

# 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](mailto:stjohnchurchtown@yahoo.com)  
webpage: [www.stjohnchurchtown.com](http://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

It is always a blessed and holy occasion when parents bring their child to the parish church for baptism. They gather family and friends and proudly present their child to both God and the faith community. Somewhere in the midst of it all, they will wonder who their child will become, what their child's gifts and talents will be, and what hopes and dreams their child will have. Yet like Simeon, who blessed the Holy Family in the Temple, they will also realize that life is not always favorable to us. As Simeon foretold, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many...and you yourself a sword will pierce" (Luke 2:34-35).

Although we recognize that suffering is a part of everyone's life, and we would never wish it upon a child, we might hope that the child does not run from every suffering, for it becomes the path to wisdom and compassion—perhaps the only path. We might also wish on the child a bit of loneliness, for it teaches us to treasure friends. And amid hoping for the blessing of success, losing can also be a gift and a blessing, for it is how we learn to deal with failure and understand the important lesson that we cannot always have our own way. Failure can be the seed of humility. Fortunately, while doing our best as parents, we must allow God to decide how our children will be blessed and what will nurture their growth into the image of Jesus. We simply present them to God from whom they came.

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## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

**FEBRUARY 2, 2025**

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**MASS INTENTION SCHEDULE**


<b>Saturday</b>	OLM	02/01	4:00	p.m.	+Patricia Huck (01/31) (3yr. Anniv.) (Harold Jr. and Patty Michel)
	SJB	02/01	6:00	p.m.	+Anna Mae Brooker (Birthday and Anniversary Jan. 31) (Family)
<b>Sunday</b>	SJB	02/02	7:30	a.m.	Living and Deceased of +Leo and +Lucy Huck Family (Family)
	OLM	02/02	9:30	a.m.	+Jeri Lang (OLM CWC)
	SJB	02/02	11:00	a.m.	+Alecia Strahler Fouss (Birthday 2/3) (Bob and Peggy Byers)
<b>Monday</b>	SJB	02/03	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
<b>Tuesday</b>	SJB	02/04	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	02/04	5:00	p.m.	TBA
<b>Wednesday</b>	SJB	02/05	8:20	a.m.	+Pat Sisco (Parish) <span style="float:right">School Mass</span>
<b>Thursday</b>	SJB	02/06	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	02/06	5:00	p.m.	TBA
<b>First Friday</b>	SJB	02/07	6:00	p.m.	+Rob Adams (Charlotte Lang and Family) Adoration 5-6:00 p.m.
<b>Saturday</b>	OLM	02/08	4:00	p.m.	TBA
	SJB	02/08	6:00	p.m.	+Margaret Klinger (Alvin Arnold and Family)
<b>Sunday</b>	SJB	02/09	7:30	a.m.	+Ed Brooker (Birthday 2/10) (Family)
	OLM	02/09	9:30	a.m.	TBA
	SJB	02/09	11:00	a.m.	Living and Deceased of James and Maglene Arnold Family (Family)

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND**

MASS	ALTAR SERVERS	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Orion and Raegan Flinn	Kelly Miller	Virginia Dyar
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Adalyn and Eli Eichmiller	Robin Eichmiller	Veronica Bosner
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Emma Wheeler, Emi Lauchard	Brynlee Pottmeyer	Amanda Walters

<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>DPSC</u>	
Total Collection last weekend \$ 2,865 Needed to meet parish needs \$ 4,750  Thank you for your generosity!	2025 Collected to Date \$4,000  Thank you so much for your generosity!	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.

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

<p><b>ST. BLAISE—FEBRUARY 3</b></p> <p>Saint Blaise was a 2nd century physician who served You, healing both humans and animals. While imprisoned for his faith, he healed his fellow prisoners and saved a child who was choking on a fish bone. Thus he became the patron saint of throat ailments, colds and viruses. I ask him to intercede for myself, my family, my friends, and everyone who has asked for my prayers. Lord Jesus, help us in every ailment. Heal us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. May our sufferings be used to glorify God. And teach us how to become Your instrument of healing for others. Saint Blaise, pray for us. Amen.</p>	
	<p>February 3 Fr. Dave will be out of town</p> <p>February 6 Senior Citizens Meeting 11:00 a.m.—Sr. Center</p> <p>February 8 Infertility Retreat—Diocese of Steubenville</p> <p>February 10 CWC Meeting, 6:30.—Sr. Center</p>
<p><b>READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND</b></p> <p>Isaiah 6:1–2a, 3–8 / 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or 15:3–8, 11 / Luke 5:1–11</p>	

### **ST. BLAISE AND THE BLESSING OF THROATS**

February 3rd is the memorial of St. Blaise and the custom is to bless the throat of the faithful. Our Blessing of the Throats will be held this weekend.

