



St. Joseph Catholic Church
126 East St. Pewamo, MI 48873
989-593-3440
stjosephpewamo.org

September-December 2023

Fall, Advent & Christmas Events



What is the liturgical year?¹

Article from Catholic Straight Answers

Quite simply, the liturgical year is the celebration of a series of religious feasts and seasons. In so doing, we make sacred the ordinary time of a twelve-month calendar. Actually, we inherited this notion from our Jewish ancestors of the Old Testament. In the Book of Leviticus, Chapter 23, we find the Jewish calendar which speaks of a week of seven days, with six for work and the seventh day, the Sabbath, for rest and for “sacred assembly.” This Sabbath Day belongs to the Lord. Leviticus then continues to speak of the dates of Passover, Yom Kippur, and other special feast days.

For Roman Catholics, we too have a liturgical calendar, which has evolved during the history of the Church. The purpose of such a calendar was to trace the mystery of salvation and the course of salvation history. Again, the idea is to sanctify time. Pope Pius XII wrote, “By

commemorating the mysteries of the Savior, the sacred liturgy strives to bring all believers to participate in them in such a way that the divine Head of the Mystical Body may live in each of His members with the fullness of His holiness” (*Mediator Dei*, #152).

We see the beginnings of the calendar in the early Church. The Christians changed the Lord’s day to Sunday, in honor of the resurrection. In Acts, we read, “On the first day of the week when we gathered for the breaking of the bread...” (20:7). Fridays were designated as days of penance and sacrifice, in honor of our Lord’s sacrifice of Himself for our sins on Good Friday; to this day, Friday should be a day of penance when we abstain from meat or make some other sacrifice. In the early Church, the *Didache* (AD 80) also marked Wednesdays as a day of

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WHAT'S INCLUDED?

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET...

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO PLAN YOUR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

- Start with prayer!
- Read through the descriptions of the events being offered.
- Take a look at the calendar and circle or highlight the events and opportunities with which you plan to participate.
- The calendars are conveniently located as the center page of this booklet so you can remove them and place them on your fridge or personal calendar.
- Make notes in your personal calendar so you don't miss out!
- Reach out to the Parish Office with any questions.
- All events listed are subject to change. Please visit the Parish website or read the bulletin for up to date information.

Dear Lord, I ask for Your guidance. Give me the power of Your grace so that I may hear Your divine instructions. Remove any barriers that keep me from drawing near to You. Open my heart and clear my vision so that I may follow Your path. Amen.





Knights of Columbus



Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

Sunday, October 29, 2023 following both Masses.
Join us for pancakes, sausage, eggs, ham, and potatoes!



The Pewamo Knights of Columbus will be holding a Sausage and Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, October 29 from 8:30 am to noon at St. Joseph's Activity Center in Pewamo. The proceeds will be used to fund Coats for Kids and other various local charities. The cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 6-12, and free for children five & under. We hope to see you there!



PTO CHILI COOK-OFF

St. Joseph School PTO Chili Cook-Off will be held October 14, from 5:30-8:00 pm. If you are interested in entering your Chili or donating a dessert, please contact Haley Weber at 517-896-5451 or pto@stjosephpewamo.org. There will be a cash reward for the best Chili in town! Cost for this event will be donation only. Please gather your friends and family to support our PTO!"



FEATHER BINGO

November 12, 6:30 pm

Altar Society Feather Bingo - This is an Altar Society event and is held every year on the second Sunday of November. This years event is Sunday, November 12. It starts at 6:30 pm with doors opening at 5:30 pm. Popcorn, cookies & donuts as well as water and pop are provided for a small donation.

Entry is \$3.00 plus \$.25 per bingo card. With the entry fee and bingo cards purchased, you will be eligible to win a turkey per bingo game. Four special bingos are held where participants purchase a paper bingo card (three cards in one) for \$.50. Each special bingo winnings is worth half of the money collected for that bingo game with the other half to the Altar Society for expenses.

ALTAR SOCIETY ADVENT PARTY

December 4, 5:30 pm



Altar Society members are invited to join together for a time to relax and enjoy each others company before the hectic holiday season arrives. Advent is a special time to hope in prayerful anticipation of the coming of our Lord and Savior. Dinner starts at 6:30 pm.



