

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



Faith - Tradition - Family

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 16, 2025



Good News!

By: FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The darkness can be unsettling. As a child, my nightly bedtime ritual included checking beneath my bed as well as in the dark hall closet. One could never know what denizens of harm might be lurking there, hidden in the shadows. As adults, the darkness we fear is no longer what lies hidden about our home. Rather, the darkness we attempt to escape is the unknown forces that have the power to overturn our lives. It is the death of someone we love that plunges us into fear and loss, forcing us to somehow make our way, alone and unsure. It is the frightening medical diagnosis that has the ability to dismantle our planned future. It is the financial security that dissolves before our very eyes. In such darkness, we grope blindly to find our way.


The Book of Genesis notes that a trance came upon Abram, a terrifying darkness that enveloped him. The gospel relays how Peter, James, and John became frightened atop Mt. Tabor when they found themselves in a cloud that obscured their sight. Yet, the darkness became for each of them a place in which they came to know their God in a totally new way; it set them on a new path of faith. It is then that we, too, are forced to surrender trust in our own wisdom. Unable to see clearly what is in store for us, we can only rely on a new path, trusting that we will be accompanied by our God.

MASS INTENTION SCHEDULE

Saturday	OLM	03/15	4:00	p.m.	+Ron Smith (2yr Anniv.) (Paul Smith)
	SJB	03/15	6:00	p.m.	+Donnie Wells (Tom and Elaine Wells Family)
Sunday	SJB	03/16	7:30	a.m.	+Tim Strahler (Family)
	OLM	03/16	9:30	a.m.	+Dan Brooker (Marilyn and Heather Peters)
	SJB	03/16	11:00	a.m.	+Richard C. Arnold (Steve and Rachel Klinger)
Monday	SJB	03/17	8:00	a.m.	+Clarence Walter (Charlotte Lang and Family)
Tuesday	SJB	03/18	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	03/18	5:00	p.m.	+Leora Arnold (David and Tina Long)
Wednesday	SJB	03/19	8:20	a.m.	+James Arnold (Anniversary) (Family) School Mass
Thursday	SJB	03/20	8:00	a.m.	No Mass Today
	OLM	03/20	5:00	p.m.	+Minnie Smith (Smith Family) Stations of the Cross after Mass
Friday	SJB	03/21	6:00	p.m.	+Dave Bowen (Gary and Edna Arnold) Adoration 5:00 pm (Mass and Stations of the Cross to follow Adoration)
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)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

MASS	ALTAR SERVERS	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER
Saturday 6:00 p.m.	Orion and Raegan Flinn	Eugene Huck	Virginia Dyar
Sunday 7:30 a.m.	Keegan Pottmeyer, Connor McCartney	Kelly Miller	Veronica Bosner
Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Brenlee and Maycee Lang	Jerry Smith	Amanda Walters

<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>DPSC</u>	
Total Collection last weekend \$ 3,751 Needed to meet parish needs \$ 4,750 Thank you for your generosity!	2025 Collected to Date \$ 12,340 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 align="center">Saint Joseph—March 19</p> <p>Holy God, you chose Saint Joseph to care for Mary and Jesus because his holiness and love for You was great, his compassion for others was outstanding, and his desire to protect and provide for his family was honorable. I ask St. Joseph to intercede for all the men in my family. May they become fully the husbands and fathers You have called them to be in family leadership. Help them to rely on the Holy Spirit for strength and wisdom and guidance, just like St. Joseph did. Teach them the glory of serving one's family with humility, and protect them from the influences of the world. Saint Joseph, pray for us. Amen.</p>	<p><i>what's happening this week ...</i></p> <p>March 17 No School at St. John Central (Happy St. Patrick's Day) March 20 OLM Mass and Stations of the Cross 6:00 p.m. March 21 Adoration 5:00 p.m., Mass 6:00 p.m. and Stations of the Cross to follow. March 22-23 Parish Directory Picture taking in the Sr. Center</p>
<p>READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND</p> <p>Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 / 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 / Luke 13:1-9</p>	

PRAYER LINE LIST

The CWC is currently updating the prayer line list. If you would like to be included, please contact Marilyn Zoller 740-350-8141. If you are currently on the list but would like to be removed, please let her know as well.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION PROGRAM DIRECTOR

We are looking for the next leader of our PSR (Parish School of Religion) Program. They would coordinate and supervise our Religious Education program for children 1st-12th grade. If interested contact the parish office.

