

The Catholic Community of  
**St. Mary St. Joseph Parish**

Ministering to Durand, Gaines  
& surrounding areas



***Be glad and exult  
with all your heart***  
***Zep 3:14***

Third Sunday of Advent ~ C  
December 12, 2021

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

**Mass Times:**  
See liturgical schedule in bulletin.  
Weekday Masses - See Bulletin  
Office hours: Mon., Thurs., Fri., 8:30am to 2:30pm.  
Tues. 8:30am to Noon  
Website: stmarystjoseph.org  
Myparishapp.com

**Gaines Location**  
9450 Duffield Rd., Gaines, MI 48436  
1-989-271-8434

**Mass Time:**  
See liturgical schedule in bulletin.  
Weekday Masses - See Bulletin  
Office hours: Tues., 9:00am to 3:00pm  
Wed., Thurs., 9:00am to 1:00pm.  
Website: stmarystjoseph.org  
Myparishapp.com

### **Mission Statement**

As members of St. Mary and St. Joseph Parish, we believe that we share in the mission of Jesus through our baptism and commitment to the values expressed in the gospel.

The dedication of our parish to the Holy Spirit calls us to be particularly attentive to the inspiration and guidance of the Spirit as we:

- gather as a community that worships together and supports one another in spiritual growth;
- witness to our belief through sharing our faith with others and providing for education in faith to our members;
- respond with compassion to both the spiritual and corporal needs of those around us;
- care for the many gifts we have been given and seek to use them wisely.

We do all of this as members of a larger community of believers within the Diocese of Lansing and greater Roman Catholic Church.

Official correspondence should be sent to:  
700 Columbia Dr., Durand, MI 48429.  
1-855-288-6704

**Parish Administrator:** Deacon Wayne Corrion  
Email: dcnwaynesmsj@gmail.com  
**Secretary/Business Manager:** Paul Williamson  
Email: stmarydurand@gmail.com  
**Secretary:** Sandy Bensinger  
Email: stjosephgaines@gmail.com  
**Faith Formation Director:** Teresa Hurd  
Email: ffdmsmj@gmail.com Phone Ext: 7003  
**RCIA Leader:** Sandra Corrion  
Email: rciasmsj@gmail.com Phone Ext: 7006  
**Youth Group Leader:** John Michailo  
Email: ymsmsj@gmail.com  
**Deacon:** Greg Middleton 989-721-7683  
**Sacramental Minister:** Rev. Bill Wegher

### **~Sacraments~**

**Baptism:** You must be a registered active member of St. Mary & St. Joseph 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 our parish office for times and dates.

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

## From Deacon Wayne's Desk

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DEC. 12, 2021

**Be glad and exult with all your heart** *Zep 3:14*



Have you heard that robberies are on the rise, as they always are during this season when people have gifts under their trees in their homes? Robberies are always tragic, but the worst robbery of all is letting your Joyfulness be stolen due to all the bustle of the season that is upon us. We should never live or make our choices out of fear but out of Joy.

Gladness and expectation are weaved through our readings today. Today is Gaudete Sunday or in English "Rejoice Sunday." This is the Sunday where we light the rose candle on our advent wreaths. It is indeed a time to rejoice and celebrate for the time is near for the Coming of the Lord. This is what we have all been waiting for, right? It is certainly what our Mother Mary and all of Israel had been waiting for. Mary so eloquently says in Luke's Gospel:

***"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, My Spirit rejoices in God my Savior for He has looked with favor on His lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is His Name. He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation. He has shown the strength of His arm, He has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has come to the help of His servant Israel for He has remembered His promise of mercy, The promise He made to our fathers, To Abraham and his children forever."***

It would be wise for us to sit with this prayer this coming week. As the holiday craziness surrounds us, each of us should take some time to sit in quiet, maybe in front of your manger creche you have setup in your home or at church, and really let these words pierce deep into our souls.

