

Pastoral Director: Nancy Woodcock
Sacramental Minister: July 4 & 5 Fr. Tom Boufford
July 11: Fr. Dick Host; **July 12:** Fr. Bob Keller. O.P.
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; Isaac Fahey (Navy); Isaac Eves (Army); PFC Josh Billings

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday— 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday – closed
Friday: 9:00-3:00 p.m. or any day 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: secretary@smsjbparish.com

Nancy's email: nwoodcock@smsjbparish.com

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.**

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 in both Parish Halls & Churches.

SATURDAY – July 4, 2026 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SM – 4:00 p.m. – Suzanne Rosenberg by Family; **Leon Lauer (9th Anniv.)** by Margaret Lauer; **Thomas Grettenberger** by Margaret Lauer; **Ken Cusack** by Carrol & Vickie Albert; **Gary Coon** by Dolores Keiffer; **Gail Kennedy** by Maureen Marnon; **Delores LaCombe** by Diane Smith

SUNDAY – July 5, 2026 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SJB – 9:00 a.m. – Eugene Schafer by Tim & Donna Schafer; **Bob Cashen** by Chuck & Connie Malek; **Leo McMillan** by Doug & Nancy Cusack; **Jack Jolls** by Lezlie Hauck; **Jean Walter** by Barb Jackson; **John & Catherine Burke** by Brett & Katrina Moe & Family

SUNDAY – July 5, 2026 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SM – 11:00 a.m. – Norma Fitzpatrick by Jim & Sue Lowe; **Agnes Schneider** by Carleen Celusnak

TUESDAY– July 7, 2026 – SJB Noon

FRIDAY- July 10, 2026 – SM Noon Prayer

SATURDAY- July 11, 2026 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SM – 4:00 p.m. – Louis & Monica Thelen & Robert Hamilton by Family; **Jim Beck; Terry Beck** by Lilly Beck; **Kenny Kelly** by Pat Burns

SUNDAY – July 12, 2026 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SJB– 9:00 a.m. – Gene Schafer by Kelly Peiffer & Family; **Phil Stoddard** by Chuck & Connie Malek; **Vicki Dailey** by Doug & Nancy Cusack; **Rick Kelley** by Dave & Nan Miller; **Gale Beardslee** by Chuck & Connie Malek

SUNDAY July 12, 2026 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SM – 11:00 a.m. – Ken Kelly by Cyril Donahue; **Madeline Meinke** by Dan & Lynn Schneider & Family

July 11, 2026 – Sat. 4:00 p.m. SM

Lector: Annette Jones

Ushers: 21

Greeters: Holly & Craig Keiffer

OMHC: Cheryl Miller, Deb McCrackin, Margaret Lauer

Altar Servers: Volunteers

Musicians: Connie

July 12, 2026– Sun. 9:00 a.m. SJB

Lector: Shannon Heckman

Ushers: 15

Greeters: Marvin & Diane Schafer

OMHC: Susanne Gallagher, Bob Fahey, Vol.

Altar Servers: Volunteer

Musicians: Mike & Choir

July 12, 2026– Sun. 11:00 a.m. SM

Lector: Kim Brown

Ushers: Team 21

Greeters: Jerry & Linda Tasker

OMHC: Sam Jensen, Linda Tasker, Kali Trevino

Altar Servers: Evelyn & Julia Jo Reynolds

Musicians: Brian & Group

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.

Money Counters for July: Katrina Moe, Jackie VanDyne

Live – Streaming can be found at 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. Volunteers NEEDED!

Please call the Parish Office (989) 584-6044 if you are interested in having your baby or child baptized. Baptisms can be held during Mass.

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

In the First Reading, the prophet Zechariah tells of the king who will come riding on an ass to proclaim peace to the nations.

Second Reading: Romans: 8:9, 11-13

In the Letter to the Romans, we are told that the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us.

PRAY FOR PEACE!

