

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

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2026

I have come
that they
may have *life*
and have it to the full.
John 10:10

Good News!

By: MIGUEL DULICK

It is “Good Shepherd Sunday,” and the gospel quotes Jesus: “I am the gate for the sheep.” It seems the oddness of Jesus’ “I am” identities, until you realize that the shepherd himself was often the literal gate of the sheep’s pen, as he would lay his own body across the entrance to keep the sheep secure and safe from any predators. Actually, the predators that worry Jesus the most are other shepherds—“strangers” who came before him, all of whom Jesus flatly denounces as “thieves and robbers.”

Does that scare us today? Are we vulnerable to attacks, even from those supposedly in charge of our care? When Jesus opens the gate, we go in and out through him, through Jesus, to find pasture. We follow him because we recognize “his voice.” In the synodal Church that Pope Francis called us to, and to which we continue to be called by Pope Leo XIV, every voice is welcome and needed so that the Holy Spirit will fill the whole Church with truth.

Here in Honduras, where I live, folks with little education can offer profound witness to the love of God. It comes from their own intimacy with Jesus, recognizing his voice in their daily life. They are often the poor victims of widespread corruption, like “a thief [who] comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy.” Here in Honduras, we take refuge in Jesus, that we “might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

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.

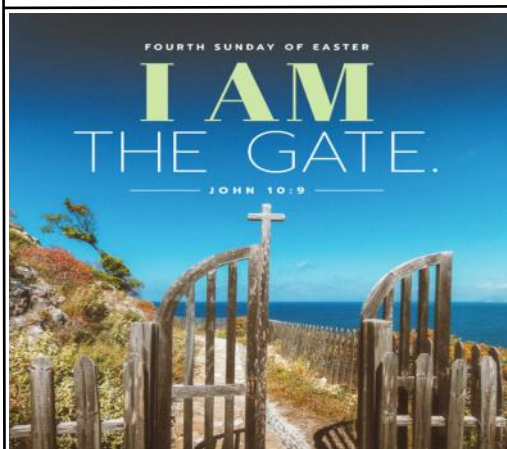
MASS INTENTION SCHEDULE

Saturday	OLM	04/25	4:00	p.m.	+Clarence and Gertrude Huck (The Family)
	SJB	04/25	6:00	p.m.	+Frank Schilling (Anniv.) (Children)
Sunday	SJB	04/26	7:30	a.m.	+Larry Schaad (Janet Schaad Family)
	OLM	04/26	9:30	a.m.	+Cole Wheeler (Unknown)
	SJB	04/26	11:00	a.m.	+Harold and +Regina Tornes (Donna Tornes and Family) First Communion
Monday	SJB	04/27	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
Tuesday	SJB	04/28	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	04/28	5:00	p.m.	Adrian Morris (Jason & Jennifer Morris Family)
Wednesday	SJB	04/29	8:30	a.m.	+Vincent Huck (Siblings) School Mass
Thursday	SJB	04/30	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	04/30	5:00	p.m.	+Chuck and +Sandy Schilling (Their Children)
Friday	SJB	05/01	8:00	a.m.	+Diane Arnold (Birthday) (Alvin Arnold and Family)
Saturday	OLM	05/02	4:00	p.m.	+Howard and +Particia Huck (The Huck Family)
	SJB	05/02	6:00	p.m.	+Mary Canterbury (Birthday) (Rick Canterbury and Family)
Sunday	SJB	05/03	7:30	a.m.	+Richard and +Patty Zoller (Janet Schaad and Family)
	OLM	05/03	9:30	a.m.	+Betty Schott (Bob Schwendeman)
	SJB	05/03	11:00	a.m.	+Living and Deceased of Norbert Kern Family (Family)

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	Eugene Huck	Jerry Dyar
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Eli, Lola, Will Eichmiller	Robin Eichmiller	Connie Arnold
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Hudson and Sydney Lang	Janelle Sprague	Amanda Walters

<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 \$2,155	2026 Collected to date \$30,250	
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>April 26 First Communion 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>April 27 Finance Committee Meeting</p> <p>April 30 St. John School Spring Play</p> <p>May 7 Sr. Citizens Meeting</p> <p>May 11 CWC Mother/Daughter Banquet</p> <p>May 14 Fr. Tornes's 56 Anniversary of Priestly Ordination</p> <p>May 20 Last Day of School at St. John's</p> <p>May 26 Fr. Heinz's 64th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination</p> <p>June 24 Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist. Mass at 6pm with reception in Senior Center</p>	<p>UPCOMING <i>Events</i></p>
<p>READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND</p> <p>Acts 6:1-7 / 1 Peter 2:4-9 / John 14:1-12</p>	

MASS CHANGES

As most of you know, Fr. David has torn his retina. He had surgery and will be unavailable for approximately 3 weeks. Please watch the bulletin and check Facebook for updates on the schedule of masses.

