

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

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Email: stjohnchurchtown@yahoo.com

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Fr. David Gaydosik, Pastor

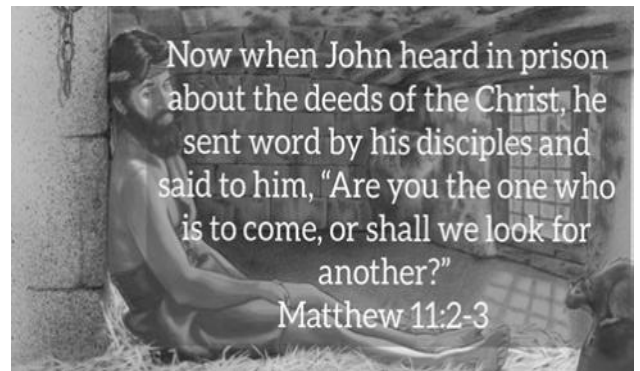
Cell number 740-391-1093

Fr. Walter E Heinz, retired

Fr. Dale Tornes, retired

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025



Good News!

By: FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod's prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn't it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, "Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand," or, to quote an unnamed saint, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith.

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.

MASS INTENTION SCHEDULE

Saturday	OLM	12/13	4:00	p.m.	+Deanna Lang (Raymond Lang and Kathy Reed)	
	SJB	12/13	6:00	p.m.	+Peggy Schaad (40th Anniv. 12/8) (Mike and Marilyn Schaad)	
Sunday	SJB	12/14	7:30	a.m.	+Harold Gebhart (Birthday 12/15) (Family)	
	OLM	12/14	9:30	a.m.	+Vi Tillius (Jason and Jennifer Morris)	
	SJB	12/14	11:00	a.m.	+Susan Brooker (Birthday 12/13) (Howard Brooker)	
Monday	SJB	12/15	8:30	a.m.	+Greg Schilling (Bernard and Marilyn Schilling)	
Tuesday	SJB	12/16	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today	
	OLM	12/16	5:00	p.m.	Information not available	
Wednesday	SJB	12/17	8:30	a.m.	+Susan Brooker (Anniv. 12/18) (Howard Brooker)	School Mass
Thursday	SJB	12/18	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today	
	OLM	12/18	5:00	p.m.	Information not available	
Friday	SJB	12/19	8:00	a.m.	+Eunice Walter (Charlotte Lang and Family)	
Saturday	OLM	12/20	4:00	p.m.	Information not available	
	SJB	12/20	6:00	p.m.	+Norbert Lang (Charlotte Lang and Family)	
Sunday	SJB	12/21	7:30	a.m.	+Earl and +Justine Tornes (Doug and Mary Parks)	
	OLM	12/21	9:30	a.m.	Information not available	
	SJB	12/21	11:00	a.m.	+Richard and +Bertha Pottmeyer (Pottmeyer Children)	

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

<u>MASS</u>	<u>ALTER SERVERS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u>
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Morgan and Baylee Warner	Eugene Huck	Jerry Dyar
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Eli, Lola and Will Eichmiller	Robin Eichmiller	Connie Arnold
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Hudson and Sydney Lang	Kristen Pottmeyer	Amanda Walters

COLLECTION

Total Collection last week \$4,699
Need to meet parish needs \$4,750

Thank you for your generosity!

DPSC

2025 Collected to date \$72,155
2025 DPSC Goal \$41,330

This includes money sent directly to the Diocese. Thank you for your contributions!



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.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

St. John the Baptist 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Mercy 4:00 pm

Christmas Day

St. John the Baptist 7:30 am

Our Lady of Mercy 9:00 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 15	St. John the Baptist Penance Service 7:00 p.m. (School Penance 1:00 p.m.)
December 16	Our Lady of Mercy Penance Service 7:00 p.m.
December 17	St. Mary's Marietta Penance Service 7:00 p.m.
December 18	St. Bernards Church Penance Service 7:00 p.m.
December 21	St. Ambrose Church Penance Service 7:00 p.m.
December 21	Children's Christmas Choir practice after 11 a.m. Mass
December 24	St. John Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.
	Our Lady of Mercy Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 p.m.
December 25	St. John Christmas Day Mass 7:30 a.m.; Our Lady of Mercy 9:00 a.m.
December 31	New Year's Eve Masses: St. John and Our Lady of Mercy 4:00 p.m.
January 1	New Year's Day Masses: St. John and Our Lady of Mercy 8:30 a.m.
January 2	First Friday: Adoration 5-6:00 p.m., Mass at 6:00 p.m.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Romans 1:1-7 / Matthew 1:18-24



Please have all bulletin information to the Rectory no later than 10:00 p.m. on Monday

CHRISTMAS CARDS

If you would like to send a Christmas card to Fr. Walter Heinz, Fr. Dale Tornes or Fr. David Gaydosik, their addresses are as follows: Fr. Walter Heinz, 5700 Bayshore Road, Lot 801, Palmetto, FL 34221; Fr. Dale Tornes, 279 Muskingum Drive, Apt. 302, Marietta, OH 45750; Fr. David Gaydosik, 17784 St. Rt. 676, Marietta, OH 45750.

CHURCH DONATIONS

Please have all donations you want included on this years church collection statement turned in to the Rectory no later than December 31. This year's DPSC will end on December 31 and any collections after that date will be put towards next years goal. We would like to give a big Thank You to everyone for your generosity!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to donate in memory of a loved one, please place your donation of \$10 in an envelope along with the name(s) of who you would like to remember and drop it in the collection basket. Please try to write the names so they are easily read and have your list in to the Rectory by December 15.

