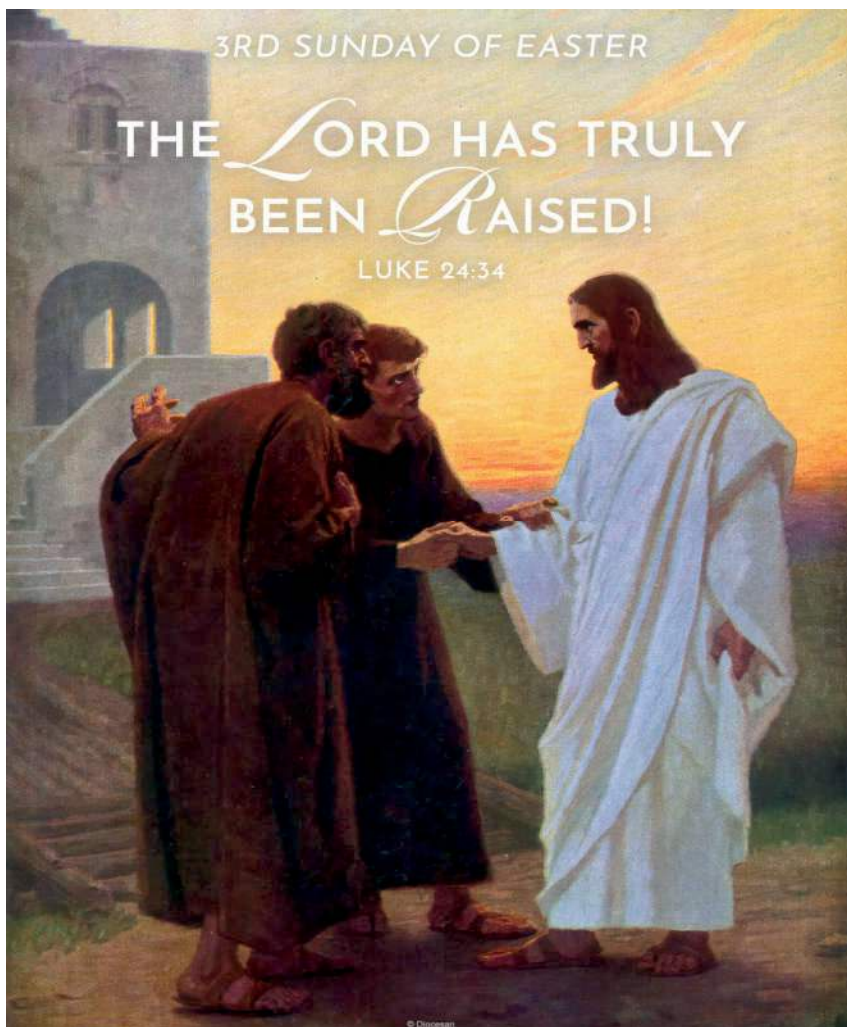


# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 20**

*Acts 6:8-15/John 6:22-29*

**No Mass**

**Tuesday • April 21**

*Acts 7:51--8:1a/John 6:30-35*

**6:00 p.m. Mass †Nancy Andrews**

*By: Joe and Helen Kus*

**Wednesday • April 22**

*Acts 8:1b-8/John 6:35-40*

**12:05 p.m. Mass †Ron McCarty**

*By: Joe and Helen Kus*

**Thursday • April 23**

*Acts 8:26-40/John 6:44-51*

**8:30 a.m. Mass †Tim Siedlaczek**

*By: Joe and Helen Kus*

**Friday • April 24**

*Acts 9:1-20/John 6:52-59*

**8:30 a.m. Mass †Debbie Hintz**

*By: Doug and Sarah Hintz Family*

**Saturday • April 25**

*1 Peter 5:5b-14/Mark 16:15-20*

**5:00 p.m. Mass *The People of the Parish***

**Sunday • April 26**

*Acts 2:14a,36-41/1 Peter 2:20b-25/John 10:1-10*

**8:00 a.m. Mass †Alexandra Parker**

*By: Mom and Dad*

**10:00 a.m. Mass †Dale Feldpausch**

*By: Family*

**12:00 p.m. Mass †Leon and †Marie Armbrustmacher and the living and deceased family members**

*By: Lynn and Deb Denovich*

**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 19-25, 2026  
 In memory of  
*Nick Kurncz*

*Rest in Peace*  
 Our prayers and sympathies  
 to the family and friends of  
*Donald P. Roesner*  
 and  
*Rachelle (Ricki) Burk*



**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 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)

**The Quiet War**

One hundred years ago, the craze known as the "Roaring Twenties" was all the rage. Wild dress and dancing were popular all over the world, especially in big cities like Chicago, New York, Paris and London. Technology growth was everywhere, with the introduction of advanced automobiles, the film industry and more. It made for a noisy decade. That noise in America allowed for "a quiet war" to take place just south of the U.S./Mexico border. For three years, from 1926-29, the Mexican government closed Catholic churches and killed priests, thus driving the faith into family homes.

If you know nothing of this war, you need to come Friday May 8th to the St. Joseph School Gym for a presentation entitled "The Cristero War: Faith Under Fire." If you know a little bit about the brave push-back by Mexican Catholics, you should also come to this event because it features a presentation by our favorite Catholic history author Phillip Campbell. And if you know quite a

bit about this war, we want you to attend, because you may have some knowledge handed down through a couple generations of family.

