



Saint Joseph Catholic Church

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Normal Mass Times:

Saturday: 5:00 pm
 Sunday: 7:30 am & 9:30 am
 Tuesday: 7:00 pm
 Wednesday: 7:00 pm
 Thursday: 7:00 pm
 Friday: 7:55 am

Adoration & Confessions:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
 6:00 pm
 Saturday: 4:00 pm
 By request

BAPTISMS will be celebrated anytime agreeable with Fr. Ron or Deacon Larry. Contact the office to register.

MARRIAGE arrangements should be made at least six months ahead of time by calling the parish office. Do not set your wedding date prior to meeting with Fr. Ron.

FAITH ENRICHMENT Classes for the elementary students from August – May. Classes for the Junior High and High School students run September – March.

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.

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.

- Father Ron Schock** 419-722-6817
 Email: fatherronschock@gmail.com
- Larry Schimmoeller, Deacon:**C: 419-302-2532
 H: 419-286-2170 Email: larry@fjsb.com
- Mrs. Rhonda Liebrecht, CRE**.....419-286-2019
 Email: stjoeled@bright.net
- Mrs. Kelly Stant, Business Manager**C: 419-235-2667
 Email: stjoeeparishofc@bright.net
- Mrs. Monica Bruskotter, Bulletin Designer**419-286-2132
 Email: stjosephfjbulletin@gmail.com
- Safe Environment Compliance Coordinator**
- Erica Maenle.....419-979-9892
- Director of Music & Liturgy Chairperson**
- Mrs. Joyce Gasser419-236-0816
- Sacristans**
- Ms. Mary Luersman..... 419-286-2306
 Mr. Dave Luersman.....419-286-4641
- Youth Minister**
- Mrs. Julie Fischbach.....419-905-8472
- Maintenance Chairman**
- Mr. Ted Verhoff.....419-286-2480
- Friends of Hope and Communion to Homebound**
- Mrs. Norma Maag.....419-286-2265
- Cemetery**
- Mr. Alan Calvelage.....419-303-0560
- Prayer Line**
- Mrs. Laurie Maag.....419-234-6518
- Maintenance & Hall Manager**
- Mr. Tony Recker419-286-5100
- Funeral Luncheon Committee**
- Mrs. Sue Knippen.....419-236-9564
- Finance Council**
- Adam Anspach, Chair.....419-771-1747
 Mandi Kahle, Vice Chair
 Allison Gerdeman, Secretary Jenny Smith
- Parish Council**
- Chad Recker, President 419-231-1428
 Adam Krietemeyer, Vice President
 Lynn Anspach, Secretary
 Jenn Gasser Scott Gerdeman
 Laura Tenwalde Todd Warnecke
 Michelle Menke Zach Liebrecht

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS If you would like to join our St. Joseph Parish Family, please call or visit the parish office.

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE

Intentions for Mass

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR MASS INTENTIONS.

Sat, 12/13	5:00 pm	Paul & Mary Lou Menke
Sun, 12/14	7:30 am	Harry Howbert
	9:30 am	Tom Miehls
Tues, 12/16	6:00 pm	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
	6:00 pm	Confessions
	7:00 pm	Dan Recker
Wed, 12/17	6:00 pm	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
	6:00 pm	Confessions
	7:00 pm	Jack Berelsman
Thu, 12/18	6:00 pm	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
	6:00 pm	Confessions
	7:00 pm	Urban & Marguerite Wiegung
Fri, 12/19	7:55 am	For Our Religious Ed Students
Sat, 12/20	5:00 pm	Bill Warnecke Sr. Family
Sun, 12/21	7:30 am	For Our Parish
	9:30 am	Dan Schimmoeller & Grant Siefker
	12-3 pm	Adoration & Confession

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon	12/15	Nm 24:2-7 15-17	Mt 21:23-27
Tue	12/16	Zep 3:1-2 9-13	Mt 21:28-32
Wed	12/17	Gn 49:2, 8-10	Mt 1:1-17
Thu	12/18	Jer 23:5-8	Mt 1:18-25
Fri	12/19	Jgs 13:2-7	Lk 1:5-25
Sat	12/20	Is 7:10-14	Lk 1:26-38

Bible Trivia:

1. Which book of the OT mentions dinosaurs?
2. What did Jesus say we should do if our hand or foot causes us to sin?

Answers can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

BAPTISM

If you are a parent wanting a baptism, contact the parish office as soon as possible to start the Godparent paperwork. No baptisms will be scheduled until the Godparent eligibility paperwork is submitted.