COLLECTION ENVELOPES 2026

Collection envelopes for 2026 are available in the church vestibule. In order to keep costs down, if you used an envelope this past year there will be a box with your name on it. If you do not have a box and would like one, please pick up a non-addressed box. We ask that everyone please write your name down on the first envelope used and note any address changes.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed December 22 through January 2. There will be a two week bulletin for the weekends of December 27-28 and January 3-4. Please have all bulletin information in to the Rectory by December 17.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

We will be working on the new Liturgical Ministers schedule for February through May, 2026 very soon. If you would like to serve as an Altar Server, Lector or Eucharistic Minister please email or call the Rectory. If you wish to be removed from the schedule, please email or call the Rectory. Thank you to everyone who serves our parish.

SNOW REMINDER

We are entering that time of year again when road conditions may not always be safe for travel. Please remember that if a Level 2 or 3 road emergency is issued by the Sheriff's Department, Masses will be cancelled for that day. When St. John School is closed due to weather, Mass and Adoration that day is cancelled. Our Parish office will also be closed. This policy is for both St. John the Baptist and Our Lady of Mercy. Masses scheduled for that day will be re-scheduled. Also, please keep in mind, if there is a funeral scheduled at St. John's, the morning mass for that day is cancelled and will be rescheduled.

ARE YOU REGISTERED?

Are you new to the Parish? Have you notified the Parish Offices of any changes in your address, phone number, etc.? If you are out of college and still living at home, you need to register as an adult member of St. John the Baptist. Please call the Parish Offices for any changes or to register. Your cooperation in helping us to keep our records up-to-date is greatly appreciated.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA, AVILA, LOYOLA AND LOURDES

You are invited to join Fr. Bradley Greer and Fr. Timothy Huffman, from the Diocese of Steubenville, on a pilgrimage to Fatima, Avila, Loyola and Lourdes. Highlights include the Eucharistic Miracle of Santarem, Shrines of Fatima and Lourdes, the Chapel of Conversion where St. Ignatius of Loyola had his conversion, the Convent of St Teresa of Avila and more! September 10-20, 2026. \$5346/per person based on double occupancy. Price includes round trip airfare from Pittsburgh. For more information, please visit www.QoHTours.com or call us at 1-800-213-4295.

MARCH OF LIFE

The March for Life continues to be the largest prolife rally in the world. It's an opportunity to give public testimony to the value of every human life, and to be inspired by the dedication of the tens of thousands of people who participate. The March For Life will take place in Washington, DC, on Friday, January 23, 2026. To learn, more visit www.marchforlife.org.



(All Penance Services will be held at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

December 15	1:00 p.m. St. John School
	7:00 p.m. St. John the Baptist Church
December 16	7:00 p.m. Our Lady of Mercy Church
December 17	7:00 p.m. Basilica of St. Mary Church
December 18	7:00 p.m. St. Bernard Church
December 21	7:00 p.m. St. Ambrose Church

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

I CONFESS TO ALMIGHTY GOD

§ Do I sincerely want to be set free from sin and turn again to God? § Do I seek a deeper relationship with God in this sacrament of reconciliation?

AND TO YOU, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

§ Do I have a genuine love for my family and friends, neighbors and co-workers, or fellow students? § Have I contributed to the wellbeing and happiness of others at home? § Am I aware of my global relationship to those suffering and dying in other parts of the world? § Am I committed to seek peace and promote justice for every person?

THAT I HAVE GREATLY SINNED

§ Do I blame others for my wrongdoing or for the misfortune that befalls me? § Do I accept responsibility for the commitments I have made to others – my spouse? my parents? my children? my parish? § Do I accept that society's evils are within my power to change?

IN MY THOUGHT AND IN MY WORDS

§ Have ever harbored ill thoughts against another person? § Have my addictions affected my judgment or behavior? § Have my fears or prejudices prevented me from speaking out on behalf of the poor, the unborn, or people of other races? § Have my words caused others hurt? Has my silence caused others harm?

IN WHAT I HAVE DONE

§ Do I seek to be the center of attention? Have I imposed my will on others without respecting their needs or freedoms? § Am I focused on my needs to the detriment of the needs of others? § Am I obsessed with having the perfect body, making more money, or having the latest technology? § Do I need to be in control of all people and all situations? § Do I work more than is healthy for my mind or body?

AND IN WHAT I HAVE FAILED TO DO

§ Have I neglected by responsibilities to my family? § Have I neglected my health? § Have I neglected my prayer life? § Do I use the earth's resources wisely?

THROUGH MY FAULT, THROUGH MY FAULT, THROUGH MY MOST GREIVIOUS FAULT

§ Do I recognize my own sins? § Does my ego or my self-righteousness prevent me from seeing my own errors? § Do I blame broken relationships on others?

THEREFORE, I ASK BLESSED MARY, EVER-VIRGIN AND ALL THE ANGELS AND SAINTS

§ Do I appreciate the great gift of the Eucharist? § Do I worship with my Community each Sunday? § Do I reflect often on what God is calling me to do?

AND YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

§ Am I so independent that I refuse to ask for help or let others assist me? § Do I support and defend other members of my family? § Do I give others the opportunity to share their gifts and talents? § Do I treat those who wait on me or who work with me with the dignity they deserve as fellow human beings?

TO PRAY FOR ME TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

§ Do I promise prayers for people and situations and not follow through? § Do I remember to pray for others in my parish, especially for those who are preparing to receive the sacraments? § Do I pray for the living and the dead?