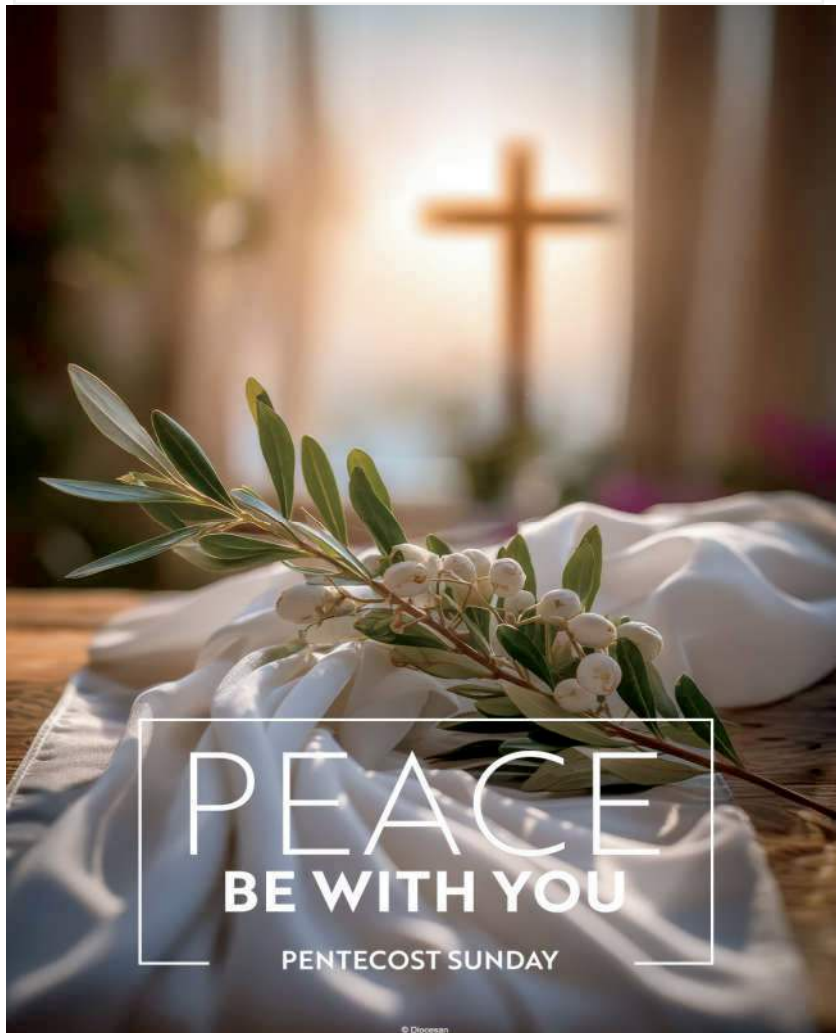


ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

109 Linden Street
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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 • May 25

Memorial Day

Genesis 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/John 19:25-34

No Mass

Tuesday • May 26

1 Peter 1:10-16/Mark 10:28-31

6:00 p.m. Mass †Jerry Bellant

By: Chris and Brenda DeLiso

Wednesday • May 27

1 Peter 1:18-25/Mark 10:32-45

12:05 p.m. Mass †Beverly Starrak

By: Brad and Andrea Rehmann

Thursday • May 28

1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12/Mark 10:46-52

8:30 a.m. Mass †Emilia Castaneda

By: Family

Friday • May 29

1 Peter 4:7-13/Mark 11:11-26

8:30 a.m. Mass †Quinn Fox

By: Brad and Andrea Rehmann

Saturday • May 30

Jude 17, 20b-25/Mark 11:27-33

5:00 p.m. Mass †Jean Burns

By: Charlie and Lisa Wieber

Sunday • May 31

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9/2 Corinthians 13:11-13/John 3:16-18

8:00 a.m. Mass †John and †Marie Martin

By: Chris and Michelle Wells

10:00 a.m. Mass Deceased members of the †Sylvester and †Julia Martin Family

By: Roy and JoAnn Simon

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

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish †Judith Boyd

By: Chris and Brenda DeLiso



Lord, hold our troops
in your loving hands.
Protect them as they protect us.
Bless them and their families
for the selfless acts
they perform for us
in our time of need.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
Our Lord and Savior. Amen



The Sanctuary Lamp
will burn from
May 24-30, 2026
In memory of
Vern Smith

Rest in Peace

Our prayers and sympathies
to the family and friends of
Mary C. Fox

Eucharist Adoration

“Do not think that Jesus Christ is forgetful of you, since he has left you, as the greatest memorial and pledge of His love, Himself in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.”

