

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/in residence

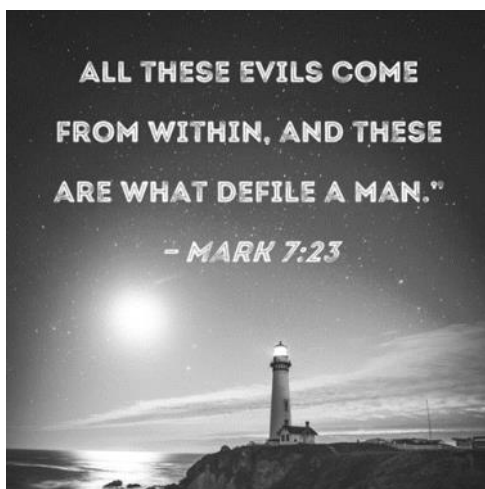
Fr. Dale Tornes, retired



Good News!

By: FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**22ND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**



One day, I asked the eighth-graders I was teaching to imagine themselves on a fantasy journey. They had to pretend they were flying across the ocean in a small airplane when suddenly the plane has engine trouble. The pilot manages to land on a sandy island beach. Everyone survives, but a few passengers are injured.

The captain divides the passengers into groups, each with a specific task. One group is responsible for finding food; another for water; another to explore and map the island; another to care for the injured. After explaining the scenario, I divided the eighth-graders into groups of four or five to complete the same “pretend” tasks—to create a set of rules by which to live until they were all rescued. The rules each group created were much the same: share everything, no hoarding, no fighting, obey the captain, no stealing, those who do not work do not eat. In effect, these eighth-graders created their own “commandments,” enabling the community to survive in its own kind of desert, likely in the same way the Ten Commandments helped the Israelites.

The teachings of Jesus do not abrogate the original Ten Commandments. They continue to hold a great deal of wisdom for surviving as a community. Jesus taught us to focus on how our behavior shapes the sort of individuals we become and, ultimately, what sort of community we form. What flows from one’s heart, Jesus taught, reveals who we are both alone and in community.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	OLM	08/31	4:00	P.M.	+Howard and Patricia Huck (Paul and Theresa Warren)	
	SJB	08/31	6:00	P.M.	+Tim Strahler (Family)	
Sunday	SJB	09/01	7:30	A.M.	+Ben and +Edith Brooker (Wedding Anniversary) (Family)	
	OLM	09/01	9:30	A.M.	+Jim Huck (Jim Huck Family)	
	SJB	09/01	11:00	A.M.	+Frank and +Ruth Lang (Donna Tornes and Family)	
Monday	SJB	09/02	8:00	A.M.	+Donnie Wells (Bob and Peggy Byers)	Labor Day
	OLM	09/02	9:00	A.M.	+Darren Cheeseman (Joanne Saling)	
Tuesday	SJB	09/03	8:00	A.M.	People of the Parish	
	OLM	09/03	5:00	P.M.	+Bob Peters (Heather Peters)	
Wednesday	SJB	09/04	8:20	A.M.	+Frank Schwendeman (Family)	School Mass
					+Earl Tornes (Raymond Lang Family)	
Thursday	SJB	09/05	8:00	A.M.	L & D of +James and +Maglena Arnold Family (Family)	
	OLM	09/05	5:00	P.M.	+Dale and +Marian Stalter (+Jim and Peggy Huck)	
First Friday	SJB	09/06	6:00	P.M.	+Irene Abele (Charlotte Lang Family)	Adoration 5-6:00 p.m.
					+Gladys Schilling (Patty Finkel)	
Saturday	OLM	09/07	4:00	P.M.	+Deanna Lang (3yr. Anniv. 08/29) (Raymond Lang)	
	SJB	09/07	6:00	P.M.	+Patricia Gaydosik (Connie Arnold)	Happy Birthday Fr. Dave!
Sunday	SJB	09/08	7:30	A.M.	+Ed Brooker (Anniversary 9/6) (Family)	
	OLM	09/08	9:30	A.M.	+Ron Smith (+Minnie Smith)	
	SJB	09/08	11:00	A.M.	+C. Jay Pottmeyer (Parish)	

