

# 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](mailto:stjohnchurchtown@yahoo.com)

webpage: [www.stjohnchurchtown.com](http://www.stjohnchurchtown.com)

Fr. David Gaydosik, Pastor

Cell number 740-391-1093

Fr. Walter E Heinz, retired

Fr. Dale Tornes, retired

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**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.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 2025



**PREPARE  
THE WAY  
OF THE LORD**

### Good News!

By: FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah offers a familiar Advent image: the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. The verses immediately preceding speak of God walking through the forest with an ax: "The tall of stature shall be felled, and the lofty ones shall be brought low" (Isaiah 10:33). But now, amidst all the destruction, a tiny sign of new life emerges, and the Spirit of God descends upon it, bearing many gifts—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, delight.

So often, when we scroll through the news, our attention is captured by violence and war and the "mighty" who make great noise when they fall. "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees," echoes John the Baptist in today's gospel. If we are looking for where God's Spirit can be found, however, Isaiah reminds us we will need to look elsewhere. We will need to attend to the quiet, fragile resurrections taking place below the surface when it appears as if all has been lost. If we seek wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe, and delight, we will need to look where the little ones of the earth are found. We must have our eyes open for the shoots.

The gospels emphasize that Jesus was one such little one. Although the glory days of his people seemed to have come to a crashing close, they have not. In him, we glimpse the truth that life is stronger than death. We see that the future has not been erased, no matter how terrible the past. In him, we find our hope.

## MASS INTENTION SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday</b>	OLM	12/06	4:00	p.m.	+Msgr. Donal O'Carrol and Hibernian Order (Hibernian Order)
	<b>SJB</b>	<b>12/06</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>p.m.</b>	<b>+Rosemary Heiss (Bill and Alberta Wesel)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>SJB</b>	<b>12/06</b>	<b>7:30</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	<b>+Gladys Schilling (Birthday) (Family)</b>
	OLM	12/07	9:30	a.m.	+Donnie Heiss (12/06) (2nd yr. Anniv.) (The Family)
	<b>SJB</b>	<b>12/07</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	<b>+Leroy Marshall (Donna Tornes and Family)</b>

### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Holy Day of Obligation)

<b>Monday</b>	<b>SJB</b>	<b>12/08</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	+Ella Mae Young (Jeff and Shoshanna Brooker) School Mass
	OLM	12/08	6:00	p.m.	Living and Deceased Members of OLM CWC (OLM CWC)
	<b>SJB</b>	<b>12/08</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>p.m.</b>	<b>+Bernard "Buzz" Thieman (Mary Lou Thieman and Family)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>SJB</b>	<b>12/09</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	<b>No Mass Today</b>
	OLM	12/09	5:00	p.m.	+Harold Rauch (Mark and Sandy Huck)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>SJB</b>	<b>12/10</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	<b>+Paul Schwendeman (Birthday 12/11) (Family)</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>SJB</b>	<b>12/11</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	<b>No Mass Today</b>
	OLM	12/11	5:00	p.m.	+Howard and +Patricia Huck (The Huck Family)
<b>Friday</b>	<b>SJB</b>	<b>12/12</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	<b>+Ellen Heiss (Jeff and Shoshanna Brooker)</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	OLM	12/13	4:00	p.m.	+Deanna Lang (Raymond Lang and Kathy Reed)
	<b>SJB</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>p.m.</b>	<b>+Peggy Schaad (40th Anniv. 12/8) (Mike and Marilyn Schaad)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>SJB</b>	<b>12/14</b>	<b>7:30</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	<b>+Harold Gebhart (Birthday 12/15) (Family)</b>
	OLM	12/14	9:30	a.m.	+Vi Tillius (Jason and Jennifer Morris)
	<b>SJB</b>	<b>12/14</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	<b>+Susan Brooker (Birthday 12/13) (Howard Brooker)</b>

### LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

<u>MASS</u>	<u>ALTER SERVERS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>EUCARISTIC MINISTER</u>
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Raegan and Orion Flinn	Kelly Miller	Melinda Treadway
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Connor McCartney, Keegan Pottmeyer	Hugh Arnold	Arnold Huck
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Emma Wheeler, Brenlee Lang	Angie Henniger	Marilyn Zoller

#### COLLECTION

Total Collection last week \$3,801  
Need to meet parish needs \$4,750

Thank you for your generosity!

#### DPSC

2025 Collected to date \$70,700  
2025 DPSC Goal \$41,330

This includes money sent directly to the Diocese. Thank you for your contributions!

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.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

December 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, (Holy Day of Obligation)  
School Mass at 8:30 a.m., OLM 6:00 p.m., SJB 7:00 p.m.

December 8 Blessing of the Trees, K of C Hall—7:45 p.m.

December 9 CWC Christmas Party at the Marietta Country Club

December 15 St. John the Baptist Penance Service 7:00 p.m. (School Penance 1:00 p.m.)