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.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Directory pictures can now be scheduled for the weekend of March 22-23 at the Sr. Center. Please go to our webpage to schedule or call Emma Brooker 740-350-2688.

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.

A LENTEN DAY FOR WOMEN

A Lenten Day of Spirituality for women will be held on Saturday, March 22nd at St. Mary Roman Catholic Church in St. Clairsville. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$25. If you are interested in attending please call Marilyn Zoller 740-350-8141 by March 14.

MEN'S DAY OF RENEWAL

The Diocese of Steubenville Men's Day of Renewal will be held March 22 at St. Stephen Church, Caldwell. Doors open at 9 a.m. for registration and coffee. The main program will begin with a welcome at 9:45 a.m., continuing through with the celebration of Mass at 4 p.m. to fulfill the Sunday obligation. The theme of the conference is "The Eucharist and the Biblical Vision of Men." The patron of the conference is St. Joseph.

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.

WALK WITH EASE

The Washington County Health Department invites you to put on your walking shoes and join them from 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. at the K of C Hall in Churchtown. Walking will be held on March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7 and 14 and registration is free. If you are interested in signing up, please call Megan Smith at 740-374-2782, ext 3343.

PEOPLE OF THE PASSION

The Annual Performance of People of the Passion will be held on Sunday, March 16, 7:30 p.m. at St. Bernard's Church in Beverly. This is not recommended for infants or toddlers. Mark your calendar now to attend.

SQUARE DANCE

St. Bernard Youth Group is having a Square Dance in the church social hall on Saturday March 22, 2025. There will be music from the Buckeye Travelers, concessions and raffles. Cost is \$5. Time 7-10:00 pm.

TELEHEALTH COUNSELING SERVICES

Catholic Charities of Southeastern Ohio is now offering Professional Counseling Services via telehealth in addition to in-person counseling to individuals and couples. Our licensed counselors provide support for those struggling with trauma, grief, anxiety, depression, and relationship challenges. Sessions are confidential and professional. Catholic Charities is committed to ensuring that everyone has access to the care they need, regardless of financial situation. To schedule an appointment or for more information, please contact Catholic Charities at 740-314-8660 or email catholiccharities@diosteub.org.

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 Gomber Ave., Cambridge, OH 43725. The essay deadline, with a letter of recommendation from a parish pastor, is due by March 31st.

CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL

The Catholic Conference of Ohio is providing Catholics across Ohio the opportunity to meet with elected officials and advocate for policies that respect life, focus on the poor and vulnerable, and recognize families as the central social institution of society. The event is March 25, in downtown Columbus. It is free to attend, and lunch will be provided. Diocesan coordinators will help set up meetings with legislators and provide talking points. There will also be opportunities to attend Mass at the St. Joseph Cathedral – all within walking distance! Visit www.ohiocathconf.org to learn more and register by March 21st. Please contact Joseph Schmidt (jschmidt@diosteub.org or 740-516-9270 [call/text]) 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

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:

Our Seminarians

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; Maximilian Kolbe Gan, Jonathan Ruscoe, Riley Morris, Aaron Pabin, Caleb Baker. On a pastoral year at Christ the Light Parish 9704 Gomber Ave. Cambridge, Ohio 43728, Ryan Budd and John Paul Gan.

Pray for our priests: 3/15 Fr. Nick Ward; 3/16 Fr. Tim Huffman; 3/17 Fr. Richard Tuttle, 3/18 Fr. Wayne Morris, 3/19 Pope Francis, 3/20 Fr. Joe Massucci, 3/21 Fr. Michael Gossett, 3/22 Fr. Thomas Magary, 3/22 Msgr. J. Michael Campbell.

Our priests speak to the faithful with their hearts and faith. Fill them, with burning zeal for the conversion of sinners.

