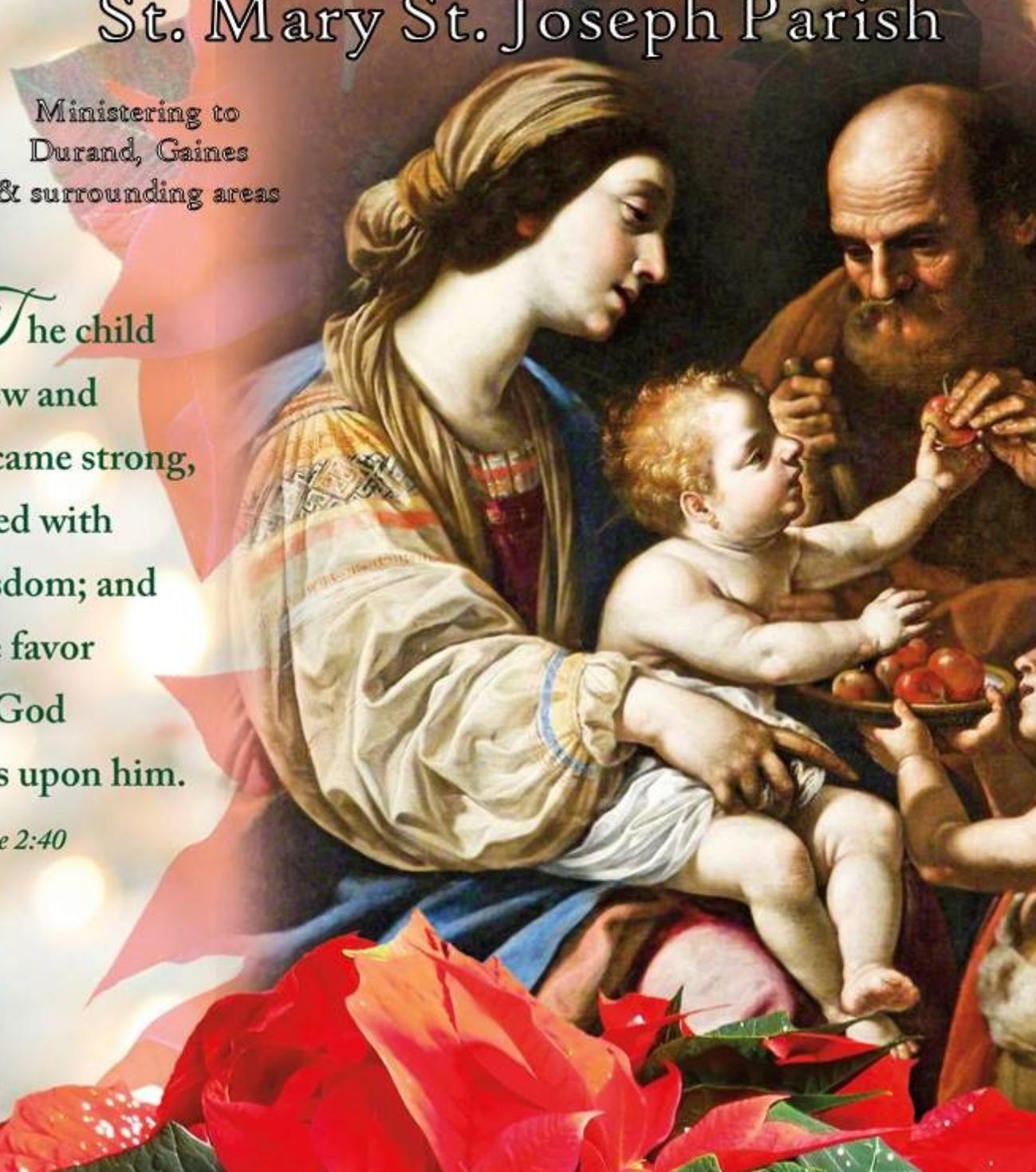


The Catholic Community of St. Mary St. Joseph Parish

Ministering to
Durand, Gaines
& surrounding areas

The child
grew and
became strong,
filled with
wisdom; and
the favor
of God
was upon him.

Luke 2:40



THE HOLY FAMILY OF
Jesus, Mary & Joseph

From Deacon Wayne's Desk

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &
JOSEPH - DECEMBER 26, 2021



"Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Lk 2:49

This could be the worst thing that could ever happen to a parent, to lose a child. What a tragedy that would be. But to make it worse, imagine being blamed for losing Jesus, the Son of God. Mary and Joseph are in a tizzy what happened to Jesus, where is Jesus.

