



St. Mary & St. Joseph Parish

One Holy Family
Together In Christ

Official correspondence should be sent to:

700 Columbia Dr., Durand, MI 48429. 1-855-288-6704

Pastor: Rev. Jonathan Perrotta Email: frjonathanp@gmail.com

Deacon: Wayne Corrion Email: Deaconwaynecorrion@gmail.com 989-271-8434

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Discipleship Coordinator for Youth and Young Adults:

Adriana Lindgren Email: adrianadcy@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education (DRE): Robin Doyle Email: smsjdre@gmail.com

St. Mary Church

700 Columbia Dr., Durand, MI 48429

1-855-288-6704

Mass Times:

Sat.: 5:00pm - Sun.: 11:30am

Weekday Masses - See Bulletin

Office hours: Mon., Thurs., Fri., 8:30am to
2:30pm.

Tues. 8:30am to Noon

Website: stmarystjoseph.org

Myparishapp.com

St. Joseph Church

9450 Duffield Rd., Gaines, MI 48436

1-989-271-8434

Mass Time:

Sun.: 8:30am

Weekday Masses - See Bulletin

Office hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs.,
9:00am to 3:00pm.

Website: stmarystjoseph.org

Myparishapp.com

~Sacraments~

Baptism: You must be a registered active member of either Parish for three months prior to the baptism. Parents are expected to attend a baptismal preparation class before baptism.

Marriage: Arrangements should be made at least 12 months before the date of the marriage to take marriage preparation courses.

Anointing of Sick: Upon request, contact the Durand office, 1-855-288-6704.

RCIA: Starts in the fall. Contact your respective parish office for times and dates.

Reconciliation: St. Joseph on Wednesday 9:00am to 9:30am. St. Mary on Saturday 3:30pm to 4:30pm. Special request, contact the Durand office. Check the bulletin for special times.

Witness to Hope Update...

...Currently, parishioners have pledged \$173,620. This is 50.4% of our goal of \$344, 479. Fifty-seven households have made pledges, about 12% of register parishioners. This means our average pledge is just over \$3,000. Thank you to the 57 households who have pledged thus far!

As a diocese, we just reached over \$65,000,000 in pledges! That was our diocesan goal and is a cause of celebration for all of us as one Body in Christ. I continue to feel blessed to be a part of such a great diocese. At our parish council, one member asked what percentage of what is pledged is actually given? For church campaigns, the percentage is 98%. Wow!

Some members of our Campaign Cabinet and other parishioners made phone calls recently to answer questions and provide updates to all our parishioners. Over 300 households were called. Most impressive.

If you have not made your pledge yet, I encourage you to do so now. Not every gift will be the same amount, but we can all make a gift. I think we can easily beat our 40% participation goal, because there is no minimum amount. Ryan Patrillo, the gentleman helping us run our campaign, told me that the smallest gift thus far had been \$3. What a great example of someone being involved. Perhaps this sacrifice was the greatest (think of the woman that Jesus pointed out who gave two small coins, but her gift was the greatest because she gave from her need and others from their excess). The point here, though, is simply that we can all participate in this worthy work, to meet not only current needs, but also come to the aid of others for years, perhaps generations, to come. You can drop your pledge card in the collection basket, bring it to the parish office, or mail it in...and you can pledge online too.

CALLING ALL BELL RINGERS AND CHRISTMAS SINGERS

Plans are underway for the 6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Joseph. We welcome young, old, and in-between to be part of the music for our liturgical celebration. Practice times will be on weekends, exact days/times yet to be determined.

Please contact Pamela Schaefer
pjschaefer@gmail.com or call at 810-252-5006.

Working Hands Ministry...

will not have its regular schedule during December. It will resume in the Education Building at St. Mary on Wednesday, Jan. 10, from 7-8:30pm and Thursday, Jan. 11, from 1-2:30pm. We are in great need of yarn. A shawl or lapghan takes 3-4 skeins of yarn in one color or coordinating shades. We would appreciate yarn in any color and we usually use regular weight, 4 ply, yarn. We look forward to the new year of meeting to knit, crochet and pray together. Please join us.

**St. Mary & St Joseph Parish
Mass Schedule****Monday, December 4 - No Mass****Tuesday, December 5 - St. Mary****Eucharistic Adoration** - 7:20am to 8:20am**Mass** - 8:30am - Dale Jenkins by Kurt & Glenna Tillman**Wednesday, December 6 - St. Joseph****Eucharistic Adoration** - 7:20am to 8:20am**Mass** - 8:30am - David Hollenbeck Jr by Janette Borke

Josie Klein by Mark Dyer

Thursday, December 7 - St. Mary**Eucharistic Adoration** - 7:20am to 8:20am**Mass** - 8:30am - Carl Schisler by Mike & Sharon McRae.**Immaculate Conception Vigil - St. Mary****Mass** - 5:00pm - Sophie Nequist by Karen & Joe Lezovich**Friday, December 8 - Immaculate Conception****St. Joseph Mass** - 7:00am - Carl Schisler by Sr. Ann Petri**St. Mary Mass** - 7:00pm - John & Margie Soloc by Sandy Bensinger & family**Saturday, December 9 - St. Mary**† **Sacrament of Reconciliation** - 3:30pm to 4:30pm
Mass - 5:00pm - Joseph Murphy by family, children & grandchildren**Sunday, December 10****St. Joseph Mass** - 8:30am - Wayne Morse by Family**St. Mary Mass** - 11:30am - St. Mary and St. Joseph Parishioners**Mass times for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8. Mark your calendars!**

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation, and for us in the USA, it is our Patronal Feast day. We will have a Vigil Mass on Thursday and two Masses on Friday.