Robberies are certain to rise this Christmas season but the worst robbery of all is letting the busyness of Christmas rob you of the wonder of understanding that you are called to be the vessel for Christ to come onto our world. Don't be robbed of the wonder and beauty of this season of waiting in hope as our Mother Mary did. She could have easily succumbed to fear over all that had hap-

pened to her from being visited by angels, becoming impregnated by the Holy Spirit, facing the shame of her community as an unwed mother, having been called to travel to Bethlehem while pregnant on a donkey. Even through all these tribulations Mary focuses on what is most important and has the fortitude to say ***My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, My Spirit rejoices in God my Savior.***

As we come into this third week of Advent do not let yourself be robbed of the Gladness and anticipation that Christ is near. This time is so precious, don't let it slip by you unnoticed. Don't be robbed of your gladness and anticipation of the coming of Christ. Really enjoy this coming week.

*Dcn. Wayne*

### Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

#### Sandy Bensinger

Sandy Bensinger has been part of SMSJ Family for most her life. Sandy is a paid member of our staff, so why does she pop up in the Volunteer Spotlight? Well, that is because she volunteers as much if not more time than she works in her secretary position at our Gaines Campus. Her talents are many, but the most important thing to know about Sandy is that no matter what she is working on, it is done with love. To name some of these talents she shares is music, singing, decorating our churches, RCIA, and catechist. Please stop and tell Sandy how much you appreciate the gifts she shares with our family.



If you have been part of our parish family joining on our liturgies and other services and found this to be your "home" parish, we are encouraging you to please register at our parish. By registering, we can make sure we have your contact info to get you important mailings and keep you informed. Registering also provides us with important information on how we can better serve you in your sacramental needs. If you are not registered, please consider filling out a registration form we have in our gathering spaces or contact either of our offices and we can get one to you.

## St. Mary & St Joseph Parish Liturgy Schedule

### Monday, December 13 - No Mass

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a, Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9, Mt 21:23-27

### Tuesday, December 14 - No Mass

**Scriptural Rosary - 1:00pm**

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13, Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23, Mt 21:28-32

### Wednesday, December 15 - Gaines

**Adoration - 7:20am**

**Mass - 8:30am - James Seidel by Deanna Seidel**

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

**Rosary - 2:30pm**

Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25, Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14, Lk 7:18b-23

### Thursday, December 16 - Durand

**Mass - 8:30 - Virginia Loomis by the Loomis Family**

**Rosary - 2:30pm**

Is 54:1-10, Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b, Lk 7:24-30

### Friday, December 17 - No Mass

Gn 49:2, 8-10, Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17, Mt 1:1-17

### Saturday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8, Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19, Mt 1:18-25

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

**Mass - 5:00pm - Jack Cyr by the Sneed & Cyr Families**

### Sunday, December 19

**Rosary - 8:00am at Gaines**

**Mass at Gaines - 8:30am - SMSJ Parishioners**

**Mass at Durand - 11:30am - Mitchel Wilcox by Joe & Patty Guzniczak**

Mi 5:1-4a, Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19., Heb 10:5-10, Lk 1:39-45



Knights of Columbus - Gaines Council  
12186

Knight of the Month for November 2021

**Jack Brunell**

Family of the Month for November 2021

**SK John & Lady Shirley Tomasek**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SUFFERING OF ST. MARY ST. JOSEPH PARISH

For those who are ill at home, in the hospital or in the nursing home.

**Sandy Carpenter, Christian Carpenter, Joey Burke, Clarence Hincka, Jay & Jenney Kekel, Ken Strahorn, Stan Bates, Jim (Leo) Dolehanty, Patricia Elliott, Tucker James Montana, Marchell Weld, Bob Weld, Christine Jablonski, Marge Reed, Al Proulx, Tony Tuczynski, and Janice Proulx**

**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.



Please continue to pray for all those that have been afflicted with or caring for someone with the COVID-19. Also all the frontline Doctors, Nurses, EMTs, Police, Fire and all those continuing to work at Grocery Stores, Pharmacies, Food Banks



The applications for the 2022 Knights of Columbus Scholarships is now open to High School Seniors and current college students to registered families at

St. Mary St. Joseph Parish. Apps can be found on the Shiawassee Community Foundation website [www.shiacf.org](http://www.shiacf.org) or by calling 989-725-1093. Apps must be in by January 31, 2022. KofC Scholarship committee

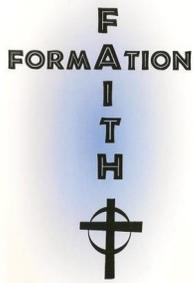
## Volunteers are needed for Christmas Decorating!

