

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 22, 2026



Good News!

By: ANN M. GARRIDO

The prophets before Jesus had long spoken of God's dreams for our world. In seasons of darkness and despair, they would offer snapshots of hope for what it would be like in the "kingdom of God." Those who were blind would see. Those unable to walk would dance. Those imprisoned would be free. And those who had died would be raised to life again.

In today's gospel, we hear that Martha shared in the prophets' hope. When Jesus tells her that her brother Lazarus will rise, she replies, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." In other words, Martha believes in the coming "kingdom of God." But then, Jesus stuns her with his response: "I am the resurrection and the life." That is, "I am the kingdom of God."

Origen of Alexandria—a third-century theologian—spoke of Jesus as the *autobasileia*. The term comes from two Greek words: *auto*, meaning "self," and *basileia*, meaning "kingdom." It was his way of expressing that Jesus was the fulfillment of all that the prophets had preached. He was all of God's dreams for us manifest, not as had been anticipated in a future time, but in a living person.

We still wait for God's dreams to be realized on a global scale, but, like Martha, we have seen what that realization will look like already in our experience of Jesus. With Martha, we can confess that he is "the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

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	03/21	4:00	p.m.	+Richard and +Leona Rohrer (Rob and Sue Huck)
	SJB	03/21	6:00	p.m.	+Chris Tesi (Debbie Huck)
Sunday	SJB	03/22	7:30	a.m.	+Dave Bowen (Alan and Charlene Kern)
	OLM	03/22	9:30	a.m.	+Richard and + Bryan Stevens (Martha Stevens)
	SJB	03/22	11:00	a.m.	+Mary E. Huck (Ferris and Susan Arnold)
Monday	SJB	03/23	8:00	a.m.	+Larry Schaad (Dave and Barbara Huck)
Tuesday	SJB	03/24	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	03/24	5:00	p.m.	+Howard and +Patricia Huck (The Huck Family)
Wednesday	SJB	03/25	8:30	a.m.	+Bill O'Linn (Robert and Diane Wesselman) School Mass
Thursday	SJB	03/26	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	03/26	5:00	p.m.	+Gary Pottmeyer (Denise Pottmeyer) Stations of the Cross to follow Mass
Friday	SJB	03/27	6:00	p.m.	+John and +Mary Lou Huck (Arnold Huck) Stations of the Cross to follow Mass
Saturday	OLM	03/28	4:00	p.m.	+Bernard and Dorothy Huck (Nancy Huck)
	SJB	03/28	6:00	p.m.	+Lawrence and +Margaret Schaad (Janet Schaad and Family) <u>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</u>
Sunday	SJB	03/29	7:30	a.m.	+Vincent Lang (Anniversary 3/28) (Bob and Peggy Byers)
	OLM	03/29	9:30	a.m.	+Daniel Strahler (Ken and Jan Long)
	SJB	03/29	11:00	a.m.	+Robert Heiss (Russ Kern and Family)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND (PALM SUNDAY)

<u>MASS</u>	<u>ALTER SERVERS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u>
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Coletyn Dyar, Weston Hennes	Kelly Miller-Narrator Eugene Huck-Voice	Jason Henke
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Eli, Lola, and Will Eichmiller	Robin Eichmiller-Narrator Hugh Arnold-Voice	Arnold Huck
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Sydney and Jade Lang	Janelle Sprague-Narrator Angie Henniger-Voice	Lori Hart

<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 \$3,273 Need to meet parish needs \$4,750 Thank you for your generosity!	2026 Collected to date \$11,615 2026 DPSC Goal \$36,584 This includes money sent directly to the Diocese. Thank you for your contributions!	

