

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 17, 2026



Good News!

By: MIGUEL DULICK

Even by the Ascension, after forty days of eating and drinking with the resurrected Lord, the obtuseness of the Apostles still frustrates Jesus. In Acts, they're ready for a fight, "to restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Matthew reports that "they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Pentecost cannot come soon enough, when they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and all will be made known.

So the next nine days are crucial. The apostles and other disciples, 120 persons in all, prepare for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a spiritual retreat, the original "novena." Only then can the apostle go and "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus, who brought heaven down to earth in the Incarnation, now ascends, taking earth up to heaven, with his resurrection. Saint Paul gives us a hint of how special this interchange is when he wishes for the Ephesians to receive from Jesus "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Ephesians 1:17).

Our own obtuseness can block the Holy Spirit when we think we have all the answers. When I first preached in Honduras, in the village where I live, I was so prepared. I said everything I could think of, all that I had learned in my courses for a masters degree in divinity. But then, when I heard the prayers and insights of poor and simple folks, supported by a rich, personal knowledge of the Lord himself, I cut my sermons in half and let the "saints," as St. Paul liked to call the people, finish the job. Thank you, Holy Spirit!

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 | 05/16 | 4:00 | p.m. | +Bob Peters (Marilyn and Heather Peters) |
| | SJB | 05/16 | 6:00 | p.m. | +Barbara Wallis (Steve and Pam Brooker) |
| Sunday | SJB | 05/17 | 7:30 | a.m. | +Albert Henke (Patricia Henke and Family) |
| | OLM | 05/17 | 9:30 | a.m. | +Dan Strahler (2 yr. Ann.) (Andrew Strahler) |
| | SJB | 05/17 | 11:00 | a.m. | +Richard and +Bertha Pottmeyer (Children) |
| Monday | SJB | 05/18 | 8:00 | a.m. | +Harry Way (Richard and Brenda Arnold and Family) |
| Tuesday | SJB | 05/19 | 6:00 | p.m. | Staff and Students of St. John School (6th grade Promotion) |
| | OLM | 05/19 | 5:00 | p.m. | No Mass |
| Wednesday | SJB | 05/20 | 8:30 | a.m. | People of the Parish School Mass |
| Thursday | SJB | 05/21 | 8:00 | a.m. | No Mass Today |
| | OLM | 05/21 | 5:00 | p.m. | +Gene and +Gale Knoch (Fay Heiss) |
| Friday | SJB | 05/22 | 8:00 | a.m. | +Donna Zoller (Scott and Diane Hockenberry) |
| Saturday | OLM | 05/23 | 4:00 | p.m. | +Siobhan Huck (Ben and Lisa Berendts) |
| | SJB | 05/23 | 6:00 | p.m. | +Edith Brooker (Bob and Peggy Byers) |
| Sunday | SJB | 05/24 | 7:30 | a.m. | +Ed Lang (Todd and Annette Schott) |
| | OLM | 05/24 | 9:30 | a.m. | +Gary Pottmeyer (Larry and Linda Pottmeyer) |
| | SJB | 05/24 | 11:00 | a.m. | +Gladys Schilling (Anniv. 5/27) (Children) |

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

| <u>MASS</u> | <u>ALTER SERVERS</u> | <u>LECTOR</u> | <u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Saturday 6:00 p.m. | Alyssa Dyar, Alaina Wells | Rachel Klinger | Jessica Henke |
| Sunday 7:30 a.m. | Connor McCartney Keegan Pottmeyer | Hugh Arnold | Connie Arnold |
| Sunday 11:00 a.m. | Hadleigh Pennock, Brenlee Lang | Ashleigh Pennock | Tonia Skinner |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <u>COLLECTION</u> | <u>DPSC</u> |  <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 \$3,791 | 2026 Collected to date \$34,815 | |
| 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! |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  | <p>May 19 Field Day at St. John School and 6th grade promotion</p> <p>May 20 Mass with Kindergarten Graduation and Last Day of School at St. John's</p> <p>May 24 High School and College Graduates Mass</p> <p>May 25 Memorial Day</p> <p>May 26 Fr. Heinz's 64th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination</p> <p>May 30 Ordination Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary's</p> <p>June 1 VBS registrations due</p> <p>June 24 Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist. Mass at 6pm with reception at the Sr. Center</p> | <p>UPCOMING <i>Events</i></p> |
| | <p>READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND</p> <p>Acts 2:1-11 / 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 / John</p> | |

MASS CHANGE

There will be mass on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:00 p.m. for the St. John School 6th grade Promotion. Evening mass at Our Lady of Mercy is cancelled that day. Wednesday, May 20, will be the last day of school and the last school mass until school begins in August. Therefore, **Wednesday morning mass time will change to 8:00 a.m. on May 27.**

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the wonderful ladies of our Catholic Women's Club for your time, dedication, and service to our parish. Your faith, kindness, and hard work are such a blessing to our church community and deeply appreciated by all.

DIOCESAN CWC CONVENTION

The CWC Convention will be held in Steubenville on Wednesday, June 3rd. If any women of the parish are interested in attending they can contact Marilyn Zoller 740-350-8141.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is just around the corner. Registration forms are available in the back of the church. There will be an envelope in the church vestibule if you wish to complete a paper copy of the registration form. A QR code is also provided to do online registration. Please register by June 1st so we can order enough supplies and t-shirts. Volunteers are also needed for each station and crew leaders. Sign-ups to Volunteer can be done using the QR code or contacting Maggie Huffman at 740-885-0202. Thank you!!