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Gordon Gladden, Deb O'Neil, John Myers, Fr. Tony Vainavicz, Marley Ward, Jack Fahey, Tony Shepard, Bill Gage, Phyllis Gage, Donna Schumacher, Linda Tasker (Bruce's wife), Daniel O'Connell, Sue Faver, Erin Cavanaugh, Tanner Schrauben, LaVern Wyer, Bob Pouget, Genevieve McGuire, Kyran Breimayer, Neil Speckin, Janice McKenna-Reynolds, Dennis Trudell, Sr., Sierra Rose Cordova, Leigh Ann Harwood, Jack Kapral, Sam Burns, Flora Horwath, Mike Riley, Judy Miller, Harry Sanborn, Michelle Van Arman, Mary Pouget, Denny Vander, Debbie Osborne, Ann Darland, Mason Burns, Carmen Richardson, John Shively, Rosemary (O'Connell) Davarn, Jim Schultz, Agnes McKenna, Jen Schafer, Fred Peiffer, Sue Findlay, Gary DeVito, Aiden Thurston, Judy Sheaffer, Deb Rockey, Carol Silakes, Sherry Hopkins, Douglas Werner, Larry Elliott, Ted Kingsley; Camilla Hogan, Troy Genson, Mary Lou Tucker Andrews, Peg Clark, Petra Medrano, Helen Tait, Alberta Gage, Deb Coon, Jim Barker, Fr. Doug Osborn, Sam Riley, Hazel Gallagher, Edie Rudd, Fr. Jim Wyse, Brenda Demenov, Libby & Jordan Lehnen, Judy Schlegel, Bonnie Harter, Alicia Smith, Nancy Fenn, Darrel Ferris, John Ford, Alayne Howard, Lavern Jacobs, Phil Fletcher, Anita Heppard, Judy Schaeffer, Peg Clark, Zack Burns, and Stephanie Beedy Keiffer

If you are better – please call the Office and ask to have your name taken OFF the Prayer List. (989- 584-6044)

St. John the Baptist Parish Chairpersons for July/Aug.

Lezlie Hauck (989-640-8494); Penny Peiffer (517-975-4209); Jamie Ward (989-763-1959)

St. Mary Chairpersons for July & Aug.

Jill Postema (989-763-7116); Deb McCrackin (989-289-3182); Annette Jones (989) 289-1347); Sam Jensen (517-740-2937)

PLEASE TAKE TIME DURING THE HOT WEATHER TO REST AND CARE FOR YOURSELVES & YOUR FAMILY!

COMING EVENTS			
SM	7-4	Mass	4:00
SJB	7-5	Mass	9:00
SM	7-5	Mass – Live-Streamed	11:00
SM	7-6	Knights of Columbus Mtg.	6:00
SM	7-11	Mass	4:00
SJB	7-12	Mass	9:00
SM	7-12	Mass – Live-Streamed	11:00
SM	7-13	Cemetery Veteran's Memorial Meeting	11:00
SJB	7-28	Over 50's Group	12:30
SM	8-11	Summer Fun w/the Saints	5 - 7

ST. MARY PARISH will provide space for all who wish to play Euchre. We can change the day of the week, if necessary. PLEASE call the Parish Office (989-584-6044) if you and/or your friends are interested. We need at least 8 people to play each time. So, gather your friends and let us know.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Interested in being a Knight or needing 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 will meet on Monday July 6th at 6:00. All Knights are welcome!

Adoption-Loving Option -1-616-667-0677 Pregnant? 1-800-712-HELP

Nationally, the Knights of Columbus have contributed over \$100 million to more than 125,000 men & women pursuing their vocations to the priesthood or religious life.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

The parishes are collecting items for the Grand Rapids Dominicans – Christmas in July! We need puzzle books, socks, slippers, body lotions, lap quilts, decks of cards, games, puzzles, candy, chocolates of any kind; hair curlers, whatever you can think of that would be useful. Please TRY to make the July 17th deadline. Tubs will be at the entrances of both churches to collect items in.