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

First Friday of the Month– Midnight to midnight

A “First Friday” is the first Friday of the month and is often marked by special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus since Jesus died for us and won our salvation on a Friday. Every Friday of the year, and not only the Fridays in Lent, is a special day of penance as stipulated in the Code of Canon Law:

“The penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent” (Canon 1250).

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690) reported visions of Jesus Christ directing her to promote devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on nine consecutive First Fridays in reparation for sins and in order to show love to Jesus. In return for this act of

devotion, which usually includes Mass, Communion, confession and even an hour of Eucharistic Adoration on the eve of the first Friday of the month, our blessed Savior reputedly promised St. Margaret Mary the following blessings:

“In the excess of the mercy of my Heart, I promise you that my all powerful love will grant to all those who will receive Communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance: they will not die in my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments; and my Heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour.”

The devotion is officially sanctioned,

but it was not so at first. In fact, met with resistance and incredulity from



the start in her own religious community, and not until 75 years after her death was the First Friday devotion to the Sacred Heart officially recognized.

Almost 240 years after her death, Pope Pius XI stated that Jesus had appeared to St. Margaret Mary in his encyclical *Miserentissimus Redemptor* (1928), fully eight years after she was formally canonized a saint by Pope Benedict XV.²

MONTHLY ROSARY



The first Sunday of each month at 11:30am, St. Joseph parish prays a rosary with the intention of protecting the dignity of the human being. Whether your personal intention is for the unborn, or the dignity of the aging, or for those who live in poverty, the choice is yours. Join us as we ask for the intercession of our Blessed Mother to help end the ways in which the human person is assaulted in this modern world.

COFFEE & DONUTS

The Altar Society welcomes all parishioners to join together as a community while we share coffee and donuts after both Masses, October 8 & November 5.



“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18:20)

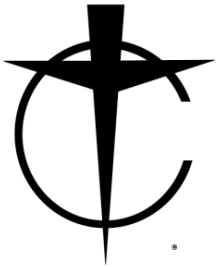
PRAYER TEAMS AFTER MASS

The St. Joseph Prayer team is committed to helping their brothers and sisters in Christ embrace the power of prayer in their lives. Whether you are praying for yourself or a loved one; struggling with something or want to offer thanksgiving; our prayer teams desire to pray with you. Join us in prayer following Masses on September 23-24 & December 2-3.

CURSILLO

October 26-29 at Holy Family Church in Caledonia

What is Cursillo?



The Cursillo is an Apostolic Movement of the Roman Catholic Church for women of faith. It is an encounter with Christ. It employs a method that emphasizes the importance of a balanced life of piety, continued spiritual study, and action to help us keep Christ at the center of our lives.

The Cursillo is introduced and explained over a 3-day weekend retreat which includes daily prayer, Mass, and opportunities for confession. Here a team of religious and laymen present a series of talks. The talks are then discussed in small groups which allows for sharing insights about the presentations. At the end of the weekend, candidates feel closer to Christ, have a better understanding of their Catholic faith, and of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Is Cursillo for You?

Do you feel called to a deeper commitment to your faith? Do you want to more fully understand the mission you are called to through your baptism? Are you looking for a way to sustain your Christian journey? Are you a Practicing Catholic adult (able to participate in the sacraments)?

Don't miss this opportunity to grow spiritually in your Catholic Faith!

For more information, please contact:
Rose Compo at (616) 824-0701 after 5:00 p.m./Email: koala2457@yahoo.com or Mary Jo Baker at (989) 640-7787/Email: mjthelenbaker@gmail.com

Application forms are available at www.grcursillo.org
Applications due by Friday, October 6

SHARE YOUR IDEAS & OPINIONS

Do you have an idea for an event for the parish to consider hosting? Do you wish we had a certain kind of event that would appeal to you more? Please share your ideas and thoughts with the Parish Office. We would love to know your opinion. Email us at parishoffice@stjosephewamo.org.

CHICKEN & BISCUITS DINNER

September 24

The Altar Society uses the funds raised to continue to support our parish by purchasing the hosts, wine, linens, vestments, altar server garments, and flowers in the church. The funds are also used to purchase other items needed in and around our parish, so thank you for your continued support.