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES RECOGNITION

All graduating high school and college seniors will be honored at the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 24. If you would like to participate, please wear your cap and gown and sit together in the front pews.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

Please join us for an Open House to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Bob and Peggy Byers. It will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at the Churchtown Knights of Columbus Hall. No gifts please.

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.

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

If you or someone you know cannot attend mass due to being confined to home and would like to receive communion, please contact the Rectory 740-896-3566.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL GOLF SCRAMBLE

St. John School Athletic Boosters will host a four man golf scramble at Lakeside Golf Course on June 27, 2026. Cost is \$280 per team. Registration is at 7:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. Cost includes 18 holes with cart, pop, water and hotdogs will be provided, dinner following play at the course and beverages will be for sale on the course. There will be a 50/50 raffle and skins game. Pre-register or become an event sponsor by contacting Kourtney Thieman 740-525-6503.

LIFE LINE SCREENING AT ST. JOHN SCHOOL

St. John Central School is hosting Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings on Monday, June 15, 2026. Screenings are fast, painless and affordable. Three key tests check for blocked carotid arteries, an irregular heart rhythm called atrial fibrillation, and high blood pressure, which are the three leading risk factors for stroke. Other tests check for abdominal aortic aneurysms and hardening of the arteries in the legs. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women. Many events also offer blood tests, including cholesterol, glucose and c-reactive protein screenings, as well as take-home colon cancer early detection tests. For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call **1-844-591-7160** or go to <https://lsa.social/HC> or **text** the word **circle** to **216-279-1607**. Pre-registration is required.

BUS TRIP TO FRANKEMUTH, MI

Bus Trip to Frankenmuth, Michigan – July 21-23, 2026. Tour stops include: Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue, Ohio; Bronner's Christmas Wonderland and the town of Frankenmuth, Michigan; Bavarian Belle River Cruise on the Cass River; Blessed Solanus Casey Center in Detroit. Cost is \$649 per Person (double occupancy). Departure is from Caldwell, Ohio. Deadline to register is June 19th. For tour flyer and more information contact Fr. Tom Nelson at the Noble County Catholic Churches parish office: 740-732-4129.

CHICKEN BBQ

St. Michael's Church in Carlisle will be holding a Chicken BBQ on Sunday, May 24 from 11:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Dine in or Drive Thru carryout available. There will be afternoon bingo and a square dance from 7-10:00 p.m. with "Little Creek Band". All are welcome.

ST. STEPHEN PARISH SOCIAL

St. Stephen Catholic Church in Caldwell will host their Parish Social on Sunday, June 7 from 5-8:00 p.m. Menu includes homemade shredded chicken sandwiches, chicken and noodles by the bowl, sloppy joe's, hot dogs and coney's, pie, cake, soda and coffee. There will be raffles, bingo, a country store and several door prizes. Everyone is invited to attend.

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD MASS

The Diocese of Steubenville invites you to the Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacons Ryan Budd and Peter Stetson. The Ordination Mass will take place on **Saturday, May 30th at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Basilica in Marietta**. This is a profound and grace-filled moment in the life of our diocese, as these two men offer their lives in service to Christ and His Church. All are warmly encouraged to attend and witness this beautiful celebration of faith and vocation. Your presence is a powerful sign of support for our future priests and for the life of the Church. Please also keep Deacons Ryan Budd and Peter Stetson in your prayers as they prepare for this sacred step. May the Lord bless them abundantly as they answer His call.





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 Home-bound:

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS GRADUATING AT ST. JOHN CENTRAL SCHOOL AND ST. JOHN PRE-SCHOOL ON MAY 20, 2026

2026 PRE-SCHOOL GRADUATES

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Kaden Alexander | Edie Lang |
| Cooper Arnold | Levi Lee |
| Emma Arnold | Adelyn Marks |
| Alice Barrett | Gage Pottmeyer |
| Atlee Chestnut | Jaxon Spindler |
| Noah Fincher | Rhett Thieman |
| Louisa Fyffe | Chloe Wesel |
| Henry Knoch | Brooks Wharff |

2026 KINDERGARTEN GRADUATES

Brooklyn Arnold
Case Arnold
Kenley Burwell
Braxton Coleman
Elizabeth Knox
Amelia Lang
Luke Lang
Aiken Miller
Bristol Tkach
Crew Tompkins
Haven Tornes

2026 6th GRADE GRADUATES

Brenlee Lang
Willow McNabb
Faith Strahler

To the Amazing Staff of St. John's School and St. John's Pre-School,

Thank you for the care, dedication, patience, and faith you bring to our students each and every day. Your work goes far beyond lessons and classrooms — you help shape hearts, inspire minds, and guide our children with compassion and love.

The time, energy, and encouragement you give do not go unnoticed. Because of your commitment, our students grow not only academically, but spiritually and personally as well. You are a blessing to our school community and an important part of the mission of Catholic education.

We are deeply grateful for all that you do and for the positive difference you make in the lives of our students and families every day.

