

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

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-Can) 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.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,

MARY AND JOSEPH

December 27-28, 2025

AND

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 3-4, 2026



Good News!

By: FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The most treasured prayer of Jesus' people has long been and remains the Shema: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is God. The Lord is One." Jewish spirituality is grounded not in seeing or touching or tasting, but in hearing. No one exemplifies fidelity to this way of being in the world more than Joseph, as evidenced in today's gospel. Joseph is one who listens to what God's messenger says to him and immediately acts on it. He responds to the call to flee with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Then, he responds to the call to return home with his family to Israel. As many have noted, Joseph never speaks in Scripture, but he certainly listens, and he certainly acts on what he hears.

Christmas is perhaps the noisiest season of the year. At gatherings of family and friends with festive music in the background, it often feels as if we are shouting over one another to be heard. It is a season when it can be hard to have deep conversations, even with God. Indeed, it can be such a busy season that sometimes our regular prayer practices fall by the wayside. But, if we do not make space in our daily lives to listen, might we miss messages that are important, even urgent, for us to hear, as in the case of today's gospel? Messages that require immediate response? What would it look like to carve out a bit of silence in this holiday season, to be like Joseph and reground yourself in a spirituality of listening?

MASS INTENTION SCHEDULE

Saturday	OLM	12/27	4:00	p.m.	+Hud and +Rosemary Lang (Debbie Misel)	
	SJB	12/27	6:00	p.m.	+Ellen Heiss (Ted and Trina Miller)	
Sunday	SJB	12/28	7:30	a.m.	+Hilda Gebhart (Family)	
	OLM	12/28	9:30	a.m.	L & D Members of Arnold and Kuchyt Families (Todd and Katheryn Arnold)	
	SJB	12/28	11:00	a.m.	+Mary Huck (Anniv. 12/30) (Regis Huck and Family)	
Monday	SJB	12/29	8:00	a.m.	+Charles Schilling (Bernard and Marilyn Schilling)	
Tuesday	SJB	12/30	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today	
	OLM	12/30	5:00	p.m.	+Linda Huck (Nathan and Cindy Worthington)	
Wednesday	SJB	12/31	4:00	p.m.	+Dave Bowen (Duane and Tina Duff)	New Year's Eve
	OLM	12/31	4:00	p.m.	People of the Parish	
Thursday	SJB	01/01	8:30	a.m.	+Leo Huck (Mary Brooker and Family)	Solemnity of Mary
	OLM	01/01	8:30	a.m.	+Martha Huck (2 yr Anniv.) (Robert Schwendeman Family)	
First Friday	SJB	01/02	6:00	p.m.	+William Heiss (Monica Lang and Family)	Adoration 5-6:00 p.m.
Saturday	OLM	01/03	4:00	p.m.	+Chuck and + Sandy Schilling (Their Children)	
	SJB	01/03	6:00	p.m.	+Jay Pottmeyer (Mike and Marilyn Schaad)	
Sunday	SJB	01/04	7:30	a.m.	+Edith Brooker (Ferris and Susan Arnold)	
	OLM	01/04	9:30	a.m.	+Kenneth Stehly (3rd yr. Anniv. 01/06) (Mike and Denise Stehly)	
	SJB	01/04	11:00	a.m.	+Richard and +Bertha Pottmeyer (Children)	
Monday	SJB	01/05	8:00	a.m.	+Barbara Jo Wallis (Steve and Pam Brooker)	
Tuesday	SJB	01/06	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today	
	OLM	01/06	5:00	p.m.	+Kendrick Schwendeman (Lisa Schwendeman)	
Wednesday	SJB	01/07	8:30	a.m.	+Herb Mason (Marilyn Kern and Family)	School Mass
Thursday	SJB	01/08	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today	
	OLM	01/08	5:00	p.m.	Living and Deceased of Clemence and Eulia Huck Family (Ellen Huck)	
Friday	SJB	01/09	8:00	a.m.	+Mary E. Huck (Dave and Barbara Huck)	
Saturday	OLM	01/10	4:00	p.m.	+Jim Huck (Charlie Huck)	
	SJB	01/10	6:00	p.m.	+Helen Miller (Patricia Henke and Family)	
Sunday	SJB	01/10	7:30	a.m.	+Anna Mae Brooker (Charlie Tornes)	
	OLM	01/11	9:30	a.m.	+Jerri Lang (Bernard and Marilyn Schilling)	
	SJB	01/11	11:00	a.m.	Living and Deceased of +Lawrence and +Margaret Schaad Family (Mike and Marilyn Schaad)	

