

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

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-Can) 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.

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**
February 1, 2026



Good News!

By: FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

This season of the Church we call “Ordinary Time” is full of Jesus’ teaching about how to live our Christian lives. Today’s readings are especially rich. When Jesus takes his place as the New Moses to deliver his Sermon on the Mount, he begins, fittingly, with a new version of the commandments, but instead of “Thou shalt not,” they are blessings! And they are paradoxical; always a sign of the divine touch. The “poor in spirit” get the kingdom of heaven; mourners are blessed, for they shall be comforted.

Now, who is supposed to do the comforting? We are. If the beatitudes are new commandments, we disciples are to obey them, even rejoicing in the blessing of persecution. What kind of people sign up for this? Saint Paul describes to the Christians in Corinth what kind of people God chooses: the foolish, the weak, the lowly and despised, the nothings of this world, to shame and confuse those who seem to run things. The wisdom of God seems like nonsense in a world where power reigns supreme. That sweet soul Zephaniah, author of today’s first reading, saw the shift coming, from “don’ts” to “dos,” from bossy to beatitude: “Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land” (Zephaniah 2:3). You will be “a people humble and lowly” who will pasture your flocks (and do the work God intends you to do) with “none to disturb” you (Zephaniah 3:12, 13). Sign me up for that!

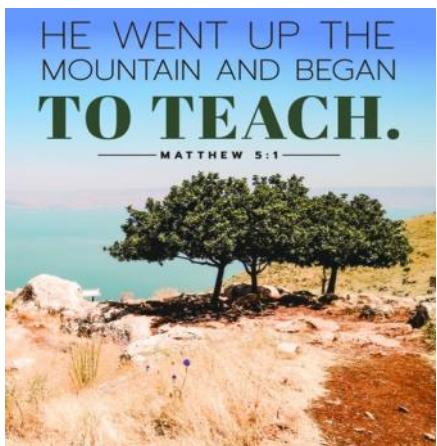
MASS INTENTION SCHEDULE

Saturday	OLM	01/31	4:00	p.m.	+Patrica Huck (3yr Annv.) (David and Tina Long)
	SJB	01/31	6:00	p.m.	+Anna Mae Brooker (Birthday and 2nd Anniv.) (Family)
Sunday	SJB	02/01	7:30	a.m.	+Hilda Gebhart (CWC)
	OLM	02/01	9:30	a.m.	+Carolyn Rush (Tim and Jody Huck)
	SJB	02/01	11:00	a.m.	+Shirley Oliver Stollar (Vince and Shelly Stollar)
Monday	SJB	02/02	8:00	a.m.	+Nick Arnold (Richard and Brenda Arnold Family)
Tuesday	SJB	02/03	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	02/03	5:00	p.m.	+Raymond and +Mary Brooker (Julia Brooker)
Wednesday	SJB	02/04	8:30	a.m.	+Jim Thieman (2/3 Anniv.) (Family)
Thursday	SJB	02/05	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	02/05	5:00	p.m.	+Betty Schott (Bob Schwendeman)
First Friday	SJB	02/06	6:00	p.m.	Living and Deceased of +James and +Maglena Arnold Family (Family) Adoration 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Saturday	OLM	02/07	4:00	p.m.	+Donnie Heiss (Ivan Huck Family)
	SJB	02/07	6:00	p.m.	+Mildred Arnold (Richard and Brenda Arnold Family)
Sunday	SJB	02/08	7:30	a.m.	+Edward Brooker (Birthday 2/10) (Family)
	OLM	02/08	9:30	a.m.	+Frank and Sylvia Yeomans (David and Joanne Yeomans)
	SJB	02/08	11:00	a.m.	+Rob Adams (Charlotte Lang and Family)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

<u>MASS</u>	<u>ALTER SERVERS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>EUCARISTIC MINISTER</u>
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Tanner Crum, Abby Henke	Rachel Klinger	Virginia Dyer
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Eli, Lola, and Will Eichmiller	Robin Eichmiller	Veronica Bosner
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Emi Lauchard, Emma Wheeler	Janelle Sprague	Amanda Walters