CWC MOTHER/DAUGHTER BANQUET

The CWC Mother/Daughter Banquet will be held on Monday, May 11. We will begin the evening with Mass at 6:00 p.m. in the church. Following church, the banquet will be held in the Sr. Center. The CWC will provide the meat, potatoes, vegetable, rolls, and drinks. Table service will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Please RSVP to Anna Schaad at home 740-373-6181 or cell 740-525-0123 by May 4th.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the following individuals who gave of their time to teach our Parish School of Religion students: Amanda Warner our PSR Director and taught classes, Adrienne Branham, Stacie Greenup, Roxanne Heiss, Angie Negie, Tracie Roush and Andrea Ralston (confirmation class). We are so grateful for the generosity of volunteering your time to our PSR program.

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars now as Vacation Bible School is happening June 28th through July 2nd! Maria and Maggie Huffman have once again agreed to head this up. The theme this year is "Rainforest Falls, Exploring the nature of God". There will be fun, faith, and unforgettable memories for kids of all ages. More information will be available at a later date.

K OF C NIGHT AT THE RACES

The Knights of Columbus 4617, Churchtown will be holding: A Night at the Races on Saturday, May 2nd. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$50 each or \$400/table (for 8 people). Guests are encouraged to wear derby attire and big hats. For more information, contact Taylor Pottmeyer at 412-215-6470.

CONGRATULATIONS

We welcome into our parish family through Baptism, Cordelia Diane Schenkel, daughter of Tim and Sarah (Klinger) Schenkel. May God bless this family now and always.

PRAYER SERVICE

Ambrose Ambassadors invite you to a unique prayer service and adoration service on Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 6:00 PM at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Little Hocking, Ohio. The theme of this month's prayer service is Eucharistic Miracles. The service will include singing and music, a litany, group prayers, imaginative prayer, and half an hour of a special adoration service. We look forward to you joining us and can't wait to see you there.



SPRING FLING CHICKEN DINNER

Hosted by St. Mary's of Fulda, 43700 Fulda Road, Caldwell, OH. Join us on Sunday, April 26th from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM for a delicious homemade meal featuring chicken, mashed potatoes, noodles, green beans, coleslaw, and dessert. Proceeds will benefit our church. All are welcome!

SHOP SWAP AND STROLL

Shop, Swap and Stroll will be held on Lowell's Buell Island on Wednesday, May 6th from 4:30 pm- 7:30 pm. Set up begins at 2:30 p.m. Food, local produce, craft, flea market and yard sale vendors. Come to Lowell's Buell Island Park and be a shopper, diner, or vendor.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, on this Vocations Prayer Day, we specifically lift up the youth. Inspire their hearts to actively participate in discernment. May the vibrancy of their faith fuel a passion for answering Your call, ensuring the continuity of vocations in the generations to come.

Congratulations to the following individuals who will receive their First Communion this weekend

John David Alexander

Richard Craig Arnold

Oakley Branham

Isaac Daniel Fincher

Abigail Heiss

Adele Roxanne Heiss

Ali Annette Heiss

Ella Ann Hendershot

Ella Grace Huffman

Oaklynn Grace Kern

Sophee Grace Lang

Claire Elizabeth McNabb

Braylin Quinn Pottmeyer

Keeley Mae Thieman





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

Mark you calendar: April 26th First Holy Communion at St. John the Baptist at 11am Mass. May 10th First Communion and May Crowning at Our Lady of Mercy at the 9:30am Mass. May 11th *Mother/Daughter Banquet*, at St. John the Baptist Church. Mass at 6pm with banquet to follow. May 26th Fr. Heinz's 64 Anniversary of Priestly Ordination. June 24th *Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist*. Mass at 6pm with reception in Senior Center. June 28th to July 2nd *Vacation Bible School* at St. John the Baptist in Churchtown.

ENCOURAGING WORDS FROM AN EASTER HOMILY OF POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II: "We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain," he said, "But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through His own pain to the glory of The Resurrection. And we live in the light of His Paschal Mystery - the mystery of His death and Resurrection. We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!"

OUR PARISH. If you or someone you know is looking to join our parish or if you have had a change of address or phone number, or if a member of your family has gone into a nursing facility or moved out of the household, please notify the parish office. Parishioners over 18 are encouraged to register as their own household to help us keep records accurate and up-to-date.

BEQUESTS. A bequest to your parish is a way to honor your church and faith of your lifetime. A bequest, included in your will, is exempt from estate and inheritance taxes, and reduces the amount of the estate to be taxed. Bequest can only be used as specified by the donor, as required by Church Law (i.e. Canon Law).

