

**Pastoral Director:** Nancy Woodcock  
**Sacramental Minister:** Feb. 24 & 25 Fr. Lou Anderson

**Confession:** SM: Saturday – 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
 SJB: Sunday – 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

**Please keep those who are serving our country in your prayers!** Tech. Army Special Forces Blaine Woodman, Spencer Harwood, David Black, Sgt. Hunter Williams, & SSG Curtis Jason; SGT Spencer Malek

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday—Thursday:** 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Friday:** by appointment

**If you have any questions**, need to plan a funeral, prepare for Baptism or Marriage, or an Annulment, etc., please contact Nancy at:

**Parish office:** 989-584-6044 (with answering machine)

Nancy's home: (989-762-5320); Cell: (989-287-0089)

Church e-mail: smsjchurch@cmsinter.net

**Nancy's email:** [nwoodcock@cmsinter.net](mailto:nwoodcock@cmsinter.net)

Website: <http://stmarystjohn.net/>

**Appointments are available evenings & weekends.**

**The parish office address is:** 404 N. Division St., Carson City, MI 48811. **Feel free to contact us.**

**Weekly Programs & Bulletin:** 1-616-200-6070

**FACEBOOK:** St. Mary/St. John the Baptist Parishes

**The deadline for bulletin information is noon on Monday.**

**T-Coil is available in both churches.**

AED Units are located in both Parish Halls & Churches.

**Pictorial Directories are available for \$10.00 each.**

**Keepsake Ornaments are available throughout the year at the Parish Office - \$10.00 each!**

**SATURDAY- Feb. 24, 2024 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**SM – 4:00 p.m. – Luanne Akin by Alice Churchill**

**SUNDAY- Feb. 25, 2024 – 2<sup>n</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**SJB – 9:00 a.m. – Terry Burns** by Steve Schrauben & Judy Sheaffer; **Ken Kapustka** by Brett & Katrina Moe & Family; **Doug Campbell** by John & Ann Fahey; **Colleen Heiden** by Jack & Janet Dailey; **Stan Cusack** by Agnes Cusack; **Linda Heckman** by Darrel & Shannon Heckman

**SUNDAY – Feb. 25, 2024 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**SM – 11:00 a.m. – Members of SM/SJB Parishes**

**TUESDAY– Feb. 27, 2024 – 11:30 a.m.**

**SJB–Stations of the Cross w/ Noon Prayer**

**FRIDAY – Mar. 1, 2024 – 11:30 a.m.**

**SM – Stations of the Cross w/Noon Prayer**

**SATURDAY – Mar. 2, 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**SM – 4:00 p.m. – Members of SM/SJB Parishes**

**SUNDAY – Mar. 3, 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**SJB – 9:00 a.m. – Earl Heppard** by Dave & Nancy Speckin; **Doug Campbell** by Dave & Nancy Speckin; **Pauline Cusack (25<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)** by Chuck & Connie Malek; **Bub Charles Smith** by Carol Smith; **Ida Ricci** by Agnes Cusack; **Evan Kramer (21<sup>st</sup> Anniv.)** by Tom & Sally Strachan; **Stan Cusack** by Sharon Jegla

**SUNDAY- Mar. 3, 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**SM – 11:00 a.m. – Alice McCrackin** by Sharon Schafer & Family

