

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*

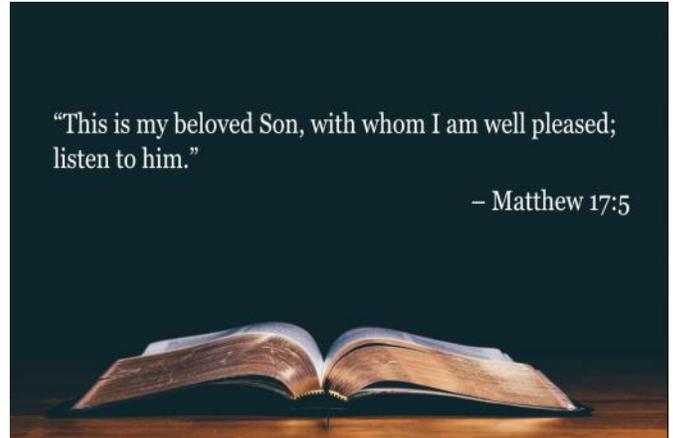
Phone 740-896-3566
Fax 740-896-3567
Parish Sr. Center 740-896-3610
Email: stjohnchurchtown@yahoo.com
webpage: www.stjohnchurchtown.com

Fr. David Gaydosik, Pastor
Cell number 740-391-1093
Fr. Walter E Heinz, retired
Fr. Dale Tornes, retired

**SECOND SUNDAY
OF LENT
MARCH 1, 2026**

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.”

– Matthew 17:5



Good News!

By: Ann M. Garrido

Have you ever noticed that mountains and clouds seem to “go together”? When I was a child, I thought it was because the mountains’ height pierced the sky. Turns out, it’s a bit more complicated. Mountains “create” their own clouds. When moving air comes across a mountain front, it forces the warm air to rise to cooler zones and water droplets in the air to condense. The phenomenon is so common that these clouds have their own name: lenticular. They are known for being bright—even colorful—with rays of light peeking out from behind.

It’s no wonder why, throughout history, people have sought to ascend mountains as part of their spiritual journey. It was a way to get closer to the “heavens”—to those radiant clouds. Recall the prophet Elijah, who climbs Mount Sinai seeking a face-to-face encounter with God. Or Moses, who, with three of his closest friends, ascends Mount Sinai to meet God in a radiant cloud that hovers over the top of the peak.

So, it’s also no wonder why Jesus, with three of his closest friends, might also climb a mountain and meet Elijah and Moses there. No wonder why that mountain would be covered in a bright cloud that thunders with God’s voice, and why, in that moment, Scripture describes heaven and earth as mysteriously yet visibly mingling in the person of the transfigured Jesus.

The story of the transfiguration reminds us that just like mountains and clouds were meant for one another, heaven and earth were meant for one another. Jesus stands at the point where the two meet.

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.

MASS INTENTION SCHEDULE

Saturday	OLM	02/28	4:00	p.m.	+Tess Huck (Kay Offenberger)	
	SJB	02/28	6:00	p.m.	+Robert Heiss (Stan Lang and Family)	
Sunday	SJB	03/01	7:30	a.m.	+Norma Thieman (Ted Brooker and Family)	
	OLM	03/01	9:30	a.m.	+Suzanne Walters (Evan and Heather Schaad)	
	SJB	03/01	11:00	a.m.	Deceased of +Raymond and +Blanche Tornes (Donna Tornes and Family)	
Monday	SJB	03/02	8:00	a.m.	+Allene Huck (Siblings)	
Tuesday	SJB	03/03	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today	
	OLM	03/03	5:00	p.m.	+Theresa Miser (Heather Peters)	
Wednesday	SJB	03/04	8:30	a.m.	+Penny Schwendeman (Card Club)	School Mass
Thursday	SJB	03/05	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today	
	OLM	03/05	5:00	p.m.	+Donnie Heiss (The Family) Stations of the Cross to follow Mass	
Friday	SJB	03/06	6:00	p.m.	+Nick Brooker (Anniversary) (Howard Brooker) Stations of the Cross to follow Mass	
Saturday	OLM	03/07	4:00	p.m.	+David Schwendeman (Lisa Schwendeman)	
	SJB	03/07	6:00	p.m.	+Tom and +Pat Thieman (Derek and Kourtney Thieman Family)	
Sunday	SJB	03/08	7:30	a.m.	+Patty Huck (Anniversary 3/11) (Arnold Huck)	
	OLM	03/08	9:30	a.m.	+Jim Huck (2 yr. Annv. 03/10) (The Jim Huck Family)	
	SJB	03/08	11:00	a.m.	+Bill O'Linn (Parish)	

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

<u>MASS</u>	<u>ALTER SERVERS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u>
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Tanner Crum, Abby Henke	Virginia Dyar	Melinda Treadway
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Eli, Lola and Will Eichmiller	Adalyn Eichmiller	Arnold Huck
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Emi Lauchard, Emma Wheeler	Brynlee Pottmeyer	Tonia Skinner

