

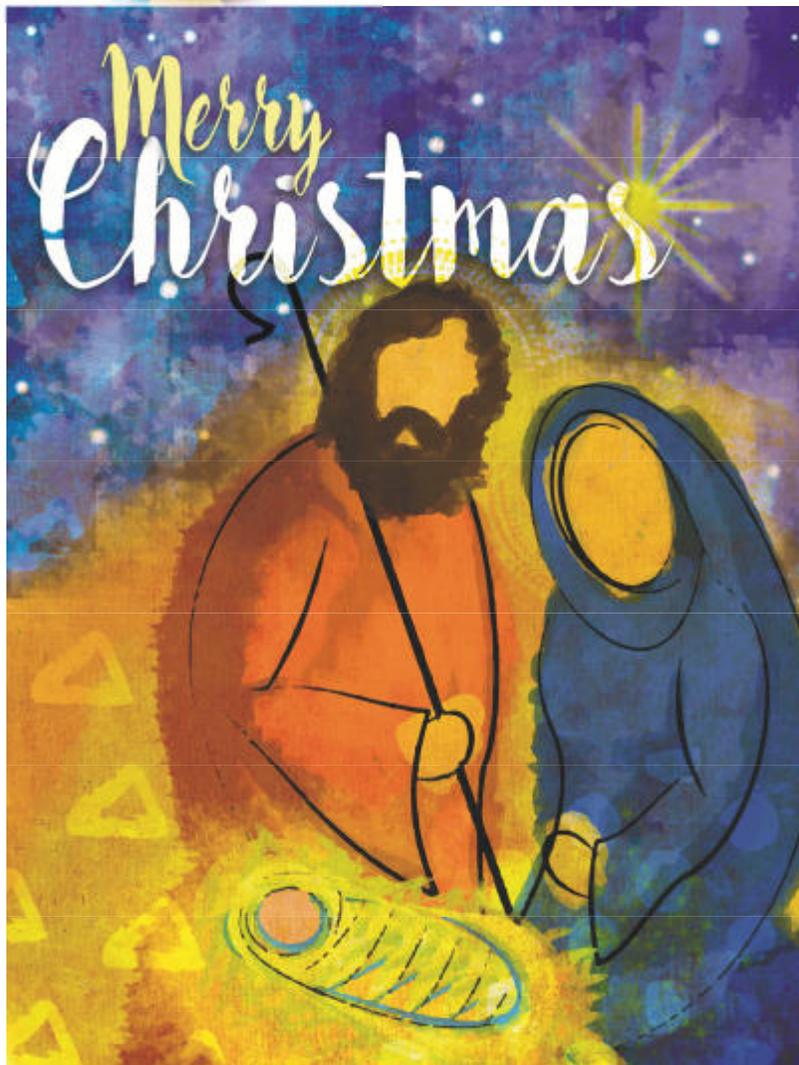
DECEMBER 27, 2020

The Holy Family



St. John Vianney

Catholic Church



MISSION STATEMENT

We are a people called together by God and empowered by the Spirit to continue the mission of Jesus on earth. We are a community of faith, hope and love, who strengthen and encourage one another and share a common mission of building the Kingdom of God.



Vision Statement

Committed to growing in faith together, guided by the Holy Spirit, we will be the hands of Jesus, continuing His work in our parish, community and the world.

6400 McCarty Road | Saginaw, MI 48603 | 989-790-5086

MASS SCHEDULE:

Sat: 5:00 pm

Private confessions 4:00 pm-4:30 pm

Sun: 10:00 am

Wed: 12:00 pm

STAFF:

Director of Parish Life

Sr. Janet Pewoski, CSJ

Sacramental Minister

Fr. Richard Jozwiak & Fr. Bert Gohm

Music/Choir Director

Roberta Conley

Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper

Michelle Gombar

CONNECT:

Online: www.sjvsaginaw.org

Facebook: St John Vianney

Email: stjvianney64@aol.com

Fax: (989) 790-1681

Rectory: (989) 792-6582

Sister's Corner

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve. Dec. 25 – Christmas Day. Dec. 26 – Stoning of St. Stephen. Dec. 27 – Feast of Holy Family. Dec. 28 – Feast of Holy Innocents. Jan. 1 – Feast of Most Holy Mother of God. We are faced with many important feasts one after another in these days from Christmas to the Secular New Year.

