

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

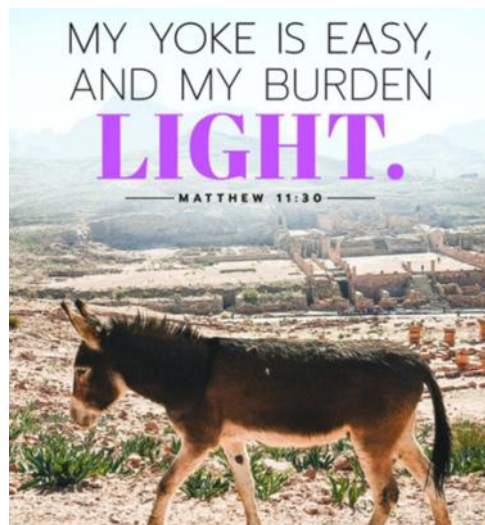


Founded 1841—Completed 1867
*A parish of the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Steubenville*

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

14TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
JULY 5, 2026



Good News!

By: ANN M. GARRIDO

The invention of the yoke 6,000 years ago marked one of the great advances in human history. The yoke—a wooden beam fitted across the neck—harnessed the energy of two cattle pulling in the same direction, hastening the tilling of soil and transport of goods.

It is easy to see why, among many ancient peoples, the yoke became a symbol of subjugation. When the Roman army won a battle, they forced defeated soldiers to walk beneath a “yoke” of spears to indicate they were now in a state of servitude. The prophet Jeremiah once walked through Jerusalem wearing a yoke to warn the people they were about to be conquered by Babylon.

In Judaism, however, the Torah was also sometimes referred to as a yoke. It was a law to be submitted to, but it also was a way of life that offered an alternative to the cruel “yokes” imposed by kings. The Book of Sirach encourages youth to “Take [Torah’s] yoke upon your neck; that your mind may receive her teaching.... See for yourselves! I have labored only a little but have found much” (Sirach 51:26–27).

It is unclear exactly what Jesus meant when he invited us to accept *his* yoke, but it is likely that he was echoing the invitation of Sirach. He wanted us to know that following God’s law makes it possible for us to work together, accomplishing much that we could not do on our own. And that God’s law is a gentle law—one that enables rather than oppresses. Are you willing to receive Christ’s gentle teaching and make it your own?

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	07/04	4:00	p.m.	+Martha Huck (Virgil Huck)	HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!!!
	SJB	07/04	6:00	p.m.	+Living and Deceased of the +Ed and +Anna Mae Brooker Family (Martha Wallis Family)	
Sunday	SJB	07/05	7:30	a.m.	+Edith Brooker (Mike and Marilyn Schaad)	
	OLM	07/05	9:30	a.m.	+Bernard Brooker (Julia Brooker)	
	SJB	07/05	11:00	a.m.	+James M. Barrett (Vince and Shelly Stollar)	
Monday	SJB	07/06	8:00	a.m.	+Mary Lou Wesel (Bill and Alberta Wesel)	
Tuesday	SJB	07/07	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today	
	OLM	07/07	5:00	p.m.	+Dale and +Marian Stalter (Neil and Joyce Huck)	
Wednesday	SJB	07/08	8:00	a.m.	+Patricia Gaydosik (Richard and Robyn Cecil)	
Thursday	SJB	07/09	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today	
	OLM	07/09	5:00	p.m.	+Linda Huck (Bob and Peggy Byers)	
Friday	SJB	07/10	8:00	a.m.	+Ludi Lang (Charlotte Lang and Family)	
Saturday	OLM	07/11	4:00	p.m.	+Clarence Huck (Heather Peters)	
	SJB	07/11	6:00	p.m.	+Norbert Lang (Birthday) (Charlotte Lang and Family)	
Sunday	SJB	07/12	7:30	a.m.	+John Arnold (Anniv.) (Family)	
	OLM	07/12	9:30	a.m.	Living and Deceased of Nick & Philomena Bauerbauch (The Family)	
	SJB	07/12	11:00	a.m.	+Rita Schwendeman (Birthday 7/11) (Family)	

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

MASS	ALTER SERVERS	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Tanner Crum, Abby Henke	Coletyn Dyar	Melinda Treadway
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Lola Eichmiller, Chase Arteaga	Adalyn Eichmiller	Arnold Huck
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Emi Lauchard, Emma and Gracie Wheeler	Reese Lang	Tonia Skinner

COLLECTION	DPSC	 <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>
Total Collection last weekend \$3,246	2026 Collected to date \$42,475	
Need to meet parish needs \$4,750	2026 DPSC Goal \$36,584	
Thank you for your generosity!		This includes money sent directly to the Diocese. Thank you for your contributions!





