

Pastoral Director: Nancy Woodcock
Sacramental Minister: March 2 & 3 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

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- Mar. 2, 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Lent
SM – 4:00 p.m. – Members of SM/SJB Parishes

SUNDAY- Mar. 3, 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Lent
SJB – 9:00 a.m. – Earl Heppard by Dave & Nancy Speckin;
Doug Campbell by Dave & Nancy Speckin; **Pauline Cusack (25th Anniv.)** by Chuck & Connie Malek; **"Bub" Charles Smith** by Carol Smith; **Ida Ricci** by Agnes Cusack; **Evan Kramer (21st Anniv.)** by Tom & Sally Strachan; **Stan Cusack** by Sharon Jegla

SUNDAY – Mar. 3, 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Lent
SM – 11:00 a.m. – Alice McCrackin by Sharon Schafer & Family

TUESDAY– Mar. 5, 2024 – 11:30 a.m.
SJB–Stations of the Cross w/ Mass
People of St. John the Baptist/St. Mary Parishes

FRIDAY – Mar. 8, 2024 – 11:30 a.m.
SM – Stations of the Cross w/Mass
Alice McCrackin by Joe Crist Family

SATURDAY – Mar. 9, 2024 – 4th Sunday of Lent
SM – 4:00 p.m. –Dave Meinke by Dan & Lynn Schneider

SUNDAY – Mar. 10, 2024 – 4th Sunday of Lent
SJB – 9:00 a.m. – Terry Burns by Joe & Penny Peiffer;
Darrell Dalton by Doug & Nancy Cusack; **Stanley Cusack** by Jeff Malek; **Clayton & Phyllis; Campbell & Junior Campbell** by Pat Campbell & Family

SUNDAY- Mar. 10, 2024 – 4th Sunday of Lent
SM – 11:00 a.m. – Alice McCrackin by Eileen McKenna

Money Counters for March: Patty Campbell & Penny Huhn
Sacramental Minister: March 9 & 10 Fr. Len Sudlik

March 9, 2024 – Sat. 4:00 p.m.SM

Lector: Annette Jones
Ushers: Team 21
Greeters: Holly & Craig Keiffer
Min.of Euch. Janet Kelly, Cheryl Miller, Volunteer
Altar Servers: Volunteers
Musician: Connie

March 10, 2024 – Sun. 9:00 a.m. SJB

Lector: Perry McCrackin
Ushers: Team 12
Greeters: Tom & Stephanie Dailey
Min. of Euch. Marvin & Diane Schafer, Volunteer
Altar Servers: Volunteers
Musician: Mike & Choir

March 10, 2024 – Sun. 11:00 a.m. SM

Lector: Kim Brown
Ushers: Team 21
Greeters: Jerry & Linda Tasker
Min. of Euch.: Eddie Trevino, Angie Kwiatkowski, Volunteer
Altar Servers: Claire & Ryne Bahm
Musician: 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.

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

PRAY FOR CANCER PATIENTS!

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	Mar. 2	Mass	4:00
SJB	Mar. 3	Mass	9:00
SM	Mar. 3	Mass – Live-Streamed	11:00
SM	Mar. 3	K-12 Religious Educ.	Noon
SJB	Mar. 5	Stations of the Cross w/MASS	11:30
SM	Mar. 8	Stations of the Cross w/MASS	11:30
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, 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 25, 2024

Adult Envelopes: (38) \$1,306.80
 Loose: 132.66
 Christian Service Tithe: 14.54
TOTAL: \$1,454.00

St. Mary Parish

February 24 & 25, 2024

Adult Envelopes: (35) \$2,355.00
 Sunday Loose: 220.00
TOTAL: \$2,676.00

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: Exodus 20:1-17

In the First Reading, God delivers His Ten Commandments.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

In the Second Reading, Paul explains to the Corinthians that the challenge the Gospel poses to Jews and Gentiles is also the power and wisdom of God to those who receive it.

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!

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS TO:

Mary Kapustka March 9

Janet Kelly March 11

Agnes McKenna will be 99 on Mar. 19

Katie Cashen March 20

Ann Fahey March 27

May you have a day filled with God's blessings and JOY

Let's Shower Agnes McKenna w/cards: Box 22

Carson City, MI 48811

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.