Christmas – Many of us may get caught up in the tinsel and glitter of the holiday décor, but it bears reminding that Jesus appeared among travelers, was announced to shepherds, and immediately became a refugee. This Word of God is spoken to all in the midst of the winter darkness. God-with-us shines in all the darkness. The Christian community gathers to gaze in wonder at the simplicity of this poor child and his road-weary parents. Do we welcome the stranger, the unexpected, those angry at the Church and make it easier for them to hear the welcome that is Christ's welcome?

While we eagerly celebrate with presents and good food, do we remember the purpose of God sending us the gift of His Son? This little infant has come from the divinity of heaven to the humanity of earth to grow into adulthood to share in our suffering, to teach us how to love, and ultimately to give His life as a sacrifice to redeem us from our sins for our eternal life, our salvation.



Feast of the Holy Family – Today's readings present us with three sets of faithful couples: Abraham and Sarah, long past the age of childbearing are told that they will indeed bear a child. Simeon and Anna, long faithful to the reading of Scripture, are favored with the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple and know that this child is destined for the rise and fall of many far beyond his immediate household. Mary and Joseph have trusted in God's message through angels and dreams in what must have seemed both scary and wonderful. Despite whatever judgments their neighbors may have expressed or possibly doubts of their own parents, they were faithful to the Word of God. They possessed the virtue of Fortitude which is a courage or bravery of character to abide through difficult times. We too are called to faithful fortitude.

The Feast of Holy Innocents – All during the journey of the Christ child, we have heard the stories of Herod ordering the death of the innocent boys two years and younger to prevent the life of the New King. The Magi, warned in a dream, do not return to Herod to tell him that they have found the child. As we reflect on this story in Scripture, let us reflect upon how even today many innocents are slaughtered through our refusal to care for them or regard them as worthy of life or basic needs.

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God – January 1st – Holy Day of Obligation Mass will be at 10 a.m. Mary is the ultimate sign of a Christian, for what is a Christian if not one who bears Christ within our world and brings Him to people? It is because Mary said, "Yes" to God that Jesus is fully human without sin and also fully divine, for God sent His son born of a woman. Through Christ, we are adopted into God's family. Mary is the one who brought Christ into the world. She is the Theotokos (God-bearer).

Weekly Readings

Old Testament:

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14

The book of Sirach was written by a wise teacher who lived 200 years before Christ. Sirach ran a school for young people in Jerusalem. In today's passage, he advises his students on the proper way to honor their parents.

New Testament:

Colossians 3: 12-17

The letter to the Colossians was written around the year 80 A.D. A major concern in this letter is how the Christian community appears to outsiders. The author offers guidelines so that Christian families will live in such a way that others will notice the difference.

Gospel:

Luke 2: 22-40

The central point of the Presentation in the Temple is that Mary and Joseph were obedient to the law in consecrating their firstborn to the Lord. We see them returning to their home in Nazareth where we see Jesus growing to maturity in a simple and God-centered family setting. Long-practiced faith enables them to see beyond the ritual moment and into the significance of what the moment means for the future.

Faith Formation

Children's Classes are scheduled to meet on site Jan. 5th unless Saginaw Township and the Saginaw County Health Dept. advise against. Sister will email parents as needed.

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities have all gone to virtual meetings for Monday 10 a.m. Bible Study and Wednesday 7 p.m. Genesis Method.

Grief Recovery Groups will be contacted by Russ Herlache and Sister Janet for meetings.

