

# 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](mailto:stjohnchurchtown@yahoo.com)  
webpage: [www.stjohnchurchtown.com](http://www.stjohnchurchtown.com)

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

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME February 15, 2026

BUT LET YOUR  
'YES' MEAN 'YES, AND  
YOUR 'NO' MEAN 'NO'.  
ANYTHING MORE THAN  
THIS IS FROM THE EVIL  
ONE.

MATTHEW 5:37

### Good News!

By: FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

“Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No’” (Matthew 5:37). This teaching of Jesus seems to get lost, perhaps because it comes at the end of a long listing of commandments. Regardless, it seems to get right to the point, almost making the other commandments unnecessary or perhaps clarifying them. Either you are going to be a child of your heavenly Father and live like one, or you are not. If you are a child of God, you would not contemplate any evil behaviors, let alone actually do them.

That is the clarity of the teaching of Jesus. It is authentic. It is compelling. It invites a response. Yet, there are those who were present with him who did not understand. Who missed the point. Who insisted on another way. Who could not discern the simplicity of the truth. To each of these men and women, including some with the religious title of scribe or Pharisee, he observed, “And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be” (Matthew 6:23). Even sadder is that not only did they miss the point, they also simply walked away.

Do you want to say more than a simple “Yes” or “No”? Do you want to say, “Yes, but... I can’t do it now.” Or “I can’t forgive this particular person.” Or “I can’t welcome this particular stranger.” Or “I can’t love him or her or them.”

Have you also missed the point? Do you also want to walk away?

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**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.

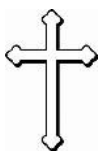

**The Homebound/Nursing Home/Hospitalized:** Please call the parish office. Due to HIPPA laws we may not be otherwise notified.

**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.

## MASS INTENTION SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday</b>	OLM	02/14	4:00	p.m.	+Minnie Smith (02/15) (1yr. Ann.) (Smith Family)
	SJB	02/14	6:00	p.m.	<b>+Annette Bonar (Richard and Brenda Arnold Family)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	SJB	02/15	7:30	a.m.	<b>+Emmett Brooker (Anniv. 2/19) (Mary Brooker and Family)</b>
	OLM	02/15	9:30	a.m.	+L & D members of Joe & Ida Huck Family (Family)
	SJB	02/15	11:00	a.m.	<b>+Gary Smith (Donna Tornes and Family)</b>
<b>Monday</b>	SJB	02/16	8:00	a.m.	<b>No Morning Mass today...Funeral for Bill O'Linn at 11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	SJB	02/17	8:00	a.m.	<b>No Mass Today</b>
	OLM	02/17	5:00	p.m.	+Barbara McCarty (OLM CWC)
<b><u>ASH WEDNESDAY</u></b>					
<b>Wednesday</b>	SJB	02/18	8:30	a.m.	<b>+Jay Pottmeyer (Bday 2/19) (Marilyn Pottmeyer and Family) School Mass</b>
	SJB	02/18	12:00	p.m.	<b>+Edith Brooker (Jeff and Lorinda Lang)</b>
	OLM	02/18	6:00	p.m.	+Francis and +Hilda Peters (Marilyn and Heather Peters)
	SJB	02/18	8:00	p.m.	<b>+Larry Schaad (Lewis and Patty Lang)</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	SJB	02/18	8:00	a.m.	<b>No Mass Today</b>
	OLM	02/19	5:00	p.m.	Emily Huck (Lisa Berendts)
<b>Friday</b>	SJB	02/20	6:00	p.m.	<b>+Patricia Gaydosik (Todd and Kathryn Arnold Family)</b> <b>Stations of the Cross to follow Mass</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	OLM	02/21	4:00	p.m.	Living and Deceased of +Leo and +Lucy Huck (Family)
	SJB	02/21	6:00	p.m.	<b>Living and Deceased of +Leo and +Lucy Huck (Family)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	SJB	02/22	7:30	a.m.	<b>+Dave Pottmeyer (Birthday) (Eric and Marilyn Pottmeyer)</b>
	OLM	02/22	9:30	a.m.	+Darren Cheesman (Madee Brewer)
	SJB	02/22	11:00	a.m.	<b>+Tony Tornes (Donna Tornes and Family)</b>
<b><u>LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND</u></b>					
<b><u>MASS</u></b>	<b><u>ALTER SERVERS</u></b>		<b><u>LECTOR</u></b>		<b><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u></b>
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Morgan and Baylee Warner		Eugene Huck		Jessica Henke
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Connor McCartney, Keegan Pottmeyer		Kelly Miller		Connie Arnold
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Brenlee Lang, Hadleigh Pennock		Ashleigh Pennock		Lori Hart
<b><u>COLLECTION</u></b>		<b><u>DPSC</u></b>		 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.	
Total Collection last weekend	\$5,417	2026 Collected to date	\$6,695		
Need to meet parish needs	\$4,750	2026 DPSC Goal	TBD		
Thank you for your generosity!		This includes money sent directly to the Diocese. Thank you for your contributions!			
		<b><u>UPCOMING EVENTS</u></b>			
		February 18	Ash Wednesday		
		February 20	Mass and Stations of the Cross 6:00 p.m. School Stations of the Cross 8:20 a.m.		
		February 22	CWC Breakfast & Bakesale 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.		
		February 27	Our Lady of Mercy Fish Fry		
		March 5	Senior Citizens Meeting		
		March 7	Pre Cana at St. Mary's Church in Marietta		
		March 9	CWC Meeting		
		<b><u>READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND</u></b>			
		<b>Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 / Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19 / Matthew 4:1-11</b>			
		Please have all bulletin information to the Rectory by Monday at 6 p.m.			