December 16 Our Lady of Mercy Penance Service 7:00 p.m.

December 17 St. Mary's Marietta Penance Service 7:00 p.m.

December 18 St. Bernards Church Penance Service 7:00 p.m.

December 21 St. Ambrose Church Penance Service 7:00 p.m.

December 21 Children's Christmas Choir practice after 11 a.m. Mass

December 24 St. John Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Mercy Christmas Eve Mass 5:00 p.m.

December 25 St. John Christmas Day Mass 7:30 a.m.; Our Lady of Mercy 9:00 a.m.

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND**  
Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10 / James 5:7–10 / Matthew 11:2–11



Please have all bulletin information to the Rectory no later than 10:00 p.m. on Monday

## GIVING TREE GIFTS

Giving tree gifts need to be returned by this Sunday, December 7th. Thank you to all who are gifting to others this Christmas.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

If you would like to send a Christmas card to Fr. Walter Heinz, Fr. Dale Tornes or Fr. David Gaydosik, their addresses are as follows: Fr. Walter Heinz, 5700 Bayshore Road, Lot 801, Palmetto, FL 34221; Fr. Dale Tornes, 279 Muskingum Drive, Apt. 302, Marietta, OH 45750; Fr. David Gaydosik, 17784 St. Rt. 676, Marietta, OH 45750.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to donate in memory of a loved one, 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 try to write the names so they are easily read and have your list in to the Rectory by December 15.

## COLLECTION ENVELOPES 2026

Collection envelopes for 2026 are available in the church vestibule. In order to keep costs down, if you used an envelope this past year there will be a box with your name on it. If you do not have a box and would like one, please pick up a non-addressed box. We ask that everyone please write your name down on the first envelope used and note any address changes.

## PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed December 22 through January 2. There will be a two week bulletin for the weekends of December 27-28 and January 3-4. Please have all bulletin information in to the Rectory by December 17.

## LITURGICAL MINISTER SIGN UP SHEET

A sign up sheet for Christmas Eve Masses and New Year's Eve Mass at St. John's is located in the vestibule. Please sign up by December 7. Volunteers will be needed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Thank you.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for all the generous food donations. This helps supply our local food pantries and provide nourishment to those in need. St. Vincent DePaul. Thank you to Bob and Peggy Byers who head this up each year.

## SNOW REMINDER

We are entering that time of year again when road conditions may not always be safe for travel. Please remember that if a Level 2 or 3 road emergency is issued by the Sheriff's Department, Masses will be cancelled for that day. When St. John School is closed due to weather, Mass and Adoration that day is cancelled. Our Parish office will also be closed. This policy is for both St. John the Baptist and Our Lady of Mercy. Masses scheduled for that day will be re-scheduled. Also, please keep in mind, if there is a funeral scheduled at St. John's, the morning mass for that day is cancelled and will be rescheduled.

## CEMETERY PINE PILLOWS AND BUCKEYES

Washington County Exchange 4H Club is selling Cemetery Pine Pillows for \$25 and Buckeyes for \$10/doz. Contact advisor Ellie Tullius at 740-434-3064 for more information and to place an order.

## K OF C 4617 MEMBERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Knights of Columbus 4617 will host our Annual Members Christmas Party, Saturday, December 13th, 2025. Members and a guest are invited to enjoy an adult-only evening out to get into the Christmas spirit! *Cocktail Hour: 6:00 - 7:00 PM; Heavy Hors d'oeuvres: 7:00 - 8:00 PM; Music by Sunset Lane: 8:00 - 11:00 PM.* All members are welcome and encouraged to attend this FREE event! Call/text Tanner Pottmeyer @ 740-516-4749 with any questions.

## K OF C CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Sunday, December 14, 2025 at Noon, K of C 4617 members are invited to bring their families and children for a festive afternoon. Santa Claus will make a stop at the K of C Hall to visit individually with each child and distribute gifts! There will also be inflatables! Pizza and drinks will be provided. Parents/Grandparents/Guardians, please discreetly bring a wrapped gift to the kitchen area upon arrival (you will be reimbursed \$5.00/kid). Call/text Tanner Pottmeyer @ 740-516-4749 with any questions.

## K OF C FOURTH DEGREE CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Sunday December 14th Marietta will be hosting our Christmas party at their hall, 312 Franklin St. Marietta, Ohio. They will be supplying the meat; we would like everybody to bring a covered dish to share. We will have a happy hour at 1:00 p.m. with our meal to be served at 2:00 p.m. Ladies, please bring a gift valued at \$20.00 for the gift exchange. Please bring canned goods or a cash donation to be donated to a local food bank. We all do something for Thanksgiving. This year we'd like to do something for the community for the Christmas season. There will be a 50/50 drawing during the party. Please RSVP Rod Strahler 740-350-0321, so that we can get a count for the meal and what covered dishes we will have.