Men normally meet the first Wed. of the month at 10 a.m. and women meet the second Mon. of the month at 10:30 a.m.

Anyone in need of **Baptism, Marriage Prep, Annulment, or Interested in Becoming Catholic** should contact Sr. Janet at 989-790-5086 for an appointment to discuss what is required.

Prayers for the New Year 2021

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the year that has passed and the many blessings You have showered upon us in time.

We beg your pardon on our many failings and trespasses, and we pray that the coming year will be a more fruitful one.

We earnestly pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit, and we call upon Our Lord Jesus Christ for His intercessions, His guidance, and His Light to share our faith. Amen.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, you make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts, and cause our spirits to be born again. Thank you for this New Year, for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame, so that in our time, many will see the wonder of God and live forever to praise Your glorious name. Amen.

Suggestions for the New Year from Pope Francis

Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God.

Take care of your family life.

Take care of your relationship with others.

Be careful how you speak.

Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness.

Look after your work.

Be careful of envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings.

Watch out for anger or pointing fingers at others.

Watch out for complaining constantly.

Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker.

(From LIKE Facebook.com/Catholicnewsworld)

Stewardship Message

The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation? As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

On the Lighter Side



Readings

Week of Dec 28 - Jan 2, 2020

Mon: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Tue: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Wed: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-10/Lk 2:36-40

Thur: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-13/Jn 1:1-18

Fri: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Sat: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 1:19-28

Parish Information

YEAR END TAX STATEMENTS

This year tax statements will NOT be prepared and set out for pickup. Statements will be prepared and sent by request. Please notify Michelle in the parish office if you will need your year end tax statement. Contact Michelle by email: stjvianney64@aol.com, phone: 989-790-5086.

Holiday MASS SCHEDULE

Jan 1, Mary Mother of God 10:00 am

Jan 2, Epiphany of the Lord 5:00 pm

Jan 3, Epiphany of the Lord 10:00 am

Sincere Thanks

Thanks so much for your thoughtfulness for my 89th birthday. When I celebrated #39 (a few years ago) I got one of those Hallmark plaques (still on my wall) that read, "Age is a matter of mind; if you don't mind, it doesn't matter." How true! Your kindness really made my day special. Fr. Richard.



Diocesan Information

How do we experience true joy? Bishop Gruss' reflection for the third week of Advent

Greetings and blessing to all of you. For two weeks already, the season of Advent has been calling us away from the busyness of Christmas preparations and celebrations to a spiritual vigilance in preparing the way for the Lord who desires to come deeper into our lives. The Lord has so much he wants to share with those who seek him.

There is so much going on in our world right now. We are living in post-election times. We have high hopes for a coronavirus vaccine. The Christmas season is almost upon us. But many people right now are worried about the challenges they face in their lives.

God's Promise

May we all hear with our hearts today the words of the prophet Isaiah who speaks of a promise to the Israelite people, this remnant who are living in exile. Isaiah has been anointed and been sent to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and to release the prisoner, to announce a year of favor, a year of vindication by God.

Great Joy

When this happens, these people in darkness— these people in exile— will experience great joy because God would come and be, once again, in their midst; his presence would be a joy that would transform their lives and could never be taken away.

This same joy has been offered to us. Isaiah's promise of joy that comes from God's presence was fulfilled in part with the first appearance of Jesus through his incarnation— God coming among us as man— and then the ultimate and climatic rejoicing at Jesus' second and final appearance, which is yet to come.

Christian Joy

Christian joy, like hope, is founded on God's fidelity, on the certainty that he always keeps his promises. Jesus has come for those who have lost their way and have lost heart. Jesus invites us to entrust ourselves to the faithfulness of the Lord, for his salvation will not delay in bursting into our lives.

Those who have encountered Jesus along the way experience a serenity and joy in their hearts which nothing and no one can take away. Why? Because our joy is Jesus Christ, and his faithful love is inexhaustible! Therefore, when a Christian becomes sad, it means that in some way this person has distanced him or herself from Jesus.