July 18	Lowell Ice Cream Social
Aug 19	St. John School Begins

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Isaiah 55:10-11 / Romans 8:18-23 / Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

2027 MASS BOOK

The 2027 Mass Book is now open. Masses will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Please call Pam at the Rectory 896-3566 to schedule. If you have numerous intentions to schedule, please write them down and send it to the Rectory. Donations of \$10 are suggested for a mass. Please remember there is no mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays unless otherwise noted.

APPLEBEE'S FUNDRAISER

St. John the Baptist Home and School Association has partnered up with Applebee's in Marietta for an all day fundraising event on Wednesday, July 13. Applebee's will put 25% of your order towards the school if this fundraiser is mentioned or a flyer is shown to the server.

CONDOLENCES

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Alvin Arnold, who passed away on June 24. May God grant Alvin eternal rest and bring comfort and peace to all who mourn his passing.

WE REMEMBER

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers Msgr. Charles Highland and Fr. Virgil Reischman. We celebrate their Birthdays on July 3 and pray they are resting peacefully with our Lord.

GET A FREE CATHOLIC EDUCATION WITH EDCHOICE

If you have been letting the cost of sending your children to St. John Central hold you back, it's time to think again. Ohio has a tuition assistance program called EdChoice. Almost all families that apply to EdChoice qualify for help, and most of them get the full amount. Chances are excellent that you can send your children to St. John for nothing. Although it requires filling out some forms, St. John can even help you with that. There are some things that only a Catholic education can provide. The firm foundation in the faith will last your children a lifetime and help to keep them in the Church. St. John Central in Churchtown has been diligently upgrading the facilities and working hard to provide a safe and healthy environment where you children can excel academically, socially and spiritually. You can give them a call at 740.896.2697.

SAVE THE DATE

A Eucharistic Rosary Congress is a seven-day period of Eucharistic Adoration with an hourly Rosary prayed before the Blessed Sacrament. Dioceses throughout the United States will participate in this Catholic call to help establish peace in our country and the world. Blessed Sacrament Church in Wintersville will host the Eucharistic Rosary Congress October 3-9, 2026. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the main church with the Rosary prayed aloud at the start of each hour, followed by silent prayer for the remainder of the hour. More information will be coming soon, including how to sign up for a Holy Hour of Adoration. For more information on the Eucharistic Rosary Congresses, please visit www.rosarycongressusa.org or call Peggy Downs at (410) 596-1936.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The L-A Fire & Rescue will be holding an ice cream social on Saturday, July 18th, starting at 4:00 p.m., on Buell Island, Lowell. There will be food, music, inflatables, bingo, raffle, and a country store. Come and bring a lawn chair to support your local volunteer rescue workers.

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

Join Father Tom Nelson on a pilgrimage to Italy, January 4th thru 15th, 2027. Tours stops include: Assisi, Norcia, Lanciano, San Giovanni Rotondo, St. Michael's Cave, Monte Cassia, Subiaco, and Rome. Land-only price is \$5,059.00 per person. Option for Group Airfare is an additional \$1,468.00. Space is limited! Please contact Maggie McDaniel at 419-290-8782 or <https://catholicfaithjourneys.com/tours/nelsonitaly> for more information.



Pray for our Seminarians

(the future of our Diocese)

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, Riley Morris, Arron Pabin, and William Gugala.— Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High Street, Columbus Ohio 43235-1499

Diocese of Steubenville Office of Vocations:

Fr. Nicholas V. Ginnetti, Vocation Director Vocation links: Twitter @ dsvocations Facebook: www.facebook.com/dsvocations or Diocesan Vocation Website: <http://steubenville.vocations.com>.



The Dilemma

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

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

The question: How do you know when to keep on trying, resisting, and refusing to give up, and when to accept life as it is and surrender to the idea that it will never be perfect or exactly the way you would like it to be? My answer: I don't know. I have never figured it out.

Obviously, there are issues with which we will always struggle—racism, hunger and poverty, greed, raising children. Then there are those other times, usually during personal challenges, when we realize that the life we are living is the hand we've been dealt and have to accept, whether it's illness, aging, or something else. But what about those issues that lie in between—those that we can change and that deserve to be changed?

One of the blessings of acceptance and surrender can be an inner peace that comes to our lives. When Jesus says, "You will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light" (Matthew 11:29–30), he calls forth from us a willingness to trust in his presence through all that we are dealing with. It doesn't eliminate pain or struggle, but it can ease the suffering. The difference is that pain tends to be physical and might not be eased, while struggles tend to be psychic and emotional, and they may be eased with acceptance.

The question remains, however, as to what to do with all those times in between and how to know the difference. That, Jesus says, has been revealed to "the childlike." (See Matthew 11:25.)

BE THE 
REASON SOMEONE
Smiles
Today 