St. John the Baptist - We are looking for the next leader of our PSR (Parish School of Religion) Program. They would coordinate and supervise our Religious Education program for children 1st-12th grade. If interested contact the parish office.

SEMINARY LIVE-IN The Pontifical College Josephinum will host a **Spring Live-In** from March 13th – 16th for young men who are interested in discerning a vocation to the priesthood. This weekend is an opportunity for men who are juniors in high school through their 20's to experience life in a seminary, to attend conferences about discernment, and to spend quiet time in prayer and reflection. The weekend activities start with arrival at 4:00 pm on Thursday, March 13th and conclude at noon on Sunday, March 16th. There is no cost to attend. For more information or to register, please contact Fr. Nicholas Ginnetti at nginnetti@diosteub.org or 740-432-7609.

Stations of the Cross: St. John the Baptist Churchtown Friday following the 6pm Mass. Our Lady of Mary Lowell Thursday following the 5pm Mass. Lent is about deepening our knowledge and experience of the Suffering, Crucified and Resurrected God who loves us and seeks union with us.

The Knights of Columbus is looking for you. Joshua 24:15 states "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." The Knights of Columbus promote a family first household that will serve the Lord in everything we do. Do you want to continue that journey with us and be a part of that? For more information contact: Worthy Grand Knight, Mr. Taylor Pottmeyer.

'Jesus is now waiting for you to give him the chance to bring light to your life, to raise you up and to fill you with his strength. Before his death, he assures his disciples, "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me (Jn14:18-19). Jesus always finds a way to be present in your life, so that you can encounter him' -Pope Francis 2024

Chrism Mass Essay Contest—young men age 10 thru College are asked to submit a one-page-long essay answering the question: "Why is serving at Mass important for you personally and for the whole Church? All entries are due by March 31st with a letter of recommendation from your pastor, submitted to Chrism Mass Essay Contest, 701 Gomber Ave., Cambridge, Ohio 43725. Contest Prizes will include: Serve the Chrism Mass for Bishop Lohse with the Diocesan Seminarians and Dinner with the priests and seminarians. You will experience the blessing of the Sacred Oils and the Renewal of Priestly Promises at the Basilica in Marietta.

2025 Diocesan Parish Share Campaign goal for *St. John the Baptist Church* -Churchtown is **\$41,330.60.**

Our Lady of Mercy—Lowell is **\$21,945.35**

DPSC PLEDGE CARDS- In case you have not received a pledge card in the mail, you will find DPSC pledge cards available in the back of the church. Please see the recent articles in the Steubenville Register.

Applications for the **John and Blanche Mussio Scholarship** are now available. Awards under this program are for the first year of college at any Catholic college or university currently listed in the "Newman Guide" by the Cardinal Newman Society. The eligible colleges and universities can be viewed on the society's website: <https://cardinalnewmansociety.org/college>. The scholarship was set up by Bishop John King Mussio, the Diocese of Steubenville's first bishop, in memory of his parents as a nonrenewable scholarship for graduating high school seniors who had a certain grade point average and college test score, demonstrated a financial need, received a written recommendation from a parish pastor, and were approved by a scholarship selection committee. Applicants must reside within the boundaries of the Diocese of Steubenville and be a participating member of a Catholic parish in the diocese. Application forms are available at parish offices and school offices with the counselors. Required documentation must be on file within the Diocese of Steubenville Office of Christian Formation and Schools before April 11.

Catholics at the Capitol: March 25th in Columbus-Activate Your Faithful Citizenship — The Catholic Conference of Ohio is providing Catholics across Ohio the opportunity to meet with elected officials and advocate for policies that respect life, focus on the poor and vulnerable, and recognize families as the central social institution of society. The event is March 25, 2025, in downtown Columbus. It is free to attend, and lunch will be provided. Diocesan coordinators will help set up meetings with legislators and provide talking points. There will also be opportunities to attend Mass at the St. Joseph Cathedral – all within walking distance! Visit www.ohiocathconf.org to learn more and register by March 21st. Please contact Joseph Schmidt jschmidt@diosteub.org or 740-516-9270 [call/text]) with questions.