Mary had Jesus. She gave birth to Jesus. She nursed him and raised him. She knew him. Better than anyone. Then she lost him. After an agonizing three-day search, she found him...but she realizes as he is talking to the teachers in the temple and . . . he was different. Mary needed to understand who he was now; she was forced to re-evaluate what she thought she knew about Jesus.

Losing Jesus. Finding Jesus. Rethinking Jesus. This is how we make spiritual progress. This is the only way we make spiritual progress! We think we've got Jesus figured out. We think we know the crowd where Jesus can be found. We think we know where we can always locate Jesus. Then one day...he's not there! And we must go searching for him. "Seek and you shall find." But when we find Jesus after losing him, he's...different. That's when the rethinking (maybe even repenting) starts. It's the only way we make spiritual progress.

I've had the experience of what it feels like losing Jesus several times in my life of trying to follow Jesus. And it was the way of spiritual progress for me. I was baptized and raised Catholic and never really put my mind to finding Jesus. Until one day when a friend asked me if I loved God. Seemed simple enough. But his questions about my faith in Jesus and other things sent me on a journey to find this Jesus. So, in midlife I was forced to seek Jesus in a new way. After a desperate search, I found Jesus in theology and the ancient practices of the Catholic Church. I wasn't expecting that. Just like Mary wasn't expecting to find Jesus in the Temple. It was a joy to find Jesus in a new way, but I also had to rethink some things about how I understand Jesus and his Church. That's my story. Others have a different story of losing and finding Jesus.

We have Jesus. We lose Jesus. We seek Jesus.
We find Jesus. We rethink Jesus.

This is the inescapable pattern for spiritual growth. Mother Theresa felt a deep abandonment by God. She had to find Christ in the face of those she served. The transforming moment in Christian conversion comes when we realize that even God has left us. It's then we discover it was not God, but our image of God that abandoned us. ... Only then is change possible.

St. John of the Cross (1542–1591) called the "dark night of the soul." The dark night of the soul is not a crisis of circumstances, but a spiritual crisis of absence — the apparent absence of God. God is so immense that we find ourselves in kind of spiritual hide-and-seek. God hides and we seek. In finding, we discover that we have arrived in a new place and that we have become a different person. In each step, we find Christ and we find ourselves in an all new way. This is all part of the spiritual journey.

Jesus says to his parents, "Why were you looking for me?" Why are you looking for Him? Are you trying to understand better who He is or who you are? Both are valuable. Search on!

Dcn. Wayne

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

John Michailo

John has been with our parish for about 10 years. John has recently retired from his job in the Swartz Creek School System as music teacher, and he graciously accepted the lead role as our Youth Ministry Group Leader. John has a deep love for God, and it shows in all that he does for our parish family. John adds so much talent as a musician in both the Gaines and Durand choirs. He is an integral part of our Faith Formation Team. Say hi to John sometime and let him know your appreciation for sharing his talents and love to our SMSJ parish family.



Are you a user of Facebook? If so, go to www.facebook.com and search for:

Parish: **St. Mary and St. Joseph
Catholic Church**

Altar Society: **stmjaltarsociety**

SMSJ Youth Group: **<https://www.facebook.com/groups/smsjyouthgroup/>**

Gaines Knights of Columbus: **kofccouncil12186**

If your group is associated with SMSJ Parish,

send your link to

bulletinmj@gmail.com and it will be posted here.

St. Mary & St Joseph Parish Liturgy Schedule

Monday, December 27 - No Mass
1 Jn 1:1-4, Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12, Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Tuesday, December 28 - No Mass
1 Jn 1:5—2:2, Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8, Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday, December 29 - No Mass
1 Jn 2:3-11, Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6, Lk 2:22-35

Thursday, December 30 - Durand - No Mass
1 Jn 2:12-17, Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, Lk 2:36-40

Friday, December 31 - No Mass
1 Jn 2:18-21, Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13, Jn 1:1-18

Saturday, January 1 - Durand - Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary - No Mass
Nm 6:22-27, Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8, Gal 4:4-7, Lk 2:16-21

Sunday, January 2 - The Epiphany of the Lord
Rosary - 8:00am at Gaines
Mass at Gaines - 8:30am - Richard Heagle by Leo J. Dolehanty
Mass at Durand - 11:30am - SMSJ Parishioners
Is 60:1-6, Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13., Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12

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 5.00pm and 11.30am 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.

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.

Andy Bartes, Kristin Bartes, Tonya Morey, Geneva Katanbafnezhad, Carol Rhault, 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.



