

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



Faith - Tradition - Family

Good News!

By: FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 30, 2025



Life is not fair. Even though we know this, we expect God to be fair, which may be what irks so many about the Parable of the Lost Son. There is a part of our skewed human nature that agrees with the older son in the story. It certainly seems that the younger son was able to have his cake and eat it too, while the older son could only sit by and watch, missing out on the devil-may-care part of life. It didn't seem fair, and the older son said so.

The point of the story does seem to be that God is both just and merciful, but if ever one of those virtues seems to give way to the other, then, from God's perspective, divine mercy always trumps worldly justice. We, however, think that's not fair. We grow suspect of deathbed conversions, worried that the person is trying to have life both ways. But do we give thought to the suffering such a life without God might entail? The humiliation and near starvation of the younger son as he lived his self-indulgent life?


We think we want God to be fair, but do we really? In C.S. Lewis' novel, *Till We Have Faces*, one character asks another if the gods are just, to which is replied, "Oh, child, pray that they are not!" Do we really want to be treated with justice, getting exactly what we deserve and no more? Or do we want to let God be God and be treated with mercy?

MASS INTENTION SCHEDULE

Saturday	OLM	03/29	4:00	p.m.	+Donnie Heiss (Mark and Paulie)
	SJB	03/29	6:00	p.m.	+William Schilling (Bernard and Marilyn Schilling)
Sunday	SJB	03/30	7:30	a.m.	+James and +Maglene Arnold (Anniversary) (Family)
	OLM	03/30	9:30	a.m.	+Jeri Lang (Ken, Jan, and Michelle Long)
	SJB	03/30	11:00	a.m.	+Richard and +Bertha Pottmeyer (Pottmeyer Family Children)
Monday	SJB	03/31	8:00	a.m.	+Kevin Arnold (Family)
Tuesday	SJB	04/01	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	04/01	5:00	p.m.	OLM CWC (OLM CWC)
Wednesday	SJB	04/02	8:20	a.m.	+Theresa Gearty (Janet Crum) School Mass
Thursday	SJB	04/03	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	04/03	5:00	p.m.	+Jerry Huck (3yr. Anniv.) (Grace Bauerbach) Stations of the Cross to follow
Friday	SJB	04/04	6:00	p.m.	+Vincent Lang (Birthday) (Bob and Peggy Byers) Stations of the Cross to follow
Saturday	OLM	04/05	4:00	p.m.	+Dale and +Margie Arnold (The Arnold Family)
	SJB	04/05	6:00	p.m.	Living and Deceased of +Leo and +Lucy Huck Family (Family)
Sunday	SJB	04/06	7:30	a.m.	+Rowan Lee Seese (Jeff and Charlene Canterbury and Family)
	OLM	04/06	9:30	a.m.	+Bernard "Buzzard" Brooker (Julia Brooker)
	SJB	04/06	11:00	a.m.	+Ruth Lang (Ron and Monica Lang)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

MASS		ALTAR SERVERS		LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER
Saturday	6:00 p.m.	Alyssa Dyar, Chase Arteaga		Kelly Miller	Melinda Treadway
Sunday	7:30 a.m.	Mason and Grace Francis		Zandra Francis	Arnold Huck
Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Hadleigh Pennock, Emma Wheeler		Reese Lang	Tonia Skinner

<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>DPSC</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.
Total Collection last weekend \$ 3,014 Needed to meet parish needs \$ 4,750 Thank you for your generosity!	2025 Collected to Date \$ 13,850 2025 DPSC Goal \$ 41,330 Thank you!!		

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

SAINT MELITO—APRIL 1	<i>what's happening this week ...</i>
Sacred Jesus, as a bishop and an ecclesiastical writer who understood the tremendous value of Your Passion on the Cross, Saint Melito of Sardis wrote: "He suffered for the sake of those who suffer, He was bound for those in bonds." Help me to fully grasp the meaning that Your sacrifice has for my life. When I look upon a crucifix in church or in my home, remind me that by Your stripes I was healed. Give me a mind that understands why You suffered for me. Teach me to imitate You in giving passionate love to others, offering up all the pain of difficult relationships for their healing. Saint Melito, pray for me. Amen.	March 28-30 Girl's Search Weekend
	March 31 Confirmation at the Basilica of St. Mary's, Marietta (7 pm)
	April 1 Ballroom Dancing Lessons, Sr. Center
	April 3 Senior Citizens Meeting, Sr. Center (11 a.m.)
	April 6 Penance Service, St. Ambrose in Little Hocking (6 p.m.)
	READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND
	Isaiah 43:16-21 / Philippians 3:8-14 / John 8:1-11

EASTER MASS TIME CHANGE

Please note the 11:00 a.m. mass on Easter Sunday will be held at 9:00 a.m. at St. John Church. Mass will return to 11:00 a.m. after Easter Sunday. Please mark your calendars.

