

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

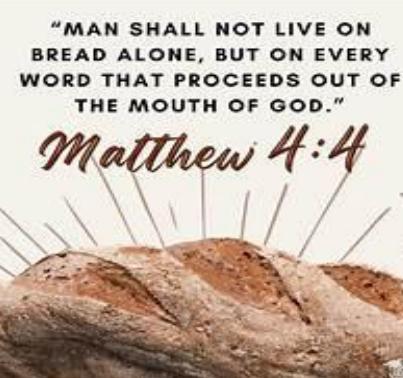
webpage: www.stjohnchurchtown.com

Fr. David Gaydosik, Pastor
Cell number 740-391-1093

Fr. Walter E Heinz, retired

Fr. Dale Tornes, retired

**FIRST SUNDAY
OF LENT**
February 22, 2026



Good News!

By: FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The account of the temptations could be presented as a comical play. Pope Francis insisted, “Don’t talk to the devil!” Indeed, Jesus does not engage in dialogue with Satan, much less any negotiation or any business. Stones become bread? Jesus may have fasted for forty days, but he’s had plenty to eat—“every word that comes forth from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Nor will Jesus “test” his Father by jumping off the “parapet of the temple” (like the bell tower of a gothic church). (See Matthew 5–7.) You don’t play God, and you don’t play with God. Satan really beclowns himself with the last temptation—promising the whole world if Jesus would just take a knee? No one would fall for that, would they?

Except—most of us. We’d do the bread; we’d do the jump; we’d definitely do the world! Look at the first reading, from Genesis. Adam and Eve give up paradise for a piece of fruit! It’s a sad story because Eve does chat with the serpent, answering questions, allowing for a different point of view. But, as they say on Facebook, Satan “destroys” her! And Adam, too. If they didn’t sew fig leaves for each other, the whole story would be unbearable. Even as they realize their sin, there is a little tenderness.

Saint Paul explains it clearly. Sin entered the world, but with Jesus Christ, there is an “overflow” of grace for the many. (See Romans 5:15.) And that’s what Lent is about—a flood of grace.

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	02/21	4:00	p.m.	Living and Deceased of +Leo and +Lucy Huck (Family)
	SJB	02/21	6:00	p.m.	Living and Deceased of +Leo and +Lucy Huck (Family)
Sunday	SJB	02/22	7:30	a.m.	+Dave Pottmeyer (Birthday) (Eric and Marilyn Pottmeyer)
	OLM	02/22	9:30	a.m.	+Darren Cheesman (Madee Brewer)
	SJB	02/22	11:00	a.m.	+Tony Tornes (Donna Tornes and Family)
Monday	SJB	02/23	8:00	a.m.	+Jerry Heiss (Bill and Alberta Wesel)
Tuesday	SJB	02/24	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	02/24	5:00	p.m.	+George Gauther (David and Joanie Yeomans)
Wednesday	SJB	02/25	8:30	a.m.	+Helen Miller (Anniversary) (Mary Brooker and Family)
Thursday	SJB	02/26	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	02/26	5:00	p.m.	+Mark Tackett (Jason & Jennifer Morris) Stations of the Cross to follow Mass
Friday	SJB	02/27	6:00	p.m.	+Kenny Britton (Parish) Stations of the Cross to follow Mass
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	02/29	7:30	a.m.	+Norma Thieman (Ted Brooker and Family)
	OLM	02/29	9:30	a.m.	+Suzanne Walters (Evan and Heather Schaad)
	SJB	02/29	11:00	a.m.	Deceased of +Raymond and +Blanche Tornes (Donna Tornes 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.	Coletyn Dyar, Alaina Wells	Rachel Klinger	Theresa Sauer
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Grace Francis, Chase Arteaga	Zandra Francis	Veronica Bosner
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Hudson and Sydney Lang	Angie Henniger	Roxanne Heiss

<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>DPSC</u>		
Total Collection last weekend	\$2,883	2026 Collected to date	\$7,065
Need to meet parish needs	\$4,750	2026 DPSC Goal	\$36,584
Thank you for your generosity!			 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.

MASS AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS 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. LENTEN REGULATIONS 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.	February 20	Mass and Stations of the Cross 6:00 p.m.
	February 22	CWC Breakfast & Bakesale 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
	February 27	School Stations of the Cross 8:57 a.m.
	March 5	Our Lady of Mercy Fish Fry
	March 6	Senior Citizens Meeting
	March 7	School Stations of the Cross 9:44 a.m.
	March 9	Pre Cana at St. Mary's Church in Marietta
	March 13	CWC Meeting
		School Stations of the Cross 10:31 a.m.
		Our Lady of Mercy Fish Fry
UPCOMING EVENTS		
READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 / Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19 / Matthew 4:1-11		
Please have all bulletin information to the Rectory by Monday at 6 p.m.		