Mass times and locations:

Thursday, Dec. 7, 5:00pm at St. Mary

Friday, Dec. 8, 7:00am at St. Joseph

Friday, Dec. 8, 7:00pm at St. Mary

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SUFFERING OF ST. MARY & ST. JOSEPH

For those who are ill at home, in the hospital or in the nursing home. Judy Fortino, Bill & Rosemary Gumble, Loretta Clifford, Mabel Hart, Casimir Hincka, David Hincka, Marge Reed, and Dereck Monroe.

Please note: Individual names will remain on the prayer list for four (4) weekends, before being removed. If your illness is long term, your name should be put on the prayer board in the back of your church. St. Mary's parish office 1-855-288-6704 or the St. Joseph's office at 989-271-8434.

**Pray for all men and women in the armed services.**

From the Pen of the Pastor...

Dear brothers and sisters,



Advent has just started and it seems like it's almost over. With a short, three week Advent, I find the most challenging aspect to be simply getting anything out of it. It's so easy to get to Christmas eve and think, "What happened to Advent?" To this end, I mentioned last week, that this year I am encouraging us all to focus on three easy things: silence, confession and an act of mercy. Go to confession before Christmas. Add some extra silence to your day during these days before Advent (I suggest filling them with reading Scripture and listening to God). My plan is to take some extra time in the evening when I would otherwise be online or listening to music. Finally, do one extra act of mercy. We have the 7 corporal and 7 spiritual works of mercy to guide us, if you are needing inspiration.

Love always takes effort; we can't expect to grow through osmosis. May Christmas find us more open to God's love for us, ready to receive fruitfully His gifts, especially the gift of His Son and our Redeemer, Jesus.

Our Parish Council met this past Tuesday. I am always so grateful for their faith, their love for our parish, and their willingness to serve and advise. We viewed a video and had a discussion about leadership and vision for our parish. One surprising take away for me is that I have decided to preach a series of homilies on the Mass. I will do this after the Christmas season.

We discussed safety at our facilities, especially at Masses. A couple members volunteered to help us make improvements here.

We looked briefly at our financial situation. While overall we are in a strong position (good amount of money in the bank), this year, as I mentioned previously, we are facing a shortage in our budget because of a decrease in giving. Right now, our Sunday offertory is around \$4,500 per week, while our weekly bills are around \$5,200. We discussed ways to address this.

We had a fruitful discussion about Grow and Go, the upcoming Catholics Come Home commercials, which begin this coming week, and ways we can grow in being a parish that welcomes the stranger/visitor, makes them feel at home, and appropriately invites them to take the next step. I know that I can get better in this area too. One suggestion that hit home was a home visit by me with every new parishioner. As one member pointed out, every person is in a different place and even likes being treated differently, which means we have to find ways to focus on each person, while also having processes in place that help us meet their needs and call them to discipleship. Wow! Not a task that only a few of us can do. We all must be committed to this task. There has been a group of parishioners meeting and exploring new ways of welcoming, inviting and accompanying. I deeply appreciate their initiative and good desires. May God bless you and your family this Advent



Reconciliation

Advent Confession Times

St Mary

Wednesdays

Dec 6, 13, 20th7-8:00pm

Fridays

Dec 8.....1:30-2:00pm

Dec 15, 22nd 1:30-2:00pm,7-8:00pm

Dec 15,22nd Eucharistic Adoration.....6-8:00pm

Saturdays

Dec 9, 16, 23rd9-10:00am, 3:30-4:30pm

St Joseph

Sundays

Dec 3, 10, 17, 24th8-8:20am

Wednesdays

Dec 6, 13, 20th9-9:30am

Community Penance Service available at

St Joseph, Owosso, Dec 12th at 6:30pm; St Mary, Morrice, Dec 19th at 7pm

St. Joseph Liturgical Assignments for December 8 & 10



NOTE: All Liturgical Ministers should meet 5 minutes before mass every Sunday, in the gathering space near the Sacristy, to pray as requested by Father Jon.