Decorating will be at Gaines on Wed., Dec 22 at 9:30am and at Durand on Thurs., Dec 23 at 12noon. All are welcome to come and help decorate!



## Ushers and Greeters

Now that we are taking up our collection during the preparation of the gifts at our Durand campus, we are looking to recruit some more volunteers to help with the collection for both the 5.00 p.m. and 11.30 a.m. masses. This also applies to greeters as well. If you are interested in becoming or are already an Usher or a Greeter, please contact the Durand office so we can get you on the schedule. Thank you.



**St. Mary St. Joseph  
Catholic Community  
Faith Formation News.**

May I take this opportunity to wish you all good tidings and cheer during this most holy Advent Season. It is my hope that we don't get so caught up in all the holiday festivities and shopping that we forget that

**"Jesus is the reason for the season!"**

To help us remember that we will have a very special Family Faith Fun Fest on Sunday, December 19 at 10:00am in the lower level parish gathering space in Durand. Our special guest will be Dcn Rich Badics who will come dressed as St. Nicholas and do a presentation on the history of this special saint, whom we all have come to know by his more common name Santa Clause.

We will also be engaging in some fun holiday activities, one of which will be the traditional Hispanic game of "Breaking Open the Piñata!" Anyone wishing to donate wrapped candy to fill the Piñata, please look for the box in the gathering spaces at both Durand and Gaines.

I have decided to print the monthly Faith Formation Calendar in my bulletin column to benefit our parishioners who are interested in what will be happening monthly in our program. Look for it here each week.

**December**

**12 - Family Formation Session at Home/Sacramental Class at Parish**

**19 - Family Faith Fun Fest! Theme: Advent/Christmas at Parish**

**26 - Family Faith Formation Session at Home**

Blessings on your week!

**Teresa Hurd, Faith Formation Director  
(855) 288-6704 , ext. 7003  
ffdsmsj@gmail.com**



Please join us Sunday, Dec. 19, from 10:00am to 11:15am in the lower level gathering space in Durand for an Advent Celebration. Special guest, St. Nicholas will share his story of faith and how he became known as Santa Clause throughout the world. Fun activities for both adults and children will be offered. The entire parish is invited to share a special time together as we prepare for our Savior's birth!



Needed! Wrapped candy for the Piñata that we will be using at our Advent Celebration on December 19. Please place in the box you will find in the gathering spaces at both Durand and Gaines locations. Thank you for your donation!



**High School Youth Group News**

On 12/19, the SMSJYG will be joining the Choir and singing at the 11:30am Mass. We will rehearse in the Choir Loft with the musicians during our normal YG time from 10:00am-11:15am. After Mass we will have a lite lunch and go Caroling at the Durand Senior Care and Rehab Center (DSCaRC.) Please access the details and permission form via the QR code. We will need adult drivers to transport the teens to and from the DSCaRC. Please contact me if you can assist.



**Confirmation Preparation News**

Our next session will be on 12/12. Students who missed our last session will have the 3rd edition of Gifted With The Spirit mailed to them. Please read through all of it and be prepared to engage in thoughtful discussion. Remember, Jesus went all in for us! Please consider going all in for Him!

**John Michailo  
High School Youth Group Minister  
Confirmation Preparation Coordinator  
(855)288-6704, ext. 7013  
ymsmsj@gmail.com**

Excerpts from God given to St Sr. Maria Faustina (Diary 324) "Pure love gives the soul strength at the very moment of dying. When I was dying on the cross, I was not thinking about Myself, but about poor sinners, and I prayed for them to my Father."

**It's not too late!**

You can still join our parish Advent retreat. We are using Bishop Robert Barron's Advent Gospel Reflections to guide our discussions.