It is not too often that we hear of dozens of saints canonized because of their heroic faith-based actions in wartime, but that's the case with this three-year battle. (Pope John Paul II canonized 25 in May, 2000 and Pope Francis canonized a 14 year old boy, Saint Jose Sanchez del Rio in 2016.) Most of these saints were priests protecting their churches and their congregations.

The Catholics who fought back against government oppression were called Cristeros because of their battle cry "Viva Cristo Rey," which translates "Long live Christ the King." At a time when Christians in Nigeria are slaughtered in large groups on a regular basis and the Catholic Church in China is suppressed, it's important to note that our church has always been persecuted and likely always will be. That's why it's important that we are aware of conflicts such as the Cristero War, which killed at least 90 thousand people and it happened just a few generations ago in an area of Mexico not far from our borders.

There's a few more pertinent facts about the May 8th event that are noteworthy. The first is that there will be free food beginning at 5:30 p.m. Secondly, for those young parents who can't often get a night out alone, there will be Virtus-trained caregivers available to watch the kids—sign-up in the church gathering space. And finally, come to hear Phillip Campbell. He's not only knowledgeable, but entertaining as well.

It is important that we understand that being Catholic means we are being challenged all the time by our society. Our challenges are not as cut and dried as they were for the Cristeros, but they are still life-and-death issues, such as abortion and euthanasia, facing us for which we need the inner strength of a Cristero.

*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>

Please pray for the following children preparing for **First Holy Communion** this May 2 and 3, 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.      |               |



*Congratulations to our newly baptized on April 12, 2026*

*Lillian Elizabeth Siler,*  
the daughter of Thomas and Renae (Latoski) Siler &

*Emmerly Ann Goerge*  
The daughter of Ryan T. and Jessica T. (Schafer) Goerge

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

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.)

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

**Baccalaureate Mass**



All 2026 graduating Seniors are invited to the Baccalaureate Mass on **Sunday, May 17, 2026 at the Noon Mass.** Seniors should arrive at 11:30 a.m. in the

lower level of the church for instructions. Mass will follow with a reception.