SCHOOL BIKE-A-THON

September 8: Bike-A-Thon at 2:00pm

You are welcome to join us in cheering on our riders in front of the school as they endure countless laps to compete for 1st place.

SCHOOL ADVENT PROGRAM

December 20, 10:30am & 6:30pm

Please join us in the gym for this event and experience the story of how Mary and Joseph prepared for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NET RETREAT

October 25, 4pm-9pm

All Middle School students, whether they participate in Faith Formation, attend St. Joseph School, or are not currently enrolled, are invited to participate in an incredible retreat opportunity. NET Ministries will be leading the retreat and their young adult presenters are "on-fire" for their faith. This year's theme is the Eucharist.

Contact the Parish Office to learn more and sign up
parishoffice@stjosephewamo.org

penance and prayer, which is perhaps why many parishes still have novenas or Holy Hours on Wednesday evenings. By the 10th century, especially in the western Church, our Blessed Mother was honored on Saturdays.

Over the centuries, the Church has punctuated the course of the year with feast days or holy days. In the midst of our normal routine, these days help focus our attention on Christ and the mystery of salvation. Several feast days are dedicated to our Blessed Mother, the exemplar of our faith, who participated intimately in the mystery of salvation, such as the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1), the Annunciation (March 25), the Visitation (May 31), the Assumption (August 15), the Nativity of Mary (September 8), the Presentation of Mary (September 22) and the Immaculate Conception (December 8).

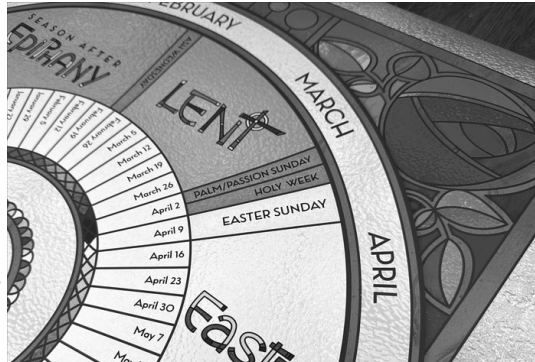
Many feast days commemorate the saints who glorified Christ in their lives on earth and now share His glory in the Kingdom of Heaven. Their feast days usually correspond to the date of death, the birth of the saint into eternal life. Many of the dates were established over time and sometimes varied according to locale. However, in 1568, Pope Pius V

promulgated the universal calendar setting the feast days and their dates which would be celebrated throughout the whole Church. To date, various Popes have increased or decreased the number of

feast days of saints honored by the whole church. The purpose is clear: "For the feasts of the saints proclaim the wonderful works of Christ in His servants and offer to the faithful fitting examples for their imitation" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, #111).

Finally, the calendar follows a series of seasons: The calendar

begins with Advent, which focuses on the preparation for the birth of the Messiah. Christmas Season then follows, beginning with the birth of the our Lord, celebrates the Epiphany, and concludes with the Baptism of the Lord. The Feast of Baptism of the Lord also commences the season of Ordinary Time, which traces the public ministry of Jesus. Lent interrupts Ordinary Time, and lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays) and prepares us for Easter. Easter Season begins with the Easter Vigil Mass, is followed by the 40 days leading to the Ascension and then concludes 10 days later with Pentecost. After Pentecost, Ordinary time resumes and concludes with the Solemnity of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the liturgical year.



TMIY™

THAT MAN IS YOU!™

Join the men of our parish on Tuesday morning starting at 6:00am in the Parish Activity Center. Dates include 9/12, 9/19/ 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, & 12/5.

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Men's Ministry Opportunity titled "That Man Is You" for men 18 years and older. The program is faith