### **PRE-CANA**

A Pre-Cana Session has been scheduled for Saturday, March 8th, at the Basilica in Marietta. Couples planning to be married any time this year should register for this class by calling the parish office, 740-373-3643. Pre-Cana is a requirement for marriage in the Diocese of Steubenville.

### **BINGO CAPTAINS**

If you or anyone on your group have not turned in their keys to the Rectory Basement or the Shrine club, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

### **ST. JOHN SCHOOL SUB SALE**

Subs will be sold after all masses next weekend, February 8-9, Cost is \$5 each.

### **CWC MONTHLY MEETING**

The CWC monthly meeting will be held at the Sr. Center on Monday, February 10. The Rosary will be prayed at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will follow.

### **SR. CITIZEN MONTHLY MEETING**

There will be a Senior Citizen's meeting on Thursday, February 6, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sr. Center. All are welcome to attend.

### **CHURCHTOWN COMMUNITY CREW 4-H CLUB**

The Churchtown Community Crew 4-H Club is actively seeking new members from Kindergarten through age 18. Participation in 4-H is a wonderful opportunity for youth to develop leadership and communication skills. Meetings are typically held one Sunday a month from December through August at the St John Senior Center or school pavilion. Advisors are Elaine Wells, Sarah Poulton, and Haley Carpenter. Please contact advisor Elaine Wells at 740-896-3112 for more information. We welcome those interested to attend a meeting and learn what 4-H is all about!

### **ONLINE GIVING**

Online Giving is available for your church contributions. please visit our church website: [www.stjohnchurchtown.com](http://www.stjohnchurchtown.com) and click on the online giving link. You will need to create an account and schedule your recurring gifts. All monies received will be credited to your contribution account. Online contributions for DPSC are not available at this time.

### **ED CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP**

Inserted in this weekends bulletin is an information sheet on the Ed Choice Scholarship. If you are sending or thinking of sending your child to St John's this is a great idea to receive help on tuition costs.

### **SICK & SHUT-INS OF THE PARISH**

Please call Father Gaydosik at 740-391-1093 or the Parish Office at 740-896-3566, when someone is homebound, sick, or hospitalized.

*Who is the king of glory?  
It is the Lord!*

### **DIOCESAN RETIREMENT COLLECTION**

#### **FEBRUARY 8TH AND 9TH**

Throughout their lives, our priests have dedicated themselves to guiding us in faith, serving our parishes, and attending to our spiritual needs. They have been there for us in our moments of joy, sorrow, and growth. Now, it is our turn to support them in their time of retirement. Your generosity helps to ensure that our retired priests receive the care and support they deserve after a lifetime of service to God and His people. Please prayerfully consider giving generously to the Priest Retirement Collection on the weekend of February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support of those who have given so much for us.

#### **INFERTILITY RETREAT**

The Office of Marriage, Family, and Respect Life of the Diocese of Steubenville is offering a Catholic infertility Retreat to support couples carrying the cross of infertility. The retreat will be on Saturday, Feb. 8th from 2 PM -8 PM at Franciscan University in Steubenville. Come with your spouse or on your own to be supported, hear inspiring reflections, have opportunities for group sharing, and experience friendship with others on this same path. In addition to talks, the retreat will include time for prayer in adoration, praise and worship, an optional art walk, and dinner. To registrar go to <https://dios-teub.givecloud.co/infertility-retreat>. Please contact Bernadette at [bmrjuliano@gmail.com](mailto:bmrjuliano@gmail.com) and Meg at [mreister@franciscan.edu](mailto:mreister@franciscan.edu) with any questions.

#### **K OF C SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

Knights of Columbus Council #4617 is happy to announce that our 2025 Scholarship Application is now open! Any senior who is currently attending a local high school may apply for the Knights of Columbus Council #4617 Scholarship. One boy and one girl will be selected from this area. The scholarship recipients will receive a \$500.00 check. The application must be submitted by the end of the day on March 15, 2025. A link to the application can also be found on our Facebook Page: "Knights of Columbus 4617 - Churchtown, OH". Any questions text/call Taylor Pottmeyer at 412-215-6470. Good luck to all applicants!

#### **MARY'S HOUSE BINGO FUNDRAISER**

A bingo fundraiser for Mary's House will be held on Sunday, February 23 (please note date change) at 2:00 p.m. (doors open at 1:00 p.m.) at the St. Bernard Social Hall. 20 games for \$20. Tickets will be sold at the door only. There will be a 50/50 raffle, concession stand and raffle.