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR WEEKEND OF JANUARY 3-4

MASS	ALTER SERVERS	LECTOR	EUCARISTIC MINISTER
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Weston Hennes, Abby Henke	Eugene Huck	Jason Henke
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Dalton and Dane Schott	Adalyn Eichmiller	Arnold Huck
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Callen Pottmeyer, Emi Lauchard	Janelle Sprague	Roxanne Heiss

COLLECTION		DPSC		 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 week	\$4,032	2025 Collected to date	\$74,710	
Need to meet parish needs	\$4,750	2025 DPSC Goal	\$41,330	
Thank you for your generosity!		This includes money sent directly to the Diocese. Thank you for your contributions!		

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND	UPCOMING EVENTS	
Isaiah 60:1–6 / Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6 / Matthew 2:1–12	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.	

SENIOR CITIZEN JANUARY MEETING CANCELLED

The Senior Citizen meeting for January has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held at the Sr. Center on February 5 at 11:00 a.m.

ALTAR SERVERS

Please see Fr. David after Mass to receive your Christmas gift. We appreciate all who serve the parish.

CHURCH DONATIONS

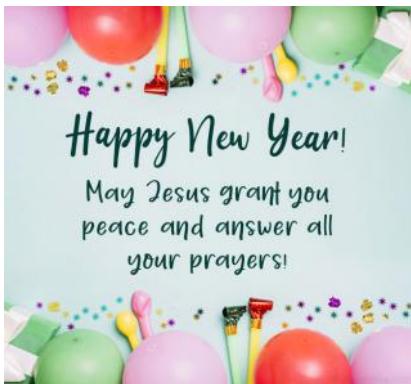
Please have all donations you want included on this years church collection statement turned in to the Rectory no later than December 31. This year's DPSC will end on December 31 and any collections after that date will be put towards next years goal. We would like to give a big Thank You to everyone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

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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL HELP

Turn your Taxes into Tuition—Make a charitable donation to Christ the Teacher Diocesan Scholarship Fund and turn your tax dollars into tuition. Now is the time to donate, before filing your 2025 Ohio tax return and you can receive a dollar-for-dollar Ohio income tax credit of up to \$750 for an individual (or \$1500 if married—filing jointly). Donations via credit card are now available. Designate your gift to help provide financial assistance to any diocesan Catholic School of your choice! For more information or to make a donation, go to: www.diosteub.org/ctdsf.



LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

MASS	ALTER SERVERS	LECTOR	EUCARISTIC MINISTER
Wednesday, Dec. 31, 4:00 p.m.	Dalton and Dane Schott	Rachel Klinger	Jessica Henke
Thursday, Jan. 1, 8:30 a.m.	Volunteers	Volunteer	Volunteer

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR JANUARY 10-11

MASS	ALTER SERVERS	LECTOR	EUCARISTIC MINISTER
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Emma Schaad, Alaina Wells, Alyssa Dyar	Rachel Klinger	Jessica Henke
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Connor McCartney, Keegan Pottmeyer	J..D. Alexander	Connie Arnold
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Hadleigh Pennock, Brenlee Lang	Ashleigh Pennock	Tonia Skinner

CHURCH CANCELLATION POLICY

The following mass cancellation policy for St. John's and Our Lady of Mercy Church is as follows:

On Weekends:

If the county is under a **level 3** road emergency as issued by the Sheriff's office...Mass is cancelled.

If it is a **level 2** there will be Mass (if a priest can make it to the church) and parishioners are urged to use common sense.

Through the Week:

When St. John Central School is closed due to weather, Mass is cancelled that day. Our parish office is closed as well.

On a day when a funeral is scheduled, the daily Mass is cancelled.

Masses that are scheduled for those days will be re-scheduled. Above all else, use common sense, your safety is important to us.

CONDOLENCES

Please keep in your prayers Norma Thieman, who passed away on December 18. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Norma's family and friends. May she rest in eternal peace and light with our Lord.

