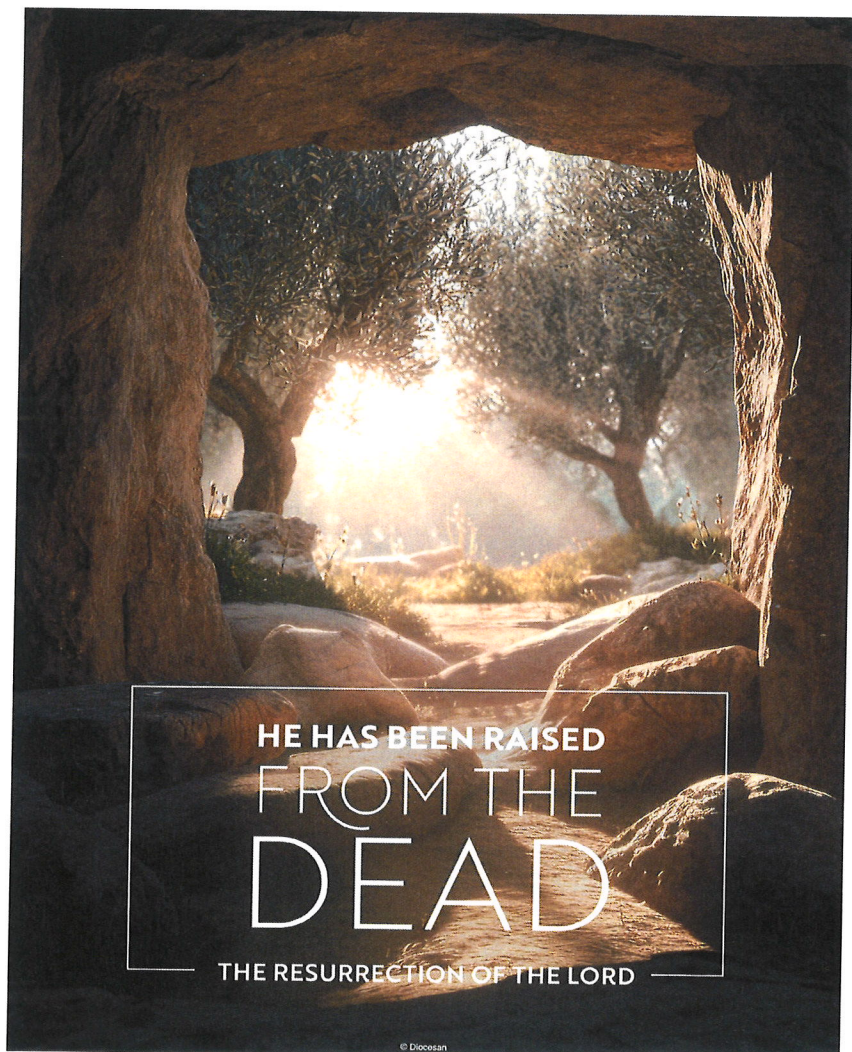


EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 2026

# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

109 Linden Street  
Saint Johns, Michigan 48879-1837  
(989) 224-8994  
Fax: (989) 224-3475  
[www.stjoecatholic.com](http://www.stjoecatholic.com)  
[stjosephchurchstjohns@gmail.com](mailto: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 6**