Forgiveness & Hope after Abortion. "Many inaccurately feel that abortion is 'the unforgivable sin.' They need to hear that God forgives every sin of a repentant heart, even the sin of abortion." Did fear and shame lead you or someone you know to have an abortion? Or you felt as if you had no other choice? Are you seeking comfort from welcoming, non judgmental people to help you through your sadness and guilt? We invite you to make a confidential call to Project Rachel Ministry where you can connect with others who understand and can help. You're not alone anymore. Peace starts here at Project Rachel Ministry. Call 740-275-7038 or visit www.diosteub.org/project-rachel.

Catholics in Recovery. Join Catholics in Recovery in the Mid-Ohio Valley at: St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, in Parkersburg, on Monday at 7pm. Catholics in Recovery provides healing from addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments. Meetings combine the spiritual principles of the 12-step recovery and the sacraments of the Catholic Church. Join others in recovery as we overlap scriptures from Sunday's Mass readings, liturgical themes, and recovery topics with honest discussion and prayer. Confidentiality is protected. For more information visit: catholicinrecovery.com or contact John B. at (681)229-7220 or catholicinrecoverymov12@gmail.com.

Pilgrimage to Italy - Join Fr. Tom Nelson on a Pilgrimage to Italy, January 4 - 15, 2027. Tour stops include Assisi, Norcia, Lanciano, San Giovanni Rotondo, St. Michael's Cave, Monte Cassino, Subacio, and Rome. Land-only price is \$5059.00 per person. Option for Group Airfare is an additional \$1,468.00. Space is limited! Visit: <https://catholicfaithjourneys.com/tours/nelsonitaly>. Contact Maggie McDaniel for more information: 419-290-8782 or mag-

Pope Leo's monthly prayer intention for April: Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocations, that they may find the accompaniment that need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

Pray for the living and deceased priests of the Diocese of Steubenville, : April 19, Fr. Thomas Marut, + Msgr. Francis Baudo April 20, Fr. James Dunfee, + Msgr. John Cymbor April 21, Fr. Dale Tornes, + Fr. William Hilliker April 22, Fr. David Cornett, + Fr. Joseph Kiefer April 23, Msgr. J. Michael Campbell, + Fr. Dennis Lyden April 24, Fr. Tom Vennitti, + Msgr. Stanley Zekas April 25, Fr. Mark Moore, + Fr. Balthasser Mattes April 26, Fr. Dan Heusel, + Fr. Louis Preston * Please to remember also the Poor Souls in purgatory

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, Jonathan 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.

A Catholic Education is a Gift worth Giving! Turn your Ohio Tax Dollars into St. John Central scholarship money. **Who?** Anyone who files an Ohio individual income tax return and has a tax liability, is eligible for the credit. **What?** A dollar for dollar TAX Credit on donations to Christ the Teacher Diocesan Scholarship Fund make it zero cost to you, while supporting Catholic Education at St. John Central. **When?** Before/On April 15th 2026. **Where?** On line at: <https://diosteub.org/ctdsf> **How much?** Any amount is welcomed and make a difference! *make a contribution to Christ the Teacher (CTDSF) and designate St. John Central as the recipient, by April 15, 2026 that will be eligible for a non-refundable 100% tax credit of up to \$750 (\$1500 if married filing jointly) against your 2025 state tax liability. CTDSF will send receipt for filing you tax return and notify the designated school of your contribution.

DPSC 2026. The DPSC is more than just a campaign—it is the life-blood 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.*



St. John Central Grade
School Proudly Presents



Thursday April 30th, 2026

7 pm

Marietta High School

Free admission to all, we hope to see you there!!



JOIN US FOR A MEANINGFUL RIDE
TO SUPPORT CANCER RESEARCH!

→ BIKING TO →

📌 END CANCER 📌



SATURDAY, MAY 16TH

📍 **INDIAN ACRES**

✓ **REGISTRATION: 8:00 AM**

🚲 **RIDE STARTS: 8:30 AM**

🌿 **ROUTE: BIKE PATH FROM INDIAN ACRES TO ALDI**

\$50 WITH TSHIRT FOR THE FIRST 50 REGISTERED
EMAIL LORI HART YOUR NAME AND SHIRT SIZE BY MAY 9

@Lorilee-Hart



venmo

📌 **TOGETHER, WE CAN HELP END CANCER.** 📌

ST. JOHN CENTRAL SCHOOL
ATHLETIC BOOSTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

FOUR-MAN SCRAMBLE

LAKESIDE GOLF COURSE
JUNE 27, 2026

\$280 PER TEAM

REGISTRATION 7:00AM
SHOTGUN 8:00AM

- ✓ 18 Holes with Cart
- ✓ Pop, Water & Hotdogs Provided
- ✓ Dinner Provided Following Play at Course
- ✓ Beverages for Sale on Course



50/50 RAFFLE



SKINS GAME

Pre-register your team or become an event sponsor!

Contact: Kourtney Thieman
740-525-6503