NOTES FROM NANCY:

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Lent. We are using the B readings for the 3, 4, & 5th Sundays of Lent. The Gospel recalls Jesus' reaction to the temple being used for selling items. Jesus cleanses the temple - we can cleanse our souls, hearts, and minds by utilizing the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent to ready our souls for the Eucharist which is God's dwelling place within us. **Take time to reflect...**

On the weekend of March 9 & 10, the **Second Collection** will be held for **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**. Please consider what you can give in this once-a-year collection that helps people throughout the world when tragedy hits & with regular programs that help people survive. **We cannot travel to places in need BUT we can give donations that help others to provide for the needs of many who are in dire need!** Envelopes are in the bulletins this weekend. **What can you give?**



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 14th from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

At St. Mary Parish – Carson City

For other locations of Reconciliation – contact GRdiocese.org/penance

Hubbardston American Legion will celebrate an all day St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Sunday, March 10th – Irish Dancers, a meal, lots of music & dancing. They will have breakfast on Sunday, March 17th. Come one, come all!

Carson City American Legion Post 380 will have an All You Can Eat Breakfast on Sunday, March 10th from 8:30-11:30 a.m. All are welcome!

ONLINE DIRECTIONS ARE:

Go to: 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: Logan M. McGahan

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, 24th Synod.**

The sessions will be held on:

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. **To register: Call Chris and Darla Vinton at 517-667-0433.**

Walking with Moms will have a workshop for parishes who have not yet kickstarted an initiative and parishes who already have a flourishing ministry to come together, share ideas, and collaborate. The Workshop will be held on Friday, March 15th from Noon-1:30 p.m. (Lunch & refreshments provided) at Cathedral Square. **Please call the parish office (989) 584-6044 if you are interested.**



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

March 3, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another." (1 Jn 4:11)

The way we love others testifies to God's presence in the world. Jesus cared for the needy, the poor, sinners, the sick, and those who were possessed. Like Christ, we must love in an authentic and merciful manner.

One way you can reveal Christ's love to others is through the annual **Catholic Relief Services Collection**. We will participate in this special collection next weekend, **March 9/10**.

By participating in this collection, you support Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Holy Father's Relief Fund, and four other agencies of the United States Bishops. These organizations aid victims of persecution and natural disasters, provide legal services to poor immigrants, and advocate for the powerless.

Since we are made in God's image, our vocation is to love. Please reflect upon how you can support the collection this year. To learn more about how your gift will change lives, please visit uscgb.org/catholic-relief. Thank you for your generous support of the Catholic Relief Services Collection!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David J. Walkowiak", with a small cross symbol to the left.

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids

**//ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISHES
404 N. DIVISION ST.
CARSON CITY, MI 48811**

March 2, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary/St. John the Baptist Parishes,

We are beginning the 2024 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA). You should have received a letter from Bishop David Walkowiak this week asking for your support of the Annual Catholic Services Appeal (CSA 24). There are envelopes in the pews if you did not receive them in the mail.

WE are part of the Diocese of Grand Rapids just as the diocese is part of the greater church which is based in Rome under the authority of Pope Francis.

Some examples of the areas that we access in the diocese are: Finance & Administration, Catechetical Ministry, Catholic Foundation of West MI, Protecting God's Children, Project Rachel, Prison Ministry, Hispanic Ministry, Marriage Preparation and Pre-Cana, Diocesan Tribunal, Communications (Faith Magazine and the TV Mass from the Cathedral), and Catholic Charities of West MI.

Each parish is assessed according to the actual Offertory Income of the previous year. The CSA Assessments are:

St. Mary Parish	\$32,701.00
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St. John the Baptist Parish	\$22,797.00
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Please note: Both parishes have Offertory Incomes within the bottom 10 parishes of the diocese. Meeting our Assessments is part of our viability.

What are the expectations? My expectation as your Pastoral Director is to ask that you participate in the best way that you can. If you are working, perhaps you can donate 1% of your income to CSA. If you are retired, plan on giving what you are comfortable giving. Please take time to pray and reflect on what you CAN give - If everyone prayerfully gave \$10.00/month MORE than last year we would meet our goals. This may be the first year that you give – please give SOMETHING! I plan on giving generously to BOTH parishes. Stewardship tells us that all that we have and all that we have been given comes to us from God.