*Acts 2:14, 22-33/Matthew 28:8-15*

**No Mass**

**Tuesday • April 7**

*Acts 2:36-41/John 20:11-18*

**No Mass**

**Wednesday • April 8**

*Acts 3:1-10/Luke 24:13-35*

**No Mass**

**Thursday • April 9**

*Acts 3:11-26/Luke 24:35-48*

**8:30 a.m. Mass For the Catholic Church**

*By: Society of St Vincent DePaul*

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

**Friday • April 10**

*Acts 4:1-12/John 21:1-14*

**8:30 a.m. Mass †Sharon Jorae**

*By: Dan and Margaret Jorae*

**Saturday • April 11**

*Acts 4:13-21/Mark 16:9-15*

**5:00 p.m. Mass †Tena Gilhouse**

*By: Ardith Markman*

**Sunday • April 12**

*Acts 2:42-47/1 Peter 1:3-9/John 20:19-31*

**8:00 a.m. Mass †Celester and †Bernita Fedewa Family**

*By: Ken and Mary Jane Fedewa*

**10:00 a.m. Mass †James, †Agatha & †Dale Feldpausch**

*By: Family*

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

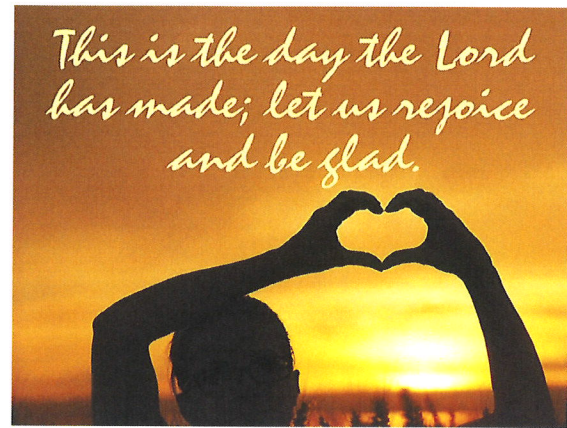
**6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish**

**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 5-11, 2026  
 In memory of

*Dan Sandahl*



**Eucharistic Adoration**

“We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory...”

*From The Gloria*

During Lent, we do not pray *The Gloria* during Mass except on solemnities and then again with bells rung during Holy Thursday Mass. The time of “fasting” from this exultant prayer can be an opportunity for us to look at it in a new light as we again begin to sing it during Easter season.

Do we truly take time to praise, bless, adore, glorify, and give thanks to God? If so, do we take time to extend that worship into our daily lives?



**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 Choje
- 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)

### "Project Hail Mary"

Whenever I hear of a movie with what seems to be a very Catholic title, I wonder first if it is indeed Catholic or whether it's title is misleading. The most popular movie across the country currently is "Project Hail Mary." This has nothing to do with the prayer to our Blessed Mother. For those who don't follow football, a "Hail Mary" is actually a term that refers to a quarterback throwing a long pass with time running out to score a winning touchdown. "Project Hail Mary" plays off that term --using "Hail Mary" to reference a desperate space excursion to save the earth from extinction.

Though I had seen promos for the movie, it was comments made by Bishop Robert Barron last week that prompted me to go see the flick this weekend. "He argued the title refers not only to the football term, but also to the Virgin Mary, and said Ryan Gosling's character is "undoubtedly a Christ-figure." One could argue whether he was a Christ figure or not, but the movie gives enough twists and turns to give the viewers

opportunities to draw their own conclusions.

It's interesting to me that such a movie would come out just before Easter, when we, as Catholics, are to observe Holy Week, when we reflect on Jesus death and his Resurrection, which we are celebrating today. The timing of its release, with a title that at least points to Catholicism, is not coincidental. It comes in a year, that record numbers of people came into the Church at the Easter Vigil across the United States. The Lansing Diocese for example had it highest number of converts in 20 years.

Though "Project Hail Mary" doesn't reference the "Hail Mary" prayer, Mary herself, Jesus or Catholicism, it is a very enjoyable movie. (The lead character's last name was Grace and there is a reference to "Savior of the World, but it's in the background and easily overlooked.) In fact, many reviewers are lauding it just for doing what movies were intended to do--entertain. The movie doesn't have a single foul word in it and there are no sexual scenes, just plenty of action and adventure. I would say it's safe to see for anyone the age of 12 and up.

There is plenty of subtle humor

throughout the movie generating chuckles and the movie does bring up some adult-level conversation starters. For example, Bishop Barron offered this point of view on the social media platform "X:"

"A particularly intriguing character in the film is a sober German scientist who relentlessly presses Grace to make the supreme sacrifice, even when he is unwilling. She represented for me the great moral demand that presses upon us throughout our lives, continually summoning us to self-gift."

"Project Hail Mary" offers the viewer some deeper thoughts as suggested by Bishop Barron, but it also draws on the very simple elements of the "Rocky" films and E.T. -- someone to root for. They all take our minds off the harsh realities of our current world—and I kind of like that.

