

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*

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Email: stjohnchurchtown@yahoo.com

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Fr. David Gaydosik, Pastor

Cell number 740-391-1093

Fr. Walter E Heinz, retired

Fr. Dale Tornes, retired



Faith - Tradition - Family

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024



Good News!

By: FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Advent is a time of hope but also a time of waiting. Different than wishing, hope is the belief that, one day, all will be well. Teenagers eagerly wait to be out on their own, believing then all will be well. Students are eager to graduate and get away from papers to write, books to read, and exams to take—then all will be well. Some singles long to find a partner, marry, and settle down, believing—then—all will be well. Always there is the faith that, although life may not now be what we wish, the future will bring a time when all will be well. We are inveterate people of hope.

Yet life is a process that cannot be rushed. Author Annie Dillard once watched a butterfly hatch from a cocoon. A bit impatient, she decided to gently warm the cocoon and so hasten the process. It worked, except by rushing the process the butterfly's wings were undeveloped, too weak to fly. All that we hope and long for in life must happen at its own pace, faithful to the process.

How, then, do we negotiate the waiting? The Gospel's encouragement is to pray, but not for what we want. Rather, we are to pray for the strength to stand with hope before the Son of Man, trusting that God will bring forth the goodness we need. Though it may be different than what we seek, it will be what we need.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	OLM	11/30	4:00	P.M.	+Deanna Lang (Raymond Lang)	
	SJB	11/30	6:00	P.M.	+Leora Arnold (Richard and Brenda Arnold)	
Sunday	SJB	12/01	7:30	A.M.	+Paul Schwendeman (Anniversary) (Family)	
	OLM	12/01	9:30	A.M.	+Donna Arnold (12/02 3 yr. Annv.) (Pat Arnold)	
	SJB	12/01	11:00	A.M.	+Richard Pottmeyer (Pottmeyer Children)	
Monday	SJB	12/02	8:00	A.M.	+Tim Strahler (Terry and Patti Miller)	
Tuesday	SJB	12/03	8:00	A.M.	No Mass Today	
	OLM	12/03	5:00	P.M.	+Howard and Patricia Huck (The Huck Family)	
Wednesday	SJB	12/04	8:20	A.M.	+Mary Schwendeman (Anniversary) (Family)	School Mass
Thursday	SJB	12/05	8:00	A.M.	No Mass Today	
	OLM	12/05	5:00	P.M.	+Donnie Heiss (12/06 1 yr. Anniversary) (Fay Heiss)	
First Friday	SJB	12/06	6:00	P.M.	+Alice Lang (Anniv. 12/5) (Bob and Peggy Byers) Adoration 5-6:00 p.m.	
Saturday	OLM	12/07	4:00	P.M.	Living and Deceased Hibernia Members (Hibernian Society)	
	SJB	12/07	6:00	P.M.	+Rosemary Heiss (Bill and Alberta Wesel)	
Sunday	SJB	12/08	7:30	A.M.	+Rose Mary Wagner (Richard and Brenda Arnold)	
	OLM	12/08	9:30	A.M.	+John and +MaryLou Huck (Greg and Marlene Greene)	
	SJB	12/08	11:00	A.M.	+Peggy Schaad (Mike and Marilyn Schaad Family)	

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

MASS	ALTAR SERVERS	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Coletyn Dyar, Chase Arteaga	Virginia Dyar	Jessica Henke
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Dalton and Dane Schott	Hugh Arnold	Arnold Huck
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Hadleigh Pennock, Emi Lauchard	Ashleigh Pennock	Lori Hart

<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>D.P.S.C.</u>	<u>BINGO</u>
Total Collection last weekend \$3,373 Needed to meet parish needs \$4,750 Thank you for your generosity!	2024 Collected to date \$74,185 2024 Goal \$43,047 Thank you for your generosity!	November 17 Group 7 \$269

<u>ST. JOHN BINGO WORK SCHEDULE</u>	<u>C.W.C. BINGO CAKES</u>	
Dec 1 Group 1 with Jeff Brooker Dec 8 Group 2 with Jessica Henke Dec 15 Group 3 with Ryan Lauchard Dec 22 Group 4 with Derrick Pottmeyer Dec 29 Group 5 with Robin Eichmiller	December Group D - Elaine Wells	Please pray for all of the men and women who are serving our country in the military. May God watch over them and keep them safe.