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

MASS	ALTAR SERVERS	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Baylee and Morgan Warner	Eugene Huck	Melinda Treadway
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Adalyn and Eli Eichmiller	Robin Eichmiller	Connie Arnold
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Connor and Emi Lauchard	Kristen Pottmeyer	Amanda Walters

<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>D.P.S.C.</u>	<u>BINGO</u>
Total Collection last weekend \$3,322 Needed to meet parish needs \$4,750 Thank you for your generosity!	2024 Collected to date \$62,590 2024 Goal \$43,047 <small>This includes all monies sent directly to the Diocese.</small> Thank you for your generosity!	August 18 Group 2 \$1,498 If you are unable to work, please try to find a replacement
<u>ST. JOHN BINGO WORK SCHEDULE</u> Sep 1 Group 4 with Derrick Pottmeyer Sep 8 Group 5 with Robin Eichmiller Sep 15 Group 6 with Jeff Canterbury Sep 22 Group 7 with Brandon Wheeler Sep 29 Group 8 with Russ Lang	<u>C.W.C. BINGO CAKES</u> September-October Group C-Veronica Bosner The next CWC meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, 6:30 p.m. in the Sr. Center. All ladies of the parish are invited.	<u>PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY</u> Please pray for all of the men and women who are serving our country in the military. May God watch over them and keep them safe.

<u>READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND</u> Isaiah 35:4-7a / James 2:1-5 / Mark 7:31-37	Please have all bulletin information to the Rectory no later than 10:00 p.m. on Monday
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PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Registration has begun for our Parish School of Religion. To register, please visit <https://forms.gle/9fMcMWVkpYkTzX9y9> to complete the form. For questions, please contact Andrea Ralston, Director, 740-350-4669.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated their time to mow and tidy up the church and cemetery grounds. Your willingness to help out is greatly appreciated.

REST IN PEACE

Please keep in your prayers, C. Jay Pottmeyer who tragically passed away on August 20. We extend our deepest sympathy to Marilyn, Johanna, Cole, Tanner and their families, as well as the entire Pottmeyer family. We will remember Jay in our prayers. May he rest in God's eternal peace.

EUCHRE

Euchre will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the Sr. Center on September 11th and 25th. Euchre is held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. All are welcome.

SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING

The next monthly Senior Citizens meeting will be held on September 5, at 11:00 a.m. in the Senior Center. Please bring a snack to share.

CWC MEETING

CWC will begin their monthly meetings on Monday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sr. Center. All ladies of the parish are invited and encouraged to attend.

OPEN HOUSE

Dave and Doris Brooker will be honored at an Open House to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at the Sr. Center on Saturday, September 7th from 2-4:00 p.m. All are invited to attend. No gifts necessary. Your presence is our gift.

TRICK OR TREAT

Please mark your calendar now for Churchtown Trick or Treat which will be held on Wednesday, October 30, 6-7:30 p.m. The K of C will hold their Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 18. More information will follow.

K OF C PATIO PICNIC

The Knights of Columbus 4617 will have a Patio Picnic on Sunday, October 6, 2024 from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm. Events will start with Catholic mass at 11:00 am at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Afterwards, on the back patio at the hall in Churchtown, we will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks (BYOB). Guests should bring a salad or dessert to share! There will be games and prizes for the kids. Members, their families, and friends are welcome to attend. We will have applications for NEW MEMBERS to join! Come socialize with our community! As part of our FOOD FOR FAMILIES program, we will be collecting canned goods to be donated to St. Vincent de Paul Society. We hope to see you there! For Questions Contact: Derek Kern @ 740-516-7219 or Clay Miller @ 740-336-4229.

MARY'S HOUSE GOLF OUTING

The 3rd annual Mary's House Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, September 7th at Lakeside in Beverly. Men and women are encouraged to participate in this four person scramble. Cost is \$75 single/ \$300 per team with \$1,000 payout (based on 20 teams). Contact Brandyn Offenberger @ (740) 336-5715 to register. If you or your business would like to participate in this charity event by sponsoring a hole, please contact Melanie Fouss @ (740)525-8733 or JoAnn Welch @ (740)350-2692.

