

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



17784 State Route 676 (Churchtown)
Marietta, Ohio 45750-6530
Founded 1841—Completed 1867
*A parish of the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Steubenville*

Phone 740-896-3566
Fax 740-896-3567
Parish Sr. Center 740-896-3610
Email: stjohnchurchtown@yahoo.com
webpage: www.stjohnchurchtown.com

Fr. David Gaydosik, Pastor
Cell number 740-391-1093
Fr. Walter E Heinz, retired
Fr. Dale Tornes, retired

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 29, 2026



Good News!

The adoring crowds, chanting “Hosanna to the Son of David” (Matthew 21:9), capture our attention on this Palm Sunday. We hear the crowds, and we rejoice with them. Sometimes, we forget that not everyone in the crowd is joyful. Some are challenged; some are threatened. For them, Jesus is not Good News; he is not the long-awaited one—he is something entirely different, and he must be silenced.

Our Sunday celebration begins with jubilant crowds and ends with a most cruel death. Those who were once joyful are now silent and dispersed. It appears that the authorities have once again triumphed. Hope is dashed. The promise remains unfulfilled.

Spiritually sit with desolation in the week that comes. Do not jump ahead to the triumphant end of the story. It is true that we are an Easter people, but we must also pay attention to the details of how evil often attempts to silence the good. It is important, as people of faith, to remind ourselves that even when all things seem to be lost, the Father has the last word. His will is accomplished. He is the Creator and the author of the story. We should always prepare ourselves to be surprised. To embrace light instead of darkness. And, even when there is death all around us, to know that there will be life—life in abundance for all.

Matrimony: Engaged couples, should contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance of the intended wedding, for Pre-marriage interview. Pre-marriage formation (Pre-Cana) is required to prepare for this serious, lifelong commitment.

Baptism: call the Parish Office to schedule a Baptism 740-896-3566.

The Homebound/Nursing Home/Hospitalized: Please call the parish office. Due to HIPPA laws we may not be otherwise notified.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated upon request. Call the Parish Office.

Prayer line: Offering our prayerful support for your intentions. Mary Brooker 740-896-2002 or Mrs. Elaine Wells 740-896-3112.

Reconciliation: Opportunities to celebrate God’s forgiveness in one’s life are available on Saturday from 5:00-5:45 p.m., Sunday 6:45am to 7:15am and 10:00am to 10:45am. Individual appointment by calling parish office.

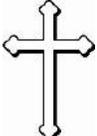
Bulletin Information: Please have all bulletin information to the Rectory no later than Wednesday at 6 p.m.

MASS INTENTION SCHEDULE

Saturday	OLM	03/28	4:00	p.m.	+Bernard and Dorothy Huck (Nancy Huck)	
	SJB	03/28	6:00	p.m.	+Lawrence and +Margaret Schaad (Janet Schaad and Family)	
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion						
Sunday	SJB	03/29	7:30	a.m.	+Vincent Lang (Anniversary 3/28) (Bob and Peggy Byers)	
	OLM	03/29	9:30	a.m.	+Daniel Strahler (Ken and Jan Long)	
	SJB	03/29	11:00	a.m.	+Robert Heiss (Russ Kern and Family)	
Monday	SJB	03/30	8:00	a.m.	No Morning Mass Today	Chrism Mass at the Basilica 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday	SJB	03/31	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today	
	OLM	03/31	5:00	p.m.	TBA	(Confessions after mass until 6:30 p.m.)
Wednesday	SJB	04/01	8:30	a.m.	+Kevin Arnold (Anniv.) (Family)	School Mass
	SJB	04/01	7:00	p.m.	Confessions at St. Johns 7-8:00 p.m.	
Thursday	SJB	04/02	7:00	p.m.	+Patricia Gaydosik (Todd and Kathryn Arnold)	Holy Thursday
	OLM	04/02	6:00	p.m.	+Robert Gaydosik (Ed Schilling)	
Friday	OLM	04/03	12:00	p.m.	Stations of the Cross	
	SJB	04/03	3:00	p.m.	Stations of the Cross	
	OLM	04/03	6:00	p.m.	Good Friday - Passion of the Lord	
	SJB	04/03	7:00	p.m.	Good Friday - Passion of the Lord	
Saturday	SJB	04/04	8:30	p.m.	+Vincent Lang (Birthday) (Bob and Peggy Byers)	Holy Saturday
	OLM	04/04	8:30	p.m.	+Jerry Huck (4 yr. Annv. -04/03) (The Stalter Family)	
Sunday	SJB	04/05	7:30	a.m.	+James and +Maglena Arnold (Family)	Easter Sunday
	OLM	04/05	9:30	a.m.	+David Bauerbauch (Family)	
	SJB	04/05	10:00	a.m.	+Regis and +Mary Huck (Aaron Huck)	Easter Egg Hunt to follow Mass