### **CONDOLENCES**

Please keep in your prayers William O'Linn and Kenny Britton who passed away recently. We extend our sincere condolences to their families and friends. May the Lord welcome Bill and Kenny into his Heavenly home.

### **CHURCH PROPERTY AND CEMETERY MOWING BIDS**

Bids for mowing, trimming, and weeding landscaping on all of the church properties are now being accepted. Please have bids to Fr. Gaydosik by March 2. Call Fr. Gaydosik for more information 740-896-3566.

### **K OF C 2026 MOWING BIDS**

K of C 2026 mowing bids are being accepted now through March 2. Bids should include weed eating, mowing horseshoe pits, mowing stretch of grass between gravel parking lot and SR 676, and pulling weeds from landscaping. Any further questions, call Derek Kern 740-516-7219.

### **SICK & SHUT-INS OF THE PARISH**

Please call Father Gaydosik at 740-391-1093 or the Parish Office at 740-896-3566, when someone is homebound, sick, or hospitalized.

### **COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND**

If you or someone you know cannot attend mass due to being confined to home and would like to receive communion, please contact the Rectory 740-896-3566.

### **ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES**

The Lowell Churches Ecumenical soup dinner and Lenten services this year are as follows. The soup dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and the service will begin at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

February 18 - Lowell United Methodist Church

February 24 - Our Lady of Mercy Church

March 3 - Highland Ridge Community Church

March 10 - St. John Evangelical Church

March 17 - Lowell United Methodist Church

March 24 - Highland Ridge Community Church



Ash Wednesday will be held on February 18. Masses at St. John's will be held at 8:30 a.m. (School Mass), Noon, and 8:00 p.m. Volunteer liturgical ministers will be needed for the 8:00 p.m. Mass. Mass at Our Lady of Mercy will be at 6:00 p.m.

### **MASS AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Mass and Stations of the Cross will be held at St. John the Baptist every Friday during Lent at 6:00 p.m. Mass and Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Mercy will be held every Thursday at 5:00 p.m. during Lent.

### **LENTEN REGULATIONS**

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence (no meat). The law of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years and older. The law of fasting binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence.

### **OUR LADY OF MERCY LENTEN FISH FRIES**

Our Lady of Mercy Church Lenten Fish Fries will be held from 4:30 - 7:30 pm on February 27, March 13, and March 27. Cost for the meal is Adults \$13.00 and Children 12 & under \$6.00. To Go Drive Through Meals are \$13.00- No need to call ahead. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **K OF C SCHOLARSHIP**

Knights of Columbus Council #4617 is happy to announce that our 2026 Scholarship Application is now open! Any senior who is currently attending a local high school may apply for the Knights of Columbus Council #4617 Scholarship. One boy and one girl will be selected from this area. The scholarship recipients will receive a \$500.00 check. The application must be submitted by the end of the day on March 14, 2026. Please apply at the link below: <https://forms.gle/9dEuaKinPDh8oSX27>. Tanner Pottmeyer, Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus 4617.