based that addresses the pressures and temptations men face in today's society, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. We meet in the Parish Activity Center weekly from 6 am until 7 am on Tuesday mornings. The program runs for 13 consecutive weeks beginning September 12, 2023.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September						
3 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass 11:30a Rosary	4- LABOR DAY 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass	5 6:00a Adoration 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass 7:15p Eucharist Talk	6 8:00a Mass 5:00p Confessions 6:30p FF Parent Mtg 7:00p Prayer Teams Meeting	7 6:15a Mass	8 6:00a Confessions 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 2:00p Bike-a-thon 6:00p Stations of the Cross	9 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass
10 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass	11 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	12 6:00a Adoration 6:00a TMIY 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass	13 8:00a Mass 9:00a Library Committee Meeting 5:00p Confessions 6:30p EMHC Training	14 6:15a Mass 6:30p Finance Council Meeting 7:30p KC Meeting	15 6:00a Confessions 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass	16 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass Last weekend for First Fruits Farm Stand
17 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass Last weekend for First Fruits Farm Stand	18 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	19 6:00a Adoration 6:00a TMIY 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass 7:30p Pastoral Council Meeting	20 8:00a Mass 5:00p Confessions 6:30p School Board 7:00p RESTORE Event	21 6:15a Mass	22 6:00a Confessions 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass	23 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass Prayer Teams after Masses
24 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass Prayer Teams after Masses 11:30a EMHC Training Chicken & Biscuits	25 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	26 6:00a Adoration 6:00a TMIY	27 8:00a Mass 5:00p Confessions	28	29 6:00a Confessions 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass	30 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass 11:30a Rosary	2 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	3 6:00a Adoration 6:00a TMIY 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass 7:15p Eucharist Talk	4	5 6:15a Mass	6 12a First Friday Adoration 6:00a Confessions 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass	7 9:00a Mass for the Feast of the Holy Rosary 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass
8 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass Coffee & Donuts after Masses	9 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	10 6:00a Adoration 6:00a TMIY 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass	11 8:00a Mass 9:00a Library Committee Meeting 5:00p Confessions	12 6:15a Mass 6:30p Finance Council Meeting 7:30p KC Meeting	13 10:30a Confessions 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:00p Stations of the Cross	14 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass 5:30p PTO Chili Cookoff
15 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass	16 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	17 6:00a Adoration 6:00a TMIY 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass	18 8:00a Mass 5:00p Confessions 6:30p School Board	19 6:15a Mass 6:30p Ended Beginnings Prayer Service	20 6:00a Confessions 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass	21 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass
22 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass 11:30a All Parish Mtg	23 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	24 6:00a Adoration 6:00a TMIY 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass 7:15p All Parish Mtg	25 8:00a Mass 8:45a All Parish Mtg. 4:00p NET Retreat 5:00p Confessions	26 6:15a Mass	27 6:00a Confessions 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass	28 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass
29 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass KC Breakfast after Masses	30 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	31 6:00a Adoration 6:00a TMIY 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass-All Saints Day Vigil				
<h1>October</h1> <p>October 31 is a Vigil for a Holy Day of Obligation</p>						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November November 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation						
5 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass 11:30a Rosary Coffee & Donuts after Masses	6 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	7 6:00a Adoration 6:00a TMIY 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass 7:15p Eucharist Talk	8 8:00a Mass 9:00a Library Committee Meeting 5:00p Confessions 7:00p RESTORE Event	9 6:15a Mass 6:30p Finance Council Meeting 7:30p KC Meeting	10 6:00a Confessions 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:00p Stations of the Cross	11 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass 5:30p Cursillo Ultreya Meeting
12 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass 5:30p Feather Bingo	13 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	14 6:00a Adoration 6:00a TMIY 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass	15 8:00a Mass 5:00p Confessions Spring Event Booklet Deadline	16	17	18 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass
19 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass	20 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	21 6:00a Adoration 6:00a TMIY	22 5:00p Confessions	23- THANKSGIVING 9:00a Mass	24	25 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass
26 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass	27 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	28 6:00a Adoration 6:00a TMIY	29 5:00p Confessions	30		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
December December 8 & 24/25 are Holy Days of Obligation						
3 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass 11:30a Rosary Prayer Teams after Masses	4 11:30a Rosary 12p Mass 5:30p Altar Society Advent Party	5 6:00a Adoration 6:00a TMIY 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass 7:15p Eucharist Talk	6 8:00a Mass 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Choir 6:30p School Board	7 6:15a Mass	8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 6:15a Mass 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Mass	9 2:30 Advent Scripture Study 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass
10 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass	11 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	12 6:00a Adoration 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass	13 8:00a Mass 5:00p Confessions	14 6:15a Mass 3:00p Decorating 6:30p Finance Council Meeting 7:30p KC Meeting	15 6:00a Confessions 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass	16 2:30 Advent Scripture Study 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass
17 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass	18 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass 6:30p Choir	19 6:00a Adoration 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass	20 8:00a Mass 10:30a Advent Prog. 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Advent Prog.	21 6:15a Mass 10:00a Decorating	22 6:00a Confessions 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass	23 2:30 Advent Scripture Study 4:30p Mass 4th Sun. Advent
24 CHRISTMAS EVE Mass 4th Sun. Advent 8:00a & 10:00a 11:30a Decorating Mass: Christmas Vigil 5:00p & 8:00p	25 CHRISTMAS 9:00a Mass Christmas Day	26 6:00a Adoration 5:00p Confessions 6:30p Mass	27 8:00a Mass 5:00p Confessions	28 6:15a Mass	29 6:00a Confessions 11:30a Rosary 12:00p Mass	30 3:30p Confessions 4:30p Mass
31 8:00a Mass 10:00a Mass 11:30a Decorating 5:00p Vigil Mass- Sol. of Mary						