DAILY BREAD KITCHEN

The St. John's group for the Daily Bread Kitchen will be cooking and handing out Takeout Lunches, at the Marietta KofC hall on Gilman Ave. in Marietta, on Wednesday, **January 7, 2026**. At this time, we are in need of packaged cookies, snack cakes, or doughnuts, pastries or muffins and fruit cups (to put in the Take-outs). If you would like to make a donation of any of these items, you can leave them in the box in the entry of the church by 8am on Wednesday, **January 7, 2026**. If you would like to make a monetary donation there will also be a collection can in the entry of the church. Thank you for all your past and present donations. You are helping to make a difference! Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Ralph, Dot, Bryan and Boone Way, Bill and Mildred Arnold, Annette Bonar, Rose Mary Wagner, Nick Arnold, Harry and Veronica Way, Ruth Morris by Richard and Brenda Arnold Family.

Family and Friends by Chad Dyar and Andrea Ralston

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

January 1 (Holy Day of Obligation)

**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

Did You Know? Many people think Christmas is on December 25, but the Catholic Church actually celebrates an Octave of Christmas, eight full days in which every day is treated like Christmas Day itself! Each day has its own feast, but liturgically, the Church celebrates the joy of Christ's birth as one extended solemn celebration. So in the eyes of the Church, Christmas is far too great for just one day!

March for Life and Nationwide Pro-Life Novena

The March for Life continues to be the largest pro-life 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 – especially the enormous numbers of young people. The March For Life will take place in Washington, DC, on Friday, January 23, 2026. Learn more at www.marchforlife.org.

Turn your Taxes into Tuition—Make a charitable donation to Christ the Teacher Diocesan Scholarship Fund and turn your tax dollars into tuition. Now is the time to donate, before filing your 2025 Ohio tax return and you can receive a dollar-for-dollar Ohio income tax credit of up to \$750 for an individual (or \$1500 if married—filing jointly). Donations via credit card now available. Designate your gift to help provide financial assistance to any diocesan Catholic School, your choice! For more information or to make a donation, go to: www.diosteub.org/ctdsf

Christmas Reflection: Our hearts are aglow with the joy of Christmas! Our senses are alive with the season, from the rich smells of evergreen and gingerbread to the feel of crisp air on our skin and the warmth of a loved one's embrace. At some point in the holiday hustle and bustle, take a few moments of quiet. In the silence, reflect on the other senses of the season. Imagine the cool damp of an animal stable, the earthy smell of hay and feed, and the crisp night air blowing in softly. Imagine kneeling beside an exhausted, joyful mother and a relieved, protective father. Imagine an infant wrapped in cloth scraps held out to your open arms. Imagine holding the infant Jesus. As his eyes meet yours, welcome into your heart the greatest gift of Christmas.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame

So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

PRAYER for Vocations

Loving and Generous God, it is You who call us by name and ask us to follow You. Help us to grow in the Love and Service of our Church as we experience it today. Give us the energy and courage of Your Spirit to shape its future. Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's Mission of love and justice.

Bless our diocese, by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve Your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers. Inspire us to know You better and open our hearts to hear Your call. We ask this through our Lord. AMEN

Pray for the priests of the Diocese of Steubenville:

Dec. 28, Fr. John McCoy, + Fr. James Moran

Dec. 29, Fr. Edward Maxfield, + Fr. Joseph Gardner

Dec. 30, Fr. Chester Pabin, + Fr. John Reardon

Dec. 31, Fr. Daniel Heusel, + Fr. Dominic Orsini

Jan 1, Msgr. J. Michael Campbell, + Fr. Paul Walker

Jan 2, Fr. Anthony Batt, + Fr. Stanley Bernacki

Jan 3, Fr. Edwar Maxfield, + Fr. Francis Conor

Jan 4, Fr. Chester Pabin, + Msgr. William Cornelius

Jan 5, Fr. Daniel Heusal, + Fr. Joseph Gardner

Jan 6, Fr. Fr. Walter Heinz, + Fr. Adolph Goliweski

Jan 7, Pope Leo XIV

Pray for our seminarians (the future of our Diocese). Deacon Peter Stetson—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.

X: @dsvocations

From the Pastor: It is with a grateful heart that I would be remiss if I did not thank the many who have made this Christmas season so beautiful. From those who decorated our Churches, to the music, servers, ushers, the parish staff and others. Last but not least, you our parishioners who make all this possible. God Bless you this holy season and in the year to come.