### **PRE-CANA**

A Pre-Canan Session has been scheduled for Saturday, March 7th, at the Basilica in Marietta. Couples planning to be married any time this year should register for this class by calling the parish office, 740-373-3643. Pre-Canan is a requirement for marriage in the Diocese of Steubenville.



### **EMPTY BOWLS OF THE MOV**

To help combat hunger in the local community, Empty Bowls of the MOV will host its luncheon on Sat., Feb. 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 304 W. Fifth St., Williamstown, WV. All ticket donations will benefit local food pantries. Guests will enjoy a meal of homemade soups, breads, cookies, and beverages. For a \$15 donation (\$10 for children and free for children under 5) attendees receive lunch along with a handcrafted bowl. Advance tickets are available through committee member Lori Smith at [las001@marietta.edu](mailto:las001@marietta.edu). Tickets will also be sold at the door.

### **ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS**

Please join the Ancient Order of Hibernians for an evening of music, food and fun with Steve and Bev Pottmeyer on March 7th from 6 to 8 pm at the Knights of Columbus #478, located at 312 Franklin St., Marietta. Come and enjoy BYOB along with J's Hotdog House food truck, and Waterford Crystal raffle. Admission will be \$10 ten dollars at the door. For more information contact Tom Binegar (740-706-3004).

### **BAG AND BASKET BINGO**

Mary's House will sponsor a Bag and Basket Bingo on February 22, 2026, at 2:00 pm (doors open at 1:00 pm) at the St Bernard Social Hall located at 309 7<sup>th</sup> St., Beverly, Ohio. 20 Games for \$25.00. Tickets sold at door only. 50/50 drawing, concession stand & raffle. For questions about these upcoming events call: 740-960-9944. Follow us at: [maryshouseoh.org](http://maryshouseoh.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/maryshousesoutheastern>.

### **SCHOOL STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

St. John School students will have Stations of the Cross on the following dates and times. Everyone is invited.

Feb. 20 8:20 a.m.	Mar. 13 10:31 a.m.
Feb. 27 8:57 a.m.	Mar. 20 8:20 a.m.
March 6 9:44 a.m.	Mar. 27 8:59 a.m.



#### **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 be-  
coming Catholic, contact the  
parish office.

#### **Care for the Sick or Home- bound:**

Call the Parish Office or Mari-  
lyn Kern to set up Commu-  
nion 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 Church- town**

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

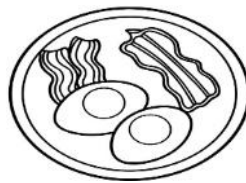
Grand Knight Tanner  
Pottmeyer

#### **St. John School Foundation**

Gary Arnold, President

#### **Diocesan Catholic Charities & Information Referral Line:**

1-800-339-7890



## **St. John's CWC Breakfast**

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

8 – 10 AM

K of C Hall ~ Churchtown

Eat-in or Drive-thru

Adults \$10 menu includes:

Biscuit & Sausage Gravy, Bacon, Eggs, Hash Browns and Drink

Children \$5 menu includes:

Pancakes, Bacon, Eggs, Drink

## **Country Store and Bake Sale Available**

#### *Country Store Donations Provided By:*

Hoppy Blades, Huck's Farm Market, Jeremiah's Coffee House, Anna Schaad (Norwax),  
Ferris & Susan Arnold, Jan & Billie Huck, Teresa Haught, Haley Carpenter, Marilyn Schilling,  
Lori Hart, Bob & Peggy Byers, Shannon Hopp, Pioneer Golf, Brooker Construction,  
Greenleaf Landscapes, Amy's Florist, Jukebox Pizza, Cornerstone Restaurant,  
Sponey's IGA, Stoked Coffee, Doughboyz Pizza, Frye Dental Group, Lisa's Sweet Stop,  
Riverbend Restaurant, B&W Pharmacy, Bosner Plumbing & Refrigeration,  
Frank & Judy Lang (Old Town Express Laundry), Kathy Schwendeman, Heather Casto