**Money Counters for March:** Patty Campbell & Penny Huhn

**Sacramental Minister:** March 2 & 3 Fr. Lou Anderson

**March 2, 2024 – Sat. 4:00 p.m.SM**

**Lector:** Jill Postema

**Ushers:** Team 23

**Greeters:** Gail Kennedy

**Min.of Euch.** Lynn Schneider, Annette Jones, Volunteer

**Altar Servers:** Volunteers

**Musician:** Connie

**March 3, 2024 – Sun. 9:00 a.m. SJB**

**Lector:** Lisa Wandell

**Ushers:** Team 15

**Greeters:** Marvin & Diane Schafer

**Min. of Euch.** Beth O'Grady, Ed Heckman, Volunteer

**Altar Servers:** Volunteers

**Musician:** Mike & Choir

**March 3, 2024 – Sun. 11:00 a.m. SM**

**Lector:** Tabitha Keiffer

**Ushers:** Team 23

**Greeters:** Dave & Michelle Patin

**Min. of Euch.:** Sam Jensen, Volunteer, Volunteer

**Altar Servers:** Peyton, Lillian & Evelyn Reynolds

**Musician:** Connie

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS!!!**

**They can be mailed to:**

**404 N. Division St., Carson City, MI 48811**

**for either parish or use the Online information to give electronically.**

**PRAY DAILY FOR PEACE!**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Gordon Gladden, Deb O'Neil, John Myers, Fr. Tony Vainavicz, Joan Bozung, Marley Ward, Jack Fahey, Tony Shepard, Bonnie Cross, Sandy Meyers, Bill Gage, Jacob Vance, Phyllis Gage, Donna Schumacher, Linda Tasker (Bruce's wife), Jill Hodges, Daniel O'Connell, Sue Faver, Erin Cavanaugh, Tanner Schrauben, LaVern Jacobs, Donna Patton, Teri Chesebro, Anakin Moody, Kaci Wyer, Alice McCrackin, Kevin Knapp, Bob Pouget, Tom Gallagher, Genevieve McGuire, Kyran Breimayer, Neil Speckin, Janice McKenna-Reynolds, Dennis Trudell, Sr., Sierra Rose Cordova, Leigh Ann Harwood, Jack Kapral, Wiggins, Sam Burns, Flora Horwath, Mike Riley, Judy Miller, Harry Sanborn, Michelle Van Arman, Velma Tabor, Lottie Conner & Family Members; Mary Pouget, Gary Coon, Denny Vander, Debbie Osborne, Ann Darland, Dean Schafer, Mason Burns, Sr. Julie Mae Groulx, Carmen Richardson, John Shively, Rosemary (O'Connell) Davarn, Jim Schultz, Taylor Smith, Agnes McKenna, Jen Schafer, Melanie Starr, Peg Walters, Fred Peiffer, Juanita Dockham, Phil Fletcher, Sue Findlay, Leo McMillan; Geraldine Snow; Joanne Schafer Watson, Blaine Michael Melton, Chris Bozung, Cathy Hodges, Beverly Pouget, Kathy Fockler, Rick Davarn, Gary DeVito, Aiden Thurston, Dan Woodcock, Judy Sheaffer, Deb Rockey, Shane Clark, Carol Silakes, Alice Keilholtz, Sherry Hopkins, Douglas Werner, Pete VanBeelen, Frank Rademacher, Fr. Larry King; Bridget Woodcock, & Deb Musselman.

**..If you are better & would like to have your name taken OFF the Prayer List – please call the Office – 989-584-6044**

**PRAY FOR THE VICTIMS OF ABUSE!**

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024

### St. John the Baptist Chairpersons for February 2024:

Sharon Schafer (989-637-4294); Nan Miller (989-981-6801); Bernadette Fletcher (989) 855-2371; Vicki Dailey (989 981-6881)

**St. Mary Chairpersons for February 2024:** Margaret Lauer (989) 330-4097; Cheryl Miller (989) 584-3778

#### COMING EVENTS

SM	Feb. 24	Mass	4:00
SJB	Feb. 25	Mass	9:00
SM	Feb. 25	Mass – Live-Streamed	11:00
SJB	Feb. 27	Stations of the Cross w/Noon Prayer	11:30
SM	Mar. 1	Stations of the Cross w/Noon Prayer	11:30
SM	Mar. 2	Men's Mini-Retreat w/Brian Plachta	10:00 -1:00
SM	Mar. 3	K-12 Religious Educ.	Noon
SM	Mar. 6	Red Cross Bloodmobile	Noon
SM	Mar. 10	K-12 Religious Educ.	Noon -3:00
SM	Mar. 14	The Light is ON for YOU!	4:00- 7:00
SM	April 21	Women's Mini-Retreat w/Sr. Diane Zervas, OP	Noon -2:30

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAYS, MARCH 3 AND MARCH 10 FROM NOON-3:00 PM. AT ST. MARY HALL. ALL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME to participate!** Lunch is served in the Parish Hall before classes begin. Come and have lunch with your students.