NOTES FROM NANCY:

Today we celebrate the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Gospel has been heard by many of us – perhaps as a funeral Gospel, perhaps during the Anointing of the Sick, or perhaps we have just discovered it and allowed it to roll about us and through us – truly it is an invitation from God as Father, Son, Holy Spirit – “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” How does the invitation call to us? Can we find rest within the vision of the Holy Trinity? Do we need to become or are we people who are holy and seeking God within us? Take time to pray... This week-end we will celebrate the 4th of July! fireworks, picnics, and family time. Why do we celebrate? It is a time of reflection on life, liberty, and freedom as the Declaration of Independence. Can you name the Catholic who signed the Declaration of Independence? When did he die? Take time to explain what freedom means and what the American flag stands for to children & others. Also, enjoy your red, white, & blue Little Debbie cakes!



If you have noticed counting done at each Mass – I have been asked by my Canonical Supervisor to count participants. If you remember, we had diocesan wide meetings. The results are online. Ending Masses that do not have at least 100 participants were part of the plan. That is why the count is taking place. PLEASE plan to come to Church & be counted!

COMING SOON: O WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN, O WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN, I WANT TO BE IN THEIR NUMBER, WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN.

WHEN: August 8, 2026; 5:00-7:00

WHERE: St. Mary Parish

Why? To learn about Catholic Saints...

St. John the Baptist Parish June 28, 2026	
Adult Envelopes: (27)	\$1,123.65
Sunday Loose:	124.74
Candles:	50.00
Tithe:	12.61
Total:	\$1,261.25

St. Mary Parish June 27 & 28, 2026	
Adult Envelopes: (37)	\$ 1,772.00
Sunday Loose:	<u>312.00</u>
Total:	\$ 2,084.00

Mass Intentions, parish envelope donations, donations to collections for Missions, etc. need separate checks as they are deposited into different accounts. Thank you for your willingness and cooperation.

Socks, Shoes, & Backpacks Drive
You can bring any backpacks – filled with school supplies or empty and put them in the tubs. The Shoes & Socks Tree has paper shoes with the size of the shoe & sock on it. Please take a tag or two and purchase the items according to how it is labeled. Please put them in a bag WITH THE TAG and return them to the parishes by Aug. 1, 2026, so they can start school with dignity and pride. Thanks!

**ONLINE GIVING FROM THE WEB
PAGE**

Select: The Parish you wish to donate to. Each parish has its 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 information.

You can set up recurring donations - weekly or monthly. You can also give one-time gifts as well.

St. Mary Summer Raffle Tickets can be picked up this week-end at Mass. Each household has been given 4 tickets (\$25.00 each) to purchase, sell, or return. The Drawing will be held on August 23rd after the 11:00 Mass. Now is the time to sell or purchase them!!!

CSA 2026 ASSESSMENTS

St. Mary Parish \$36,771.00
AMOUNT COLLECTED: \$38,145.00

Am’t OVER Assessment: \$1,374.00
Money collected over the assessment is returned to the parish.

St. John the Baptist \$23,932.00
AMOUNT COLLECTED: \$26,510.00

Am’t OVER Assessment: \$2,578.00
Money collected over the assessment is returned to the parish!

THANK YOU to all who gave a donation and helped us go OVER the Assessments in Both Parishes without taking funds from savings!

PRAY FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS!

**OUR DIOCESE AND BEYOND:
PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:**

O God, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto You. Bless the Diocese of Grand Rapids with many vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. Give your sons and daughters the confidence to accept Your call, and the love to follow always in the footsteps of Your beloved Son with courage and dedication to your will.

PLEASE NOTE: The credit card fees for Online Giving have doubled to \$30.00/month/parish plus transaction fees

Suggestions for Credit Card USERS

1. Give an extra \$1.00 to help with increase.
2. Give monthly instead of weekly to save on transaction fees.

Thanks to:

- *The “elves” who prepared and served an amazing luncheon after the Mass of the Anointing of the Sick at SJB Parish – lots of effort went into the meal!*
- *The “elves” at both parishes who water the flowers outside to keep them growing & alive – everything looks so nice!*
- *The “elves” who prepare the lessons for Religious Education Classes – your time is appreciated!*
- *ALL who gave to the CSA Drive – your generosity is appreciated!*
- *The priests who have agreed to be Sacramental Ministers through June of 2077 – we are blessed with their joyous messages!*
- *The “elves” who are willing to volunteer to serve on the 50th Anniversary of the St. Mary Craft Show Committee – thanks!*

COMING SOON!