#### **EMPTY BOWLS**

To help stop hunger, the Empty Bowls of the Mid-Ohio Valley will host its 25th Annual Empty Bowls Luncheon. Ticket donations will be distributed among local food pantries. The event will be held on Saturday, March 1, from 11 AM until 1 PM, at the First United Church in Williamstown. Guests will enjoy a variety of delicious homemade soups, bread, freshly baked cookies and beverages. For only a \$15 donation and \$10 for a child 12 and under, each attendee will receive lunch and a one-of-a-kind bowl made by area student, artist, or hobbyist. Advance tickets are available by texting Lori Smith at 740-434-8317.

#### **2025 LENTEN FISH FRIES**

Our Lady of Mercy Church Fish Fries will be held on the following dates: March 14, March 28, and April 11. Mark your calendars now 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

**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:** Feb.1– Fr. Dale Tornes; Feb. 2-Bishop Edward Lohse; Feb. 3-Fr. Tom Hamm; Feb. 4-Fr. Sam Saprano; Feb. 5-Fr. Vic Cinson; Feb 6- fr. Jonas Schell; Feb 7-Fr. Robert Borer; Feb. 8-Fr. David Gaydosik.

**Diocesan Priest Retirement Collection – February 9th**

Throughout their lives, our priests have dedicated themselves to guiding us in faith, serving our parishes, and attending to our spiritual needs. They have been there for us in our moments of joy, sorrow, and growth. Now, it is our turn to support them in their time of retirement.

Your our generosity helps to ensures that our retired priests receive the care and support they deserve after a lifetime of service to God and His people. Please prayerfully consider giving generously to the Priest Retirement Collection on the weekend of February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your support of those who have given so much for us.

**Christ the Teacher Diocesan Scholarship Fund.**

This is just an update on where things stand as far as donations received for CTDSF, designated to your school: This year (for 2025-2026 school year) **\$3,000.** Last year was \$9,125. Instead of giving all of your money to the state of Ohio, you can help someone get a Catholic education who can't afford it. This is not just a deduction, but a credit that is taken directly from the tax that you owe Ohio. By donating to the Christ the Teacher Diocesan Scholarship Fund (CTDSF) you can make a donation to the Catholic school of your choice at no net cost to you. If you file individually you can donate up to \$750, or up to \$1,500 if you file a joint return. If you do this by April 15th, 2025, you will receive a tax receipt from the diocese that qualifies you to subtract that amount from the money that you owe the state of Ohio. Download the form at [www.diosteub.org/ctdsf](http://www.diosteub.org/ctdsf), make a check out to Christ the Teacher Diocesan Scholarship Fund Inc. and the diocese will send you a receipt.

**Engaged couples** are invited to attend a Marriage Preparation Workshop on Saturday, March 8th from 9:00am–3:00pm St. Mary Church, St. Clairsville Ohio in Marian Hall. This workshop will cover many marriage-related topics including: Communication, Marriage as a Sacrament, Finances, Sexuality and Natural Family Planning. At the close of the workshop, the couple's engagement will be blessed, and they will receive a certificate of completion. The workshop fulfills the diocesan requirements for Marriage Preparation. Please call 740-695-9993 for more information or to register.

**PRE-CANA in Marietta**

A Pre-Cana Session has been scheduled for Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Basilica. Couples planning to be married any time this year should register for this class by calling the parish office,740-373-3643. Pre-Cana is a requirement for marriage in the Diocese of Steubenville.

**NEW ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER** If

you have recently moved, please call the parish office and give us your new address. Also, if you have dropped your land line and are just using your cell phone number, please give us that information as we want to keep our census current.

**Question:** What does it mean to discern a vocation? **Answer:** The word vocation comes from the Latin word vocare, meaning "to call." A vocation is a calling or invitation from God to serve in a particular way. For Catholics, that calling might be as a priest, sister, or married person. Vocation is the way we respond to the invitation to share in God's grace and witness to God's love in the world. Discerning a vocation is the process in which we pray for God's guidance. We listen for God's message that is often quiet and unassuming in a world filled with noise and distractions. We look at our gifts and talents, seek the advice of others, examine our motives, and listen to see what God is asking of us. The goal of discernment is to follow what the Lord wills, not what we think is the best idea. Many men enter a seminary to discern if that is their vocation, only to discover that their calling is to marriage. Others have resisted the idea for long periods of time, until finally they could resist no more. Some great saints have described that dilemma. Vocation is a human process of divine origin, and each of us must strive constantly to hear the call of God in our lives. ©LPi

