

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

**25TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**
September 21, 2025



Good News!

By: FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

More than anything, we want to be wanted. As infants, we reach out, wanting to be wanted. When we begin school and discover others who might be friends, we want to be wanted. As teenagers discovering the stirrings of something new and deep, we want to be wanted. And when we grow old, then still we want to be wanted.

The parables Jesus told were always about how God moves in our lives, how God is powerfully intertwined in all that is. Jesus told parables to give us a hint of where to find God. This Sunday's parable is about a rich man with a steward about to be dismissed. The steward then finds ways to ingratiate himself into others' lives so when he is dismissed, he won't be left out in the cold. It's not the rich man who is the God-person in the parable. The rich got rich by abusing the poor. Rather, it is the steward who is the image of God—a God who, like the steward, is desperate to be accepted, to find a way into our lives. We might say clever...or even sneaky. It is God who finds a way into our lives when we are afraid, when we face the loss of love, when our worlds are falling apart, when we go looking for him. There, then, is God, eagerly wanting to be wanted.

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	09/20	4:00	p.m.	+Beth Brady (Linda Phelps)
	SJB	09/20	6:00	p.m.	+ Betty Pottmeyer (Anniv. 9/18) (Erin and Sherri Pottmeyer)
Sunday	SJB	09/21	7:30	a.m.	+ Kendrick Schwendeman (Alvin Arnold and Family)
	OLM	09/21	9:30	a.m.	+Raymond and Elizabeth Arnold Family (The Family)
	SJB	09/21	11:00	a.m.	+ Evelyn Neill (Margie Stephens)
Monday	SJB	09/22	8:00	a.m.	+ Robert and +Patricia Gaydosik (Dave and Barb Huck) + Ben Sauer (Bernard and Marilyn Schilling)
Tuesday	SJB	09/23	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	09/23	5:00	p.m.	+Msgr. Lawerance Luciana (Ed Schilling) +Erma and Wilma McKibben Family (Larry and Linda Pottmeyer)
Wednesday	SJB	09/24	8:30	a.m.	+ Richard and +Bertha Pottmeyer (Pottmeyer Children) School Mass + Jay Pottmeyer (Jim and Anna Schaad)
Thursday	SJB	09/25	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	09/25	5:00	p.m.	+Karen Belcher (David and Joanie Yeomans) +Kendrick Schwendeman (OLM CWC)
Friday	SJB	09/26	8:00	a.m.	L and D of +James and +Maglene Arnold (Family) L and D of +John and +Virginia Arnold (Family)
Saturday	OLM	09/27	4:00	p.m.	Peters Family (Marilyn and Heather Peters)
	SJB	09/27	6:00	p.m.	+ Faye Treadway (Mona Barrett and Family)
Sunday	SJB	09/28	7:30	a.m.	+ Tim Strahler (Family)
	OLM	09/28	9:30	a.m.	L and D of Sidney and Ruth Schnider Family (Larry and Linda Pottmeyer)
	SJB	09/28	11:00	a.m.	+ Donna Zoller (Charlotte Lang and Family)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

ALTER SERVERS		LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	
Saturday	6:00 p.m.	Alyssa Dyar, Alaina Wells	Eugene Huck	Jerry Dyar
Sunday	7:30 a.m.	Keegan Pottmeyer, Connor McCartney	Hugh Arnold	Connie Arnold
Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Maycee and Brenlee Lang	Reese Lang	Tonia Skinner

COLLECTION

Total Collection last weekend \$ 3,392
 Needed to meet parish needs \$ 4,750

Thank you for your generosity!