**Please RSVP for the reception by May 13**

at 989-224-8537 or email Jen at [dre.stjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:dre.stjoseph@gmail.com)

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



April 11/12 donation: \$ 72.25  
 Total for the month: \$ 136.50

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

**Liturgical Ministers**  
**April 25/26**

|   |                                |                         |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Altar Servers:</b>                             | 5:00 p.m.                      | Caroline V.<br>Blaze V. |
|   | 8:00 a.m.                      | Audrey D.<br>Cora D.    |
|   | 10:00 a.m.                     | Quinn D.<br>Claire N.   |
|   | 12:00 p.m.                     | Max S.<br>Volunteer     |
| <b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:</b> |                                |                         |
|   | 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.                      | Diane A.                |
|   | 8:00 a.m.                      | Bob P.                  |
|   | 10:00 a.m.                     | Tori S.                 |
|   | 12:00 p.m.                     | Mary Beth E.            |
| <b>Ushers:</b>                                    | 5:00 p.m.                      | Group 5C                |
|   | 8:00 a.m.                      | Group 8E                |
|   | 10:00 a.m.                     | Group 10A               |
|   | 12:00 p.m.                     | Group 12A               |
| <b>Collection Counters:</b>                       | April 20                       | Group 4                 |
| <b>Sanctuary Cleaners:</b>                        | Jane Randolph & Veronica Rozen |                         |

**St. Joseph School LUNCH MENU**

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 20-24, 2026

- Monday: Pancakes, sausage, hashbrown, fruit, and milk.
- Tuesday: Lasagna with breadstick, green beans, fruit, and milk.
- Wednesday: Chicken tenders, strawberry short cake, carrots, fruit, and milk.
- Thursday: Hot dog on a bun, French fries, fruit, and milk.
- Friday: Chicken with cheese quesadilla, lettuce salad, 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.



**STEWARDSHIP**

For the weekend of April 12, 2026

Adults (306) gifts Including online giving: .....\$17,278.49  
 Loose Cash:.....\$735.00  
 Total:.....\$18,013.49

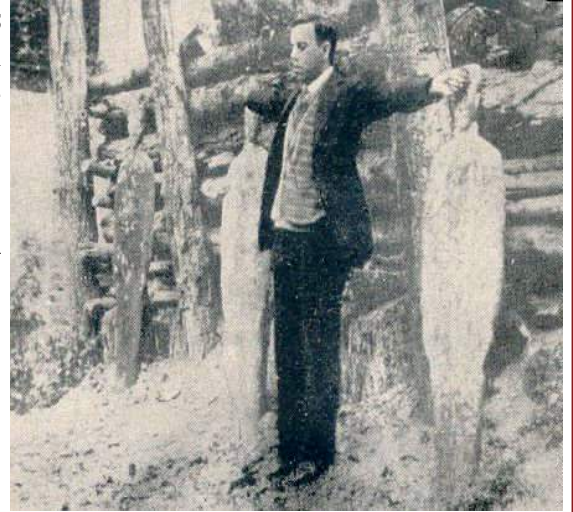
**Other Gifts Received**

Education Trust Fund: ..... \$1,035.00  
 Building Fund: ..... \$ 430.00  
 Tuition Scholarship Fund: ..... \$ 55.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2025 is \$21,768.38. If we continue to keep this average, we will meet our budgeted goal.

Moments before his death, Fr. Miguel Pro stood with his arms outstretched like a cross, facing a firing squad. The Mexican government published this photo on the front age of the newspapers, hoping it would frighten Catholics into submission.

*It didn't work.*



**The Cristero War: Faith Under Fire with Phillip Campbell.**



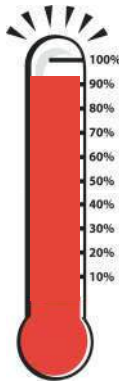
**Friday, May 8, 2026  
in the St. Joseph School Gym  
Potluck: 5:30 p.m. Presentation at 6:30 p.m.**

A children's program is available.

Please register using the QR code or on the sheet in the gathering space.