~St. Alphonsus

Are you interested in becoming a regular monthly adorer or sub? Call or text Rebecca at 989-292-2072.



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)

Mary Go-round

My wife and I attended a funeral in the Detroit area this week and a woman at our luncheon table was discussing the trouble she had getting to the luncheon site. (We'll call her Mary, for the sake of this column's title.) Hold on to that thought for a moment.

There have probably been thousands of books on prayer over the centuries, including those by well-known saints. Yet the question comes up in my life on a somewhat regular basis about the best ways to pray. It might be a one-on-one question or something that comes up at an Average Joes meeting. Many times the question has been about what to do when the mind starts wandering during prayer. The easy answer is to pick up where you left off in prayer. The Lord understands the human mind, so we know the best we can do is get back on the horse.

Another question I get has to do with saying the same prayers every day or praying prayers for the same intention every day. Is that okay?,

people ask. And the answer is always the same--of course it's okay. We can pray the same prayers for the same intentions. If there is a person in our life suffering from cancer, for example, (and who doesn't have such a person) pray to St. Peregrine every day, night and day for his intercession.

If there is a person who is in great need of God's mercy, by all means drop to your knees and pray to St. Faustina for her intercession every day. Same rote prayers or spontaneous ones, the importance lies in taking the time to pray for oneself or for others—not whether the words are the same every day or not.

What many people wonder is if they are stuck on something of a merry go-round of prayer. They wonder if their words start losing some of their passion and intent if there's no variety. They're fearful of "baseball announcer syndrome" (I made that up), whereby the use of the same broadcast cliches causes announcers to lose their punch and thus the radio audience tunes out. We need to just maintain our passion and our sincerity and ignore any merry go-round effect.

Speaking of a carousel, remember the person I referenced as Mary from the top of the column? She was delayed in getting from the funeral to

the luncheon because she got stuck in a busy traffic roundabout and circled it four times before taking the proper turn- hence, "Mary Go-round." I just thought you should know.

NOTE: *I've had a few requests from parishioners for the end of my personal "What Now?" story I started in my homily last weekend. Without getting too detailed, here's the short-term and long term "What Nows?" In the short term, we pulled the transmitter tubes and dried them in our ovens and we got the radio station back on the air and the station sale went through. The long term "What Now?" involved a series of lower-case "what nows" over an eight-year period that took us from Kalamazoo to Detroit to St. Johns for the ultimate "WHAT NOW?" – answering the call to the diaconate. It was a "Long and Windy Road," but I finally made it to where the Lord's path was taking me.*

Deacon Eric

Deacon Eric

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>

**Summer 2026 Faith Formation Series
Wednesday, June 17 at 6:00 p.m.**

In the church basement

Centuries before the Protestant Reformation, Christianity experienced another major division: the split between the Christian East and West. This summer, we'll explore this split in the Church and the traditions that developed from it.

On June 17, we'll focus on the Great Schism of 1054, when long-standing tensions between East and West came to a head and the Orthodox Church began to take shape. We will also consider the lasting impact on this division on Christianity today.



**INTERESTED IN
BECOMING CATHOLIC?**

KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?

Joining the Catholic Church doesn't follow a school year schedule anymore. Please contact the parish office at any time.

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Praying for God's Team VBS Registration

Join us for the Opening Pitch for VBS on
Monday, June 22nd to Thursday, June 25
9:30 a.m.- Noon
for children 4 years old and older.

Learn what it means to be part of the team that we call Catholic and participate in Bible stories, games, crafts, snacks, music, and more! Registration and volunteer forms are available online at stjoecatholic.com and near the entrance of the church.

VBS needs many volunteers,
please contact
Jen Nelson to say you can help!
989-224-8537
Dre.stjoseph@gmail.com



Let's Play Ball!