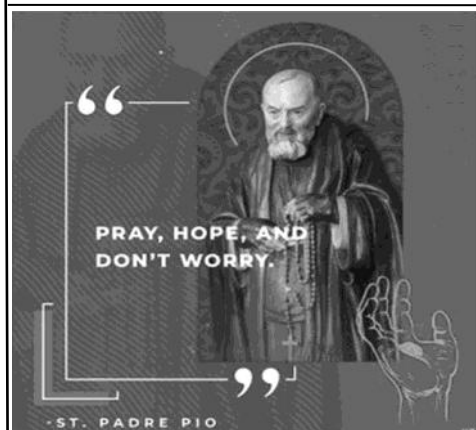
DPSC

2025 Collected to Date \$ 61,990
 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.



What's Happening

September 26 No school at St. John Central
 September 30 Cemetery Meeting 6:00 p.m.
 October 1 Daily Bread Kitchen
 October 2 Sr. Citizen Meeting 11:00 a.m.
 October 4 Mass of Remembrance at St. Mary's Marietta 9:00 a.m.
 October 4-5 Lowell Octoberfest



READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 / 1 Timothy 6:11-16 / Luke 16:19-31

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

CEMETERY MEETING

A cemetery meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 30 in the Sr. Center. All are welcome.

DAILY BREAD KITCHEN

The St. Johns group for the Daily Bread Kitchen will be cooking and handing out Takeout Lunches, at the Marietta KofC Hall on Gilman Ave. in Marietta, on Wednesday, **October 1, 2025**. At this time, we are in need of packaged cookies, snack cakes, or doughnuts, pastries or muffins and fruit cups (to put in the Takeouts). If you would like to make a donation of any of these items, you can leave them in the box in the entry of the church by 8am on Wednesday, **October 1, 2025**. If you would like to make a monetary donation there will also be a collection can in the entry of the church. Thank you for all your past and present donations. You are helping to make a difference!

CASINO NIGHT

"Casino Night in the Wild West" is coming up! Please join us on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. for a great evening of fun. This event is sponsored by the St. John Home and School Association. Tickets are \$50/person or reserve a table for 8 people for \$550. Ticket includes dinner by Big Food Little Kitchen, entertainment provided by Two for the Road, and you will be entered into a cash prize drawing. There will be a Country Store and Live Auction. Cash Bar will be available. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call or text 740-336-5313 or 407-920-1565.

LOWELL OCTOBERFEST

The 49th Lowell Octoberfest will be held October 4 and 5 on Buell Island in Lowell. There will be a flea market, arts and crafts show, German food, music, beer garden and food vendors. There will also be raffles. Free admission and parking. The Jim and Evelyn Lenhart Memorial Parade will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

NEW LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULES
WILL BE AVAILABLE NEXT WEEKEND.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

The first PSR class will be held on Sunday, October 5 from 9-10:30 at St. John Central. Students are to report to the school cafeteria and they will be dismissed to their classrooms from there. The full PSR schedule will be handed out on October 5. Classes will be held every Sunday with the exception of the last Sunday of the month; October through April. First Communion is scheduled for Sunday, April 26 at the 11am Mass. First Reconciliation & Confirmation are TBD. To help cover the cost of students learning materials families are asked to send \$15/child on the first week of class.

CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation Class will meet on Sundays, November 9, December 14, January 11, February 8, March 8, and April 12, 2-3:30 pm at the Convent. This includes all parish students who wish to be confirmed in grades 5 and above, even if they attend St. John Central School. The date for Confirmation is TBA. Please register at <https://forms.gle/hiiiaQoNKrXSTpzv4A>.

K OF C 4617 PATIO PICNIC

The Knights of Columbus 4617 will have a Patio Picnic on Sunday, September 28, 2025 from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm. Events will start with Catholic mass at 11:00 am at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Afterwards, on the back patio at the hall in Churchtown, we will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks (BYOB). Guests should bring a salad or dessert to share! There will be games and prizes for the kids. Members, their families, and friends are welcome to attend. We will have applications for NEW MEMBERS to join! Come socialize with our community! As part of our FOOD FOR FAMILIES program, we will be collecting canned goods to be donated to St. Vincent de Paul Society. We hope to see you there! For Questions Contact: Derek Kern @ 740-516-7219 or Clay Miller @ 740-336-4229.

