

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
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Parish Sr. Center 740-896-3610

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

Good News!

By: FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Charles Baudelaire was a French poet and essayist in the mid-1800s. He once observed that life is like a hospital in which each patient is possessed by the desire to change beds. In other words, he thought everyone seemed to think life would be so much better if only they had a different set of circumstances, a different job, a different marriage, a different place in life. Like trees, however, not everyone grows and matures at the same pace. There are forty-year-olds who still act and think like teenagers, and there are ten-year-olds who have an attitude toward life like that of an elder. Over time, we all grow into the lives we're given.

In this week's Parable of the Barren Fig Tree, some think God is like the owner who planted the tree, as if God is impatient with us to begin bearing fruit and quick to uproot us if we fail. A case could be made, however, for God to be the gardener who patiently fertilizes and nurtures. In the beginning, it was God who had a garden called Eden, filled with all kinds of trees and plants among which God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening. After the resurrection, it was Mary Magdalene who went looking for the body of Jesus and mistook him for the gardener. It is God who hovers over us, watering and nudging and nurturing, waiting until in God's good time, we begin to bear fruit.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 23, 2025

But unless you repent,
you too will all perish
(Luke 13:5)




MASS INTENTION SCHEDULE


Saturday	OLM	03/22	4:00	p.m.	+Shawn MCleod (Martin and Pauline Knoch)
	SJB	03/22	6:00	p.m.	+Anna Mae Brooker (Tom and Tammy Brooker)
Sunday	SJB	03/23	7:30	a.m.	+John and +Mary Lou Huck (Arnold Huck and Family)
	OLM	03/23	9:30	a.m.	+Richard and +Brian Stevens (Martha Stevens)
	SJB	03/23	11:00	a.m.	+Frank Schilling (Patty Finkel)
Monday	SJB	03/24	8:00	a.m.	+Chris Tesi (Debbie Huck)
Tuesday	SJB	03/25	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	03/25	5:00	p.m.	+Tess Huck (Leroy and Sophia Rauch)
Wednesday	SJB	03/26	8:20	a.m.	+Larry Schaad (CWC) School Mass
Thursday	SJB	03/27	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	03/27	5:00	p.m.	+Howard Huck (The Huck Family) Stations of the Cross after Mass
Friday	SJB	03/28	6:00	p.m.	+Vincent Lang (Anniversary) (Bob and Peggy Byers) (Stations of the Cross to follow)
Saturday	OLM	03/29	4:00	p.m.	+Donnie Heiss (Mark and Paulie)
	SJB	03/29	6:00	p.m.	+William Schilling (Bernard and Marilyn Schilling)
Sunday	SJB	03/30	7:30	a.m.	+James and +Maglene Arnold (Anniversary) (Family)
	OLM	03/30	9:30	a.m.	+Jeri Lang (Ken, Jan, and Michelle Long)
	SJB	03/30	11:00	a.m.	+Richard and +Bertha Pottmeyer (Pottmeyer Family Children)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

MASS		ALTAR SERVERS		LECTOR	EUCHARISTIC MINISTER
Saturday	6:00 p.m.	Abby Henke, Coletyn Dyar		Rachel Klinger	Jerry Dyar
Sunday	7:30 a.m.	Adalyn and Eli Eichmiller		Robin Eichmiller	Connie Arnold
Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Callen Pottmeyer, Emi Lauchard		Brynlee Pottmeyer	Roxanne Heiss

<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>DPSC</u>	
Total Collection last weekend \$ 3,294 Needed to meet parish needs \$ 4,750 Thank you for your generosity!	2025 Collected to Date \$ 12,810 2025 DPSC Goal \$ 41,330 Thank you!!	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.

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

<p>Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo-March 23</p> <p>God of Love, Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo had an unwavering desire to build his parish into a community of believers who imitate Christ. When he was asked to become an archbishop, he refused the honor, but when he learned about the poor condition of the people in the archdiocese, he took the position in order to help them. Inspire me, O Lord, to accept opportunities of position and authority for the sake of distributing Your love and support. Anoint my Christian friendships and parish organizations so that we may grow as a community of faithful followers who imitate Jesus in serving others. Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, pray for us. Amen.</p>	<p><i>what's happening this week ...</i></p> <p>March 22-23 Parish Directory Picture taking in the Sr. Center March 22-23 K of C Parish Talk March 28-30 Girl's Search Weekend</p> 
<p>READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND</p> <p>Joshua 5:9a, 10-12 / 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 / Luke 15:1-3, 11-32</p>	

EASTER 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 print the names so they are easily read and have your list in to the Rectory by April 6.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP NOTICE

In order to maintain the appearance of our parish cemetery properties and ensure the safety of visitors and employees, the Catholic Parish Cemeteries Association will be conducting our annual cemetery clean-up during the month of March. Please note that all Christmas items will be removed from all graves during the clean-up. If there are any items that you wish to keep, please remove them as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation! It is greatly appreciated.

K OF C WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

By becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus and giving just 24 hours a year, a man can be a better Catholic, father, and husband and make a difference in the Church and his community. It's not a lot of time, but it is time well spent. It's rewarding. It's life changing. Want to join us on our journey? Go to kofco.org and click on Join Us. For more information contact any Council 4617 member; Grand Knight, Taylor Pottmeyer at 412-215-6470, or email churchtownkofc@gmail.com. We will also be in the back of the church this weekend to pass out information cards or applications.