SUMMER FUN WITH THE SAINTS!

WHEN: August 11th

TIME: 5:00 – 7:00

Families welcome – Supper 5:00 – 5:30

**WHO: Students ages 4 – through 5th
grades**

**Middle School & High School Students;
Parents- Activity Leaders**

WHAT: Time to learn about the Saints

WHERE: St. Mary Hall

WHY? Time to get together

**Register by August 7 (989-584-6044) to
have enough supplies for activities**

focus

VOL. 54, SUMMER 2026



MICHIGAN
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

Form Your Conscience

VOTE WITH

Faith

IT'S ELECTION SEASON AGAIN.

Catholics have a particular call to engage in elections, first by forming their consciences according to the teachings of the Church founded by Jesus Christ, followed by prayerfully and intentionally evaluating the candidates and the issues before casting a vote.

In short, to be a faithful citizen means to **FORM YOUR CONSCIENCE** and to **VOTE WITH FAITH**.

To **FORM YOUR CONSCIENCE** is to develop, with the support of Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church, the capacity to recognize the moral quality of a particular action.

To **VOTE WITH FAITH** is when believers apply a well-formed conscience rooted in Church teaching and Scripture to the act of selecting candidates for public office.

Faithful citizenship guides Catholics and others of goodwill to promote the common good, where all in society may thrive and reach their God-given potential. To place one's faith above partisan and political criteria is to acknowledge that faith and not a political party or candidate is at the heart of developing one's conscience.

Jesus calls His followers to be salt, light, and leaven in the world. This edition of focus encourages Catholics to embrace the call to faithful citizenship in this year's election. When Catholics allow the truths of Church teachings to form their voting decisions, they can more fully be the salt, light, and leaven that our state needs. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

Catholics make up 18% of Michigan's total voting-age adult population.

An estimated 1.44 million of Michigan's 7.9 million voting-age adults identify as Catholic.

Prior to voting, Catholics are called to form their conscience in accordance with Church teaching.

This begins with living a life rooted in **PRAYER**, **SCRIPTURE**, **SACRAMENTS**, and **STUDY**. Ahead of researching the candidates and learning the issues, consider the following:

- **PRAYER:** How often do I pray? How might the Lord be calling me to deepen my prayer life with Him?
- **SCRIPTURE:** How often do I pray with or read Sacred Scripture? How might the Lord be calling me to spend more time with His Word?
- **SACRAMENTS:** How often do I frequent the Sacraments? How might the Lord be calling me to encounter Him more often in the Sacraments, particularly in Holy Communion and Confession?
- **STUDY:** In what ways do I seek to grow in my understanding of the Catholic faith and what I profess to believe? How might the Lord be calling me to deepen my understanding of the faith, and in what ways can I do that?

From conscience to concrete action: How Catholic social teaching illuminates the issues

Forming one's conscience includes understanding and embracing the Church's social doctrine. Catholic social teaching

flows from the same authority and Tradition as its teachings on faith and morals. It offers a refreshing, hope-filled perspective on current affairs because it is founded on God.

The themes presented in Catholic social teaching, originating in Scripture and further articulated through Church Tradition, are represented across the nine advocacy principles that guide Michigan Catholic Conference's public policy advocacy. These principles are useful to help Catholic voters understand current public policy issues through the lens of Church teaching.

- Upholding the dignity of human life
- Providing for the poor and vulnerable
- Welcoming immigrants and refugees
- Protecting religious liberty
- Supporting students, schools, and parents
- Strengthening marriages and families
- Improving access to healthcare
- Pursuing restorative justice
- Caring for creation and preserving natural resources

Catholic voters should evaluate the extent to which candidates promote these principles, with a particular emphasis on the protection of human life and the dignity that must be afforded to all people, especially those on the margins or are otherwise vulnerable in our society.

To learn more about the nine advocacy principles listed above, scan the QR code or visit cthl.cc/bftcg.



Catholics should take time to learn about the candidates and their stances on the issues.

The faithful will also benefit from being “media mindful” when considering the credibility of information.