K OF C CHURCHTOWN TRUNK OR TREAT

The Knights of Columbus 4617 will again host Churchtown's Annual Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 10th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at 17472 State Route 676, Marietta, Ohio 45750. We are hoping to offer a fun, safe environment for our community and kids to get together and celebrate Halloween! If you would like to participate by decorating your trunk and passing out treats, please contact Jessica Pottmeyer at 740-336-1048! If you need electricity, please plan to park closer to the right side of the building for access to outlets. We recommend showing up with your treats at least 20-30 minutes early so that you have time to set up your trunk. For those of you that would like to pass out candy but forgo the trunk decorating, please feel free to set up under the back porch! Last year we had nearly 150 kids, so the more trunks we have the better! There will be pizza, chips, and beverages for a donation in which we will donate all proceeds as part of the KofC Helping Hands Program! If you have any questions, you can contact Jessica Pottmeyer on Facebook or text her at 740-336-1048. We are looking forward to having another fun filled trunk or treat with you all!

CHURCHTOWN TRICK OR TREAT

Churchtown Trick or Treat will be held on Thursday, October 30, 6 -7:30 p.m. If you will be giving out treats, please turn your outside light on.

IMPORTANT.....PLEASE READ

CHANGE TO CEMETERY MEMBERSHIP RATE

The St. John Cemetery membership rates will remain the same cost, but the opening and closing of the graves will no longer be part of the fee starting October 1st, 2025. Anyone who has the fee paid in full before October 1st will have the opening and closing included. If not paid in full by October 1st, the opening and closing of the grave will need to be paid at the time of that service.

This change is being made due to the uncertainty of who will be handling the grave opening and closing in the future and the cost associated with this service.

We have asked many times if someone would be interested in taking charge of the opening and closing of the graves and no one has stepped up or shown interest, so we have no choice but to look for other options. If someone is interested, please let us know.

For more information or to inquire about your balance due, contact Kevin Brooker (740-538-1887) or Pam at the parish office (740-896-3566) with questions.



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: Sept. 20, Fr Michael Gossett; Sept. 21, Fr Thomas Magary. Sept. 22, all priests; Sept. 23, Msgr. Mike Campbell; Sept. 24 Msgr. George Coyne; Sept. 25, Fr. Leonard Cencula; Sept. 26, Fr. Thomas Vennitti; Sept. 27, Fr. James Dunfee; Sept. 28 Fr. Tim Kozak. Eternal God, please bless our priests, who represent you on this earth. Heavenly Father, grant that our priests be strengthened by the power of the Eucharist they celebrate.

Pray for our seminarians (the future of our Diocese). Deacon Peter Stetson—Blessed Sacrament Parish Wintersville, Ohio; Deacon Ryan Budd and Caleb Baker — Christ the Light Parish Cambridge, Ohio; St. Vincent Seminary Latrobe, Pa. Christopher McGurn and Samuel Ivkovich; Pontifical College Josephinum Columbus John Paul Gan, Maximilian Gan, Johnathan Ruscoe, Rily Morris, Arron Pabin, and William Gugala.

We are looking for individuals who are willing to serving our parish family as Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Greeters, Servers. Lay participation is a vital part of the life of our parish community. Whether you're a lifetime member or new to our parish family, your service can make a real difference. Training will be provided. If interested contact the parish office.

JUBILEE OF MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES

Each year, the Diocese of Steubenville organizes special Masses to recognize significant Marriage Anniversaries of the faithful. As in past years, this year's celebration will be offered for couples celebrating their 10th , 20th, 25th, 30th , 35th , 40th , 45th , 50th , 55th , 60th , and every year thereafter. The Mass for the Jubilee of Marriage Anniversaries will be held on Sunday, November 9 , 2025 at 12 PM at the Basilica. For more information on how to register for this celebration contact the parish office.