<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>DPSC</u>	 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 weekend \$2,274	2026 Collected to date \$7,320	
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><u>MASS AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS</u> Mass and Stations of the Cross will be held at St. John the Baptist every Friday during Lent at 6:00 p.m. Mass and Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Mercy will be held every Thursday at 5:00 p.m. during Lent.</p> <p><u>LENTEN REGULATIONS</u> 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. Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence.</p>	March 5 Senior Citizens Meeting March 6 School Stations of the Cross 9:44 a.m. March 7 Pre Cana at St. Mary's Church in Marietta March 9 CWC Meeting March 13 School Stations of the Cross 10:31 a.m. Our Lady of Mercy Fish Fry March 20 School Stations of the Cross 8:30 a.m. Boys SEARCH Weekend March 27 Girls SEARCH Weekend		
	READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND		
	Exodus 17:3-7 / Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 / John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42		
Please have all bulletin information to the Rectory by Wednesday at 6 p.m.			

CONDOLENCES

Please keep in your prayers, Robert Gaydosik Jr., Fr. David's brother, who passed away on February 23. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Robert's family and friends. May Robert rest in peace and light with our Lord.

BIG THANK YOU!

The CWC would like to thank everyone who supported our breakfast! The work groups, diners, and the donations were all greatly appreciated. The country store was a huge success!

CHURCHTOWN SENIOR CITIZENS

Churchtown Sr. Citizens will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Sr. Center on March 5. Susan Arnold from the Washington Co. Homeless Project will be the speaker. We will be collecting items that can be used at the homeless center (paper towels, toilet paper, bleach, socks, gloves etc.) Please bring donations to the meeting.

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to donate in memory of a loved one for Easter flowers, 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 March 22.

DPSC PLEDGE CARDS

In case you have not received a DPSC pledge card in the mail, you will find the pledge cards available in the back of the church.

"SEARCH" FOR CHRISTIAN MATURITY

"SEARCH" for Christian Maturity weekend retreats for youth ages sophomore-21 is upcoming. SEARCH weekends will be held at St. John Central Grade School. Boys weekend will be held on Friday, March 20th-Sunday, March 22nd. Girls weekend will be Friday, March 27th-Sunday, March 29th. Deadline for applications will be March 15th. You can find applications at St. Johns Parish website at <https://www.stjohnchurchtown.com/>. Please contact Alana Henry for more information at 440-539-3763.

CONGRATULATIONS

We welcome into our parish family through Baptism: Carson Thomas Alexander, son of Ian and Lauren (Bosner) Alexander. Congratulations to these parents for the gift of new life.

OUR LADY OF MERCY LENTEN FISH FRIES

Our Lady of Mercy Church Lenten Fish Fries will be held from 4:30 - 7:30 pm on March 13, and March 27. Cost for the meal is Adults \$13.00 and Children 12 & under \$6.00. To Go Drive Through Meals are \$13.00-No need to call ahead. Everyone is welcome to attend.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Basilica of St. Mary in Marietta, in cooperation with the American Red Cross, will sponsor a blood drive on March 12 from 12:00 to 6:00 PM in their social hall. Please sign up to give blood. You can sign up online at RedCrossBlood.org or you can call Nancy Funk at 740-336-8662 to schedule your appointment. Give in March for a \$15 gift card. Successful donations get a A1C testing. This blood drive is sponsored by the Catholic Women in Action (CWC) of St. Mary.

SENIOR CITIZEN PROM...SAVE THE DATE

You're invited to the Fort Frye High School Senior Citizen Prom on Friday, March 20, 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the high school gym. Hope to see you there.

PRE-CANA

A Pre-Cana Session has been scheduled for Saturday, March 7th, 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.

SQUARE DANCE

St. Bernard Catholic Church Youth Group will be hosting a Square Dance in the social hall on March 21, from 7:00—10:00 p.m. Cost will be \$5. The Buckeye Travelers will be playing the music. There will be concessions, raffles and cake walks. The proceeds will support Seminarian Caleb Baker. Come and have some fun!

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

Please join the Ancient Order of Hibernians for an evening of music, food and fun with Steve and Bev Pottmeyer on March 7th from 6 to 8 pm at the Knights of Columbus #478, located at 312 Franklin St., Marietta. Come and enjoy BYOB along with J's Hotdog House food truck, and Waterford Crystal raffle. Admission will be \$10 ten dollars at the door. For more information contact Tom Binigar (740-706-3004).

ST. BERNARD'S CHURCH PARISH MISSION

St. Bernard's Church in Beverly will hold a Parish Mission with Tim Staples. The theme for this year's Mission is "Catholic Clarity in a World of Gray". The speaker will be Tim Staples. Tim will be doing a two day parish mission at St. Bernard on Sunday, March 8th and Monday, March 9th, at 7:00pm. Tim will talk about the Church's clear teachings on morality and interacting with a fallen culture. He will talk for about an hour and will also field questions. There is an insert in this weekend's bulletin.