When: Sundays during Advent at 8:00pm

Where: Zoom Meeting Information

Direct URL: [bit.ly/stsjadvent2021](https://bit.ly/stsjadvent2021)

or

Zoom.com / Zoom App

Meeting ID: 819 7709 7806

Passcode: 650717

To pick up your free book, or for more information, contact either parish office or Ben Strong at (586)623-7730.



Welcome New SMSJ parishioners!  
**Timothy & Susanna Polidori**  
Our family is growing! Please greet them, and make them feel welcome.



# Parish Support

## COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF DEC. 5

Envelopes for General Fund (mail/drop off)	\$4,879.78
Online donations for Gen Fund 12/1-12/5	\$1,970.00
Total donations for General Fund.....	\$6,849.78
One week budgeted amount for 2022.....	\$5,519.22
Above (Below) budget.....	\$1,330.56

## FISCAL YEAR TO DATE (JULY 1 THRU DEC. 5, 2021)

General Fund Donations (Env/Mail/Online)	\$124,052.62
Total Budget General Fund July 1-Dec. 5	\$126,942.06
Above (Below) Budget.....	(\$2,889.44)

## Other Collections for Dec. 5, 2021(Combined)

Other Misc. Collections:

Faith Formation.....	\$30.00
Outreach.....	\$160.00
All Saints.....	\$30.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$253.00
Catholic Relief.....	\$20.00
Christmas.....	\$110.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$19.00

## BREAK THROUGH THE GRIEF ~ YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

Attention: All who has lost a loved one!

This event is for those who are suffering through the grief of a family member. Whether it be a parent, spouse, friend, or child. We will be gathering on **Dec. 12 in the Gathering Space of our Gaines Campus** for a time of fellowship. We will provide lunch, and a talk from our guest speaker. Living through our grief that comes from the passing of a loved one or situations can be very difficult. Everyone is welcome! You don't have to go through it alone.



We will begin at **12 noon** with lunch and immediately after, we

will have the talk and open discussion where you will be able to express any concerns or questions that you may be dealing with in your grieving process as you feel comfortable. Gathering with those who may be dealing with grief may bring some wisdom from those who have made this journey. **"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."**

Matthew 5:4



**St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, MI**

**Women's Retreat: January 7-9, 2022**  
**Men's Retreat: January 14-16, 2022**

We will be taking a closer look at Matthew Kelly's popular book "Rediscover Jesus" and rediscovering what we know about Jesus, who he is, who he said he was, and how that should impact our lives today. Check in on Friday begins at 5:30 pm, with Mass following at 6:30, then dinner. The retreat concludes on Sunday around 11:00am. The suggested donation for the weekend is \$185. For more information or to register, visit [www.stfrancis.ws](http://www.stfrancis.ws) or call 517-669-8321.

## Sponsor of the Week

# Hass Vision Center

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 Date:** The December 19 bulletin cutoff was December 9 at 10:00am. Due to the Holiday Season, the December 26 bulletin cutoff is Thursday, Dec. 14 at 10:00am *If you missed this deadline, your article should run the following weekend.*

Submit to [bulletinmj@gmail.com](mailto:bulletinmj@gmail.com)  
If you want to schedule an event utilizing a Parish facility, contact DCN Wayne using email [dcnwaynesmsj@gmail.com](mailto:dcnwaynesmsj@gmail.com)



**SMSJ Christmas Mass Schedule:**

**Christmas Eve, Dec 24th -**  
4:00pm Christmas program and Carols, Gaines  
4:30pm, Mass at Gaines  
6:00pm Christmas Carols, Durand  
6:30pm Mass at Durand

**Christmas Day, Dec 25th-**  
10:00am Mass in Durand

**Sunday, Dec 26, (Feast of the Holy Family)**  
8:30am Mass at Gaines  
11:30am Mass at Durand

Dec 29 and 30th, NO MASSES  
Dec 31 and Jan 1, NO MASSES

**Sunday, Jan 2 (Epiphany)**  
8:30am Mass at Gaines  
11:30am Mass at Durand

***There will be extra time for confessions on Saturday, Dec 18, from 3:00-4:30pm at Durand.***

## The Third Sunday of Advent Prayer...



...O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.