WONDER OF EVE PROGRAM

We are delighted to offer again two sessions of the 'Wonder of Eve' program for teen girls and their mothers. This is a terrific "coming of age" presentation for high school-aged girls and will give participants a joyful and faithful vision of womanhood and female sexuality. Each session is stand-alone and free. Dates are Sunday September 8, at 4 p.m., Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital in Westerville, Sunday September 15 at 2 PM, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Ironton OH. For more info and to register: <https://www.freedomfertilitycare.com/intro>.

EUCCHARISTIC ROSARY CONGRESS

A Eucharistic Rosary Congress for our Diocese will be held October 5-11 at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta. There will be 7:45 a.m. Mass followed by adoration each day from 8:15-7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Shelly Medley 740-525-6360.

PILGRIMAGE

The Knights of Columbus Athens 1716 are leading a Pilgrimage to New Haven CT from Friday October 11-Sunday October 13. Cost is \$385 including two nights at the Laquinta Inn, chartered bus transportation throughout the weekend, and two catered dinners. There is a \$100 deposit required on signup. Please contact Josh Kocher, joshburn@protonmail.com, Brett Martz bmartz@athenscatholic.org, or Call the Holy Family Center in Athens 740-592-2711. Please register by September 24 so final arrangements can be made. We have 56 seats. Let's fill this bus!

LADIES RETREAT

The St. Ambrose Ladies Retreat will be held at St. Ambrose Church on Saturday, October 5, from 8:30 - 2:30 p.m. Forms are located in the church vestibule. There is a \$10 donation to help cover costs. For reservations (due before September 28) or more information: Rita Rodgers 740-423-5697 or rrdodgers2417@gmail.com; Becky Hennen 740-629-1093 or rah1097@roadrunner.com. All ladies are welcome to attend!





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

Scrip Coordinator

Betina Lang

PSR Coordinator

Andrea Ralston

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

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 Taylor Pottmeyer

St. John School Foundation

Gary Arnold, President

Diocesan Catholic Charities & Information

Referral Line:

1-800-339-7890

Ancient Order of Hibernians

James Farly, President

We are happy to welcome back our **St. John Central** students, faculty, and staff. Wait till you see the improvements for the new school year. The new library/conference room, new windows in primary grades and the coming upgrades to security for our building as well as the redesign of the administration offices. (thanks to school Foundation). We're excited to begin the new school year and ask for your prayers for a safe and successful school year.

LEAC: It is time for St. John Central School to ask for new members for our Local Education Advisory Council (LEAC). We need a member from Our Lady of Mercy parish and one from St. John. Next year we will ask for two new members from St. Bernard and St. Ambrose parishes. You don't have to be a parent to be a member of LEAC. Please call the school office at 740-896-2697 if you are interested

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

The process in which adults enter the Roman Catholic Church is known as OCIA, "The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults." Who is eligible for this process? *The Unbaptized*. The primary focus of the Order not already Christian and have had little or no religious education. *Baptized but un-catechized* are those who have been baptized in the Roman Catholic Church but need further catechetical instruction to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist. Those *Seeking Full Communion* with the Catholic Church are baptized, practicing Christians from another Christian Tradition who seek entry, or full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. *If you know someone who might be interested, please call the parish office at 740-896-3566.*

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION 2024 – 2025: One of the most important aspects a parish must have to survive is a strong religious education program. Classes will begin October 6th. For information contact Andrea Ralston at 740-350-4669.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT- Friday, September 20, through Sunday, September 22, in Toronto, OH. Rachel's Vineyard Retreats are a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Please text or call us at 770-715-7200 for more

OUR SEMINARIANS Please join in praying for Seminarians of the Steubenville Diocese: Studying at *Sacred Heart Major Seminary* Detroit, Peter Stetson, Studying at *St. Vincent Seminary* in Latrobe Pa, Christopher McGurn and Samuel Ivkovich Studying at the *Pontifical College Josephinum* in Columbus, Ohio: Jonathan Rusco, Riley Morris, Aaron Pabin, Caleb Baker, John Paul Gan, and Ryan Budd.

To register for Parish School of Religion classes, please hold the camera on your phone up to the QR code and follow the link for the registration form.



RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

To Whom Shall We Go?