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

<u>MASS</u>	<u>ALTER SERVERS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u>
Holy Thursday 7:00 p.m.	Coletyn and Alyssa Dyar, Abby Henke, Alaina Wells	Virginia Dyar	Melinda Treadway
Good Friday 7:00 p.m.	Grace Francis, Chase Arteaga	Hugh Arnold- Readings and Response, Gene Huck- Narrator, Zandra Francis- Voice	Arnold Huck
Easter Vigil 8:30 p.m.	Coletyn Dyar, Abby Henke, Eli, Will and Lola Eichmiller	Rachel Klinger Virginia Dyar	Jesse Henke
Easter Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Connor McCartney, Chase Arteaga	Hugh Arnold	Arnold Huck
Easter Sunday 10:00	Callen Pottmeyer, Brenlee Lang	Brynn Pottmeyer	Marilyn Zoller

<p align="center">COLLECTION</p> <p>Total Collection last weekend \$2,915</p> <p>Need to meet parish needs \$4,750</p> <p align="center">Thank you for your generosity!</p>	<p align="center">DPSC</p> <p>2026 Collected to date \$12,535</p> <p>2026 DPSC Goal \$36,584</p> <p align="center">This includes money sent directly to the Diocese. Thank you for your contributions!</p>	 <p>Please pray for all of the men and women who are currently serving our country in the military. May God watch over them and keep them safe.</p>
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READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND	Acts 10:34a, 37-43 / Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 / John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10
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WELCOME BACK FR. HEINZ

Our snowbird has flown back home. We welcome Fr. Heinz back to Churchtown!

SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING

The Sr. Citizens will meet at the Sr. Center on Thursday, April 2 at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars now as Vacation Bible School is happening June 28 through July 2! Maria and Maggie Huffman have once again agreed to head this up. The theme this year is "Rainforest Falls, Exploring the nature of God". There will be fun, faith, and unforgettable memories for kids of all ages. More information will be available at a later date.



CWC OFFICERS AND GROUP CAPTAINS

It is that time of year for new officers and group captains. If you are interested in holding one of these positions, please call Marilyn Zoller at 740-350-8141. All ladies of the parish are CWC members. We would love to have your help.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL SMITTY'S PIZZA FUNDRAISER

St. John School Smitty's Pizza fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, April 7 from 4-9:00 p.m. A portion from each pizza or sub will support the St. John Home and School Foundation. You can call Smitty's in Marietta, Reno, Barlow, Belpre or Lowell.

ANNUAL FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE

St John Central School-Second Annual Father/Daughter Dance: Boots and Bows-Tickets cost \$10 per couple, \$15 per family. The dance will be held on Friday April 17, 6:30-8:00 pm. Please send form and money to the school by April 10. Reach out to Kourtney Thieman with any questions-740-525-6503.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS FOR MARIETTA HOSPICE, AN AMEDISYS PARTNER

Hospice Volunteers for Marietta Hospice, an Amedisys Partner: Do you have a passion for caring for others and are looking for a way to make a difference in people's lives, consider becoming a hospice volunteer. Our volunteers are an important part of our hospice care team, helping improve the quality of life for our patients, their families and their caregivers. Our Mission is for our hospice team to give patients who are facing a life-limiting illness the freedom to live ALL the days of their lives to the fullest, by offering comfort, dignity, and quality of life.

Volunteer Opportunities Include: • Administrative - Support hospice office operations. • Bereavement - Support family members who have lost a loved one. • Direct Patient Care - Visit and support patients one-on-one, caregiver relief, or be a Pen Pal. • Professional - Share a special skillset or credential you have with patients and families

Currently seeking volunteers to assist in our "memory bear" program, or any other special skillset one has. This can include making winter hats, scarves, small blankets, etc. If you are interested or have any questions, please reach out to Kourtney Thieman, Director of Operations for Amedisys Hospice-740-525-6503. Thank you!!