#### *Bake Sale Sponsored By:*

## **Churchtown Busy Bunch 4-H Club**

## FROM THE PASTOR

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

Feb. 14 Msgr. J. Michael Campbell, + Fr. Donal O'Carroll  
Feb. 15 Fr. Robert Borer, + Fr. J.J. Donaldson  
Feb. 16 Fr. Thomas Hamm, + Fr. Sam Sparano  
Feb. 17 Fr. David Cornett, + Fr. Virgil Reischman  
Feb. 18 Fr. Thomas Vennitti, + Fr. Thomas Magary  
Feb. 19 Fr. Fr. Mark Moore, + Fr. Jack Holmes  
Feb. 20 Msgr. Gene Mullett, + Fr. George Yontz  
Feb. 21 All Priests

**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 Gomber 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](mailto:nginnetti@diosteub.org). X: [@dsvocations](https://www.facebook.com/dsvocations)

A “**Come and See**” seminary live-in weekend will take place at the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio, from 4 p.m., March 20, until noon, March 22. Young men will get to “experience seminary firsthand” and will be able “attend classes, join in prayer,” and “enjoy community recreation.” For additional information about the “Come and See” seminary live-in weekend at the Pontifical College Josephinum, or if you are interested in discerning the priesthood, contact Father Nicholas V. Ginnetti, Diocese of Steubenville director of vocations, by emailing [nginnetti@diosteub.org](mailto:nginnetti@diosteub.org).

**Catholic Men's Day of Renewal 2026 - Conversion:**

A Lenten retreat for the men of the Dioceses of Steubenville will be held on Saturday, March 7th from 8:00am-3:00pm (doors open at 7:30am) at St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1036 Belford Street, Caldwell, Ohio. The 2026 Diocesan Men's Day of Renewal will focus on the lifelong call to conversion — our discovery of Jesus Christ, His Church, and the ongoing transformation of our hearts as we journey toward eternity. This year, men will hear the personal conversion testimonies of two Diocesan priests — Fr. Bradley Greer and Fr. Tim Shannon — who will offer practical guidance for spiritual growth and for living and sharing the Faith in our families, parishes, communities, and daily work. Register online at [athenscatholic.org/Steubenville-mens-day](https://athenscatholic.org/Steubenville-mens-day). Cost is \$25.00 per registration plus a \$3.00 online surcharge; lunch is included.

**Ancient Order of Hibernians** will sponsor an evening of music and dancing with Steve and Bev Pottmeyer and fiddler on Saturday, March 7th from 6 to 8pm at the K of C Hall in Marietta. Admission \$10 at door.

**Shroud Encounter.** The highly acclaimed Shroud Encounter will be coming to St. Stephen Church (Caldwell) on Sunday Feb. 22 at 7pm. Admission is free.

Could this ancient Jewish linen cloth be the ancient burial shroud of Jesus? Could the Shroud of Turin be a document of the crucifixion? This linen cloth etched with the faint image of a crucified image has mystified millions.

This presentation is a fast moving, big screen experience using over 200 images. The program will be presented by international expert and author Russ Breault. Mr. Breault has been featured in several national documentaries. As president and founder of Should of Torin Education Project Inc. with a simple mission statement: “*to advance the knowledge of the Shroud to a new generation.*”

**Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of the penitential season of Lent. Ash Wednesday, February 18th and Good Friday, April 3rd are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast that are limited to a single full meal. With regard to Good Friday, the teaching of the Second Vatican Council should be recalled: Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind. *Constitution on the Liturgy, No. 110.*

The **Law of Fasting** binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday. Fasting is going without food or subsisting on a reduced food intake. Only one full meal is eaten. Two other smaller meals may be eaten on those days to maintain energy, but together they should not equal another full meal, and no between-meal snacks.

The **Law of Abstinence** binds all Catholics 14 years or older. The other Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. Abstinence means not eating meat or fowl, but fish, eggs, and dairy are allowed.

With regard to the obligatory days listed above, there are frequent questions about the degree of seriousness of the matter. The teaching of the Holy Father may be simply paraphrased: The obligation to do penance is a serious one; the obligation to observe, as a whole or substantially, the penitential days specified by the Church is also serious. No one should be scrupulous in this regard; however, failure to observe an individual day of penance is not considered serious. People should seek to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed should be considered a minimum response to the Lord's call to penance and conversion.

None of these requirements apply, of course, if a person has a medical condition, special dietary needs, is very poor, must work at strenuous labor, or for some other good reason cannot participate in these practices.