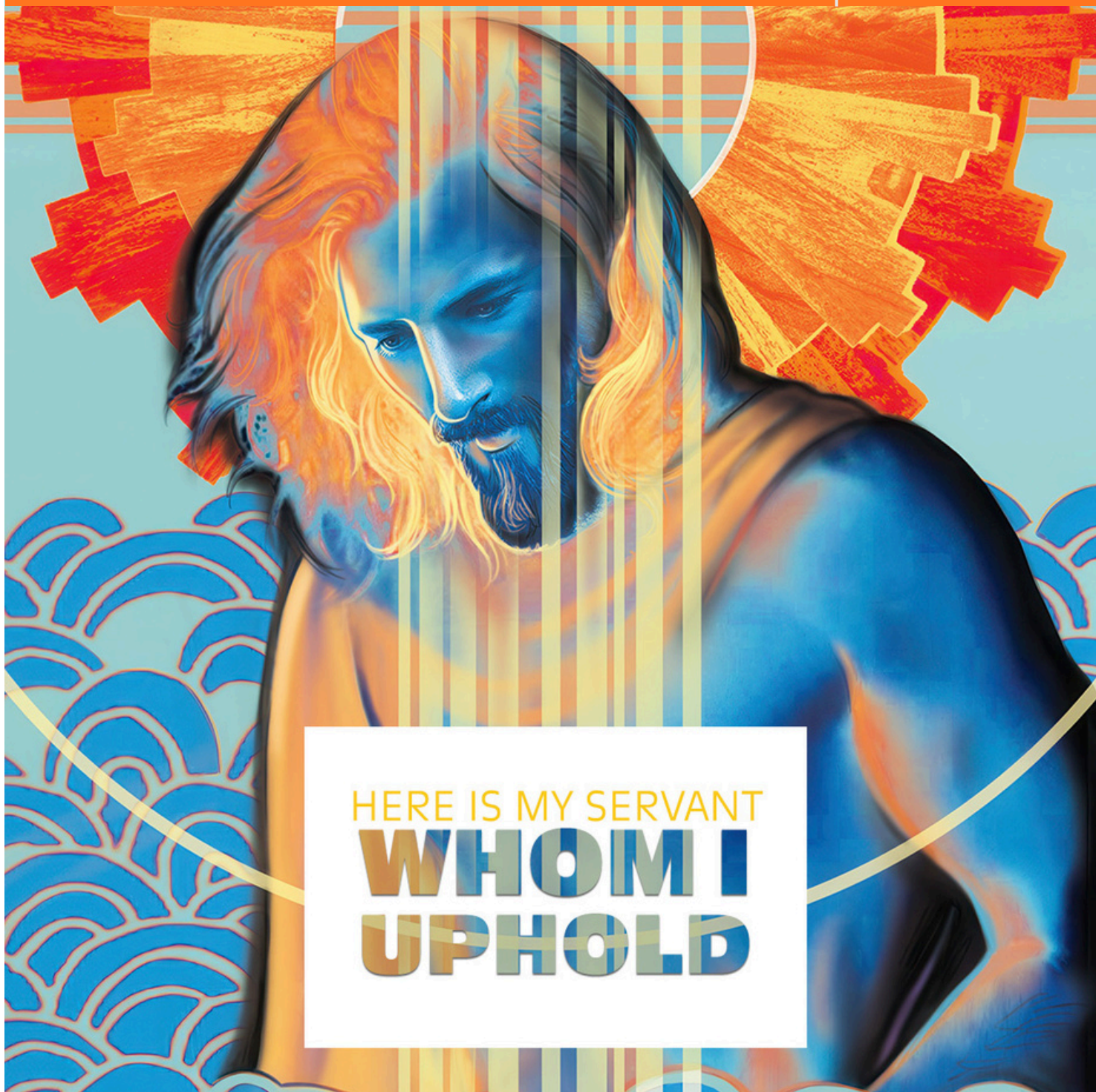


St. Joseph Catholic Church

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Father Ron Schock 419-722-6817 | Deacon Larry Schimmoeller 419-302-2532



HERE IS MY SERVANT
**WHOM I
UPHOLD**

Scripture Readings

Monday	1 Sm 1:1-8 Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday	1 Sm 1:9-20 Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday	1 Sm 3:1-10 Mk 1:29-39
Thursday	1 Sm 4:1-11 Mk 1:40-45
Friday	1 Sm 8:4-7 Mk 2:1-12
Saturday	2 Sm 9:13-17 Mk 3:13-19

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA) classes run from Sept. to May. These classes are for anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith or who wish to join the Church. Contact the office to register.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND ELDERLY Fr. Ron will visit the Homebound monthly. Notify the parish office about people in the hospital or shut-ins. If you are or will be hospitalized because of a surgery or serious illness, contact the pastor to receive the Sacrament of Healing. Visitation and Eucharist will be provided by a Eucharistic Minister.