Thank you to everyone who has made a gift or pledge commitment to our Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA). As of April 10, 2026, we reached \$94,497.00 (or 93.18%) of our DSA goal of \$101,412.00. Thus far 213 families have contributed to this year's appeal which is 20.8% of our 1026 families. We are grateful for these contributions and invite 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 invite you to do so today. Gift envelopes are available in church or the parish office. Or you may submit your gift online at [www.dioceseofflansing.org/appeal](http://www.dioceseofflansing.org/appeal). Through your generosity, we live out our faith in action, demonstrating charity as a reflection of God's love.



Husbands, brothers, dads, sons and grandsons... All are invited to join us for the Average Joe's Men's Group. We meet each Saturday morning in the church basement at 9:00 a.m. to discuss issues affecting men in society today.

Gatherings include speakers and videos to provide a variety of perspectives on how men think about and then act on challenges in everyday life.

The information meetings also provide an opportunity for men of the parish to learn from each other.



All faiths are welcome!

**Navigating Grief**

Saturday, May 16, 2026

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Columbian Hall (KofC)

1108 Old US-27, St. Johns MI

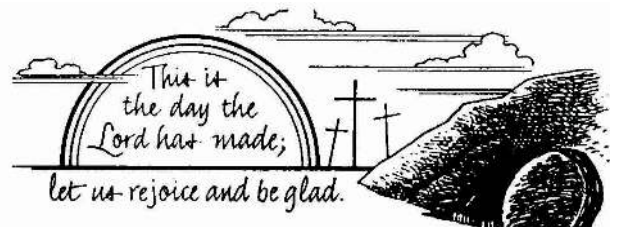
You and your family are invited to a time of connection, reflection and encouragement as we gather for a special presentation featuring **inspiring guest speaker Barb Henning, MPS, MSW.**

This event, hosted by the Path of Divine Hope Grief Ministry, is designed to offer support, understanding, and a sense of community to those navigating the loss of a loved one.

**Lunch will be served**

Kindly **RSVP by Friday, May 1st**  
to Mary Harr 989-640-1480

*We would be honored to have you join us for this special gathering.*



### *The Baby Shower Ministry:*

Beginning May 2nd, in honor of our Holy Mother, we will be filling a "Pack 'n Play" for babies and their moms to be donated to the **Baby Pantry in St. Johns**. The Baby Pantry will accept all baby item donations but especially needs the following:

- Larger diapers (sizes 4 and up)
- Pull ups
- Baby wipes
- Paper products: Facial tissue, toilet paper, and paper towers.
- Personal care items



Thank you in advance for your support!

### Traveling Chalice for Vocations

If you love the Catholic faith and want to contribute in a meaningful way, please pray for vocations. The Knights of Columbus has provided a traveling chalice that you can take home for a week of daily prayers. The Chalice is located on the table near the ramp entrance by the sacristy door. Simply sign up for the week that you want. The chalice as well as suggested prayers are yours for that week.



## 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  
 FAMILY (4 OR MORE) \$50  
 (PLUS \$1 PROCESSING FEE)

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS HERE**



**SPECIAL GUEST ANNOUNCERS - FR. TIM MACDONALD AND FR. JOE KRUPP!**



### 2026 Annual Benefit Dinner

April 23, 2026

Columbian Hall (KC)

St. Johns MI

Doors Open at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner and Program at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Robin Pierucci - special guest speaker

Dr. Robin Pierucci is a wife, mother, and a practicing neonatologist. She also has a Masters degree in bioethics, and completed the National Catholic Bioethics Center certificate course. A Jewish convert to Catholicism's, Dr. Pierucci has also been seen on a number of shows aired on EWTN including: EWTN Live, Women of Grace, The Journey Home, and in her documentary about in-vitro fertilization. She has been active with Women Speak for Themselves and has published online articles in The Federalist and The National Review. When not at work, Dr. Pierucci can most likely be found driving at least one of her three children to or from practice. For more information contact Mary Beth at 989-227-0088



### 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>



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