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

St. Johns Baby Pantry

May 16/17 \$ 55.01

Total for the month: \$ 254.26

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

*This St Joseph School Lunch Menu has been chosen
by Morgan Weber-winner of the Feast and Raffle
"Menu Takeover" bid item. Congratulations, Morgan!*

St. Joseph School LUNCH MENU

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 25-29, 2026

- Monday: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit, and milk.
- Tuesday: Cheese stuffed breadstick, fresh veggie, fresh fruit, and milk.
- Wednesday: Macaroni and cheese with warm pretzel, carrots, fruit, and milk.
- Thursday: Hamburger with cheese, fried chips, fruit, and milk.
- Friday: Sweet and sour chicken over rice, peas, 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 May 30 and 31

Altar Servers:	5:00 p.m.	Volunteer
		Volunteer
	8:00 a.m.	Ella C.
		Ella S.
	10:00 a.m.	Quinn D.
		Claire N.
	12:00 p.m.	Mabel R.
		Willow R.

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

Lectors:	5:00 p.m.	Lisa W.
	8:00 a.m.	Bob P.
	10:00 a.m.	Renae S.
	12:00 p.m.	Debbie T.

Ushers:	5:00 p.m.	Group 5B
	8:00 a.m.	Group 8E
	10:00 a.m.	Group 10B
	12:00 p.m.	Group 12A

Collection Counters: May 26 Group 1

Sanctuary Cleaners: Becky Swender and Barb Longoria



STEWARDSHIP

For the weekend of May 17, 2026

Adults (282) gifts Including online giving:	\$28,429.27
Loose Cash:.....	\$770.01
Total:.....	\$29,199.28

Other Gifts Received

Education Trust Fund:	\$ 240.00
Building Fund:	\$ 341.00
Tuition Scholarship Fund:	\$ 250.00

Our weekly average since July 1, 2025 is \$24,212.69. If we continue to keep this average, we will meet our budgeted goal.

**Things Every Catholic Should Know:
Can Catholics support the death penalty for
murderers, rapists, and pedophiles?**

Answer: If someone is causing harm to society, it is society's responsibility to render that individual incapable of inflicting further harm. The traditional teaching of the Church down through the ages has acknowledged the right and duty of legitimate public authority to punish malefactors proportionate to the gravity of the crime, not excluding, in cases of extreme gravity, the death penalty. However, we must also recognize that if incarceration is sufficient to defend the public against the individual malefactor, the public authority should limit itself to such means and ensure that the individual will not have their sentence reduced or otherwise be released to again become a threat to society. The ultimate judge is God, and He will give each individual their just reward. When we attempt to avenge the crime, we become no better than the original perpetrator



Prayer for Travelers

Lord, be our guide and our protector on the journey we are about to take. Watch over us. Protect us from accidents. Keep us free from harm to body and soul. Lord, support us with Your grace when we are tired. Help us be patient in any trouble which may come our way. Keep us always mindful of Your presence and love. Amen.



St. Monica Ladies Auxiliary

invites ALL ladies to a

**SUMMER
ROFLUCK**

Monday, June 8th

6:30 p.m.

Columbian Hall

More details to follow

Parish office Hours

Monday	Closed - Memorial Day
Tues -Thursday	9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. <i>(closed from noon - 1:00 p.m.)</i>
Friday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. <i>(closed from noon - 1:00 p.m.)</i>

**Funerals when Fr. Mike is away
from the Parish**

In 1970, the average age of active Catholic priests in the US was 35. Today that average age is 63. Many older priests are being asked to postpone their retirement to compensate for the shortage, but this is only a temporary solution. In just ten years, the number of priests is set to drop even more dramatically.

Canon 533 of the Code of Canon Law states: §2. "Unless there is a grave reason to the contrary, a pastor is permitted to be absent from the parish each year for vacation for at most one continuous or interrupted month; those days which the pastor spends once a year in spiritual retreat are not computed in the time of vacation."