**Bishop Walkowiak invites all who are able, to return to Mass.** He also knows that some of you cannot attend Mass in person because of health reasons or other excusing factors. "If you find yourself in this situation, the dispensation from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass has been extended until further notice." This dispensation is granted to ensure anyone who needs to stay home can do so in good conscience.

**Needed:** Volunteers to learn how to do the Live-Stream at 11:00 a.m. Mass at SM. **Interested?** Please see Brian, the guitarist, or call the office. **LIVE-STREAMING FROM ST. MARY can be found at:**

[www.YouTube.com](https://www.YouTube.com), click on the search icon and look for St Mary-St John the Baptist (do not use any punctuation); the video should be running just before 11:00 a.m. Mass will be available on the St. Mary/St. John the Baptist Facebook page within 30 minutes after the Mass.

**Please call the Parish Office** if you are interested in having your baby or child baptized. Baptisms can be held during Mass.

**CSA begins now! The 2024 Assessments are:**

**St. Mary: \$32,701.00**

**St. John the Baptist: \$22,797.00**

**What can you give?**

### St. John the Baptist Parish

February 18, 2024

Adult Envelopes: (39) \$1,747.35  
Loose: 69.30  
Christian Service Tithe: 18.35  
**TOTAL: \$1,835.00**  
**Online: (January) \$759.15**  
**Fees: - 21.08**

### St. Mary Parish

February 17 & 18, 2024

Adult Envelopes: (35) \$1,295.00  
Holy Day: (1) 5.00  
Sunday Loose: 240.00  
**TOTAL: \$1,540.00**  
**Online: (January) \$1,815.00**  
**Fees: - \$36.51**

Please remember to write a separate check for Mass Intentions, Parish Envelope donations, donations to collections for Missions, etc. as they all go into different accounts. Thank you for your willingness and cooperation.

**First Reading: Genesis 22: 1-2,9a, 10-13, 15-18**

In the First Reading, God calls Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, but provides a ram instead and promises blessing on all nations in response to Abraham's trust.

**Second Reading: Romans 8:31b-34**

In the Second Reading, we are reminded that God did not spare his own Son and so gives us everything with him.

### REMEMBER:

If the roads are bad or weather wind chills are low, the Parish Office may be closed.

Please call ahead before coming to the Office. **If the schools are closed, then all activities are cancelled.** It is dangerous to put people out in extremely cold weather.

Thank you for understanding!

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CORNER

**Interested in being a Knight or need a ramp** for your home? Contact Grand Knight Perry McCrackin at 989-506-8044. Want clear concise news from a Catholic perspective? Watch EWTN – 370 Direct TV; -Dish or Family Life Radio 99.7FM. **The Knights of Columbus are inviting ALL men, 18 years and older, from both parishes to the Annual Men's Conference, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m** Please contact Perry McCrackin (989-584-506-8044 or Gary Copp (989-330-6962) for carpooling and registration at **NO COST - NO LATER** than February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**NOTES FROM NANCY:**

**Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Lent.** The Transfiguration is one step on the journey to Jerusalem and the crucifixion at Golgotha. **What are the ups and downs of our journey towards God? Take time...**



Please keep the family and friends of Jean & Ron Zyzelewski and Charlie Plath (brother of Ginny Bohen) in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

**Amen**

**Brian Plachta**, a well-known spiritual Director and Dominican Associate in the Grand Rapids area, **will provide a Lenten Men's Mini-Retreat on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10-1:00 at St. Mary Parish.** The topic will be: "Listening to God Knows What." There is no cost. Lunch will be served at 12:30. Bring a friend. **Please call the parish office (989-584-6044) to RSVP on or before Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**As we begin the Lenten Season**, the Diocese of Grand Rapids will offer a special opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**"The Light Is ON for you: An Evening of Reconciliation"**

**will be held on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**At St. Mary Parish – Carson City**

For other locations of Reconciliation – contact [GRdiocese.org/penance](http://GRdiocese.org/penance)