<u>LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES</u>		
Monday, March 23 1:00 pm St. John School 7:00 pm St. John the Baptist Church Tuesday, March 24 7:00 pm Our Lady of Mercy Church Wednesday, March 25 7:00 pm Basilica of St. Mary's Church Thursday, March 26 7:00 pm St. Bernards Church Sunday, March 29 7:00 pm St. Ambrose Church	March 23 St. Johns School Penance 1:00 p.m. St. Johns Penance Service 7:00 p.m. March 27 Girls SEARCH Weekend School Stations of the Cross 8:59 a.m. March 27 Our Lady of Mercy Fish Fry March 29 Fr. Heinz returns to Churchtown March 30 Chrism Mass, St. Mary's Marietta April 1 Confessions at St. Johns 7-8:00 p.m. April 2-5 See the Holy Week Schedule inside the bulletin	
	READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND Matthew 21:1-11 / Isaiah 50:4-7 / Philippians 2:6-11/ Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54	

HOLY WEEK LITURGICAL MINISTER SIGN-UP

There is a sheet in the vestibule for volunteers to sign up for Holy Week and Easter Weekend services. This is for servers, lectors, and eucharistic ministers. Please sign up by March 20. Thank you.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP NOTICE

In order to maintain the appearance of our parish cemetery properties and ensure the safety of visitors and employees, the Catholic Parish Cemeteries Association will be conducting our annual cemetery clean-up during the month of March. Please note that all Christmas items will be removed from all graves during the clean-up. If there are any items that you wish to keep, please remove them as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation! It is greatly appreciated.

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 re-register if listed under their parents. If you've moved away, contact your new parish for the letter.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

St. John School Athletic Boosters Golf Outing will be held June 27 at Lakeside Golf Course. More information to follow.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN

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 Ed Choice 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 Ed Choice 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.

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Thursday, April 2

Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper

Our Lady of Mercy Lowell 6:00 pm

St. John the Baptist Churchtown 7:00 pm

Adoration of the Eucharist until 10:00 pm in each parish

Friday, April 3

Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord

Our Lady of Mercy 12:00 pm Way of the Cross

6:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

St. John the Baptist Churchtown

3:00 pm Way of the Cross

7:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, April 4

Easter Vigil

Our Lady of Mercy Lowell 8:30pm

St. John the Baptist Churchtown 8:30 pm

Easter Sunday April 5

The Resurrection of the Lord

St. John the Baptist 7:30am and 10:00 am

Our Lady of Mercy 9:30am

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Confirmation will be held on
April 12 at 2:00 p.m.



First Communion will be held April 26
during the 11:00 a.m. Mass.



THE ANNUAL KOFC 4617 EASTER EGG HUNT

The Annual K of C 4617 Easter Egg Hunts will be held on Easter Sunday, April 5th, for children 0-12 years old, at the following times: St. John: after 10:00 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 Tanner Pottmeyer at 740-516-4749.





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

DPSC 2026. The DPSC is more than just a campaign—it is the lifeblood of our diocese ministries and programs. You generosity helps to fund those critical ministries, forming the next generation of Catholics, and supporting our seminarians studying for the priesthood. It also provides care for our retired priests, administrative support to our Catholic schools. It provides funding for our outreach to the poor, for marriage and family ministries and efforts to promote a culture of life. *Regardless of what the Vatican decides about the future of our diocese, the work of the Church—including our parishes schools, and other ministries—must continue. All funds received through the DPSC are donor restricted and will remain in the Diocese of Steubenville.*

Priestly Ordination of Deacon Ryan Budd and Deacon Peter Stetson will be Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 11am in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta. Please pray for these young men, who offer their lives in service.

Pray for the living and deceased priests of the Diocese of Steubenville:

March 22, Msgr. Donald Horak, + Fr, Donald Schwendeman

March 23, Fr. Joseph Safraniec, + Fr. Ambrose Schilling

March 24, Fr. Martin Hollar, + Msgr. Kenneth Uram

March 25, Fr. Ryan Gray, + Fr. Bill Young

March 26, Fr. Leo Cencula, + Fr. Aloysius Berendt

March 27, Fr Dale Tornes, + Fr. Sam Saprano

March 28, Fr. Matthew Gossett, + Fr. Thomas Graven

March 29, Bishop Edward Lohse, + Msgr. Henry Grigsby

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

Deacon Peter Stetson— Blessed Sacrament Parish, 825 Main Street, Winterville, 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: @dsvocations director of vocations, by emailing nginnetti@diosteub.org.