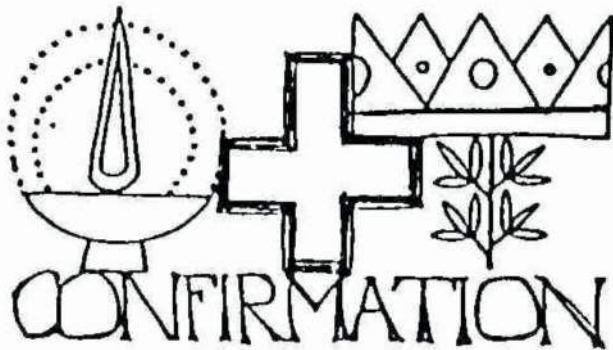
With the increasing shortage of active priests, it is becoming more and more difficult for the average parish priest to "get away" for any extended period of time whether for vacation, retreat or family matters. Therefore, there is a great likelihood that if a funeral was to occur during the absence of one's parish priest, the parish deacon would be called upon to preside at that funeral.

Here, in St. Joseph Church, those in the parish office will do their best to find another local priest to preside at a funeral in such a situation. However, one needs to understand that it is not always possible to find an available priest. In that situation, Deacon Jerry Fust or Deacon Eric Elstro (our parish deacons) will be called upon to preside over a funeral if such a situation should arise. If this were to occur, the family of the deceased should expect to have a Vigil Service (as usual) the night before, The Rite of Christian Burial (without Mass), a Committal Service at the graveside, and be encouraged to have a Memorial Mass for their loved on once Fr. Mike returns to the parish or at a later date.



Lansing and need the Anointing of the Sick?

When you or your loved one is ill, receiving the Sacrament of the Sick is important. When in a Lansing area hospital, please let your attending nurse know you would like the Anointing of the Sick. They will contact the chaplain who will, in turn, contact a local priest who is "on call" to come and give you the sacrament. This is the quickest way for you or your loved one to receive the sacrament, if they didn't already receive it before going into the hospital.



**If you lost it.....
We probably found it!**

We have quite a collection of lost and found items gathered over the past few months that are looking for a good home. Perhaps it's yours? Kindly check out our lost and found box located at the back of the church to see if we found your missing items.

Any items unclaimed by May 31st will be disposed of or donated.

 **Upcoming Events**
AT ST. FRANCIS RETREAT CENTER IN DEWITT, MI

- JUNE 22-24: FORGED Retreat**
- JULY 10-12: Silent Ignatian Retreat**
- JULY 17-18: Engaged Couples Retreat**
- AUG. 4-6: Men's Discernment Retreat**
- AUG. 18-20: Summer Scripture Days**

MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.STFRANCIS.WS/RETREATS

BLOOD DRIVE

In Memory of Roger Dershem

Roger was one that never said no to a challenge and always carried a "Get-R-Done" attitude. Roger was also a dedicated donor and generously rolled up his sleeve to donate 117 units of his O+ blood to help others. Please donate to show Roger's family, fellow knights, and the community appreciation for all that he did for our community.



St. Johns Knights of Columbus
1108 N US 27

Monday, June 1, 2026
10:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, log into RedCrossBlood.org (Sponsor code: StJohnsKofC) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Make summer shine for patients in need.
Come to give blood June 1-28 for a \$15 e-gift card!



Helping Neighbors in Need--Four Wheels at a time!

St Vincent DePaul (Diocese of Lansing) has expanded its Car Ministry to include donated vehicles! In the first two years of this ministry, we have assisted 84 Neighbors in Need (NIN) into automobiles. This form of transportation affords them freer access to the workplace, grocery store, medical care, schooling, and so much more! This effort continues, with your help, to help our neighbors out of Systemic Poverty that lack of mobility can perpetuate.



When a NIN is identified, a home visit by two Vincentians is made to discuss their transportation challenges as well as to verify that they will be able to afford insurance, gas and the vehicle upkeep expenses. Additionally, a payment of \$1,500.00 as a co-pay is all they need to get into a vehicle.



We have 20 NIN looking for vehicles. If you can help, please call us at (517) 484-5395 ext 102. Please leave a message and someone will get back to you and explain how easy it is to donate a vehicle!

Upon donation a car, all appropriate tax documents will be provided.

The Baby Shower Ministry:

May is the month of Mary and 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 towels.
- Personal care items

Thank you in advance for your support!



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