<i>what's happening this week...</i>	Monday	December 2	No School at St. John Central School
		December 2	K of C Meeting 7:00 p.m.
	Wednesday	December 4	School Mass (8:20 a.m.) Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the Sr. Center
	Thursday	December 5	Senior Citizens Meeting, 11:00 a.m. in the Sr. Center
	Friday	December 6	First Friday, Adoration 5-6:00 p.m. and Mass to follow
	Saturday	December 7	Britton Family in the Sr. Center
	Sunday	December 8	PSR and First Reconciliation after the 11:00 a.m. Mass

BINGO

As many of you know, Russ Lang, who has graciously given his time to Bingo every Sunday for the past 7 years, is stepping down. We are in need of someone to take over as Head Bingo Operator. If you are interested, please contact the Rectory (896-3566) by December 1.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

Requests for gifts will be on the giving tree. Please return gifts by December 6. Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christmas with the less fortunate. St. Vincent DePaul

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is being observed on Monday, December 9. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be held at 8:20 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. St. Johns and 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy.

EUCHRE

Euchre on Wednesdays will not be held until further notice.

CWC CHRISTMAS DINNER

The CWC Christmas Dinner will be on Thursday, December 12th at **5:00 p.m.** (please note time change) at The Cornerstone Restaurant in Beverly. It will be a roasted turkey dinner. It's for the women and their spouses if they would like to come. Please RSVP to Marilyn Pottmeyer by December 1 at 740-516-6248. There will also be prizes available.

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

2025 Collection envelopes will be available the first weekend of December. 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.

CONDOLENCES

Please keep in your prayers Ben Sauer, who passed away on November 24. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Ben's family and friends. May Ben rest in God's eternal peace.

CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY AND NEW YEAR'S EVE/DAY

LITURGICAL MINISTER SIGN UP SHEET

A sign up sheet is located in the vestibule if you would like to volunteer to be an Altar Server, Lector or Eucharistic Minister for the Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Years Day mass. Please try to sign up before December 8.



CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The 6:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas eve will be a candlelit service featuring the children's choir as well as our young parishioners taking part in the mass. If you are interested in participating in the choir, please contact Crystal Lang at (740)516-4202. Practice will be held after the 11:00 am mass on December 8th and the 22nd from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Churchtown Busy Bunch 4-H Club is taking orders for homemade noodles. All proceeds from the sale will benefit a 4-H family in Western North Carolina for Christmas that was directly affected by hurricane Helene. Noodles are \$7 for a one-gallon bag. To order, call Melinda Treadway 740-629-1452, Alberta Wesel 740-525-4429, Tisa Medlin 740-525-1949 or Tracie Roush 740-350-7916. The deadline to order is December 1. Noodles will be made that weekend. The club is also selling chances on a homemade OSU flannel blanket (Twin Size), \$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20. Tickets will be sold after each mass. The drawing will be held December 8. This is a great opportunity for "Helping Hands, Healing Hearts".

BUCKEYES FOR SALE

Washington County Exchange 4H Club is selling buckeyes for \$8 a dozen and pine cemetery pillows for \$25 each to be ready for delivery on Dec. 8th. Call or text your order to Alisha Schaad @ 740-350-5719, or Ellie Tullius @ 740-434-3064 by Dec. 1st. Profit from these fundraisers will be used to host a 4H group from Colorado in June.

K OF C 4TH DEGREE CHRISTMAS DINNER

St. Ambrose K of C Council is hosting this year's Fourth Degree Christmas dinner at 5:00 p.m. on December 15th. The menu will include Smoked pork shoulder, baked beans, cole slaw and cake. The cost will be \$15.00 per person. There will be a 50/50 drawing, a Fourth Degree item for raffle, and a Ladies gift exchange (\$20.00 limit). Please contact me by December 10th with how many will be attending, at 740-350-0321 or email me at rodstrahler@gmail.com. Thanks for all you do for the Knights.

SPREAD THE LIGHT OF CHRIST - KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Knights of Columbus 4617 will kick off the Christmas Season with a Spread the Light of Christ event on Monday, December 9th @ 6:30 PM at 17472 OH-676, Marietta, OH 45750. If weather permits, there will be an outdoor light up ceremony for our building and nativity scene. Father Gaydosik will join us for a blessing of the upcoming season. Refreshments will follow. Members, parents, grandparents, and community members are welcome to attend this family event! Also, at this time, we will present the winners of the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. Children from St. John School and our area churches CCD students will create posters to promote Keep Christ In Christmas. These will be displayed at the KofC hall for the holiday season! All children Kindergarten - 8th Grade are encouraged to participate.

KOFC 4617 MEMBERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Knights of Columbus 4617 will host our Annual Members Christmas Party, Saturday, December 14. Members and a guest are invited to enjoy an adult-only evening out to get in the Christmas spirit! Cocktail Hour: 6:00 - 7:00 PM; Heavy Hors d'oeuvres: 7:00 - 8:00 PM. Music by Sam Clark & Friends: 8:00 - 11:00 PM. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend this FREE event! Call/text Taylor Pottmeyer @ 412-215-6470 with any questions.

