



# 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

**Deacon:** Greg Middleton 1-855-288-6704 Ext. 7014

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**Secretary:** Sandy Bensinger Email: stjosephgaines@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.

## From the Pen of the Pastor...



Dear sisters and brothers,

**I had a wonderful conversation with a parishioner this past week.** Among several items they wanted to share with me, one topic of discussion was our recent parish mission. They expressed their strong frustration and disappointment that this mission had been held at our St. Mary church and not our St. Joseph church.

The reason for this frustration was that the past three missions have been held at our St. Mary church, and they pointed out to me that at one point it had been communicated that there would be an equal sharing or balance between our two church sites for activities like this.

**I greatly appreciated that this person took the time to calmly and kindly share their concern (they also shared other things, including positive one's too, which I also appreciated).** Not only am I not a mind reader, but the evil one is always trying to sow division, bitterness and hatred. One common way is by using unresolved, and often unspoken or shared, grievances or hurts. Instead of working toward unity in Jesus, we become divided, hostile, and separated from God and one another. By sharing their problem, they didn't let this happen. Bravo for sticking it to Satan and division!

They also shared their frustration in a Christian way—kindly, calmly, without personal attacks or judgment thrown in. This made it *much easier* to receive their concern with an open mind and heart, which was a great blessing to me. All this made it a wonderful conversation. If you have concerns which you think I need to know about, please share them with me...and please follow this person's example of how.

**As to this person's specific concern, which I imagine others must share, I want to say this:** I apologize for causing frustration and hurt among our parish. While this commitment may have been communicated before my arrival (I think it must have been as I don't remember promising this), and while we have been trying to find balance in

**Come to our Lenten Penance Service** with celebration of the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation. Wednesday, March 14 at 7:00pm at our St. Mary church. Penance Service includes: Scripture, Songs, Sermon, an examination of conscience, prayers, followed by individual Confessions. Repent and receive God's mercy and forgiveness anew: it's what He's rich in (Eph 2:4)!

## 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. Jim Elford, Curt Rivard, Dorothy Spiekermann, Debbie Love, Teresa Chesney, Lucas Corwin, Steve Doyle, Robert Cormier, Jacqueline Calhoun, and Raymond Calhoun Jr.

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.**

our activities (for example we back and forth each year between our two churches for our Stations for the Cross and Penance Services), I did not really spend time looking at where this year's mission should be. Instead, I had asked the parish council for their recommendations on Lenten activities, and the feedback they provided was have another parish mission. Mostly because of trying to bring everything together since January (a bit last minute for something like this), I didn't really look at what was best for our parish location wise, or what we had already agreed to as a parish, but mainly what was easiest for my schedule. I will ask the parish council at our meeting this month to take a look at our upcoming scheduled events to make sure we are maintaining the right balance.

**This being said, one upcoming change because of the merger is that we will have only one Triduum Liturgy as a parish instead of two, which we have been communicating for the last year.** This means one Holy Thursday evening Mass, one Good Friday service and one Easter Vigil Mass. This three-day Liturgy is meant to be celebrated at the principal church of a parish, which for us is St. Mary. Because of this, and because we will not have anyone receiving baptism or entering the Church at the Easter Vigil, I decided that we should come together for these services. In talking to other merged parishes that have two or more churches that are weekly used for Mass (like our parish), it is possible that we could divide the Triduum between our two church sites, so this will be an item for discussion this Fall at our parish council for next year's Triduum.

**Finally, don't forget about our Penance Service this Wednesday, March, 14 at 7:00pm at our St. Mary church.** I hope to see you there.

May God bless you and your family abundantly this fourth week of Lent.

## St. Mary & St Joseph Parish Mass Schedule

**Monday, March 12 - No Mass**

**Tuesday, March 13 - St. Mary**

**Eucharistic Adoration** - 7:20am to 8:20am

**Mass** - 8:30am - Sophie Nequist by Suber family

**Wednesday, March 14 - St. Joseph**

**Eucharistic Adoration** - 7:20am to 8:20am

**St. Joseph Mass** - 8:30am - Ron Sedlak by Martha Sutton

† **Sacrament of Reconciliation** - 9:00am to 9:30am

**Thursday, March 15 - St. Mary**

**Eucharistic Adoration** - 7:20am to 8:20am

**Mass** - 8:30am - Kay & Gene King by family

**Friday, March 16 - St. Mary**

**Eucharistic Adoration** - 7:20am to 8:20am

**Mass** - 8:30am - Zack Kowalczyk by Nanette Kowalczyk

**Saturday, March 17 - St. Mary**

† **Sacrament of Reconciliation** - 3:30pm to 4:30pm

**Mass** - 5:00pm - Fred Konecny by Michael & Sharon Gould

**Sunday, March 18**

**St. Joseph Mass** - 8:30am - St. Mary and St. Joseph Parishioners

**St. Mary Mass** - 11:30am - Louis C. Pavlica by Jaime & Kathy Pavlica

# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGY SCHEDULE

## Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 24: Vigil Mass, 5:00 PM: St. Mary church