*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](https://www.youtube.com/@StJosephCatholicChurch-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 8: K-8 Classes (6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.) and Youth Group (7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)
- 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.) and Youth Group (7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)
- April 29: K-8 Classes (6:00 p.m. - 7:15 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



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



March 28/29 donation: \$ 65.00

Total for the month: \$ 273.44

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 6-10, 2026

- Monday: No School
- Tuesday: Sweet and sour chicken with rice, peas, pineapple and milk.
- Wednesday: Chili with crackers, cinnamon roll, fruit, and milk.
- Thursday: Hot dog, french fries, fruit, and milk.
- Friday: Cheese stuffed breadstick, fresh fruit, fresh veggie, 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 11/12**

<b>Altar Servers:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Nolan C. Zeke B.
	8:00 a.m.	Ace W. Beau H.
	10:00 a.m.	Madison W. Morgan W.
	12:00 p.m.	Derek C. Graham C.

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

5:00 p.m.	Group 3
8:00 a.m.	Group 3
10:00 a.m.	Group 3
12:00 p.m.	Group 3

<b>Lectors:</b>	5:00 p.m.	Ignacio O.
	8:00 a.m.	LuAnne C.
	10:00 a.m.	Karen D.
	12:00 p.m.	Dawn L.

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

**Collection Counters:** April 6 Group 1 and 2

**Sanctuary Cleaners:** Bonnie Wohlfert and Jodie George



**STEWARDSHIP**

For the weekend of March 29, 2026

Adults (297) gifts including online giving: .....	\$21,559.77
Loose Cash:.....	\$839.00
Total:.....	\$22,398.77

**Other Gifts Received**

Education Trust Fund: .....	\$3,828.00
Building Fund: .....	\$135.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund: .....	\$382.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2025 is \$21,730.01. If we continue to keep this average, we will meet our budgeted goal.

# Honoring the Witness of the Cristeros

**Friday, May 8**



**Family-Friendly Evening!**



**Potluck Dinner**

**5:30 PM**

Join us for a shared meal!

**Children's Program**

**Ages 4 - 12**

Available during the talk.

Registration required.



## **The Cristero War: Faith Under Fire** **Presented by Phillip Campbell**



One of the most harrowing yet overlooked chapters of modern Catholic history occurred miles from our border in Mexico from 1926-1929. Violent government repression of the faithful sparked a courageous pushback from ordinary Catholics. This conflict gave the Church many inspiring saints and martyrs, remembered as Cristeros after their battle cry, “¡Viva Cristo Rey!” (“Long live Christ the King!”). This talk explores the Cristeros’ story and what their witness means for Catholics today. Recommended for ages 12 and up.

Phillip Campbell is a history teacher and author of historical works, most known for *The Story of Civilization* series from TAN Books. He has appeared on EWTN, Ave Maria Radio, the Catholic Faith Network, and numerous other programs and podcasts promoting historical literacy.

Presentation begins at 6:30 PM. Please register by Sunday, May 3 to assist with planning for the potluck, children’s program, and seating. Register in the gathering space or by scanning the QR code.



**Hosted by St. Joseph Parish at the St. Joseph School Gym**  
**201 E. Cass Street, St. Johns, Michigan 48879**

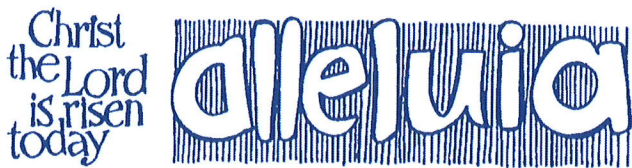

**Things Every Catholic Should Know:**

**Question: Aren't Catholics who disagree with Church teachings really Protestant?**

*Answer: There are different degrees of disagreement. One can question whether or not a priest should be allowed to marry, whether or not communion should be taken in the hand, whether or not girls should be altar servers. These are Church rules which are subject to change. When the questioning becomes to a point of division within the Church community, it is no longer questioning but rebellion. Points of dogma may be questioned in order to gain a better understanding but never to effect change. The teachings of the Catholic Church are not like a menu where you can take some of this, some of that, a double helping of dessert, but no chastity or penance. Once a doctrine is knowingly rejected, the person is no longer a Catholic as they have excommunicated themselves.*

**Question: If a person has not been to Church or practiced his faith for many years, are they forgiven their sins on receiving the last rites?**

*Answer: The "last rites: (last Confession, last Eucharist, and the last Anointing", like all Sacraments, are always effective. What impedes the effectiveness of the Sacrament is the disposition of the individual receiving them. If the person receiving the Sacraments is not truly repentant for their sins and open to God's forgiveness, that forgiveness is not forthcoming.*

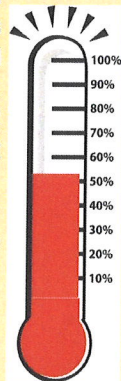



Thank you to everyone who has made a gift or pledge commitment to our Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA). As of March 27, 2026, we reached \$ 54,660.00 (or 53.9%) of our DSA goal of \$101,412.00. Thus far 131 families have contributed to this year's appeal which is 12.76% of our 1026 families.