Thursday, April 2

Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper

Our Lady of Mercy Lowell 6:00 pm

St. John the Baptist Churchtown 7:00 pm

Adoration of the Eucharist until 10:00 pm in each parish

Friday, April 3

Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord

Our Lady of Mercy 12:00 pm Way of the Cross

6:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

St. John the Baptist Churchtown

3:00 pm Way of the Cross

7:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, April 4

Easter Vigil

Our Lady of Mercy Lowell 8:30pm

St. John the Baptist Churchtown 8:30 pm

Easter Sunday April 5

The Resurrection of the Lord

St. John the Baptist 7:30am and 10:00 am

Our Lady of Mercy 9:30am

**My God, my God, why have
You forsaken Me?**

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Confirmation will be held on
April 12 at 2:00 p.m.
First Communion will be held April 26
during the 11:00 a.m. Mass.



THE ANNUAL KOFC 4617 EASTER EGG HUNT

The Annual K of C 4617 Easter Egg Hunts will be held on Easter Sunday, April 5th, for children 0-12 years old, at the following times: St. John: after 10:00 a.m. mass @ St. John School; St. Bernard: after 9:30 a.m. mass @ Church; Our Lady of Mercy: after 9:30 mass @ Church. All K of C members are asked to donate 1 or 2 dozen filled plastic eggs. They can be put in the back of the church. For information or questions, contact Tanner Pottmeyer at 740-516-4749.





New Parishioners

Welcome!

You can register by calling our Parish Office.

Prayer Network:

Call Mary Brooker 740-896-2002 Elaine Wells 740-896-3112 to place a prayer request on the prayer line or to join in the prayers for those in need.

Becoming Catholic (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

For those interested in becoming Catholic, contact the parish office.

Care for the Sick or Homebound:

Call the Parish Office or Marilyn Kern to set up Communion visits or to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

Pastoral Musicians

Valerie Strahler, Crystal Lang

PSR Coordinator

Amanda Warner

Pastoral Council

Chairperson Maria Huffman

Parish Finance Council

Chairperson Russ Lang, Casey Lang, Rachel Schott, Jeff Canterbury, Pam Brooker

Cemetery Association

Andy Miller, Kevin Brooker, Dean Hart, Howard Brooker

Senior Citizens of Churchtown

President Marilyn Kern

Club of Catholic Women

President Marilyn Zollar

St. John Central School

(740) 896-2697

Mrs. Becky Hilverding
Principal

Knights of Columbus

Council 4617

Grand Knight Tanner
Pottmeyer

St. John School Foundation

Gary Arnold, President

Diocesan Catholic Charities & Information Referral Line:

1-800-339-7890

DPSC 2026. The DPSC is more than just a campaign—it is the lifeblood of our diocese ministries and programs. Your generosity helps to fund those critical ministries, forming the next generation of Catholics, and supporting our seminarians studying for the priesthood. It also provides care for our retired priests, administrative support to our Catholic schools. It provides funding for our outreach to the poor, for marriage and family ministries and efforts to promote a culture of life. *Regardless of what the Vatican decides about the future of our diocese, the work of the Church—including our parishes, schools, and other ministries—must continue. All funds received through the DPSC are donor restricted and will remain in the Diocese of Steubenville.*

Priestly ordination of Deacon Ryan Budd and Deacon Peter Stetson will be Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 11am in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta. Please pray for these young men, who offer their lives in service.

Pray for the living and deceased priests of the Diocese of Steubenville,

April 4, Fr. Richard Tuttle, Fr. Aloysius Berendt
April 5, Bishop Edward Lohse, + Bishop Gilbert Sheldon

April 6, Fr. Anthony Batt, + Fr. Hermon Tague
April 7, Fr. Wayne Morris, + Fr. Paul Walker
April 8, Fr. John (Jack) McCoy, + Bishop John King
Mussio April 9, Fr. Victor Cinson, + Fr. Chester Szymanski
April 10, Msgr. Anthony Giannamore, + Edwin Murphy
April 11, Fr. Michael Gossett, + Fr. Louis Mandery
April 12, Fr. Chester Pabin, + Msgr. Henry Grigsby

Pray for our seminarians (the future of our Diocese).

Deacon Peter Stetson— Blessed Sacrament Parish, 825 Main Street, Wintersville, Ohio 43953
Deacon Ryan Budd and Caleb Baker— Christ the Light Parish, 701 Gumber Ave., Cambridge, Ohio 43725
Christopher McGurn and Samuel Ivkovich;— St. Vincent Seminary. 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, Pa. 15650

John Paul Gan, Maximilian Gan, Johnathan Ruscoe, Rily Morris, Arron Pabin, and William Gugala.— Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High Street, Columbus Ohio 43235-1499

Diocese of Steubenville Vocations:

Father Nicholas Ginnetti, Director of Vocations (740) 432-7609 or nginnetti@diosteub.org. X: @dsvocations director of vocations, by emailing nginnetti@diosteub.org.