<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>DPSC</u>	
Total Collection last weekend	\$2,396	2026 Collected to date
Need to meet parish needs	\$4,750	2026 DPSC Goal
Thank you for your generosity!		<p style="text-align: center;">This includes money sent directly to the Diocese. Thank you for your contributions!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">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>



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 31-Feb. 1	Blessing of Throats
February 5	Senior Citizen Meeting 11:00 a.m.
February 7-8	Priests Retirement Collection
February 10	Lifeline Screening (register ahead) (Sr. Center)
February 18	Ash Wednesday
February 22	CWC Breakfast & Bakesale 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Isaiah 58:7-10 / 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 / Matthew 5:13-16

Please have all bulletin information to the Rectory by Monday at 6 p.m.

ST. BLAISE AND THE BLESSING OF THROATS

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

CWC BREAKFAST

The CWC is having their breakfast February 22nd from 8:00 - 10:00 at the K of C Hall and this year they are adding a country store. If anyone has a business and would like to donate, please contact Bonnie Flowers @ 740-373-0390.

BAKE SALE

Churchtown Busy Bunch 4-H Club will hold a bake sale at the Catholic Women's Club Breakfast. We are also taking orders for homemade noodles. All proceeds from the sale will support community service projects and club activities. Noodles are \$7 for a one-gallon bag. To order, call or text Melinda Treadway 740-629-1452, Alberta Wesel 740-525-4429, Tisa Medlin 740-525-1949 or Tracie Roush 740-350-7916. Noodles will be available for pickup at the breakfast.

CWC MEETING

The CWC will not meet for a monthly meeting in February. They will see everyone at the Breakfast at the K of C Hall on February 22.

CHURCHTOWN SENIOR CITIZENS

Churchtown Sr. Citizens will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Sr. Center on February 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.

CHURCH PROPERTY AND CEMETERY MOWING BIDS

Bids for mowing, trimming, and weeding landscaping on all of the church properties are now being accepted. Please have bids to Fr. Gaydosik by March 2. Call Fr. Gaydosik for more information 740-896-3566.

K OF C 2026 MOWING BIDS

K of C 2026 mowing bids are being accepted now through March 2. Bids should include weed eating, mowing horseshoe pits, mowing stretch of grass between gravel parking lot and SR 676, and pulling weeds from landscaping. Any further questions, call Derek Kern 740-516-7219.

CHURCH CANCELLATION POLICY

The following mass cancellation policy for St. John's and Our Lady of Mercy Church is as follows:

On Weekends: If the county is under a **level 3** road emergency as issued by the Sheriff's office...Mass is cancelled.

If it is a **level 2** there will be Mass (if a priest can make it to the church) and parishioners are urged to use common sense.

Through the Week: When St. John Central School is closed due to weather, Mass is cancelled that day. Our parish office is closed as well.

On a day when a funeral is scheduled, the daily Mass is cancelled.

Masses that are scheduled for those days will be re-scheduled. Above all else, use common sense, your safety is important to us.



PRIESTS RETIREMENT FUND COLLECTION

Firstly, thank you for your generous response to this annual collection the past two years! It was a great step toward reaching a fully-funded status for the Priests Retirement Fund. As we move forward in a continued effort, envelopes for this purpose are in your contribution packets. The collection, which is distinct from the collection for retired religious, from which our diocesan priests derive no benefit, will be taken up on the weekend of **February 7th & 8th**. Your continued generosity is a blessing and much appreciated. Thank you!

K OF C SCHOLARSHIP

Knights of Columbus Council #4617 is happy to announce that our 2026 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 14, 2026. Please apply at the link below: <https://forms.gle/9dEuakinPDh8oSX27>. Tanner Pottmeyer, Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus 4617.

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.