2026 DPSC

Thank you very much to all who contributed to the 2025 DPSC. The 2026 DPSC theme is "Sharing the Peace of Christ" and our goal this year is \$36,584.19. This Sunday is "Appeal Sunday" as stated in the insert this weekend. As you know, DPSC funds are crucial for the operations of the diocese; they sustain many ministries that serve people throughout the diocese. These funds are also crucial to many parishes for improvement projects, school support, operating expenses, etc. Next weekend will be "Pledge Sunday. There will be cards and envelopes available if you would like to donate.

"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.stjohnchurctown.com/>. Please contact Alana Henry for more information at 440-539-3763.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

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

ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES

The Lowell Churches Ecumenical soup dinner and Lenten services this year are as follows. The soup dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and the service will begin at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

February 24 - Our Lady of Mercy Church. (*There will be a soup supper at 6 pm in the hall, followed by a service in the church at 7 pm. Fr. Gaydosik will be the speaker. All are welcome.*)

March 3 - Highland Ridge Community Church

March 10 - St. John Evangelical Church

March 17 - Lowell United Methodist Church

March 24 - Highland Ridge Community Church

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

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 February 27, 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.

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.

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 Binegar (740-706-3004).

MEN'S DAY OF RENEWAL

The 2026 Diocesan Men's Day of Renewal will be held from 8 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, March 7th, at St. Stephen Catholic Church, Caldwell. This Lenten retreat will focus on the lifelong call to conversion, our discovery of Jesus Christ., His Church, and the ongoing transformation of our hearts. The day will feature personal testimonies from 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, workplaces, and communities. Cost is \$ 25 and to register on-line with a \$3 online surcharge visit athenscatholic.org/Steubenville-mens-day, lunch will be provided.

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. Highlights include the Eucharistic Miracle of Santarem, Shrines of Fatima and Lourdes, the Chapel of Conversion where St. Ignatius of Loyola had his conversion, the Convent of St Teresa of Avila and more! 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.

**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. 22 Fr Dan Heusel, + Msgr. William Cornelius
Feb. 23 Fr. John Mucha, + Fr. Joseph Gardner
Feb. 24 Fr. Fr. Tim McGuire, + Fr. Charles Mascolino
Feb. 25 Fr. Thomas Hamm, + Fr. Francis Rothbauer
Feb. 26 Fr. Timothy Huffman, + Fr. Richard Battocletti
Feb. 27 Fr. Thomas Nelson, + Fr. Carl Borosh
Feb/ 28 Fr. Emmanuel Nwsu, + Fr. John Cymbor

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.” 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.



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the penitential season of Lent. Ash Wednesday, February 18th and Good Friday, April 3rd are days of abstinence from meat and also days of fast that are limited to a single full meal. With regard to Good Friday, the teaching of the Second Vatican Council should be recalled: Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind. *Constitution on the Liturgy, No. 110.*

The **Law of Fasting** binds all Catholics from their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday. Fasting is going without food or subsisting on a reduced food intake. Only one full meal is eaten. Two other smaller meals may be eaten on those days to maintain energy, but together they should not equal another full meal, and no between-meal snacks.

The **Law of Abstinence** binds all Catholics 14 years or older. The other Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. Abstinence means not eating meat or fowl, but fish, eggs, and dairy are allowed.

With regard to the obligatory days listed above, there are frequent questions about the degree of seriousness of the matter. The teaching of the Holy Father may be simply paraphrased: The obligation to do penance is a serious one; the obligation to observe, as a whole or substantially, the penitential days specified by the Church is also serious. No one should be scrupulous in this regard; however, failure to observe an individual day of penance is not considered serious. People should seek to do more rather than less. Fast and abstinence on the days prescribed should be considered a minimum response to the Lord’s call to penance and conversion.

None of these requirements apply, of course, if a person has a medical condition, special dietary needs, is very poor, must work at strenuous labor, or for some other good reason cannot participate in these practices.

Christ the Teacher Diocesan Scholarship Fund

“Turning Taxes into Tuition” Attention all Ohio State Taxpayers! Did you pay Ohio State taxes for the 2025 tax year? Did you know that a Scholarship Tax Credit program exists, which makes it possible to make a no-net-cost gift that will turn your Ohio tax dollars into tuition for students of any Catholic school you designate in the Diocese of Steubenville? How does it work? It’s simple make a contribution to the Christ the Teacher Diocesan Scholarship Fund (CTDSF) by April 15th, 2026, that will be eligible for a non-refundable 100% tax credit of up to \$750 (\$1,500 if married filing jointly) against your 2025 state tax liability. CTDSF will send you a tax receipt for filing your 2025 state income taxes; And notify the designated school of your contribution. More information is available on the Diocese of Steubenville website: www.diosteub.org.

2026 DIOCESAN/PARISH SHARE CAMPAIGN

SHARING THE PEACE *of Christ*



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
STEUBENVILLE

*"Peace I leave with you; my
peace I give to you."*

- John 14:27



DONATE ONLINE TO THE DPSC TODAY
By Scanning the QR Code or at Give.DioSteub.Org



YOUR SUPPORT TRULY

Makes a Difference!

May God bless you for your gracious generosity and faith!



MARCH 1ST IS PLEDGE SUNDAY FOR THE DPSC!