A friend of mine, who is a far better Christian than I can ever hope to be, once shared with me that her family sneers at her belief system and lifestyle.

She believes in fairy tales they tell her. She's looking for simple solutions from a kind-faced man in the sky because she doesn't want to grapple with complicated answers to complicated problems.

Religion, they argue, is the easy way out.

As she spoke about this, her voice became unsteady. Not with anger, but with emotion. "I would never call this life easy," she said. "If I was looking for something that was easy, I wouldn't choose Catholicism."

What was unspoken was why she has chosen Catholicism. I know the answer, but only because I know her. I knew her before she chose it wholeheartedly, and I know her now, and I see the difference. I see that these words are written so clearly across the days of her life: "Master, to whom shall we go?"

Once the truth is known in your soul, you see, it can never be unknown.

Following Christ is not about easy answers and simple teachings. Sure, it all sounds very basic: love one another as I have loved you.

What could be more straightforward?

But what does that mean? What does that look like in daily, modern life, in a world full of the fallen, whose flaws have given us rough edges and weakened wills? I'll tell you what it looks like — it looks like a struggle. It looks like failure and mess and confusion and losing your way and finding it again, all because you remembered that within you there is a compass pointing due north. It's a constant state of wandering in the dark, following a Voice that asks you to go where you're afraid to go. And you follow the Voice not because it's the only voice there is and not because it's the voice that says what you want to hear, but because it's the only one that speaks the truth, and the truth pulls on you in a way you can't quite resist.

When Christ asks, "Do you also want to leave?" he is not gaslighting us. It's a genuine question. We are free to go. We are not prisoners.

But we have heard the words of everlasting life, and now we can only have peace if we follow where they lead. "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." — Joshua 24:15.

ARE YOU CALLED TO SERVE THE LORD? Are you being called to serve the Lord? Now is a good time to begin encouraging young men and women to serve Jesus and His Church. If you or someone you know is interested in ordained ministry or the life of a Consecrated/Religious community, please contact Fr. Nicholas Ginnetti at 740-432-7609.

*Have a
Great Day!*



THE DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE

OFFICE OF THE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR

August 29, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As I write to you today, the first thing that I want to do is apologize that it has taken me so long to do so. Two months ago, the Holy Father appointed me as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville while remaining the Bishop of Kalamazoo. I am humbled and honored to serve you.

By way of introduction, I am originally from McKean, Pennsylvania, a small community in the rural area just south of Erie. I was ordained for the Diocese of Erie in 1989 and spent the next 34 years as a priest of that diocese before becoming the fifth Bishop of Kalamazoo on July 25, 2023. During those years I had many assignments, including as a high school teacher and campus minister, vocation director, pastor, vice-chancellor and eventually chancellor. From 2010 to 2015, I served at the Congregation for the Clergy in Rome and afterwards I became Vicar General for the Diocese of Erie.

I am profoundly grateful to Bishop Bradley for guiding the diocesan process of discernment for the nine months he was here. That phase of the process largely focused on data-driven information and was critical and essential for the discernment. Now, this last phase expands the discussion to include important pastoral and human considerations as well as the situations of parishes, schools, various ministries and apostolates, etc. This last phase is critical before any final decision can be made, since a complete understanding of a diocese involves more than a collection of its data. Up to this point, I have been working with the College of Consultors (a sub-group of the Presbyteral Council) and am now expanding the conversation to engage all the priests, the members of the diocesan finance council, and others. I will endeavor to make sure that the information I share with you is both accurate and objective.

Given the six-hour drive between Kalamazoo and Steubenville, I regret that I cannot be as present to you as I would like. Still, I will strive my best to serve you well and to walk with you through this discernment. I am deeply grateful for the hardworking clergy, religious, and lay faithful of the Diocese of Steubenville. Trusting in prayer that the Lord will lead us to where we ought to be, we continue to promote the mission of the Church, to celebrate the sacraments, and to live our Catholic faith.

Please know that each of you are in my daily prayers. May the Lord, the Good Shepherd, nurture us and guide us as we strive to be faithful to His calling.



Sincerely in Christ,

+ Edward M. Lohse

The Most Reverend Edward M. Lohse, JCD
Apostolic Administrator
of the Diocese of Steubenville