Being “media mindful” is a concept coined by the Daughters of St. Paul, a religious order of sisters who call themselves the “Media Nuns” and have made promoting digital literacy to Catholics their mission. Being media mindful means asking questions about or verifying information and its source.

Sister Nancy Usselmann, FSP, director of the order's Pauline Media Studies, said that an intentional approach to scrolling, reading, or viewing online media is important for Catholics because, "we have to live by our faith, values, and our virtues. We have to make that concrete in our everyday choices, our everyday engagement, and especially within our digital engagement."

It is important to recognize that some platforms may not provide helpful political content, such as social media feeds. The algorithms developed by social media companies—which determine what users see on their news feeds—are driven by clicks, likes, and comments, making it more likely that sensational "clickbait" content will proliferate, Sister Nancy said.

Moving off the social media feed and evaluating candidate profiles—both their personal and campaign pages, if they have both—could be more beneficial when it comes to gleaning information from social media.

"By grouping people into bubbles of easy consensus and easy outrage, these [social media] algorithms reduce our ability to listen and think critically, and increase social polarization."

POPE LEO XIV

Message for the 60th World Day of Social Communications, January 24, 2026

There is also an increased presence of bad actors who are deliberately trying to mislead and misinform with false content. Not only does fake content exist, but it is becoming more difficult to distinguish it from real content. This is particularly the case with information or images generated by artificial intelligence, which is very accessible and continuing to improve at quickly processing information and generating content.

However, it is still fallible technology. AI platforms are known to "hallucinate," or make up information, Sister Nancy said, in addition to re-presenting inaccurate information as fact.

"As we scroll through our feeds, it becomes increasingly difficult to determine whether we are interacting with other human beings or with "bots" or "virtual influencers." The less-than-transparent interventions of these automated agents influence public debates and people's choices."

POPE LEO XIV

Message for the 60th World Day of Social Communications, January 24, 2026

Being media mindful takes intentionality and thoughtfulness, which is challenging.

"We are often seeking the fast answer, the quick response, the instantaneous headline," said Sister Nancy. "But if we want to truly live our Catholic faith within this political arena, we have to be better."

Pope Leo XIV, in a message he shared regarding social communications and artificial intelligence, said, "it is increasingly urgent to introduce media, information and AI literacy into education systems at all levels."

The Holy Father urged all stakeholders to be involved in "building and implementing informed and responsible digital citizenship." That includes the everyday consumers of digital media, such as lay Catholics.

The tips offered by the Pauline Sisters to be media mindful are one path Catholics can take to practice responsible digital citizenship. ■



When reading or viewing political information, ask:

- Is this information complete, or could it lack important context?
- Is there more information that I need to make a more informed decision regarding this issue or this candidate?
- Does this content align with issues that the Church is calling Catholics to be attentive to and concerned about?
- Does this political content respect human dignity and respect other people?

What's at stake for Michigan in this election?

FEDERAL

- All 14 Michigan seats in the U.S. House of Representatives
- An open race for one of the state's two U.S. Senate seats

STATE

- Open races for Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of State
- All 110 seats in the state House of Representatives
- All 38 seats in the state Senate
- Two seats on the Michigan Supreme Court
- Numerous statewide education board positions

LOCAL

- Various county and municipal government positions
- Judicial seats for regional and local courts
- Board members for local school districts
- Local ballot issues

FINAL WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Catholics: Be salt, light, and leaven through your vote.

The Church cannot and will not tell you **WHO** to vote for.

Ultimately, those decisions are to be made after forming one's conscience based on the teachings of the Church and prayerful reflection of candidate positions.

Any claim that Catholics "must" vote for this candidate or that candidate is merely a personal opinion rather than what the Church and the bishops teach the faithful about voting.

Voting as a faithful citizen includes prayer, research, and discernment. It is a thoughtful rather than a reflexive approach.

Remember: All believers are called to be salt, light, and leaven in the world, particularly when they allow the truths of the Catholic faith to form their voting decisions.

In closing, to slightly paraphrase the spiritual motto of St. Padre Pio:

Pray, Vote, & Don't Worry!

FOR MORE

A digital version of this focus, along with additional election-related materials, can be found by scanning the QR code or by visiting micatholic.org/election2026.



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