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Please join us for the celebration of the
Nativity of the Lord!

Christmas Eve:

5:00 pm– Vigil Mass

8:00 pm– Vigil Mass

Christmas Day:

9:00 am



DON'T FORGET THE 4TH SUNDAY

This year Christmas Eve falls on Sunday which gives us a unique opportunity to attend Mass for two different celebrations on the same day.

When this happens, the faithful have an obligation to celebrate Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent and celebrate Mass for the Nativity of the Lord.

Masses celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, Dec. 23 4:30pm

Sunday, Dec. 24, 8:00am & 10:00am

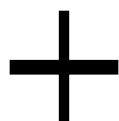
Masses celebrating the Nativity of the Lord

Sunday, Dec. 24, 5:00pm & 8:00pm

Monday, Dec. 25, 9:00am

Fulfill your weekend obligation by
attending a Mass for each celebration.

4th Sunday
of Advent



Nativity of
the Lord

CHURCH DECORATING

At St. Joseph Church we embrace the beauty of the liturgical calendar through the beautiful decorations which embrace each season.

Through the decorations in the church we are able to proclaim God in a very visible and tangible way. The mysteries of Christ can be more concretely understood through symbols and imagery than through mere words either spoken or written on a page.³

Many hands make for light work. It takes several people to make the sanctuary and nave look beautiful. Please consider joining our team this upcoming season. From ironing to lifting/carrying to helping arrange, your talents are needed.

December 14, 3-6pm

December 21, 10am-2pm

December 24, 11:30am-2pm

EMHC TRAINING

Thank you to all of the Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) ministers who participated in the Diocese of Grand Rapids training. Part 2 of the training is specifically concerning the process and expectations while serving at St. Joseph specifically. This training is also a required training in order to continue being scheduled for Mass.

Wednesday, September 13, 6:30 pm

or

Sunday, September 24, 11:30am

If you missed the Diocesan training and would like to continue to serve as a Communion Minister, please visit the Diocese website for a list of all available training dates. grdiocese.org/ministries/worship-3/

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

St. Joseph will be offering a Children's Choir for the 5pm Christmas Mass. All students interested in joining the Christmas Choir should contact Diane Thelen or Catherine Weber for more information.

NOVENA SUGGESTIONS

Novenas help us to open ourselves to God in order to increase our faith and grow in the love of God and neighbor. They aid in inner healing, obtaining special graces, being transformed and growing in virtue and holiness. They bring us peace and joy, regardless of the answer we've received to our petition.⁷

September

Holy Cross Novena– Sept 5-14
Our Lady of Sorrows– Sept 6-15
St. Vincent de Paul– Sept 18-27
Mary Undoer of Knots– Sept 19-28
St. Therese of Lisieux– Sept 22-Oct 1
Guardian Angel– Sept 23-Oct 2

October

Blessed Carlo Acutis– Oct 3-12
St. Teresa of Avila– Oct 6-15
St. John Paul II– Oct 13-22
St. Jude– Oct 19-28
All Saints– Oct 23-Nov 1
All Souls– Oct 24-Nov 2



