

CHRISTMAS *Blessings*

The Catholic Community of
St. Mary St. Joseph Parish

Ministering to Durand, Gaines
& surrounding areas



From Deacon Wayne's Desk

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DEC. 19, 2021

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-



Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Mi 5:1

This week of Advent 2021 is the smallest of all the weeks of Advent this year, only 5 days long. There are some weeks in our lives we may have wished to be smaller but this week leading into Christmas, we probably are saying, I wish I had just a little more time to get something done.

We have all heard that good things come in small packages. In our first reading, the prophet Micah tells Bethlehem-Ephrathah who is too small to be among the clans of Judah, that from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Micah tells us where the Messiah would be born, and this is very interesting. He will come from an insignificant town called Bethlehem. The reason Bethlehem is famous now is because we already know where the Messiah was born. He was born in Bethlehem. And that's what put this small and insignificant town on the map. But way before Bethlehem was put on the map, it was a small town in Israel. The only other thing that makes Bethlehem even a town to mention, was that King David, the greatest ruler of Israel, was born there as well. But, there was nothing special about it. The question then is why then would the glorious God choose this village above all other villages as the birthplace of his Son, the Messiah? The reason God chose this place was not because of its geographic or economic importance, but it's precisely because it had no significance. And that's the way that God is and that's how he usually works.

Have you ever been told you are too inadequate for something? Maybe you have from someone from this world, but you will never hear that from God. He believes in you, He loves you, He asks you to follow His lead as a

response to His love. He knows you, yes even little ol' you, can make a big difference.

Take time to make a big difference this short week. Maybe a phone call to someone who you haven't heard from, offer some reconciliation/healing in a situation in your life that needs it. Maybe stop by to visit that neighbor you haven't seen in a while. Take this small week and make it something big and beautiful.

Dcn. Wayne

Volunteer
SPOTLIGHT

Sandy Corrion

Sandy Corrion has been part of SMSJ Family for 20 years. Sandy was the Religious Ed director and Youth Minister at St. Joseph for 17 years. She has recently taken the lead position for RCIA. Sandy enjoys being part of the Mother Theresa and Altar Society groups. Sandy has been a Lector and Eucharistic Minister. Her most important job she has is keeping Deacon Wayne in line. Please stop and tell Sandy how much you appreciate the gifts she shares with our family.



Donations: any clothes brought in for donations must be washed and clean, and folded in bags. Any unwashed or stained clothes cannot be donated, and will not be accepted at St. Luke's Center.

ENVELOPES OR IF YOU WISH TO REGISTER

If you are not receiving church envelopes, please fill out the following, and return by dropping it into the collection basket. We will call for your information to register you, OR you can call the Durand location at 855-288-6704 during office hours to register OR register online a www.stmarystjoseph.org and click on "I'm New."

Name: _____

Address: _____

City : _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

St. Mary & St Joseph Parish Liturgy Schedule

Monday, December 20 - No Mass

Is 7:10-14, Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6, Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 21 - No Mass

Scriptural Rosary - 1:00pm

Sg 2:8-14, Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21, Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday, December 22 - Gaines

Adoration - 7:20am

Mass - 8:30am - Richard Heagle by Leo J. Dolehanty

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

Rosary - 2:30pm

1 Sm 1:24-28, Ps 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd, Lk 1:46-56

Thursday, December 23 - Durand

Mass - 8:30 - Floyd Harbin & Family by Michele

Rosary - 2:30pm

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24, Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14, Lk 1:57-66

Friday, December 24 - The Nativity of the Lord (Vigil)

Mass at Gaines - 4:30pm - Brendon Fitch by Florence Fitch

Mass at Durand - 6:30pm - Judy Trebtoske by Tim Trebtoske

Is 62:1-5, Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29. Acts 13:16-17, 22-25, Mt 1:1-25

Saturday, December 25 - Durand - Christmas Day

Mass - 10:00am - Al, Arlene, Currie & Perris Cormier by Donna Cormier

Is 52:7-10, Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6., Heb 1:1-6, Jn 1:1-18

Sunday, December 26 - Feast of the Holy Family

Rosary - 8:00am at Gaines

Mass at Gaines - 8:30am - Adam Schaefer by Schaefer-Fiege Family

Mass at Durand - 11:30am - SMSJ Parishioners
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14, Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5., Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17, Lk 2:41-52

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.