EASTER 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 print the names so they are easily read and have your list in to the Rectory by April 6.

SENIOR CITIZEN MEETING

Senior Citizen Meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. on April 3rd at the Senior Center. Please bring a covered dish to share. All seniors are invited.

CWC MEETING

The monthly CWC meeting will be held at the Sr. Center on Monday, April 14. The meeting will begin with the Rosary at 6:30 p.m. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

PARISH DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Please note that we will not be providing a free printed copy of your 8 x 10 as in the past. You will have a digital copy available to be emailed to you or a family member or for a small fee you may request a digital copy on a thumb drive. Everyone who has their picture taken for the directory will receive a free Directory. Extra copies will be available to purchase.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL LITERACY NIGHT

Literacy Night will take place on April 7 from 6:00-7:30 p.m., and we invite everyone in the community to join us, whether or not they have a child at St. John's.

P.S.R. PROGRAM DIRECTOR

We are looking for the next leader of our PSR (Parish School of Religion) Program. They would coordinate and supervise our Religious Education program for children 1st-12th grade. If interested contact the parish office.

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

There are copies of an examination of conscience for use in preparation for confession located in the vestibule. Please feel free to take a copy.

REPORT ON THE STATE OF STEUBENVILLE

Bishop Edward Lohse has published his Report on the State of the Steubenville Diocese. For more information, please visit: www.diosteub.org.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

All Services will begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

- April 6 St. Ambrose Church, Little Hocking (6 p.m.)
- April 7 St. John School (12:15 p.m.)
- April 7 St. John the Baptist Church, Churchtown
- April 8 Our Lady of Mercy Church, Lowell
- April 9 Basilica of St. Mary's Church, Marietta
- April 10 St. Bernard Church, Beverly



THE ANNUAL KOFC 4617 EASTER EGG HUNT

The Annual K of C 4617 Easter Egg Hunts will be held on Easter Sunday, April 20th, for children 0-12 years old, at the following times: St. John: after 9:00 a.m. mass @ St. John School; St. Bernard: after 9:30 a.m. mass @ Church; Our Lady of Mercy: after 9:30 mass @ Church. All K of C members are asked to donate 1 or 2 dozen filled plastic eggs. They can be put in the back of the church. For information or questions, contact Taylor Pottmeyer at 412-215-6470.



K OF C 4617 ATTENDING GOOD FRIDAY

Setting an example for their community, the Knights of Columbus 4617 will be attending the Good Friday liturgy at: St. Bernard @ 7:00 PM; St. John the Baptist @ 7:00 PM (Stations @ 12:00 PM); Our Lady of Mercy @ 7:00 PM (Stations @ 3:00 PM). As we get closer to Easter, the Knights of Columbus are encouraging families in our parish communities to attend the Good Friday liturgy in their parish on Friday, April 18, 2025. Despite Good Friday's central nature in the heart of Christianity, attendance at services remains low. Putting their faith into action, the Knights of Columbus 4617 encourages participation through this promotional campaign that educates their parishes on the vital importance of Good Friday. The liturgy of the Lord's passion and death reminds families of the suffering Jesus endured through his passion and resurrection, thereby opening the gates of heaven for each of us.

K OF C WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

By becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus and giving just 24 hours a year, a man can be a better Catholic, father, and husband and make a difference in the Church and his community. It's not a lot of time, but it is time well spent. It's rewarding. It's life changing. Want to join us on our journey? Go to kofcoho.org and click on Join Us. For more information contact any Council 4617 member; Grand Knight, Taylor Pottmeyer at 412-215-6470, or email churchtownkofc@gmail.com.

TELEHEALTH COUNSELING SERVICES

Catholic Charities of Southeastern Ohio is now offering Professional Counseling Services via telehealth in addition to in-person counseling to individuals and couples. Our licensed counselors provide support for those struggling with trauma, grief, anxiety, depression, and relationship challenges. Sessions are confidential and professional. Catholic Charities is committed to ensuring that everyone has access to the care they need, regardless of financial situation. To schedule an appointment or for more information, please contact Catholic Charities at 740-314-8660 or email catholiccharities@diosteub.org.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross is a prayer of meditation focused on the final moments in the life of Christ, from His condemnation by Pilate to his Death and Burial. Stations of the Cross will take place every Friday evening of Lent after the 6:00 p.m. Mass. Families are encouraged to attend this traditional devotion in an attempt to live the events of Jesus' march to His Death at Calvary.