November

St. Margaret of Scotland– Nov 7-16
Christ the King– Nov 11-20
Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro– Nov 14-23
Miraculous Medal– Nov 19-28
Grace– Nov 25-Dec 3
Immaculate Conception– Nov 29-Dec 8

December

Our Lady of Guadalupe– Dec 3-12
Christmas– Dec 16-25
St. Stephen– Dec 17-26
Holy Family– Dec 24-Jan 2
Holy Name of Jesus– Dec 25-Jan 3
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton– Dec 26-Jan 4

Novenas are available at praymorenovenas.com
If you do not have access to printing the novena, please contact the Parish Office for assistance.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
~1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

ALL PARISH MEETING

All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend one of the upcoming All Parish Meetings. Each meeting will have the same presentation so attendance is only encouraged for one of the dates listed. At this meeting Fr. Darrel will be sharing the State of the Parish and announcing some exciting things for the future of St. Joseph.

Fr. Darrel, along with the staff and parish leadership teams, invite you to come and hear about the current state and future of St. Joseph Parish!

Sunday, October 22, 11:30am, in Activity Center
Tuesday, October 24, 7:15pm, in Activity Center
Wednesday, October 25, 8:45am, in Church

EUCCHARIST TALKS

Fr. Darrel continues his monthly discussions on the Holy Eucharist. 2023 is designated as the Year of the Eucharist at the local level. Come and join us to get a deeper understanding of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

September 5, October 3, November 7, & December 5
Directly following the Tuesday, 6:30pm Mass

ENDED BEGINNINGS PRAYER SERVICE

Many of those who have lost a child, including a child *in utero*, want to remember the child rightly, honor his/her life, and give thanks to God for the life He gave. For some, this means offering an intentional time together with God and offering support to one another.

Please join us for a Prayer Service to honor the lives of those who were taken home at such a young age; whether through miscarriage, abortion, stillbirth, or infant death after birth.

Thursday, October 19, 6:30pm

STUDENT FAITH FORMATION

Elementary Faith Formation

Tuesday Mornings, 8am-9am

Middle School and High School Faith Formation

Sunday afternoons, 11:30am-1:00pm

Faith Formation is the responsibility of all parents. St. Joseph Parish wants to support you and partner with you on the faith development of your children. Our curriculum is based on the Word of Life series by Augustine Institute. This program brings together faith and reason and demonstrates how the truths of the faith speak to the human heart.⁶

Visit the Parish website or contact the Parish Office for more information about registering for Faith Formation this year.

All Parents are requested to attend a Parent Meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 6:30pm in the Activity Center.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will pray the Stations of the Cross on the second Friday of each month at 6:00pm moving forward. Dates for this quarter are Sept 8, Oct 13, and Nov 10. There will be no Stations in December due to the Holy day of Obligation on December 8.



The reason for praying the Stations of the Cross is to enter into the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself for us – to experience his means of transforming suffering through love. We do this "through, with, and in him," step by step, learning how this plan of love can be carried out by us today.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST

St. Joseph Parish prepares our students for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist in the 2nd Grade. Our preparation program includes 2 retreats (parents + child). Classroom lessons will be on Tuesday mornings during faith formation class.

Sacramental Retreats

First Reconciliation
January 17, 5:30-7pm

Sacramental Celebrations

First Reconciliation
January 24, 6:00pm

First Eucharist
April 3, 5:30-7pm

First Eucharist
April 7, 1:00pm

CONFIRMATION

St. Joseph Parish prepares our students for Confirmation in the 8th Grade. Our preparation program includes 3 retreats (child + sponsor) and classroom lessons during the school day for St. Joseph students and on Sunday afternoons for faith formation students.

The date of Confirmation Mass is selected by the Diocese of Grand Rapids. We have not received this date yet.

All Parents are requested to attend a Sacramental Parent Meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 7:15pm in the Activity Center.

ADVENT SCRIPTURE STUDY

Enter more deeply into the Advent season and embrace the readings which lead us to the birth of our Lord.

Join Fr. Darrel on each of the four Saturday's of Advent for a discussion and reflection on each week's Gospel. Directly following the presentation Adoration and Reconciliation will be available as you prepare yourself for Mass at 4:30 pm.

December 2, 9, 16 & 23
starting at 2:30 pm
in the church.