MARY'S HOUSE BAKED STEAK BENEFIT DINNER

A Baked Steak Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 18, 4:30-7:00 p.m. at the St. Bernard's Social Hall. Cost is \$15 and all proceeds benefit Mary's House.

What is a Plenary Indulgence?: All sin damages our relationship with God. When we go to Confession our sins are forgiven, but there is still the temporal punishment associated with sin. The Church offers us the plenary indulgence to wipe away all of that temporal punishment. Four things are necessary to receive the indulgence:

1. Go to Confession.
2. Receive Communion.
3. Pray three Our Fathers for the Pope's intentions.

That fourth thing can be a variety of things, such as saying a rosary out loud in the church, doing Stations of the Cross in the church, or doing a holy hour in the church. You need to do all four of these things within a two week time span. You can apply the indulgence to yourself or someone who has died.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Registration for St. John Central, in Churchtown is now open for the 2026-2027 school year in grade Pre-Kindergarten through 6. Please call the school office (740-896-2697) to register. Financial aid is available through the Ed Choice Scholarship. We are happy to announce that we now have financial aid for Pre-Kindergarten available through the Christ the Teacher Diocesan Scholarship Fund. These funds are limited and are based on the donations the diocese receives through the Ohio tax credits. Any family who does not receive the full Ed Choice Scholarship or who has a child entering Pre-Kindergarten can complete the application forms for this CTDSF scholarship. Please call the school office for information concerning all of the financial aid options.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

This collection helps Christians in the Holy Land. It is through this collection you stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as a witness of peace. Please be generous!

JOHN & BLANCHE MUSSIO SCHOLARSHIP

There are two college scholarships applications available for 2026 Graduating High School Seniors. Awards under this program are for the first year of college work at any Catholic College or University. The applicants must reside within the Diocese of Steubenville, a participating member of a Roman Catholic Parish, and meet the enrollment standards of the College/University they are planning to attend. The deadline for turn in is April 17th.

Cemetery Meeting Notes 3/17/2026

Account Balances Checking \$53,785.63 Investment \$169,775 Total \$223,560.63

Period: 9/4/18-3/16/26

Portfolio Performance

	Selected Period(\$)	Last Qtr(\$)	YTD(\$)	Last Year(\$)	Since Start Date(\$)
	9/4/18 - 3/16/26	Q4,25	3/16/26	2025	9/4/18
Beginning Value	0	165,965	168,931	152,708	0
Net Contributions	120,000	0	0	0	120,000
Change in Value	49,775	2,966	845	16,222	49,775
Ending Value	169,775	168,931	169,775	168,931	169,775
Investment Return	5.08%	1.79%	0.50%	10.62%	5.08%

Moving \$30,000 from checking account to investment account.

Mowing 2026 Stays the same as last year.

Grave Locator

The grave locator needs to be updated. It is now required by the state to include grave location on the death certificate. Kenny Pottmeyer and others are working on this. Once complete, it needs updated on the website.

Columbarium

The 24-niche single sided columbarium was installed in October. Kirby Monuments will engrave plates as needed. Cost is around \$300 for engraving to be handled by family. Only names and dates are on plates. When a niche is used for two people, urns will need to be sized to fit. Cost same as plot. Start bottom left niche and work to the right? Kirby Monuments will engrave the top face if we let them know what we want to put on it.

Membership

Anyone who has membership (plot and maintenance fee) paid by 10/01/2025, opening and closing of the grave will be included. Anyone paying after the 10/01/2025 date, opening and closing of the grave will need to be paid at the time of service. **This needs to be updated in the By Laws.**

Opening and Closing Graves \$600 full casket burial \$300 cremation burial

Blake Tornes and Todd Schott have been opening and closing graves.

Headstone

Several headstones have shifted, and one has recently fallen. Families are responsible for maintenance of the headstones. If no family is available to do so, then we need to take care of it as we see need. We will get a list updated as to which one need attention and try to contact family. If anyone sees one of their family members' headstones needing attention, please look into straightening them.

Sidewalk & Concrete Drive

We need to look at a sidewalk in front of the columbarium. Also need to start looking at expanding the concrete drive as the cemetery grows. Possibly adding another drive. This will be a future project but would like to get some ideas of what is needed.

Services All services at the cemetery will be held at concrete pad in cemetery. (Add this to By Laws.)

Next Meeting 7/28/2026 6:30