EMPTY BOWLS OF THE MOV

To help combat hunger in the local community, Empty Bowls of the MOV will host its luncheon on Sat., Feb. 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 304 W. Fifth St., Williamstown, WV. All ticket donations will benefit local food pantries. Guests will enjoy a meal of homemade soups, breads, cookies, and beverages. For a \$15 donation (\$10 for children and free for children under 5) attendees receive lunch along with a handcrafted bowl. Advance tickets are available through committee member Lori Smith at las001@marietta.edu. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

LIFE LINE SCREENING

Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today? Life Line Screening will be in the Sr. Center at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today. Three ways to register: Call toll-free: 1-800-324-9458 promo code HABC001; Online: LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC; Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL BENEFIT DRAWING

The St. Mary Catholic School Foundation in Marietta, Ohio will hold its Annual Benefit Drawing on Saturday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$150, admit two guests, and include food along with your chance to win cash prizes. To purchase tickets, learn more about the event, or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Teresa Tokodi Domico at 740-516-8322.



Ash Wednesday will be held on February 18. Masses at St. John's will be held at 8:30 a.m. (School Mass), Noon, and 7:00 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Mercy will be at 6:00 p.m.

**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 Church-town

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. 1 Bishop Edward Lohse, + Fr. Edwin Yocke
Feb. 2 Fr. Timothy Davison, + Fr. Patric Ruane
Feb. 3 Msgr. Anthony Giannamore, + Fr. George Yontz
Feb. 4 Fr. Michael Gossett, + Msgr. Paul Richter
Feb. 5 Pope Leo XIV, + Msgr. William Myers
Feb. 6 Fr. Chester Pabin, + Fr. Dominic Orsini
Feb. 7 Fr. Bradley Greer, + Msgr. Joseph Pollack
Feb. 8 Fr. Nicholas Ward, + Fr. Frank Rothbauer

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: @dsvocations

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.” In addition, it will provide an opportunity for the young men to discern their vocation. 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.

Diocesan Priests Retirement Fund Collection – First-

ly, thank you for your generous response to this annual collection the past two years! It was a great step toward reaching a fully-funded status for the Priests Retirement Fund. This collection, which is distinct from the collection for retired religious, from which our diocesan priests derive no benefit, will be taken up on the weekend of February 7th & 8th. Your continued generosity is a blessing and much appreciated. Thank you!

As a pastor overseeing our Catholic school, I am committed to offering every student an education rooted in Catholic values. While parents have a range of choices for their children’s schooling, nothing compares to the benefits of a strong Catholic education.

Parents choose Catholic education for their children for a few solid reasons. First, Catholic schools focus on more than just academics. They care about shaping the whole person. This means your child won’t just learn math and science, but also values like kindness, respect, and a sense of community. Every one is part of something bigger. Another reason is discipline. Catholic schools are known for their high standards and structured environment. This helps the children learn self-discipline and responsibility. Parents also value the religious education that comes with Catholic schooling. It is not just about learning Bible stories. It is about forming a moral foundation that will guide children throughout their lives. And we cannot forget the academic excellence that is foundational to our schools. Catholic schools have high academic standards. They strive to push students to reach their full potential. In a nutshell, parents are looking for an education that does more than fill their child’s head with facts. They want an education that will shape their child’s heart and character. And for many, Catholic schools offer just that.

Blessings of Light

Where you have known darkness, may the light stretch and shine. Where you have dwelt in shadows, may the sun reach its gentle rays. Where you have hidden in shame, may you know light-filled redemption, healing, belonging, and rest in Jesus. Amen. ©LPI

Did You Know? The Church celebrates the feast of St. Paul the Apostle on January 25. Although St. Paul is honored as an apostle, he never met Jesus during His earthly life before the Crucifixion. Instead, Paul encountered the risen Christ in a dramatic conversion experience on the road to Damascus—an event described three times in the Acts of the Apostles. Personally called and sent by the Lord, St. Paul went on to write nearly one-third of the New Testament, shaping the Church’s understanding of faith, grace, and life in Christ.