**ONLINE DIRECTIONS ARE:**

**Go to: [stmarystjohn.net](http://stmarystjohn.net)**

**Click: on the Online Giving Tab**

**Select: the Parish you wish to donate to.** Each parish has their own OnLine Giving Page.

**Click on Sign in, Enter your e-mail (your e-mail will be your User ID). Click below on "Don't have an account? Create One" Enter your Login Information and remember your password.**

**Now you will be able to login & submit your giving information. You can set up recurring donations - weekly or monthly. You can also give one time gifts as well.**

**OUR DIOCESE & BEYOND...**

**Prayer for Vocations:** God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that you inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will. **Send workers into Your great harvest** so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and your people are strengthened by the sacraments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Seminarian of the Week: Hunter Ostapowicz**

**Bishop Walkowiak invites you to join him for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress this summer (July 17-21).** The diocese has travel packages available – it includes: a 5-day pass to the Congress; 4 nights accommodation, transportation to and from Grand Rapids & daily to the Congress via deluxe motorcoach. Price depends on room occupancy. Register: <https://bit.ly/DOGRNECreservation>

**The Hubbardston Tuscan Masonic Lodge will host their Chicken Dinner on Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** The cost of the meal is \$15.00 and includes deep fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy coleslaw, baked beans, roll, and dessert. Eat in or pick up a take-out. All are welcome!

**The work of the Synod continues.** In October 2024, the Church will gather in Rome again to continue the journey and momentum of the First Session of the Synod on Synodality. **Our diocese will offer listening sessions to engage the faithful ahead of the Oct, 24<sup>th</sup> Synod.**

**The sessions will be held on:**

**Sat, March 2 – Cathedral Square 3:00-4:30**

**Tues. Mar. 12 – St. Patrick-St. Anthony Grand Haven 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Wed. Mar. 20 - Catholic Newman Center Big Rapids 6:00-7:30 pm.**

**To register: call DJ Florian 616-551-4748**

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter Retreat** will be held on March 1-3 at the Center for Ministry in Saginaw, April 12-14 at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt; and June 11-13 at Maryville in Holly. **Week-ends To register: Call Chris and Darla Vinton at 517-667-0433.**

## **2024 Lenten Stations of the Cross & Daily Mass Schedule**

**Stations of the Cross will be held at 11:30 a.m. and Mass will be held at Noon on the following days:**

**SJB      Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**

**SM      Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**SJB      Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**SM      Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

**SJB      Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**SM      Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

**SJB      Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

**SM      Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Stations of the Cross & Noon Prayer will be held on  
Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at SJB**

### **Holy Week Schedule:**

***SM Holy Thursday, 7:00 p.m. March 28<sup>th</sup>***

***SM Good Friday, Noon March 29<sup>th</sup>***

***SM Easter Vigil, 9:00 p.m. March 30<sup>th</sup>***

***SJB Easter Sunday, 9:00 a.m. March 31<sup>st</sup>***

***SM Easter Sunday, 11:00 a.m. March 31<sup>st</sup>***

# Men's Spirituality Retreat

## Listening for God Knows What...

### Does God Really Speak to Me? If So How?

**Do you ever wonder:**

- Does God have a voice?
- If so, what does it sound like?
- Does he speak to me?
- How?
- What tools can I put into my spiritual toolbox to hear God's voice and experience more inner peace, balance, wholeness, and strength in my daily life?

**Join us for some great food, good fun, and lively conversation about Men's Spirituality and discover some answers to your questions. It's a great way to jumpstart your Lent!**

<b>Date:</b>	Saturday March 2, 2024
<b>Time:</b>	10:00 am – 1:00 pm
<b>Cost:</b>	Freewill Offering includes workshop and lunch
<b>Retreat Leader:</b>	Brian Plachta, JD, MPC, author, counselor, & spiritual mentor
<b>Location:</b>	St. Mary's Parish 404 N. Division St. Carson City, MI 48811

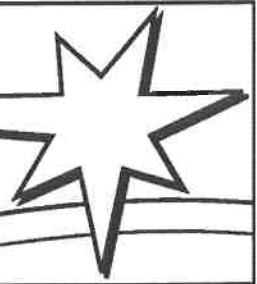
Brian J. Plachta is an author, spiritual director, and workshop leader. A Dominican Associate for thirty years, Brian holds a master's degree in Pastoral Counseling. He's a frequent teacher on a broad variety of practical spirituality topics at workshops, retreats, conference centers, and colleges.