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.

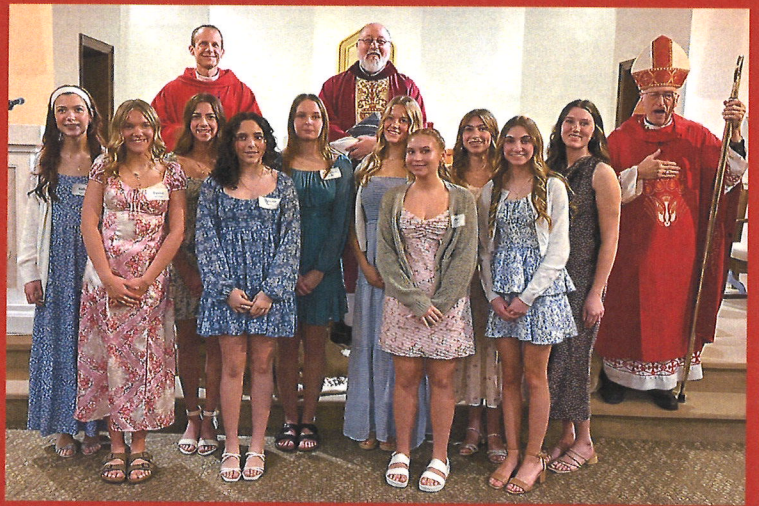
If you have not yet made a gift or a pledge, I invited you to do so today. Gift envelopes are available in church or the parish office. Or you may submit your gift online at [www.dioceseofiansing.org/appeal](http://www.dioceseofiansing.org/appeal). Through your generosity, we live out our faith in action,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



**C O N F I R M A T I O N**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2026!**



**Red Cross/Knights of Columbus BLOOD DRIVE**

**Monday, April 6, 2026**

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive at the Columbian Hall Monday, April 6, 2026 from **11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Consider giving a gift of life. You can make an appointment at the Red Cross website or just stop by!





# EASTER FLOWERS MEMORIALS 2026



Richard and Doris Andrews  
Butch Armstrong  
Bill and Yvonne Asher  
Harley Aylor  
Dale and Isabell Baker and Family  
Daniel Ball  
Chet and Jean Beagle  
Ron Berghorst  
Howard and Anna Blasen  
Louis and Margaret Brya  
Tom and Jean Burns  
Larry, Mary and Harry Burns  
Dennis Carn  
Alphonse and Agnes Caudy  
Cathy Chambers  
Carl Chatfield, Sr.  
Jim Clark  
Harold Cole, Jr.  
Ed and Marie Conley  
Mark D. Cornell  
Ronald and Rose Coultres  
Terese Croyle  
Ronald and Rita Cuthbert  
Roy and Mary Dieter  
Ray and Suzanne Dietrich  
Lawrence and Stella Donahue  
James Donahue  
L.J. Donahue  
Bernadette Doody  
Droste and Exelby Family  
Maurice and Etha Eisler  
Jerry and Kay Eisler  
Bill Eisler  
Henry and Betty Elstro  
Shelly Elstro  
Deceased members of the  
Empie and Ohlemacher Families  
Gordon and Marlene Everett  
Howard and Smith Families  
Francis and Viola Fedewa  
Dale Feldpausch  
James and Agatha Feldpausch  
Stephen Fitzpatrick

Stu Fitzpatrick  
Paul and Helen Fox  
Bernard and Marie Fox  
Dennis M Fox  
Bill Fox and Justin Fox  
Deceased members of the Fox & Wagner Family  
George and Agnes French  
Edwin and Carole George  
John Glowacki  
Frank, Anna and Jim Glowacki  
Frank and Janet Glowacki  
Donald Goerge  
Ann Green  
Art Halfmann  
Tom and Pat Handloser  
Kristie Harper  
Neil and Jean Harte  
John and Ann Hayes  
Sally Hettler  
Brenda Hogan  
Joe and Alma Hogan  
Hope Hoskins  
Howard and Smith Families  
Joan Huhn  
Bernard and Joan Jorae  
Sharon Jorae  
Donald and Laura Jorae  
Gerald and Beatrice Jorae  
Bill Kissane  
Lawrence and Carolyn Klein  
Peter W. and Margaret Mary Klein  
Leo and Phyllis Klein  
Sister Donna Koenigsknecht  
Leonard and Bernita Koenigsknecht  
John Kowatch  
Clayton, Betty, Clare, and Leon Kramer  
Nicholas Kurncz  
Hilda Lewis  
Bob Lineberger  
Cindy Lumbert  
Curt Luttig  
Ed and Betty Mankey

