



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

Secretary/Business Manager: Paul Williamson Email: stmarydurand@gmail.com

Secretary: Sandy Bensinger Email: stjosephgaines@gmail.com

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.



From the Pen of the Pastor...

Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Lk. 2:10-11

Dear brothers and sisters,

Merry Christmas! Before and beyond all the hustle and bustle, all the traveling, and even all the celebrating and gift giving, there is the fact that God became one of us and was born in Bethlehem. In Jesus, we meet the one who saves us from sin and death, the one who loves us beyond all telling, the one by whom and for whom we were made, the one who conquers every evil and fulfills all our desires. He is no myth, nor is He just another wise man; He is God with us. He is the Lord of all things. He is the Prince of peace, who brings mercy and justice to a fallen world. As we rightly say, He is the reason for the season. And what a wonderful reason He is!

The words of the angel, then, are just as important and meaningful for us as they were for those shepherds: Be not afraid for there is reason for great joy because of Jesus. He is the good news meant for all to know and receive.

Today, we are called to be like the shepherds: having experienced the saving love of God in Jesus, having come into His Presence in His Church, in the Sacraments and above all in the Mass, we too are sent to make known to all in the world this good news of great joy.

To all the problems in the world, to every injustice, every broken relationship, ever suffering, every long-

ing and desire of the heart, Jesus is *the* answer. Not the answer that the world expected, nor the one that always makes immediate sense to us. Instead, He came humbly the first time so that we might not be afraid, so we might learn the path of true life, goodness, power and victory.

God in His love for us gave us the gift of Himself, the gift of everything He has. He in turn longs for us. He longs that we would give Him the gift of ourselves. Be not afraid. Open wide the doors of your heart to Jesus. Welcome Him anew, even as one might welcome a new born. Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to draw close anew to Jesus, to ask Him to bring His saving mercy to us, to be our Lord. Christmas is a perfect time to ask God to fill us with the wonder and awe that filled the shepherds, that we would be the light to the world—the people of joy—that Jesus has called us to be.

May this be truly a Merry Christmas for all!

St. Mary & St Joseph Parish Mass Schedule

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day

St. Joseph Mass - 9:00am - Al and Arlene Cormier, Deacon Currie and Perris Cormier by Marie Meadows, Donna Cormier and Families

St. Mary Mass - 11:00am - Weir & Foster families by Jim & Donna Weir

Tuesday, December 26 - St. Mary

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

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

Wednesday, December 27 - St. Joseph

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

Mass - 8:30am - Carl Schisler by Mary Deering Rod Sedlak by K of C 12186

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

Thursday, December 28 - St. Mary

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

Mass - 8:30am - Irene Sworthwood by Joe & Mary Frankovich

Friday, December 29 - St. Mary

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

Mass - 8:30am - Karen Stinger by Owen & Inez Rood

Saturday, December 30 - St. Mary

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

Mass - 5:00pm - St. Mary and St. Joseph Parishioners

Sunday, December 31

St. Joseph Mass - 8:30am - Carl Schisler by Dave and Marylynn Hollenbeck

St. Mary Mass - 11:30am - Irene Sworthwood by Michael & Brenda Wells

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. Theresa Turski, Jim Elford, Jennifer Monroe, Judy Fortino, Bill & Rosemary Gumble, Loretta Clifford, Mabel Hart.

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.

**This week's prayer to carry in your hearts and
your prayer time:**

**Jesus, I pray for conversion of all lost
souls.**

St. Joseph Liturgical Assignments for December 31



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: Brian Jones, Colleen Stanis, Marlene Cole
 Sacristans: Brian Jones, Colleen Stanis
 Lectors: Nanette Cecil, Patrick McGuire
 Servers: Kaitlynn Monroe, Volunteer

The Nativity of the Lord Prayer...



...O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer, we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our Judge. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Register for Alpha

Save the date for our 8 week Alpha series starting January 3 from 10:00am-noon at St. Mary. Alpha gives guests a relaxed and low-key opportunity to explore the meaning of life. Each session includes food, a short DVD presentation and then time for discussion in a friendly small group. Know someone who might benefit from Alpha? Invite them, and come with them!

Register by contacting Adriana Lindgren at the parish office at (855) 288-6704. Space is limited and registration is on a first come first serve basis.

New Years Day Mass Monday, January 1

10:00am - Mass St. Mary

Working Hands Ministry...

...will have its usual schedule in the new year. We will meet on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30pm and Thursdays from 1:00-2:30pm in the St. Mary Education Building. All are welcome to come and knit, crochet or quilt and pray with us. We do not meet if Durand Schools do not have school due to weather. Our dates are: Wednesdays: Jan. 10 and 24, Feb. 7 and 21, March 7 and 21, April 4 and 18, and May 2. Thursdays: Jan. 11 and 25, Feb. 8 and 22, March 8 and 22, April 5 and 19, and May 3.

Sponsor of the Week

**Allstate Insurance Company
Christi Johnson, Agent**

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!



Early cut off notifications:

Dec. 31 cut off was Fri., Dec. 22 by 10:00am.
 Jan. 7 cut off is Jan. 1 by 10:00am
bulletinmj@gmail.com

Parish Support for the weekend of December 17

December 17 offerings (general collection)	\$4,666.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$16.00
Building Debt.....	\$448.00
Energy.....	\$101.00
Outreach.....	\$1,062.00
St. Vincent de Paul.....	\$40.00
Share in the Care.....	\$101.00
Candles.....	\$144.50

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