Brian's passion is helping men and women experience the direct Presence of God in their daily lives. His newest book, *Finding Flow—Spiritual Practices to Reclaim Inner Peace, Balance, and Wholeness* was recently published by Paulist Press. Brian is also a lawyer, husband, and father of four.

Learn more about Brian and sign up for his free weekly email reflections at:  
<https://brianplachta.com>



# Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

February 2024

St. John the Baptist Parish  
St. Mary Parish



## Thoughtful Moments

### St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita was a young girl in Darfur, Sudan when she was captured and sold into slavery. Despite serving under cruel masters for many years, she remained sweet and kind. Eventually, the Michielis, who treated her very kindly, bought her. While in Italy, they introduced her to the Canossian Sisters of Charity. She joined in 1893. She spent the rest of her time there as a cook and sacristan. She also helped to prepare young sisters.



### Unconditional love

Children learn about God's love by experiencing love from their parents. Children who feel unconditionally loved by their parents are less likely to fear failure or judgment and more likely to look at their parents as advocates rather than adversaries. They are also more likely to be open to a relationship with a loving God as Father.

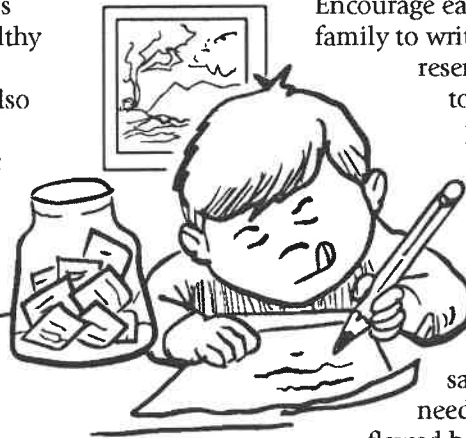
*"A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke"*  
(Proverbs 13:1).



## Forgiveness leads to holiness

In family life, conflict may be commonplace as children learn to navigate relationships but learning how to forgive is essential to healthy development. Forgiveness is also essential for holiness. *"If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you"* (Matthew 6:14). Teach children how:

**Say the words.** Encourage children to say, "I'm sorry," "I was wrong," when they have hurt someone. Asking for forgiveness starts the process of recognizing when they have transgressed and understanding that amends must be made. When someone says the words, immediately offer forgiveness by saying, "I forgive you."



**Release grudges.** Old resentments keep us from fully experiencing God's love and forgiveness.

Encourage each member of the family to write at least one grudge or resentment they are ready to let go of on a piece of paper and put it into a "grudge jar." Then, take out all the grudges, rip them up, and move on.

**Practice humility.** Humility reminds us that we're

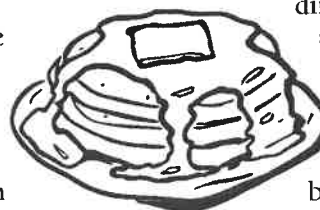
saints-in-progress who need God's mercy. We are flawed beings who make mistakes that require God's forgiveness. Offering mercy to others in recognition of this need is an act of both humility and hope.

**Pray for each other.** Praying together as a family opens us up to much-needed graces. Plus, it's hard to stay mad at someone for whom you pray!

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics serve pancakes on Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras)?

In the early Church, it was customary to give up rich foods and meat during the penitential season of Lent. This included milk, eggs, butter, cheese, and fat. On the Tuesday before Lent began, families would rush to empty the pantry of the



forbidden foods by enjoying a dinner of pancakes (or in some places, fried doughnuts). In several countries, it is even called "Pancake Tuesday." It was meant to be one final celebration of feasting before the Lenten fast.