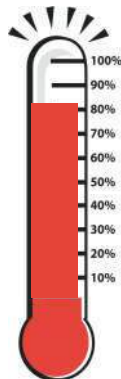
Quinn C.	Jace G	Kensington S.
Caleb C.	Bryer H.	Isla S.
Grace D.	Benjamin H.	Canaan S.
Elizabeth D.	Eli H.	Maxwell S.
Mya D.	Cam M.	Remi S.
Lynden D.	Alessandra M.	Adeline S.
Eloise F.	Zoey N.	Luke T.
Ruby F.	Adalyn P.	Brinley W.
Sadie G.	Grace R.	



Thank you to everyone who has made a gift or pledge commitment to our Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA). As of April 2, 2026, we reached \$81,998.00 (or 80.86%) of our DSA goal of \$101,412.00. Thus far 175 families have contributed to this year's appeal which is 17.06% 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.



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**\$1,000 New Family High School Grant**

Awarded to families enrolling a new high school student if the family has never been enrolled in any Diocese of Lansing high school. For example, the oldest sibling has attended a Diocesan K-8 and will be the first in the family to enroll at Lansing Catholic High School this fall. **This family is eligible for the \$1,000 New Family High School Grant.**

**Questions?**

Claire Boomer, CDS, Admissions Director  
[claire.boomer@lansingcatholic.org](mailto:claire.boomer@lansingcatholic.org)  
 Office: 517-267-2113

Renee Fischman, Tuition Office  
[renee.fischman@lansingcatholic.org](mailto:renee.fischman@lansingcatholic.org)  
 Office: 517-267-2167

# Priests Vs. Seminarians

**FRIDAY, MAY 8TH, 2026 6 PM**  
**Lumen Christi Catholic School**  
 3483 Spring Arbor Road, Jackson, MI

Join us as Priests from the Diocese of Lansing and Seminarians from Sacred Heart in Detroit help raise funds for the restoration of the St. Joseph Shrine outdoor Stations of the Cross.

**TICKETS \$15**  
STUDENTS \$10  
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**SPECIAL GUEST ANNOUNCERS - FR. TIM MACDONALD AND FR. JOE KRUPPI**

## What is the Prayer Tree?




The Prayer Tree is an organized group of individuals who pray for our parish family. Prayer requests are confidential and are not shared with anyone outside of the prayer tree members. Parishioners can add their prayer requests for themselves, family members, or friends by contacting the Parish Office at 989-224-8994. The prayer request will be passed on to the prayer tree participants within one business day.

***The prayer list published in the bulletin is not the same as the Prayer Tree.***

*To add an immediate family member to the bulletin prayer list call the parish office at 989-224-8994.*

### Rosary Before Mass

We are adding more Rosary Leaders to the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Rosary schedule. This is a lovely opportunity for families, youth, or couples to lead our parish family in the rosary, to honor Mother Mary and God in prayer. Our goal is to have enough participants so that your turn would come up once every three months or so. If you have a special occasion you would like to celebrate in this way, you are welcome to do that also. Please call the parish office if you are interested in serving in this ministry.



### Attention All Widows/Widowers

Please join  
**“Kindred Friends”**  
 at our next meeting on  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2026**  
 at 10:30 a.m.  
 In the church basement

## Remembering our little ones

**Saturday, May 2, 2026**  
**St. Thomas the Apostle**  
 530 Elizabeth St., Ann Arbor MI

**Grief for a pre-born or stillborn child is often lonely, but YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

On Saturday, May 2, 2026 join others who share your sorrow for a Catholic Mass in recognition of your loss, no matter what the circumstances, no matter how long ago, no matter what your relationship to the child.

Names read aloud in our Prayers of the Faithful  
 Flowers for each small soul  
 Memorial Candles  
 Anointing and blessing offered after Mass  
 Link to registration: <https://form.jotform.com/250623695454159>


### Garden Society Volunteers Needed!



Garden Society volunteers are needed at the **St. Francis Retreat Center** in DeWitt MI. Help maintain several gardens in this little piece of Heaven. For more information please call the main office at 517-669-8321.



Our apologies to the family of Walter and Margaret Suchek, Jr. whose names were misspelled on the Easter Flower Memorial list.




**THANK YOU to all our  
bulletin advertisers!!**

The advertisements that appear in this bulletin completely defray all publishing costs which the church would otherwise incur. Please patronize the sponsors on the back of this bulletin and thank them for their kind generosity.



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