Sunday, March 25:

8:00 AM, Confession, St. Joseph church

8:30 AM, St Joseph

11:30 AM, St. Mary church



Tuesday of Holy Week: 8:30 AM Mass, St. Mary

Wednesday of Holy Week: 8:30 AM Mass, St. Joseph

## Triduum Liturgy

HOLY THURSDAY: Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 PM, St. Mary

GOOD FRIDAY: Prayer Service 12:00 noon, St. Mary

Stations of the Cross: 2 PM (or when Prayer service ends, if after 2 PM), St. Mary

Divine Mercy Chaplet/start of Novena: 2:30 PM, St. Mary

HOLY SATURDAY: **Easter Vigil Mass 8:35 PM**, St. Mary

## Easter Sunday Masses

9:00 AM: St. Joseph church

11:00 AM: St. Mary church

Liturgy Schedule is for St. Mary and St. Joseph Parish, Durand and Gaines, MI

St. Mary church: 700 E. Columbia Dr. Durand, MI 48429

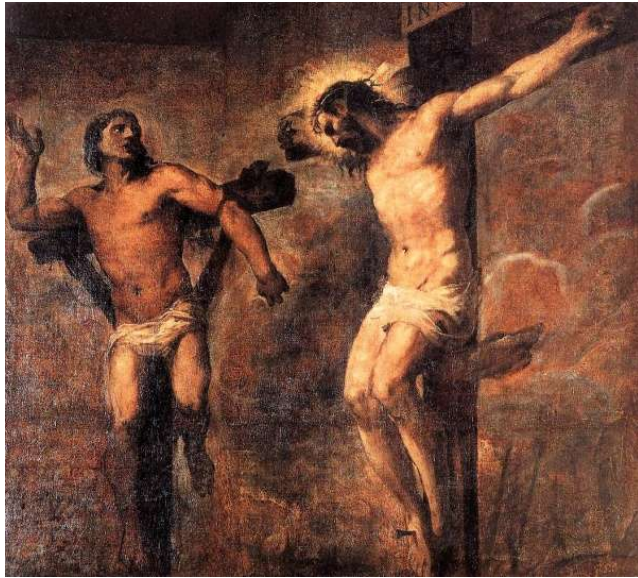
St. Joseph church: 9450 Duffield, Rd. Gaines, MI 48436

## **Quick Catholic Question**

**Question:** Tell us about the “Good Thief”, the term sounds contradictory?

**Answer:** The good thief, as he is commonly called, is an unnamed character mentioned in the Gospel of Luke who was crucified alongside Jesus and asked Jesus to remember him in his kingdom. He is traditionally referred to as St. Dismas.

Though he has never been formally canonized by the Church, he is



believed to be a saint by virtue of Christ’s words, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” His feast day is March 25.

The account of the crucifixion in the Gospels, we can infer something very interesting about St. Dismas.


"One of the criminals who was hanged railed at him, saying, 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.' And he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' And he said to him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise'" (Luke 23 39:43).

From this we can conclude that at some point after St. Dismas “reviled him,” and, before he asked Jesus to remember him in his kingdom, he repented. What beautiful humility St. Dismas displayed, and what astounding mercy Jesus gave.

*Remember if you have a question you want to ask, just email us at*

**[quickeatholicquestions@gmail.com](mailto:quickeatholicquestions@gmail.com)**

*or simply write your question down and drop it in the collection basket and it will find its way to us*



**St. Joseph Liturgical Assignments for March 18**  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Sue Jaskiewicz, Vic Huddas  
 Sacristans: Sue Jaskiewicz, Vic Huddas  
 Lectors: Jim Mathis, Nanette Cecil  
 Servers: Kaitlyn & Justin Monroe

**St. Mary Altar Society Annual Raffle and Bake Sale...** **Raffle**  
 ...will be held on March 17 & 18. Please call Patty Dotson at [989-413-2111](tel:989-413-2111) or Renee Walters at [989-251-3125](tel:989-251-3125) with any questions.