Please call me if you have any questions (989)762-5320.

Joyfully,

Nancy

The positive power of penance

Children of all ages know that if we make a mess, we must clean it up and try not to do it again. Penance is a lot like that – it helps us clean up our sin and avoid repeats. Help children appreciate penance.

Self-denial. Suggest small sacrifices that are age appropriate - skipping a favorite TV show, foregoing an hour of video games, or passing on dessert. Then suggest that the discomfort can be offered to God as an apology for past wrongs.

Acts of kindness. Our sin affects others,

so helping others also helps us make up for our sins.

Assisting a neighbor, volunteering at church, or showing kindness to a friend, can be offered to God as penance.

"Do I have to?" When you ask your child to do something he doesn't have to do and may not enjoy, remind him that it can be offered as penance. Visiting elderly relatives, playing patiently with younger siblings, doing homework without reminders are sacrifices that can be offered as penance.



Scripture LESSON

Mark 9:2-10, Transformation, not restoration

Ancient Jews imagined that the Messiah would free Israel to be the kind of people it already was with the religion and structure it already had. After all, God had set Moses aside as the lawgiver and liberator, and Elijah was the first great prophet to foretell the coming of Christ. The Messiah was predicted to be a kind of repairman to restore it all.

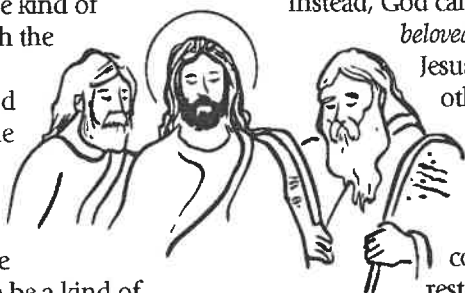
So, when Jesus was transfigured with Moses and Elijah, the apostles figured God was revealing Him as the expected Messiah. Peter thought he was complimenting Jesus by offering to build tents for each of them, putting Jesus on

the same level as Moses and Elijah.

Instead, God called Jesus, "my beloved Son," exalting Jesus above every other human hero.

What can a parent do? Jesus' apostles thought He had come simply to restore Israel, but

Jesus came to transform us and give us new life. The Transfiguration was to prepare Jesus' followers for a surprising truth: He would accomplish this victory by dying on the Cross and rising from the dead, thus conquering death itself.



Feasts & Celebrations

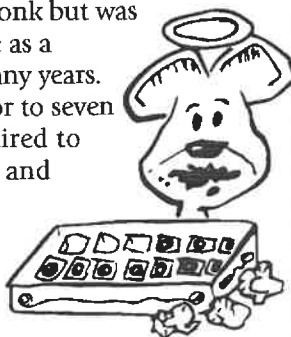
February 2 – The Presentation of the Lord. In accordance with the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple forty days after His birth, and Simeon praised God for revealing the long-awaited Savior.

February 2 – St. Catherine of Ricci (1590). Against her father's wishes, St. Catherine gave up her wealthy life and joined the Dominicans when she was twelve. She received visions of the Lord's Passion, which she experienced every Friday.

February 14 – Ash Wednesday. The

first day of Lent. Ashes of old palms are placed on the forehead, as a sign of penance. It's also a day of abstinence from meat and fasting – one regular meal and two small meals that together don't equal a full meal.

February 21 – St. Peter Damian (1072). St. Peter Damian became a disciplined monk but was called to serve as a bishop for many years. He was advisor to seven popes. He retired to monastic life and died in the care of his brother monks.



Parent TALK

I had stopped praying. My father had a heart attack last summer and I was helping Mom care for him while working and caring for my own family. Then my father-in-law was diagnosed with lung cancer and needed care. Finally, Ken lost his job for the second time in three years and we had used up our savings the first time. Obviously God wasn't listening.

A few nights later I overheard our ten-year old saying her prayers asking God for help. She ended with, "Thanks for listening. Amen." Then she went to sleep. Standing outside her room, I realized Kara didn't tell God what to do. She asked for help, trusted that it would come, and left it to God.

I prayed for the first time in weeks and ended with, "Thanks for listening. Amen." I realized God is always listening. I was the one who had stopped talking.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
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(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>
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