**Please pray for:
Jeff Luersman**

Intentions for Mass

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR MASS INTENTIONS.

Sat, 01/10	5:00 pm	Elwood & Rita Broecker
Sun, 01/11	7:30 am	For Our Parish
	9:30 am	Joe & Shirley Mesker
Tue, 01/13	7:00 pm	James Grothouse, Joyce Holden
Wed, 01/14	7:00 pm	Fr. Robert Kill
Thu, 01/15	7:00 pm	For the Sick
Fri, 01/16	7:55 am	For our Religious Ed Students
Sat, 01/17	5:00 pm	Frank & Catherine Hohlbein Aloysius & Evelyn Mueller
Sun, 01/18	7:30 am	For Our Parish
	9:30 am	John Gerker

Liturgical Ministers: Jan 17 & 18

Servers:

5:00 pm	Tessa, Waylon & Lacey Meyer
7:30 am	Madie, Josie & Jacob Anspach
9:30 am	Caleb VonSossan, Evelyn Neidert, Ava Knippen

Eucharistic Ministers:

5:00 pm	Bailey Hile, Karen Young, Evan Ellerbrock Connor Hoersten, Christina Hoersten
7:30 am	Volunteers needed
9:30 am	Denise Sukup, Sam Dube, Eva Hill, Julie Fischbach, Alex Horstman, Ava Knippen Mike Knippen

Lectors:

5:00 pm	Jen Neidert
7:30 am	Volunteer needed
9:30 am	Shirley Hammond

Weekday Servers:

Tue, 1/13	Kinsley Farling, Alivia Wrasman, Quinn Askins
Wed, 1/14	Tanner Warnecke-Schroeder, Weston Swick, Jordyn Buettner
Thu, 1/15	Cece Schroeder, Katie Anspach, Nash Miller
Fri, 1/16	Savannah & Abby Gerdeman, Emma Hedrick


She Shall Be Called Woman is a transformative journey designed to meet the deepest longings of the feminine heart. Our program is a sanctuary for women seeking to be truly seen, known, and loved, as they grow in their relationship with the Lord. Through authentic conversations, vibrant speakers, and enriching prayer experiences, we equip you with the tools to embark on a profound spiritual journey. Join us for food, fellowship, and faith beginning weekly on Wed. evenings or Sat. mornings at the Ottoville Parish Center. Spring session starts Wed, Jan. 14, at 6:30pm in the Chamber room or Sat, Jan 17, at 8:00am in the Family room. Sessions are not progressive, come when you can. Babysitting available upon request, contact Beth at 419-230-5740. All women are welcome!

Springs in the Desert, a Catholic infertility ministry, is hosting monthly meetings to accompany women struggling with infertility and loss. We offer a place of respite and solidarity- a place to acknowledge the pain and complex emotions associated with infertility. Our next meeting will be held Thurs, Jan. 15 at 7:30 pm in the St. Joseph, church basement. All women of the parish & surrounding parishes are invited to join us. *You do not need to have attended any previous meetings- new faces are welcome at any time! For more information, contact Laura Tenwalde at 419-303-5752. It is our honor to walk with you!

Reverend Stanley S. Szybka Senior Status Priest of the Diocese of Toledo Died on Fri, Jan. 2. May he rest in peace.

Putnam County Right to Life is hosting a Rally for Life on Jan. 18 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in Glandorf St John's Parish Center. The guest speaker is Linda Theis, a long-time pro-life warrior. We invite all to join us for pro-life inspiration.



 Offertory as of December 31, 2025	
Regular Offertory	\$ 9,859.50
EFT Offertory	\$ 4,797.50
EFT Maintenance	\$ 1,157.50
Christmas Donations	<u>\$ 22,958.30</u>
YTD as of December 31, 2025 = <u>\$ 119,873.61</u>	
January 4, 2026	
Envelopes	\$ 1,222.00
Loose	\$ 1,299.00
Maintenance	\$ 2,483.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 1,164.00
Initial Offering	\$ 91.00
Latin America	\$ 20.00
Fund for the Needy	\$ 20.00
YTD as of January 4, 2026 = <u>\$ 122,394.61</u>	
YTD Over Budget = <u>\$ 18,394.61</u>	
THANK YOU for you for the very generous Christmas donations and your continued support.	
Sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer to have your contributions deducted directly from your bank account. Forms on our parish website or contact the	

Ottoville Immaculate Conception Church Altar Rosary Society is inviting senior citizens to our second annual FREE Senior Citizens Bingo event. Wed Jan 28th, 1-2 pm in the Ottoville Parish Center Banquet Hall. Entrance off of Church St. East side of the Parish Center building. Snacks provided. RSVP to 419-453-3513. If level 1 snow emergency -Cancelled.