Pope Leo XIV led an ecumenical commemoration of the martyrs and witnesses of faith of the 21st century at Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls on Sunday, stressing that "even though they have been killed in body, no one can silence their voice or erase the love they have shown." "Through his cross, Jesus revealed to us the true face of God, his infinite compassion for humanity," the Pope said. "He took upon himself the hatred and violence of the world, to share the lot of all those who are humiliated and oppressed." Pope Leo, speaking on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, said that many believers still share in Christ's cross. "Like him, they are persecuted, condemned and killed," the pope said, pointing to women and men — religious, laypeople and priests — who have died for their fidelity to the Gospel, their fight for religious freedom, and their solidarity with the poor. The Pope described their witness as "a hope filled with immortality" because it continues to spread the Gospel, cannot be silenced, and stands as a prophecy of the victory of good over evil. He recalled Sister Dorothy Stang, murdered in Brazil after telling her killers, "This is my only weapon," as she held up her Bible. He also remembered Father Ragheed Ganni, a Chaldean priest shot in Mosul, and Brother Francis Tofi, an Anglican religious killed in the Solomon Islands. "Unfortunately, despite the end of the great dictatorships of the twentieth century, to this day the persecution of Christians has not ended," the pope said. "We cannot and do not want to forget," he said. "Just as in the first centuries, so too in the third millennium, the blood of the martyrs is the seed of new Christians."

The Lie That Binds

A broken image of God keeps people in bondage more than demons ever could.

That's the enemy's oldest trick. In the garden, the serpent didn't begin with power—he began with a suggestion. "Did God really say...?"

It was a narrative. A lens. A way of seeing God that sowed suspicion: maybe He's withholding, maybe He can't be trusted, maybe He doesn't want what's best for you. That single distorted image became the seedbed of bondage. When we believe a lie, we empower the liar.

In fifteen years of walking people through deliverance—from clinical practice to ministry rooms—I've discovered the enemy's most effective weapon isn't possession but perception.

The Parable of Perception

This same dynamic unfolds in Jesus' parable of the talents. The servant who buried his gift explained his failure in one chilling line: "I knew you to be a hard man." Notice—it wasn't laziness that destroyed him. It was his god image. He believed his master was harsh, demanding, impossible to please. And that lie shaped his entire posture. Fear led to hiding. Shame led to paralysis. Bondage isn't just chains around the wrists. It's the lens over the eyes.

When Jesus Shows Up Differently

One woman I worked with had struggled with bulimia since high school, when she was rejected and kicked out of her lunch table. The shame drove her to hide in bathroom stalls, where her eating disorder took root in secrecy and self-hatred. During a healing encounter, something extraordinary happened: she saw Jesus waiting outside the bathroom door. Not demanding entry, not impatient, but simply... waiting. His patience itself was disarming. When she finally said yes, He came in and sat on the floor beside her. She was overwhelmed—not by condemnation, but by the realization that the God of all creation seemed to have nowhere else He'd rather be than on that dirty bathroom floor that had come to define her shame. In that moment, her whole image of God shifted. The rejection that had labeled her for years began to dissolve, because she encountered a God who pursued her into her darkest hiding place not to condemn, but to companion. Her bulimia didn't just improve—it lost its power entirely. Because the lie that fed it—that she was rejected, hidden, alone—couldn't survive in the presence of such radical acceptance.

Think about that. The very God who calls Himself Abba and Bridegroom gets misperceived as aloof or annoyed. The enemy doesn't just torment with fear—he plants a counterfeit portrait of God and then hides behind it.

Cultural Captivity

And it doesn't stop with individuals. When entire communities live from a broken God-image, culture itself becomes disciplined by fear. In a culture that profits from fear—where social media algorithms feed on anxiety and news cycles thrive on threat—the church has often joined the panic instead of modeling peace. We've become more fluent in the devil's playbook than in the Father's promises. Churches become more focused on avoiding curses than proclaiming blessings, more obsessed with the devil's schemes than with the Father's promises. What we believe about God will always shape the way we live before Him.

To be continued.....