## 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. For more information, please visit [www.QoHTours.com](http://www.QoHTours.com) or call us at 1-800-213-4295.





**ADVENT**  
Penance Service

(All Penance Services will be held at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

December 15	1:00 p.m. St. John School 7:00 p.m. St. John the Baptist Church
December 16	7:00 p.m. Our Lady of Mercy Church
December 17	7:00 p.m. Basilica of St. Mary Church
December 18	7:00 p.m. St. Bernard Church
December 21	7:00 p.m. St. Ambrose Church





### 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:  
Dec.7, Bishop Edward Lohse, + Msgr. William Yontz  
Dec. 8 Fr. Edward Maxfield, + Fr. Thomas McGough  
Dec. 9 Fr. Jonas Schell, + Msgr. Edward Gilbert  
Dec. 10 Fr. Robert Borer, + Fr. George Goodbout  
Dec. 11, Fr. David Gaydosik, + Fr. Frank Baudo  
Dec.12 Fr. Thomas Nau, + Fr. J.J. Donaldson  
Dec. 13 Fr. Chester Pabin, + Fr. Donald Nuss  
Dec. 14 Bishop Edward Lohse, + Fr. Joseph Pickard

**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,

Riley 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](mailto:nginnetti@diosteub.org)

X: [@dsvocations](https://twitter.com/dsvocations)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dsvocations](https://www.facebook.com/dsvocations)

Diocesan Website: [steubenvillevocations.com](http://steubenvillevocations.com).

### Advent wreath and Advent candles

**History:** One of the most recognizable Catholic symbols of the Advent season is the Advent wreath. It symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western Church. The concept of the Advent wreath originated in pre-Christian times when people would gather evergreens and light candles to ward off the darkness of winter and serve as a sign of hope that spring would come. By the 16th century, Catholics in Germany began using the wreath as a sign of Christ's coming. From there the tradition slowly spread throughout the world as Germans immigrated to various countries.

**Symbolism of the Wreath:** The circular wreath represents the fact that God has no beginning and no end. The evergreen branches stand for everlasting life. Four candles—representing Christ as the light of the world—adorn the wreath. Traditionally, three of the candles are purple, a sign of penance. (Sometimes the three candles are blue.) These candles are lit on the first, second and fourth weeks of Advent. On the third week a rose candle is lit. This week is known as "Gaudete" Sunday, Latin for "rejoice." The rose candle symbolizes joy. (Make sure to check out the priest's vestments at Mass on this Sunday. They might be rose to match the rose candle that you will be lighting.) In addition to these four candles, many people place a white candle in the center of their Advent wreath. This candle is called the Christ candle and is lit on Christmas Day to represent the birth of Christ. The candles should be lit each day of the appropriate week and for the subsequent weeks. For example, during the third week you will light two purple candles and the rose one.



### March for Life and Nationwide

#### Pro-Life Novena

The March for Life continues to be the largest pro-life rally in the world. It's an opportunity to give public testimony to the value of every human life, and to be inspired by the dedication of the tens of thousands of people who participate – especially the enormous numbers of young people. The March For Life will take place in Washington, DC, on Friday, January 23, 2026. Learn more at [www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org).

The National Prayer Vigil for Life will take place before the march on January 22, 2026 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. More details on this special event can be found here: <https://www.usccb.org/national-prayer-events-for-life>.

Also in conjunction with the march, the US Bishops will be organizing a Nationwide Pro-Life Novena from January 16 - 24, 2026. 9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Parishes are encouraged to promote this novena. Learn more [www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup](http://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup). Please contact Joseph Schmidt ([jschmidt@diosteub.org](mailto:jschmidt@diosteub.org) or 740-516-9270) with any questions.

### **Ohio Dioceses Enact Matching Policies on Sale or Raffle of Firearms**

The Bishops of Ohio have released a statement reassuring the faithful that the security of facilities across the state remains a high priority: "We all seek a welcoming environment where parishioners or visitors can enter a Church facility confident that they will encounter a peaceful space to encounter the Lord Jesus Christ."

In addition, the Bishops highlight Pope Leo XIV's plea to stop the pandemic of arms and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' lament of the growing number of arms without widespread policies or solutions to safeguard the common good. To ensure the Catholic Church's ministries do not become associated with any proliferation of arms, while acknowledging that most firearm owners remain law-abiding and responsible, the Bishops of Ohio state, "in the exercise of our prudential judgment, each of us as bishop is implementing a new policy in our own respective dioceses prohibiting any Catholic parish or diocesan-affiliated organization or facility from (i) hosting a sale or raffle involving firearms or other weapons and (ii) accepting contributions directly or indirectly from a sale or raffle of firearms."

Advent has a two-fold character, for it is a time of preparation for Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look toward the Second coming at the end of time.

Although your calendar might be full and your gift list long this time of the year, each Advent you are invited to take a holy pause, a sacred breath, to quiet your heart, awaken your longing, and pay attention to the God who draws near in his real presence.