Donald Allison, Sandy Carpenter, Christian Carpenter, Joey Burke, Clarence Hincka, Jay & Jenney Kekel, Ken Strahorn, Stan Bates, Jim (Leo) Dolehanty, Patricia Elliott, 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 and other essential stores. Thank you for all you do as we continue to pray for you.



Ushers & 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.



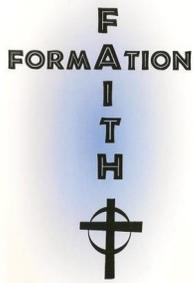
The applications for the 2022 Knights of Columbus Scholarships is now open to High School Seniors and current college students to registered families at

St. Mary St. Joseph Parish. Apps can be found on the Shiawassee Community Foundation website www.shiacf.org 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!





**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 this 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

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 you donation!



High School Youth Group News

On 12/19 the SMSJYG will be joining the Choir and singing at the 11:30 Mass. We will rehearse in the Choir Loft with the musicians during our normal YG time from 10am - 11:15am. After Mass we will have a lite lunch and go Caroling at the Durand Senior Care and Rehab Center (DSCaRC.) ***If the weather doesn't allow for this to take place, all parents will receive a text message of advisement.*** We will need adult drivers to transport the teens to and from the DSCaRC. Please contact me if you can assist. **There will be no YG on 12/26.** Our next YG Session will be 1/2/22. We will be discussing various ways to include prayer into our daily lives.

Confirmation Preparation News

Our next session will be on 1/9/22. 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 576) "My daughter, love has brought Me here, and love keeps Me here. My daughter, if you knew what great merit and reward is earned by one act of pure love for Me, you would die of joy."

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)



...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, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Live Stream of Mass...



Most of you may have noticed that SMSJ Parish has been live streaming Durand masses on YouTube. It has been decided to continue to stream the a weekend Mass until further notice. We hope those that aren't able to physically attend or are uncomfortable attending will find the live stream an acceptable alternative. You can subscribe on YouTube or after the Mass, check the SMSJ Facebook page for the link. Thank you for your support.



Parish Support

COLLECTION INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER 12 & 19 WILL BE REPORTED IN NEXT WEEKENDS BULLETIN.

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 or call 517-669-8321.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent Prayer...



...Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever . Amen.

FORMED.org is available to our parish through a very generous donation. Sign up to FORMED.org: There are 3 easy steps to sign up -

Go to <https://formed.org/>
 "I belong to a Parish"
 Enter zip code 48429
 Enter your name, email, and you are signed up!

Sponsor of the Week Ed's Service

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 26 bulletin cutoff was December 14 at 10:00am. Due to the Holiday Season, the January 2 bulletin cutoff is Friday, Dec. 24 at 10:00am. If you missed this deadline, your article should run the following weekend.

Submit to bulletinmj@gmail.com
 If you want to schedule an event utilizing a Parish facility, contact DCN Wayne using email 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.

St Mary and St Joseph shirts and sweatshirts are on sale. See the displays in both gathering spaces. All profits go to support our parish Religious Formation Programs. Order forms should be filled out, put in an envelope with payment and dropped in the collection baskets. Any questions call Sandy 989-721-7847.



Working Hands Ministry 2022 Meeting Dates

All meetings are held in the Education Building, at the Durand Location.
 (CLIP AND SAVE!)

Wed. 6:30-8:00pm Thurs. 1-2:30pm

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| Jan 12-13 | Mar 23-24 |
| Jan 26-27 | Apr 6-7 |
| Feb 9-10 | Apr 20-21 |
| Feb 23-24 | May 4-5 |
| Mar 9-10 | |