# EASTER FLOWERS MEMORIALS 2026

Ron McCarty  
George McNamara  
Gabriella Meece  
Miguel and Felicitas Medina  
Cindy Miller  
Bob Miller  
Anthony and Christina Motz  
Dave Motz  
Carl Murray  
Cindy Nunn  
Bob, Germaine and Debra Nurenberg  
Dennis and Celine Ozanich  
Alexandra Parker  
Janice Parker  
Deceased members of the Pline Family  
Floyd and Marge Prater  
John and Millie Presocki  
Bert and Pat Przygocki  
Paul Pung  
Dorothy Quick  
Denis and Mary Lou Rademacher  
Ron and Dave Rademacher  
Don Rademacher  
Brian Ritter  
Ritter and Thelen Families  
Trudy Rogers  
Fred and Josephine Rogers  
Joaquin Rojas  
Patricia Rojas  
Mark Rosner  
Milton and Norene Rozen  
Susan Kay Scarchilli  
Mark L Schafer  
Kevin J Schafer  
Fred and Rosie Schmitz  
Julius and Martha Schmitt Deceased Family Members  
Edward J. Schmitt  
Ron Schneider  
Don and Alice Schneider  
Ed and Alice Schneider  
Mike Schneider  
Deceased members of the  
Schneider and Cosgrove Families

Jeanette Schomisch  
Dave Schroeder  
Deceased members of the  
Schroeder and Fernholz Families  
Alan Simon  
Clarence and Genevieve Simon  
Janet Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Clare Smith and Linda and Donna  
Stan and Joan Smith  
Tank and Gert Smith  
Margaret Stachel  
Walter and Margaret Suchek, Jr.  
Dee Thelen  
Leon and Bertine Thelen  
Jimmy Thelen  
Carl and Laurene Thelen  
Stan and Rita Thelen  
Leo, Marie and Kevin Thelen  
Carl and Laurene Thelen  
Rick Thelen  
Larry Thelen  
Arnold and Irmina Thelen  
Diane (Klein) Thelen  
Linda (Klein) Torres  
Gale VanBurger  
Alex and Bernita Vitek  
Jeff and Charles Wadell  
Harry and Mary Wadell  
Lawrence and Marie Warnke  
Stan Wassa  
Urban and Marie Weber  
George and Therese Weber  
Herm, Roberta, Janie Weber  
Mike Werbish  
Elenore Whitford  
Ed and Verena Witgen

## **IN HONOR OF:**

Living and Deceased members  
of the Schaefer and Pohl Families  
Rick Thelen  
Larry Thelen  
The Wadell Children and Grandchildren  
Fr. Mike Williams

**If you were raised as a child in the parish:**

- And are now over 18 years of age
- And you did not fill out a parish registration form
- You are NOT a registered parishioner!

**Why is it important to be registered in the parish:**

- We can reach you with important information about the parish and it's ministries
- We have a more accurate idea of the number of parishioners we have in the parish.
- It allows us to seek your input and feedback.
- It allows you to formally support the parish financially, since envelopes will be issued to you for your use.
- We can start a sacramental record for you.
- Finally, registering can also help you have a greater

sense of belonging to and ownership of the parish.

**Please note:**

The **envelopes** you receive when registering **will now play an important role in the reception of the sacraments.** (i.e. Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation and Marriage) in the parish. This also includes God-parent selection. We're asking all parishioners to get into the habit of using your envelopes in the weekly collection. Even if you give online or don't have anything to put in the envelope, please submit an empty envelope. It will help us know how many registered parishioners attend a given Mass and it will also come in handing for determining if a person, presenting themselves for a sacrament, is attending Mass regularly as is required.

You can obtain a registration form from our website at [www.stjoecatholic.com](http://www.stjoecatholic.com) under forms or stop in the parish office.

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