Punishment and suffering. The Catholic Church teaches that sin has two consequences or punishments (ccc1472). The first is eternal punishment in which the soul loses Heaven and is confined to eternity in Hell. This punishment is remitted though the forgiveness of sins. The second is temporal punishment, in which a person must expiate or make reparation of their sins. This temporal punishment remains even after the sin is forgiven. This temporal punishment is know as Purgatory.

Our Lord said, "The soul that will go to confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all divine floodgates throughout which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet...Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the fount of My Mercy."
- Saint Faustina, 699

Lenten Penance Services

Monday 23 rd .	1pm	St. John Central (in church)
	7pm	St. John the Baptist— Churchtown
March 24 th	7pm	Our Lady of Mercy—Lowell
March 25 th	7pm	Basilica of Assumption— Marietta
March 26 th	7pm	St. Bernard—Beverly
March 29 th	7pm	St. Ambrose - Little Hocking

Additional Confession Times:

Tuesday March 31st at Our Lady of Mercy Lowell
5:30pm to 6:30pm

Wednesday April 1st at St. John the Baptist Churchtown
6:00pm to 7:00pm

LENTEN REGULATIONS:

1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence in the United States.
2. Abstinence (from meat) is required for those age 14 and older. Fasting (one full meal and two smaller meals) binds those ages 18–59. *These obligations should be taken seriously.*
3. Those with medical conditions that make fasting harmful are not obliged to fast but should perform another act of penance or charity.
4. All the Christian faithful are encouraged to perform additional acts of penance and charity during Lent beyond what is required.

College Scholarship Application: There are two scholarships applications available for high school seniors— the John and Blanche Mussio Scholarship (deadline is April 17).

Good Friday Collection which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Through this collection you stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as a witness of peace. Please be generous!





St. John Central Pizza Night

**Tue. April 7th
4-9pm**

A portion from each pizza
or sub will support the St.
John Home & School Association

**Call and place an order
to support our school!**

Smitty's Marietta 740-374-2280

Smitty's Reno 740-374-2599

Smitty's Barlow 740-678-2180

Smitty's Belpre 740-423-9900

Smitty's Lowell 740-750-4141



EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

How have I failed to worship God in private and communal prayer?

♣ Do I pray daily? ♣ Do I receive the sacraments regularly? ♣ Do I keep Sundays and holy days sacred? ♣ Do I fulfill my commitments as a member of my faith community? ♣ What is my attitude toward the sacrament of reconciliation? ♣ Have I tried to grow in the life of the Spirit through prayer and the reading of the word of God? ♣ Do I trust God's goodness and providence, even in times of crisis and doubt?

How have I failed to use the gifts of God in daily living?

♣ Do I respect my own body as a gift from God? ♣ Do I control my vices, including abuses of food and drink? ♣ Have I made good use of the gifts God has given me? ♣ Do I work too hard and too long? Do I neglect my family and health? ♣ Have I been lazy and given too much time to leisure or entertainment?

How have I failed in my relationships with others?

♣ In my household, have I contributed to the well-being and happiness of the rest of my family? Am I patient? Am I loving? ♣ Do I treat my parents with respect? ♣ Am I ever angry with those I love? ♣ Have I been faithful in my relationships? ♣ Have I imposed my will on others without respecting their freedom and rights? ♣ Am I intolerant of other's ideas or needs? ♣ Have I perpetuated racism, prejudices and stereotypes? ♣ Do I treat people with disabilities with respect?

Have I failed to share God's love with the world?

♣ Do I share my time and my treasure with others in need? ♣ Do I fail to speak out on behalf of the poor or the oppressed? ♣ Have I accepted suffering as a share in the suffering of Christ? ♣ Have I indulged in reading, conversation, or entertainments that are contrary to Christian decency and respect for human life? ♣ Do I use the earth's resources wisely? ♣ Do I purchase a lot of material goods that I don't really need?

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

Monday, March 23

1:00 pm St. John School

7:00 pm St. John the Baptist Church

Tuesday, March 24

7:00 pm Our Lady of Mercy Church

Wednesday, March 25

7:00 pm Basilica of St. Mary's Church

Thursday, March 26

7:00 pm St. Bernards Church

Sunday, March 29

7:00 pm St. Ambrose Church



RECONCILIATION