Jesus is Waiting for You

As we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, this Sunday of Joy, and continue to prepare for Christmas, Jesus is waiting for you; he is close to you. He loves you. He offers you his mercy. He strengthens you to face and overcome the trials of life. He brings you joy – a true joy that remains even amid trial, even in the midst of suffering.

This is not a passing joy or a superficial joy. It is a joy which permeates the depths of the person who entrusts himself to the Lord and confides in him. "Where there is great joy, there is the presence of the Holy Spirit." True joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit is alive in us, then this joy will be present. Joy is both a gift of God as well as a response to the gifts of God.

No One is Excluded

No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord. Joy comes when we are aware of God's grace and live in gratitude for what he has done for us in Christ Jesus. During the season of Advent is about living in the joy already given and preparing for the deeper joy yet to come in our own lives, as we wait in joyful expectation of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. May you find or rediscover this joy in your lives this Christmas. God bless you all.

Financial Stewardship Update

Parish Support:

December 12/13, 2020

Collection..... \$ 7,272.00

ACH \$ 601.00

Online \$ 255.00



Online giving is different from ACH and is now available through the website www.sjvsaginaw.org.



Gospel Reflection

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

Music Ministry



*Special Christmas Wishes
To all of you !*

Even though our music has been much quieter these past many months, we look forward to the day that that we will bring back our choirs, and instruments

Special Christmas Wishes to all our SJV Cantors, Chimes, Swinging Singers, Adult Choir, Resurrection Choir, JAM members, Youth cantors, Children's Choir, Pianists and other musicians.

God Bless You

Prayer Request

Requests call: Sue Rapin 799-7588

Cancer:

Daniel, Randy, Beryl, Robert, Yvonne, Alan, Terry, Marsha, Melissa, Theresa, Steve, Charlie, Janine, Annette, Nicole, Marta, Richard, David, Karen, Sr. Elaine, Gary, Tony, Sue, Omar, Linda, Kim, Danny, Manny, Brenda, Eileen, Tammy, Marlene, Dick, Bill, Gerry, Brian, Sherry, Erin, Toni, Jason, Dottie, Sharon, Jennifer, Dave, Jean, Pat, Cindy, Beth, Meredith, Donna, Dennis, Kent, Art, Ann, George, Joe, Bobbi, Mel, Gary, Ben, Vicky, Bob, Herrick, Lori, Judy, Evelyn, Jack, Angelica, Jerry, Diane, Connie, Don, Lowell, Lisa, Jim, Ted, Lucy, Amber

Health:

Mary Jane, Laura, Kevin, Kayla, Wally, Judy, John, Irene, Leo, Cathy, Helma, Jenny, Christine, Gloria, Marcella, Dorothy, Adam, Donna, Marilyn, Clara, Bonnie, Doris, Ronald, Richard, Karl, Marcile, Jacob, Jean, T, Melissa, Patty, Sue, Lucy, Larry, Maddison, Joanne, Grandma L, Leroy, Maryanne, Alec, Dennis, Carson, AJ, Vivian, Mitch, Ilene, Don, Ken, Helen, Chuck, Bennett, Mike, David, Carol, Marilyn, Cecelia, Wayne, Claudette, Brian, Dave, Andy, Paul, John, Tiffany, Kelly, Christen, Remi, Marty, Marsha, Holly, Janis, Nancy, Marcia, Dee

Surgery/Help/Military:

S:
H: Debi, Joan, Sue, Mary, Clare, Christine, Connie, Lorraine, Melvin, Jayde, Jenny, Jenna, Mitch, Marilyn, Derek, Alison, Norm, Family of Wayne, Chad, Sara, Andrew, Kathy, Bethany
M: Nicholas, Robert Zamora **Army** - Suzanne Nielsen, Chad Bailey **Navy** - Nathan LaClair, Paul Lewis, Josh Geese **Air Force** - Tom Czerwinski

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