Scholarships 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

First Friday Adoration & Mass Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, Jan. 7. at the Durand Campus



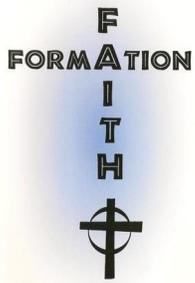
Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 2:00-7:00pm with **Mass** at 7:15pm. Reconciliation will be held from 6:30pm to 7:00pm. This First Friday is open to every member of our community. Please sign up in the gathering space for your hour of adoration. Invite a friend to join you in drawing closer to God through this very special time of prayer.

Merry Christmas

My heart is filled

My heart is flowing over with thanks to all of you for your generous prayer, Holiday blessings and gifts. May God Bless each of you and your families as we step into another year of opportunities. Thank you for your patience with me through this past year and especially for all your support. THANK YOU!

Den. Wayne



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

The feast has been eaten, the shopping is over, the presents unwrapped and many of us may be experiencing a letdown that Christmas is over. But...it is NOT...the Christmas season is just beginning.

It was years before I learned that the Christmas Carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was actually about the twelve days of the actual true Christmas Season. So let us continue the good works we started in Advent and make this Christmas Season a truly blessed one.

My columns in the past have focused on the families in our Faith Formation Experience. For this column I want to reach out to all who do not have children enrolled in the program. Did you know that on the Sundays that Faith Formation meets at the parish we have a special presentation geared just to adults? Let me take a moment to describe it to you.

Everyone attending is invited to partake of coffee/punch, a donut or other breakfast treat when they arrive at 10:00 AM in the lower level gathering space at the Durand location. At 10:15 a prayer is shared and prayed together. Children enrolled in FF will then leave with their teachers to their classroom. The adults will gather together and engage in some faith formation of their own, lead by one of the parish leaders in our community. The presentation will be based on that Sunday's Gospel but will branch out into discussions about Catholic beliefs and doctrine. I hope any adults reading this article will consider attending one or more of these monthly sessions

SMSJ 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.

that will assist you on your own faith journey. As soon as our roster of presenters is complete, I will publish the names of facilitators for that month and the title of their presentations to help you to discern which presentations would be of the most benefit to you. Although, I know many of the presenters we have booked thus far and may I say, I think they ALL would be a benefit to you!

Blessings on your week!

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

FAITH FORMATION - SECOND SEMESTER

January

- 2 Family Formation Session at Parish - Matt 2: 1-12
- 9 Faith Formation Session at Home/**Sacramental Prep at Parish** - Luke 3: 15-16
- 16 Family Faith Formation Session at Parish - John 2: 1-11



**High School Youth
Group News**

There will be no YG on 12/26.

Have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a happy New Year! Our next YG Session will be 1/2/22. We will be discussing various ways to include Prayer in our daily lives.

~Upcoming Event~

We will be attending a retreat at The Subioce Retreat House in Oxford on March 4, 5 and 6. Registration, cost and transportation details to come in January!

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



Parish Support

**COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF DEC. 19
WILL BE REPORTED IN NEXT WEEKENDS BULLETIN**

COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF DEC. 12

Envelopes for General Fund (mail/drop off)	\$5,196.00
Online donations for Gen Fund 12/6-12/12	\$650.00
Total donations for General Fund.....	\$5,846.00
One week budgeted amount for 2022.....	\$5,519.22
Above (Below) budget.....	\$326.78

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE (JULY 1 THRU DEC. 12, 2021)

General Fund Donations (Env/Mail/Online)	\$129,898.62
Total Budget General Fund July 1-Dec. 12	\$132,461.28
Above (Below) Budget.....	(\$2,562.66)

Other Collections for Dec. 12, 2021(Combined)

Faith Formation.....	\$146.00
Outreach.....	\$30.00
All Saints.....	\$5.00
Christmas Flowers.....	\$200.00
Human Development.....	\$10.00
Energy.....	\$20.00
Share in the Care.....	\$234.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$610.00

**Feast of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary & Joseph Prayer...**



...O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards.

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.

Sponsor of the Week

Rajiva Tirtha D.D.S.

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!

Due to the Holiday Season, the January 2 bulletin cutoff is Wed., Dec. 22 at 10:00am.

**Special Bulletin
Cut off Date:**

If you missed this deadline, your article should run the following weekend.
The January 9 bulletin article due date will return to normal, being Monday, January 3 at 10:00am.

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:
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

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.



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.



**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

Jan 12-13

Jan 26-27

Feb 9-10

Feb 23-24

Mar 9-10

Mar 23-24

Apr 6-7

Apr 20-21

May 4-5