Fri., Dec., 8, 7:00am

Immaculate Conception

Eucharistic Ministers: Vic Huddas and volunteer

Sacristans: Vic Huddas and volunteer

Lectors: Linda Burns

Servers: Volunteer needed

Sun., Dec. 10, 8:30am

Eucharistic Ministers: Karrie Johnston, Chris & Kelly Proseus

Sacristans: Paul & Karrie Johnston

Lectors: Paul Johnston, Deb Boucha

Servers: Aidan McGuire, volunteer



The tags for the Giving Tree...

... are available to be picked up along with the Mitten Tree at St Joseph Church.



Light up for Christ! Bring your family and friends

to put "Christ back in CHRISTmas". There will be a ceremony on December 5, starting at 7:30pm in the St. Mary Gathering space with singing and prayers ending with the lighting of the tree at 8:00pm. All parishioners, families and friends are invited. Please

come out to make this event a success!

Annually throughout the world, the Knights of Columbus begin the Christmas season with the 'Light up for Christ Celebration'. Precisely at 8:00pm, local time, each council lights their Christmas tree, Christmas display or Nativity scene. A reminder that Christ is "The Light of the World". Just think of it, the light traveling across our great nations from East to West!!!! What a wondrous event!

Volunteers needed for packing Christmas food baskets on Sat., Dec. 16 from noon until 1:00pm at the St Joseph Parish Hall. Please sign up in the gathering space.

There will be a gently worn clean coat collection...

...for those who need to be warm this winter. There will be containers in the St. Mary gathering space and in the Franklin Hay Education building. All collected coats will be offered to the area food distributions. Snow pants will be collected also.

Parish Support for the weekend of November 19 & 26



November 19 offerings (general collection).....	\$4,121.00
Building Debt.....	\$355.00
Improvement.....	\$10.00
Energy.....	\$40.00
Outreach.....	\$400.00
St. Vincent de Paul.....	\$30.00
Mother Teresa Group.....	\$1,097.00
Human Development.....	\$71.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$10.00
Share in the Care.....	\$10.00
Holy Christmas.....	\$10.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$10.00
All Saints.....	\$25.00
November 26 offerings (general collection).....	\$4,811.00
Building Dept.....	\$540.00
Improvement.....	\$50.00
Energy.....	\$30.00
Outreach.....	\$164.00
Campaign for Human Development.....	\$45.00

Advance Christmas Mass Schedule...

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Saturday, December 23, 5:00pm Mass - St. Mary

Sunday, December 24, 8:30am Mass - St. Joseph

Sunday, December 24, 10:00am Mass - St. Mary

Christmas Eve Masses - Sunday, December 24

3:30pm - Children's Christmas Play - St. Mary

4:00pm - Mass St. Mary

6:00pm - Mass St. Joseph

12:00am - Midnight Mass St. Mary

Christmas Day Masses - Monday, December 25

9:00am - Mass St. Joseph

11:00 - Mass St. Mary

Daily Masses resume Tuesday, December 26, 8:30am St. Mary

New Years Day Mass - Monday, January 1

10:00am - Mass St. Mary

THANK YOU...

...to all the table sponsors, our guests, and our speaker Jane Knuth who was an inspiration to all on prayer. Great speaker, great food made for our annual St. Mary Church Advent by Candlelight a huge success. See you next year!

There will be two special times...

...for Eucharistic Adoration during Advent. Friday, Dec 15, and Friday, Dec 22, at St Mary's from 6-8:00pm will be Eucharistic Adoration and Confession time available from 7-8:00pm. Please consider spending some special time with the Lord.

Thank you, Ladies of St. Joseph Church...

...and their guests, for attending Advent by Candlelight. An enjoyable evening of prayer, music, delicious food and lively conversation was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to those who hosted a table, prepared food, or helped setup the gathering space. A special thank you to our speaker Deacon Wayne. Thank you to Linda Yanta and Terese Corron, our talented musicians. The Mother Teresa Group

Server training will be on...

...December 2 at St. Joseph Church from 10 to 12 for those who want to be trained there and a second training at St. Mary Church and December 9 from 10 to 12 for those that prefer that location. Both new people that desire to be trained and those who want a refresher. We encourage both to be there for the training. You are welcome to come to either in case you can't make the times setup. Remember we also could use some adult servers at both locations so if you feel God is calling to help at His Altar, please feel free to join us at either of these trainings.

St. Joseph Food Pantry...

...is currently in need of the following canned goods: soup, stew, fruit. Also needed are hamburger helper and personal hygiene items. We thank you for your continued support in helping others. There is a plastic tote in the Gather Space.

There will be **NO** Mother Teresa Group meeting in December. Our next meeting is Tues., January 2 at 6:30pm.

Sponsor of the Week

Durand Auto Parts

See the full ad on the back page. Please patronize these sponsors, as they make our bulletin possible. Also, let them know where you saw it!

Special Bulletin Cut off Dates:

Dec. 10 bulletin cut off is Dec. 4 by 9:00am.

Early cut off notification:

Dec. 24 cut off is Fri., Dec. 15 by 10:00am

Dec. 31 cut off is Fri., Dec. 22 by 10:00am.

bulletinmj@gmail.com