KC MEETINGS

Calling all Knights. Come and be an active part of our mission at St. Joseph Parish! Join us for our monthly meetings beginning at 7:10pm with the rosary. Meeting begins at 7:30pm.

Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 9 & Dec 14

POSTER CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus Christmas Poster Contest is a fun and easy way to put your faith into action and get involved in your community. Youth in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade are invited to participate. Winners will be selected from the following grade groups K/1, 2/3, 4/5, & 6/7/8.

Each poster should be 11x17 in size and reflect the "Keep Christ in Christmas" theme with a visual image. There is no limit to the number of posters each contestant may submit.

For contest rules, regulations, deadline, and other information, please contact Ron Simon at simon_rc@wowway.com.



EXEMPLIFICATION CEREMONY

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring an Exemplification (Initiation) in the Church on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 after 6:30 pm Mass. The Pewamo Knights of Columbus Council 8071 would like to invite you to join. Membership is open to practicing Catholic men who are at least 18 years old. By joining you will become a part of the world's largest Catholic, family, fraternal, service organization with over 2 million members worldwide. Our local goal is to support our families and community through our programs and charitable activities. If you are interested in joining please contact Ron Simon at (517) 256-1098 or Mike Thelen at (989) 593-2200 or Michael.thelen@kofc.org. Membership for the first year is free online at kofc.org/joinus. Enter promo code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY.



JOIN US

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

December 2, 5:30 pm



What is it?

Advent by Candlelight is an evening to help women focus on Christ during the busy holiday season. A potluck style dinner and a presentation to help us embrace the importance of Advent. Prizes will be awarded throughout the evening as well.



How does it work?

Parishioners are invited to host a table and invite 5-7 of their friends to join her for the evening. The hostess will be responsible for decorating their table following the theme of the evening. Decorations include a centerpiece and tableware. Tableware can be anything from your great-grandmother's china to paper plates.



What's for Dinner

Each table guest brings a dish to pass for dinner and dessert for your table. Coffee and lemonade are provided by the Parish. The table hostess will help coordinate dinner with the guests at her table.

If you want to attend, but do not want to host a table, you can either contact a hostess or the Parish Office. We will help you find a seat.



Schedule for the Evening

3:00p Doors open for table set up
4:30p Mass
5:30p Gather & get settled
5:45p Opening Prayer & candle lighting
6:00p Dinner & Social time
6:45p Presentation
7:15p Dessert & Discussion
7:45p St. Joseph Choir
8:00p Closing Prayer



Read the bulletin or visit the Parish website for more information. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

This is a call to all Catholics throughout the world to become closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ present in the Holy Eucharist. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Roman Catholic Church and Pope Francis is calling each one of us to be participants in this great event! The Catholic Church in the U.S. is calling the members of each parish in every Diocese to participate.

We have been asked by Fr. Darrel to gather information for those who are interested in this event which is taking place July 17-21, 2024. We need to know as soon as possible because our Diocese is offering to pay half the ticket price for a limited time. In order to reserve a half-price ticket you will need to pay \$200 (the price of the half-off ticket) to St. Joseph Church NOT the diocese. For more information please call Bill or Diane Thelen. 989-593-3215.

MASS FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Join us for Mass on Saturday, October 7, 9:00 am for Mass in celebrating the Feast of the Holy Rosary.

The Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7. On this day, we celebrate the Holy League's defeat of the Ottoman Empire in the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571. Even though the Turkish forces were very powerful, the Christians won due to the intercession of Mary and the prayer of the Most Holy Rosary.⁴

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

September 16-17 at all Masses

St. Joseph Parish welcomes representatives from the Sisters of Notre Dame for their mission appeal weekend. The Sisters of Notre Dame honor the charism by living Gospel values in vibrant communities, by promoting Catholic education, especially for women and children, in urban and mission schools, and by fostering the fullness of life, especially for people who are poor, sick, and aged.⁵ Please join us in support of their missions around the world.

RESTORE EVENT

RESTORE is a St. Joseph Prayer Team sponsored event.