LENTEN FISH FRIES

Our Lady of Mercy Church Lenten Fish Fries will be following Fridays from 4:30 PM until 7:30 PM: March 28, April 11. Cost is Adults \$13.00 Children 12 & under \$6.00. To Go Drive Through Meals \$13.00- We have drive through meals available. No need to call ahead.

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS

The Washington County Veterans Service Commission is sponsoring a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event in Marietta, OH. at the Armory, 241 Front Street. The event will be on March 29th, 2025 from 5:00p.m. until 8:00p.m. All parishioners are invited to join us in welcoming our Veterans home.



PARISH MISSION-ST. BERNARD'S BEVERLY

Parish Mission with Jesse Romero: As an LA policeman, Jesse has seen the devil at work in our society. Jesse is the author of *The Devil in the City of Angels* and he will share his experiences and his advice on winning the spiritual warfare that all of us are fighting. Jesse will speak after all of the Masses on the weekend of Sunday, March 30th. His first talk will be at 7:00pm that evening and the talks will continue until Tuesday, April 1st. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and to meet with Jesse after the talks. All of the talks are free, but a basket will be passed to support future Parish Missions.

CHRISM MASS ESSAY CONTEST

The Diocese of Steubenville Vocations team is sponsoring a "Chrism Mass Essay Contest." Young men 10 years of age and older can submit a one-page essay answering the question: "Why is serving Mass important for you personally and for the whole church?" The contest winners will be invited to serve the chrism Mass for Bishop Edward M. Lohse with the seminarians on April 14th at St. Mary Basilica, Marietta. In addition, the young men will be able to join the priests and seminarians for dinner after Mass, as well as be excused from the parochial school day to experience the blessing of the sacred oils and the renewal of priestly promises. To submit your essays by email to Father Nicholas V. Ginnetti at nginnetti@diosteub.org. Also, essays can be mailed to the following address: Chrism Mass Essay Contest, 701 Gomer Ave., Cambridge, OH 43725. The essay deadline, with a letter of recommendation from a parish pastor, is due by March 31st.

DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE REPORT

Bishop Edward Lohse recently published his Report on the State of the Diocese of Steubenville. For more details, please visit <https://www.diosteub.org>

PARISH DIRECTORY INFORMATION

This weekend may be the last chance to have your picture taken for the Parish Directory. Emma will be taking pictures until 8 pm on Saturday, and 12-7 pm on Sunday in the Sr. Center. You may stop over anytime. It will basically 5 minutes of your time.

Please note that we will not be providing a free printed copy of your 8 x 10 as in the past. You will have a digital copy available to be emailed to you or a family member or for a small fee you may request a digital copy on a thumb drive.

Everyone who has their picture taken for the directory will receive a free Directory. Extra copies will be available to purchase.





What's Happening at St. John Central School From Mrs. Becky Hilverding, Principal

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." – Psalm 107:1

We have officially begun our last nine-week grading period at St. John Central School, and there is much to accomplish before the end of the year! This school year has been filled with growth, success, and many positive changes, and we are grateful for all who have supported us along the way.

Our remodeling efforts inside the building are complete for now, with additional upgrades planned for the summer. During the break, we will be rekeying the building and installing interior security cameras to complement our existing exterior surveillance system.

Richard Canterbury and Thad Tucker have been hard at work completing our new entrance sign, which was crafted by the welding class at the Washington County Career Center. Two signs will soon be installed—one by the road and another on the building. Additionally, the welding class is creating "SJS" letters to be suspended from the ceiling in the gym in front of the stage.

We had a fantastic celebration of Dad's and Grandpa's Day on March 19, with over 55 attendees. These special guests joined their children or grandchildren for Mass and then enjoyed a light breakfast prepared by our wonderful school cook, Betty Schafer.

Looking ahead, ARK testing will begin the week of April 7, coinciding with our Book Fair, which runs from April 7-11. Literacy Night will take place on April 7 from 6:00-7:30 PM, and we invite everyone in the community to join us, whether or not they have a child at St. John's.

Our MAP testing will be completed before Spring Break, which is scheduled for April 17-21. In May, we have an exciting all-school field trip planned to Discovery World in Parkersburg.

The spring play is set for May 8 at Marietta High School at 6:30 PM. This year, our Early Learners and Pre-K students will also be participating—please come out and support our talented students!

As May approaches, we will celebrate Mothers' and Grandmothers' Day in conjunction with May Crowning. Kindergarten graduation will be on May 20, which will be the final day of school for our kindergarteners. The last day for all other students will be May 21, featuring Field Day, Awards Day, and the official start of summer break! Pre-K graduation will take place on May 16 at 6:00 PM at the church, marking their last day of school.

Looking ahead to next school year, we are excited to have 54 students already registered, with all applications submitted to EdChoice. Our transition to online registration has made the process much more efficient, and we appreciate our parents' cooperation.

We will soon be interviewing candidates for first and third-grade teaching positions. As always, we encourage anyone to stop by and see all the wonderful improvements happening at St. John's.

A heartfelt thank you to all who contribute to our school—whether through volunteering, donating resources, or keeping our building running smoothly. Your generosity and support are deeply appreciated!

Becky Hilverding, Principal



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

Script 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:**