KOFC CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Sunday, December 15 at Noon, KofC 4617 members are invited to bring their families and children for a festive afternoon. Santa Claus will make a stop at the KofC 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 Taylor Pottmeyer @ 412-215-6470 with any 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

Scrip Coordinator

Betina Lang

PSR Coordinator

Andrea Ralston

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

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 Taylor Pottmeyer

St. John School Foundation

Gary Arnold, President

Diocesan Catholic Charities & Information

Referral Line:

1-800-339-7890

Ancient Order of Hibernians

James Farly, President

OUR SEMINARIANS

Please Pray for Seminarians studying at: Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2701 Chicago Blvd., Detroit, MI 48206, Peter Stetson; St. Vincent Seminary 300 Fraser Purchase Rd., Latrobe Pa, 15650, Christopher McGurn and Samuel Ivkovich; Pontifical College Josephinum 7625 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43235-1499: Jonathan Rusco, Riley Morris, Aaron Pabin, and Caleb Baker, and Maximilian Kolbe Gan; On a pastoral year at Christ the Light Parish, 704 Gomber Ave, Cambridge, Ohio 43728, Ryan Budd, John Paul Gan.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

because December 8 falls on a Sunday this year, the celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to *Monday, December 9*. Even though the solemnity is transferred this year, **it remains a holy day of obligation** based on recent clarifications from the Holy See to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Mass schedule on December 9th will be:
8:20am at St. John the Baptist (School Mass)
5:00pm at St. John the Baptist
7:00pm Our Lady of Mercy (w/ Fr. Dale)

Hope to see you at one of the Masses.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION Support those who have dedicated their lives to service. Many women and men religious communities lack sufficient retirement savings. Your donation today helps provide essential care, medicine, and daily needs for thousands of senior religious members. Please give generously.

ARE YOU REGISTERED? Are you new to the Parish? Have you notified the Parish Offices of any changes in your address, phone number, etc.? If you are out of college and still living at home, you need to register as an adult member of St. John the Baptist. Please call the Parish Offices for any changes or to register. Your cooperation in helping us to keep our records up-to-date is greatly appreciated.

Parish School of Religion If you have a child that is not attending a Catholic School, you are invited to register them for our PSR program We meet on Sunday mornings at St. John Central. You can register online by visiting our parish website or calling Andrea Ralston

Dear Friends,

With the celebration of Thanksgiving this past week I offer the following reflection: Gratitude is the act of thankfulness that springs up from deep within us for getting or achieving something that we do not deserve. In St. Luke's Gospel, gratitude is demonstrated by the one Samaritan leper who realized that he had been cured by Jesus. This leper returned giving glory to God and thanking Jesus. In other words, gratitude springs from an understanding that we are stewards entrusted by God with gifts that we can never deserve. Perhaps our gift is our time. We are good at spending time with people and we give it away to others freely. May be a particular ability is our gift. We can teach others or help them to achieve some level of skill. Perhaps our gift is our treasure. We can share our treasure with our church and other charities to help eliminate some poverty, some hunger, some disease. Gratitude cannot be coerced or forced from someone. We cannot make someone be thankful. Parents might encourage their children to express their gratitude by writing a thank-you note or by sending a thank you email or text, or making a phone call. But this does not imply that the children are grateful.

This week we are reminded to express our gratitude to God from whom all gifts come, because we recognize that we have much and we deserve none. We express our thanks to God for all the blessings God has given to us. May our gratitude always lead us to acts of charity and compassion, to lives that witness to an appreciation of what God has given. As I reflect on what I am thankful for this Thanksgiving, I thank God for you, my parish families of St. John the Baptist and Our Lady of Mercy, for your many kindnesses, support, and care. I am grateful for so many individuals who do so many things for me and for our parishes. May God's blessing be yours in abundance!

Interesting! Its a fascinating historical fact that in Europe, no Catholics were recorded as born or deceased between October 4 and October 15, 1582. This period marks the transition from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, as decreed by Pope Gregory XIII, due to the inaccuracy in the yearly calendar affecting the date of Easter. Consequently, Thursday, October 4 was followed immediately by Friday, October 15, effectively losing ten days. Over time, the Gregorian calendar gained global recognition and remains the standard calendar in use around the world today.

May he rest in peace. December 6th is the third anniversary of death of Fr. Virgil Reischman. He served the people of our parish and Diocese as best as he could.

Christ the Teacher—Diocesan Scholarship Fund— "Turning Taxes into Tuition"

By making a charitable donation to the Christ the Teacher Scholarship Fund you can turn Tax Dollars into Tuition assistance for children to attend St. John Central Catholic School. Donate before filing you Ohio Tax return and you receive a dollar-for-dollar Ohio income tax credit of up to \$750 (\$1,500 if married filing jointly). Designate your gift to help provide financial assistance to any diocesan Catholic school of your choice. For more information and to make a donation, go to: www.diosteub.org/ctdsf. Act now for your 2024 Tax Credit.