WOMEN'S DAY OF RENEWAL

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is hosting a Lenten Day of Spirituality on Saturday, March 21st at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta. Registration begins at 8:30 AM with Mass and sessions led by Sister Edie Strong from 9 AM to 3 PM. For further details or to register, please contact Heather Peters at 740- 350-6972 by Sunday, March 15th.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA, AVILA, LOYOLA AND LOURDES

You are invited to join Fr. Bradley Greer and Fr. Timothy Huffman, from the Diocese of Steubenville, on a pilgrimage to Fatima, Avila, Loyola and Lourdes. September 10-20, 2026. \$5346/per person based on double occupancy. Price includes round trip airfare from Pittsburgh (other departure cities available). For more information, visit www.QoHTours.com or call us at 1-800-213-4295.



March 8, 2026



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

Pray for the priests of the Diocese of Steubenville,

living and deceased:

Feb. 28 Fr. Emmanuel Nwsu, + Fr. John Cymbor

March 1, Bishop Edward Lohse, + Bishop Gilbert Shelton

March 2, Fr. Jermiah Hahn, + Bishop John King Mussio

March 3, Fr. Tim Shannon, + Bishop Albert Ottenweller

March 4, Fr. Fred Kihm, + Fr. Charles Morgan

March 5, Msgr. Thomas Petronek, + Msgr. John Kolsar

March 6, Fr. James Dunfee, + Fr. Thomas Magary

March 7, Fr. Joshus Erickson, + Msgr. Gerald Calovini

March 8, Fr. Robert Gallagher, + Msgr. David Reasbeck

Pray for our seminarians (the future of our Diocese).

Deacon Peter Stetson— Blessed 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: @ds vocations

A **“Come and See”** seminary live-in weekend will take place at the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio, from 4 p.m., March 20, until noon, March 22. Young men will get to “experience seminary firsthand” and will be able “attend classes, join in prayer,” and “enjoy community recreation.” For additional information about the “Come and See” seminary live-in weekend at the Pontifical College Josephinum, or if you are interested in discerning the priesthood, contact Father Nicholas V. Ginnetti, Diocese of Steubenville director of vocations, by emailing nginnetti@diosteub.org.

Catholic Men’s Day of Renewal 2026 - Conversion:

A Lenten retreat for the men of the Dioceses of Steubenville will be held on Saturday, March 7th from 8:00am-3:00pm (doors open at 7:30am) at St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1036 Belford Street, Caldwell, Ohio. The 2026 Diocesan Men’s Day of Renewal will focus on the lifelong call to conversion — our discovery of Jesus Christ, His Church, and the ongoing transformation of our hearts as we journey toward eternity. This year, men will hear the personal conversion testimonies of two Diocesan priests — Fr. Bradley Greer and Fr. Tim Shannon — who will offer practical guidance for spiritual growth and for living and sharing the Faith in our families, parishes, communities, and daily work. Register online at athenscatholic.org/Steubenville-mens-day. Cost is \$25.00 per registration plus a \$3.00 online surcharge; lunch is included.

Lenten Blessings: Bless us in Your mercy, Lord, as we enter these 40 Days of Lent. Use this time to call, anoint, bind, strengthen, and inspire us anew. Like a good shepherd, teach us Your voice and give us the strength to follow. Amen. ©LPi

Benefits of Eucharistic Adoration

1. Every Holy Hour we make so pleases the Heart of Jesus that it is recorded in Heaven and retold for all eternity! - St. Teresa of Calcutta
2. The spiritual lives of our families are strengthened through our Holy Hour. - St. John Paul II
3. A Holy Hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is so important to Jesus that a multitude of souls go to Heaven who otherwise would have gone to hell. - Jesus revelation to Blessed Dina Belanger
4. The only time our Lord asked the Apostles for anything was the night He went into agony. Not for activity did He plead but for an hour of companionship. - Archbishop Fulton Sheen
5. Perpetual Adoration extends its influence far beyond the individual adorers, touching their homes and families and reaching out to the parish community and beyond. - St. Pope Paul VI
6. Each time you approach the Blessed Sacrament remember that Jesus has been waiting for you for twenty centuries for this personal visit from you. - St. Josemaria Escriva
7. A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration is a sharing in the work of Redemption - Archbishop Fulton Sheen
8. The grace of adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament is given to everybody. - St. Peter Julian Eymard
9. Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Eucharist will obtain a more abundant measure of grace. - St. Alphonsus Ligouri
10. The future belongs to those who worship God in silence. - St. John Paul II

2026 Chrism Mass for the Diocese of Steubenville will be Monday, March 30th at 2pm at the Basilica of St. Mary in Marietta. All are invited to attend.

Registration for St. John Central, in Churchtown

is now open for the 2026-2027 school year in grade Pre-Kindergarten through 6. Please call the school office (740-896-2697) to register. Financial aid is available through the Edchoice Scholarship. We are happy to announce that we now have financial aid for Pre-Kindergarten available through the Christ the Teacher Diocesan Scholarship Fund. These funds are limited and are based on the donations the diocese receives through the Ohio tax credits. Any family who does not receive the full Edchoice Scholarship or who has a child entering Pre-Kindergarten can complete the application forms for this CTDSF scholarship. Please call the school office for information concerning all of the financial aid options that are available.