A big THANK YOU to the Matt & Kendra Cross family, of Ottoville. Matt donated enough frozen meat to fill the food pantry upright freezer! Thank you so much for your generosity helping local families in the most need. May your rewards be great in heaven.

The Annual Marriage Encounter Celebration will be on Sun, Feb. 15. Mass will be held at 3:30 at St. Gerard, 240 W Rob Ave. Lima, followed by dinner and dance at the St. Gerard's Hall. A 50/50 drawing and mystery prizes will be in place of the door prizes. The cost is \$40/couple. Please call or text 567-204-4745 with the number of tickets sold by Jan. 26.



Jeff Luersman became very ill, very quickly, over Christmas. Jeff is married to Cherie and has two daughters, Rachael and Emily. Jeff is currently in the ICU at OSU Columbus. Receiving IVIG treatments and plasma exchange treatments. After many tests, he was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré Syndrome. This has affected Jeff's body from the chest down. He can still feel hot/cold sensations and thankfully hasn't needed help with breathing yet. 80% of people who exhibit signs of this are temporary. Jeff will need to learn to walk and use his hands again. It is unknown how long Jeff will be off work. Cherie is a self-employed cosmetologist at Reflections Family Hair in Ft. Jennings and The House of Styles in Van Wert.

It is uncertain how long Cherie will need to be off to help Jeff. With that being said, an account, Jeff and Cherie Luersman Donation Account, has been opened at any of the Fort Jennings State Banks. If you can help them out during this trying time, it would be greatly appreciated. Please send up some prayers for Jeff and his family. Any questions, please contact Stacy Warnecke 419-302-7870.



Learn your health risks, so you can take action.

Free Heart and Kidney Health Screening at Doc's Dance Hall

This blood test can give you critical insights into your risk of heart attack, heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, and more. It's especially helpful if you have a family history of health problems.

Note: Participants must be 18 years of age or older. Please bring a government-issued photo ID card and an email address.

January 14, 2026
9:00 am - 5:00 pm



Christmas Season 2025



*Oh come
let us adore
Him*



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Reflections of a country Priest

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus steps into the waters of the Jordan—not because He needs baptism, but to sanctify the waters and to show us the path we are all invited to follow.

For each of us, baptism marks the moment we became sons and daughters of God and members of His Church. Some of us were baptized as infants, others later in life, and some may still be discerning that step. Regardless of when it happened, our baptism is the foundation of everything—we belong to Christ, and Christ claims us as His own.

If you are considering baptism for yourself, or baptism for your child, please never hesitate to reach out to the parish office. I would be very happy to meet with you, walk with you, and answer any questions you may have. Baptism is not simply a ceremony—it is the beginning of a life lived in Christ.

This past weekend, I also spoke briefly with you about something that gave me great pause as I went in and out of the confessional. During the Christmas season, the placement of the Nativity scene unintentionally blocked the view of the tabernacle and the sanctuary lamp from much of the church. That moment stopped me in my tracks.

In my heart of hearts, I believe that the tabernacle—Jesus' dwelling place among us—should always be visible, and that the sanctuary lamp should clearly proclaim His presence to all who enter. This is something I had already discussed with our decorating committee prior to Advent, and at that time we agreed to leave things as they were and revisit the matter after Christmas. Seeing the effect this year confirmed for me that something must be done moving forward, as the view was completely blocked from many places in the church.

As I reflected and prayed, three options came to mind.

- The first option would be to do nothing and simply leave things as they are. To be honest, this is not an option I feel comfortable carrying forward.
- The second option would be to relocate the Nativity scene elsewhere in the church—away from the tabernacle and the sanctuary lamp—perhaps closer to where the baptismal font is usually placed, ensuring that Christ in the Eucharist remains visible to at least the center and left side of the church.

The third option would be to prayerfully consider whether the tabernacle itself should be moved to a more central and clearly visible location—here at the center aisle—so that all can see Jesus' house and the sanctuary lamp that reminds us of His abiding presence among us. At this time, no decisions have been made.

My next step is to formally write to our bishop to seek his permission and guidance to study this matter carefully. If permission is granted, we would then seek thoughtful input from our parishioners and from those who serve on our past church building committee, liturgy committee, decorating committee, finance council, maintenance team, and pastoral council. During this process, if you have thoughts or insights you would like to share, please feel free to speak with those who serve in these ministries or to reach out to me directly. After listening, praying, and gathering input, there would be an opportunity for parishioners to share their perspective in a parish-wide vote so that your voices are heard.

Thank you for your patience, your love for our parish, and your reverence for Jesus present in the Most Holy Eucharist. Please continue to pray that all we do may reflect clearly what we believe and whom we worship.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Ron “Don't forget—you are a saint in the making”