STATIONS of the CROSS



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

Script 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:**

Our Seminarians

Pray for Seminarians studying at: Sacred Heart Major Seminary 2701 Chicago Blvd., Detroit, MI 48206; Peter Stetson, St. Vincent Seminary 300 Fraser Purchase Rd., Latrobe Pa, 15650; Christopher McGurn and Samuel Ivkovich. Pontifical College Josephinum 7625 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43235-1499; Maximilian Kolbe Gan, Jonathan Ruscoe, Riley Morris, Aaron Pabin, Caleb Baker. On a pastoral year at Christ the Light Parish 9704 Gomber Ave. Cambridge, Ohio 43728, Ryan Budd and John Paul Gan.

Pray for our priests: 3/30 Fr. Joe Massucci, 3/31 Fr. Tim Shannon, 4/1 Fr. David Cornett, 4/2 Msgr. Gene Mullett, 4/3 Fr. Tom Marut, 4/4 Fr. Jeremiah Hahn, 4/5 Fr. Dale Tornes 4/6 Bishop Edward Lohse.

Our priests speak to the faithful with their hearts and faith. Fill them, with burning zeal for the conversion of sinners.

St. John the Baptist -We are looking for the next leader of our PSR (Parish School of Religion) Program. They would coordinate and supervise our Religious Education program for children 1st-12th grade. If interested contact the parish office.

The Knights of Columbus is looking for you. Joshua 24:15 states "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." The Knights of Columbus promote a family first household that will serve the Lord in everything we do. Do you want to continue that journey with us and be a part of that? For more information contact: Grand Knight, Mr. Taylor Pottmeyer.

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unless otherwise noted

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RECONCILIATION

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.

Chrism Mass Essay Contest—young men age 10 thru College are asked to submit a one-page-long essay answering the question: "Why is serving at Mass important for you personally and for the whole Church?" All entries are due by March 31st with a letter of recommendation from your pastor, submitted to Chrism Mass Essay Contest, 701 Gomber Ave., Cambridge, Ohio 43725. Contest Prizes will include: Serve the Chrism Mass for Bishop Lohse with the Diocesan Seminarians and Dinner with the priests and seminarians. You will experience the blessing of the Sacred Oils and the Renewal of Priestly Promises at the Basilica in Marietta.

2025 Diocesan Parish Share Campaign goal for *St. John the Baptist Church* –Churchtown is **\$41,330.60.**

Our Lady of Mercy—Lowell is **\$21,945.35**

DPSC PLEDGE CARDS- In case you have not received a pledge card in the mail, you will find DPSC pledge cards available in the back of the church. Please see the recent articles in the Steubenville Register.

The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Maryland is hosting the first-ever **Eucharistic Congress for the Catholic Deaf community** this spring. The congress, which will take place April 4 –6, will bring together about 230 Catholics to pray and honor the Eucharist, according to the event organizer, Father Mike Depcik, who is one of just a few deaf priests in the world. Father Depcik serves as the chaplain for the Deaf ministry in the Archdiocese of Baltimore and is known for his work in growing the Deaf Catholic community in Maryland and beyond. Father Depcik designed the congress for deaf people to be able to actively participate. He noted that the Deaf community has limited accessibility to services in and from the Catholic Church and that the majority of deaf people don't attend Mass. "Several statistics have shown that 96% of Deaf people, including those baptized Catholics, do not go to any church due to very limited services available to them in their own language (American Sign Language). It should be noted that Fr. David Cornett of the Diocese of Steubenville, will attend to assist with the signing duties and ministering to those who attend. God's Blessings.

SACRAMENTAL SPONSORS If you've been asked to be a godparent or sponsor, you must obtain a letter of eligibility from your parish. By requesting this, you confirm that you are a fully initiated Catholic (baptized, received Holy Communion, and confirmed), at least 16 years old, a registered parishioner, actively practicing your faith, contributing to the parish, living a Catholic life (not cohabitating or married outside the Church), and have not joined another faith. Adults over 21 must reregister if listed under their parents. If you've moved away, contact your new parish for the letter.