**Easter Basket collection...**  
 ...for the March St. Mary Food Pantry Distribution: We are collecting baskets, grass, candy, little stuffed animals and other miscellaneous basket stuffing items. Place the items in the food pantry box. Items are needed by March 17. Additional needs for the pantry at this time include paper and plastic bags, cereal, canned fruit, hamburger helper, spaghetti noodles and tuna fish. We currently do NOT need laundry soap bottles.

**Date Night (Marriage Matters):**  
 March 24, 6:30pm at St. Joseph church hall, 12145 Ray Rd., Gaines. Dish to pass sign up sheet in gathering spaces at both churches.

This week's prayer to carry in your hearts and your prayer time:  
**Pray for the aborted babies.**

**Fish and Soup Dinners....**  
 ...will be held every Friday during Lent, 5:00pm until 7:30pm at the St. Joseph Hall, 12145 Ray Rd., Gaines and will continue until Good Friday. Fish dinner is \$10. Shrimp dinner is \$11. Fish & Shrimp dinner is \$11. All proceeds will be donated to the Thomas Smith Foundation in conjunction with Hurley Hospital to provide screening for kids for potential heart problems.


**St. Mary Outreach Food Pantry Volunteers Needed:**  
 The next food distribution is on **March 24**. Food Truck Unloading will be on Fridays, **March 16** and **March 23** at 8:30am. Volunteers are needed for unloading. Initial food packaging (packers) and building setup takes place on Friday, **March 23** at 6:00pm. On distribution day we gather at 8:30 in the education building. For any questions concerning the St. Mary Outreach Food Pantry, please contact Diane Pelky at [989-288-4446](tel:989-288-4446) or Kathy Schmidt [989-288-4183](tel:989-288-4183) or [stmaryfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryfoodpantry@gmail.com). Thank you again for your continued support. God Bless.



**Lenten Inspirations**  
**Lent:** A time for being renewed as disciples of Jesus and children of God through Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. **The goal of Lent:** to arrive at Easter more full of God's love and more in love with God and all others.

**Food Distribution:**  
 The next St. Mary Outreach Food Pantry distribution will be on **March 24**. Appointments will be taken **March 12 – March 16**; Mon.- Fri. from 9:00am - 5:00pm. For an appointment call St. Mary Church at 1 (855)-288-6704 ext. = 7017 and follow the instructions on the answering service. To receive food, you must have an appt. and live in the following areas: Byron, Bancroft, Durand, Corunna, Lennon, Vernon or Gaines. The distribution will take place at the St. Mary Education Building. 700 Columbia Dr., Durand. If you or someone you know is in need of food, please call 1 (855)-288-6704 for an appointment. "This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

*"There are three things, my brothers and sisters, by which faith stands firm, devotion remains constant, and virtue endures. They are prayer, fasting and mercy. Prayer knocks at the door, fasting obtains, mercy receives. Prayer, mercy and fasting: these three are one, and they give life to each other...Let no one try to separate them, they cannot be separated. If you have only one of them or not all together, you have nothing. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others." —St. Peter Chrysologus*



Knights of Columbus Gaines council 12186  
 Knight of Month  
 SK Brian Jones  
 2 Families of the Month  
 SK Brian Jones and Lady Tatjana Jones  
 Harold and Mary Demott

**Thank You!** Thank you from the Folsom family to the parishioners of St. Mary and St. Joseph Parish for all of your prayers and support for the loss of our loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Helen Folsom. Your kind words and prayers were very much appreciated. The Folsom family.

**Finance Council** meeting will be Tuesday, March 20, at 7:00pm in St Joseph's gathering space.

**Parish Support for the weekend of March 4**

March 4 offerings (general collection).....	\$5,775.00
Energy.....	\$20.00
Outreach.....	\$165.00
Building Debt.....	\$534.00
Good Friday.....	\$5.00

**Now is a good time** to bring in your old palm branches for the Easter Vigil fire. Please leave them in the basket in the gathering spaces.

**Sponsor of the Week**  
**St. Paul Catholic School, Owosso**  
 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!  
 March 18 cut off is March 12 by 10:00am  
[bulletinmj@gmail.com](mailto:bulletinmj@gmail.com)