*Restore my joy in your salvation; sustain
in me a willing spirit ~Psalm 51:14*

Please join us in church for a RESTORE evening. This RESTORE event will include adoration, confession, praise and worship music, and the St. Joseph's Prayer Team will be available for those seeking prayers. Gather with us for a faith filled evening to encounter Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

September 20 & November 8
Starting at 7:00 pm



GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY

St. Joseph Good Samaritan Ministry partnered with Feeding America of West Michigan to minister to our community as well as our surrounding communities by providing food, laundry soap, cleaning products along with hygiene and toiletry items to all of those in need. We host mobile food pantries once per month at Twin Rivers Elementary School, Muir and American Legion, Hubbardston.

Our ministry seeks volunteers to help distribute food at each of the food pantry evenings. Please visit the parish website to register to help today.

stjosephewamo.org/good-samaritan-ministry/

UPCOMING EVENTS

CENTURY CLUB DINNER

The Century Club Dinner is an annual fundraiser to support St. Joseph's School. This event is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a Parish family, enjoy dinner, and support our School by participating in the program, which includes a silent auction, live auction, and music/dancing. The event is always held on the last Saturday in January. To learn more, purchase tickets, or donate to this event, please contact the Century Club Team listed below.

**Save the date for
Saturday, January 27**

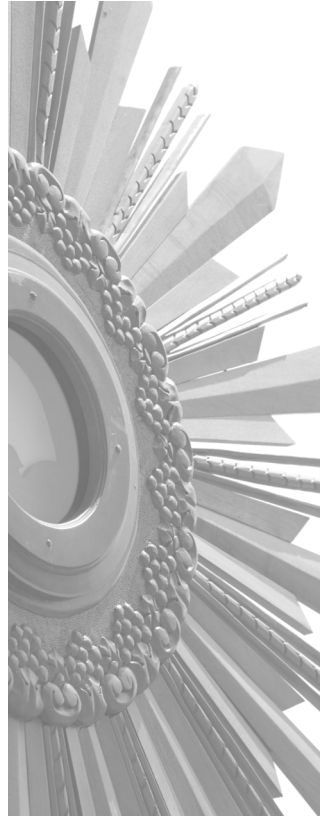
Come support St. Joseph School and have a great time!

Century Club Dinner Committee

Joel & Kelsey Hoffman
Tony & Christie Antes
Dale & Megan Winsor
Damian & Malynda Smith
Parker & Carly Surbrook
Devon & Kendra Williams

Email us at centuryclub@stjosephewamo.org

PRIEST, PROPHET, KING



"A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house." And he did not do many works there, because of their unbelief. (Mt. 13:57-58)

Priest, Prophet, King is a day long retreat centered around the Eucharist hosted by and at St. Joseph Parish.

Keynote speaker:
Fr. Mike Hodges

**Save the date for
Saturday, January 13.**

More information coming soon. Watch for it in the bulletin, Facebook page, and Seeds of Stewardship.

EVENT BOOKLET DEADLINE

If you, or your ministry, is planning on hosting any events, activities, meetings, or learning opportunities between January 1 and April 30 please let the Parish Office know as soon as possible.

The deadline for your event to be included in the Spring, Lent, Easter 2024 event booklet is November 15. When submitting, please include a brief description for your event, contact information, and date/time.

Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.



St. Joseph Catholic Church
126 East St.
P.O. Box 37
Pewamo, MI 48873
989-593-3440
stjosephewamo.org
parishoffice@stjosephewamo.org

CITATIONS

- (1) Page 1 <https://catholicstraightanswers.com/what-is-the-liturgical-year/>
- (2) Page—First Friday
<https://www.simplycatholic.com/what-is-a-first-friday/>
- (3) Decorating
<https://media.ascensionpress.com/2018/06/18/how-sacred-architecture-conveys-gospel-truth-and-beauty/#:~:text=The%20placement%20of%20all%20the,mysteri es%20of%20our%20Catholic%20faith.>
- (4) Holy Rosary
<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/our-lady-of-the-rosary-14633>
- (5) Sisters
<https://sndusa.org/>
- (6) Faith formation
<https://www.augustineinstitute.org/program-and-resources/word-of-life>
- (7) Novenas
<https://sjasr.org/parish-novena/what-is-a-novenaand-why-do-we-pray-them/#:~:text=Novenas%20help%20us%20to%20open,ve%20eceived%20to%20our%20petition.>