



# 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:**

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**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 brothers and sisters,

**This past week, TV ads from Catholics Come Home started to run throughout our diocese.** Perhaps, you have seen one already. I watched one online because I don't have normal TV at the rectory. These ads will be running for the rest of December and the first part of January.

**I commend those who have been making an extra effort to find ways to recognize, welcome and invite visitors to our parish.** Other diocese that ran these ads, found that these ads do make a difference—Catholics who have been away, some for a long time, do come back. But unless a parish is ready to welcome them and invite them to take the next step, it's only for a short time; things go back to the way they were. This means all of us are needed. What are you doing to reach out and build up the Body of Christ at our parish?

**Every six years or so, Christmas falls on Monday** (though this time around it's been 11 years—2006). This means lots of Masses for all us priests within a couple of days. It's a good thing I love Mass! It also means that the fourth Sunday of Advent Masses and Christmas Masses come back to back. Two things are worth noting, one of spiritual (and eternal) importance, the other practical.

**First, we believe that Sunday Mass is at the foundation of our relationship with God and living the first commandment (to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength).** The Mass is the source of our life, salvation, and happiness. Thus, Mass on Sunday is an obligation. When we knowingly and willingly (meaning we aren't talking about sickness or dangerous roads or no ride to get to Mass, etc.) skip Sunday Mass, we commit serious sin. As a Church, we

recognize that a few other days have a similar importance, and so these days too are days of obligation. They are meant to be days of worship, celebration and rest. Christmas is one of these days.

**This means that we have the privilege (and the obligation) of participating at both a Mass for Sunday and a Mass for Christmas.** Of course, to see this as a burden is to miss out on the awesome truth of what the Mass is. This obligation really is an obligation for our own happiness. It's a little like saying that we have the obligation to spend time with someone we love, or the obligation to receive a guaranteed healing if we had cancer, or the obligation to receive \$10,000. Who would consider any of these obligations as a burden? The Mass does us far more good than any of these things. So, pass the word...and come to Mass...twice. It's good for the soul.

**Second, on a practical note, please be aware that we will have a 10:00am Mass at our St. Mary Church on Sunday, 12/24 and NOT an 11:30am Mass.** This is because we will have our Christmas Eve Masses starting later that day at 4:00pm, with the children's pageant at 3:30pm. Having an earlier Mass, allows for final touches to our Christmas decorations and other preparations in as peaceful an environment as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

May God bless you and your family abundantly this week.

## St. Mary & St Joseph Parish Mass Schedule

**Monday, December 11 - No Mass**

**Tuesday, December 12 - St. Mary**

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

**Mass - 8:30am - Karen Stinger by Ronald & Vicki Wagner**

**Wednesday, December 13 - St. Joseph**

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

**Mass - 8:30am - Dennis Bartes by Anne Bartes and Family**

**Steven Dickinson by Mary Dickinson**

**Thursday, December 14 - St. Mary**

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

**Mass - 8:30am - Betty Vargo by Kathleen Girgen**

**Friday, December 15 - St. Mary**

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

**Mass - 8:30am - Margaret Doyle by Doug & Debbie Drury**

**Saturday, December 16 - St. Mary**

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

**Mass - 5:00pm - Irene Sworthwood by Jennie DeNolf**

**Sunday, December 17**

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

**St. Mary Mass - 11:30am - Dorothy McDonald by Joe & Karen Lezovich**



### Campaign Update

We are excited to announce that we have raised \$289,963 from 138 households: **84%** of goal!

**Help Us Raise \$55,000 to Reach Goal!**

We are **\$55,000** away from our goal! If **20 families** make a pledge of **\$600** over five years, we would hit our goal!

Please visit [www.witness-to-hope.net](http://www.witness-to-hope.net) to make your contribution!

**St. Joseph Liturgical Assignments for December 17**



*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.*

Eucharistic Ministers: Jerry & Marge Reed  
 Sacristans: Jerry & Marge Reed  
 Lectors: Bill Feudale, Vic Huddas  
 Servers: Canyon Butterfield & volunteer



**The Giving Tree at St. Joseph...**

...All gifts should be returned by Wed., Dec. 13 and left in the Gathering Space by the tree. Thanks!

**St. Joseph Gaines Knights of Columbus 12186**



We would like to thank all the Knights that helped install a wheel chair ramp for Chuck Harris. Special thanks to our son-in-law, Nathan Zilisch, for taking time out of his day off in helping with the installation.

**Knight of the Month - SK Mike Gentry**  
**Family of the Month - SK Mike and Lady Laura Gentry**

**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.

**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.



**Second Sunday of Advent Prayer...**

...Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of Heavenly Wisdom gain us admittance to His company. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Parish Support for the weekend of December 3**



December 3 offerings (general collection).....	\$6,334.00
Building Debt.....	\$1,047.00
Improvement.....	\$233.00
Energy.....	\$30.00
Outreach.....	\$20.00
Mother Teresa Group.....	\$85.00
Candles.....	\$10.50
World Evangelization.....	\$20.00
Home Missions.....	\$20.00
Campaign for Human Development.....	\$10.00
Online donations for November 2017.....	\$630.00

**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. Jennifer Monroe, 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.**

**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

**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.

**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.

**Sponsor of the Week**

**Owosso Carpet Center, Inc.**

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. 17 bulletin cut off is Dec. 11 by 9:00am.

**Early cut off notifications:**

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