Attend a Pre-Marriage Preparation Class before your marriage. Find Marriage Prep Classes at <http://ToledoMarriagePrep.org>

Watch for Scams: If Father needs help, he will contact you directly to ask for help.

WEEKDAY SERVERS

Tue, 12/16: Olivia Amstutz, Anden Maenle, Logan Krietemeyer
 Wed, 12/17: Bishop Bruskotter, Aiden Hoersten, Ava Maag
 Thu, 12/18: Rylen Hoersten, Mason Osting, Kinsley Farling
 Fri, 12/19: Alivia Wrasman, Nash Miller, Emma Hedrick

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: December 20 & 21:

SERVERS:

5:00 pm James, Carley & Levi Schroeder
 7:30 am Cal & Stella Menke, Lillian Schroeder
 9:30 am Carson Uphaus, Cayden Swick, Reese Hellman

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

5:00 pm Nancy Wiechart, Alyssa Luersman, Kathy Luersman, Dave Luersman, Becky Uphaus
 7:30 am Volunteers Needed
 9:30 am Eva Hill, Julie Fischbach, Alex Horstman, Ava Knippen, Mike Knippen, Rodger Luersman Hudson Maag

LECTORS:

5:00 pm Lisa Kaverman
 7:30 am Volunteer Needed
 9:30 am Karen Maenle

USHERS:

5:00 pm Rick Maag, Dan Krietemeyer
 7:30 am Volunteer Needed
 9:30 am Tony Recker, Chad Recker



December 2025

Envelopes	\$ 1,412.00
Loose	\$ 1,181.00
Maintenance	\$ 2,278.31
Christmas Flowers	\$ 255.00
Christmas	\$ 20.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 95.00
The Needy	\$ 20.00
Religious Retirement	\$ 100.00
Children's Mass	\$ 15.20
All Saints	\$ 20.00
Pew Rental	\$ 20.00
Catholic Camp. Human Dev.	\$ 30.00

YTD (2025) = \$ 92,345.61

YTD Over Budget = \$ 345.61

THANK YOU for you for 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 parish office.

Parish reminders:

Christmas Bulletin submission deadline:

Monday, Dec. 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Dec. 21 – Adoration & Confession 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Dec. 24 – Children’s Mass will be at 4:00 pm

Evening Mass with Adult Choir at 10:30pm

Dec. 31 – New Year’s Eve Mass at 5:00 pm

Jan. 1 – New Year’s Day Mass 9:30 am

Note: Please remember, weekday from 7:30 – 8:00 am the car port is a drop-off lane for our Religious Ed students. Please do not park your car here during this time. If you are dropping food off, wait until after 8 am.

OUR SYMPATHY goes out to the family and friends of Elisabeth L. Calvelage. To her children, Nancy Haunhorst of Delphos, Rick (Jackie) Calvelage of Celina, Bill (Deb) Calvelage of Ft. Jennings, Alan (Elaine) Calvelage of Cloverdale, Rex (Beth) Calvelage of Delphos, Brad (Susan) Calvelage of Ft. Jennings, and her grandchildren may you find comfort in this hard time. She died Nov. 30 at the age of 83. May the Lord grant Betty eternal rest and life in the Kingdom of God.

THANK YOU to the family of Betty Calvelage for choosing to give memorial donations to the St. Joseph Cemetery. Also, thank you to Calvelage Vault and Excavating Company for donating the grave opening/closing fees.

OUR SYMPATHY goes out to the family and friends of Linda L. Meyer. Linda was survived by her brother, Kenneth Meyer of Leesburg, IN, and her sister-in-law Kay Meyer of Ft. Jennings. We would also like to extend our sympathy to all Linda’s nieces and nephews and great and great-great nieces and nephews. She passed on Dec. 2 at the age of 77. May the Lord grant Linda eternal rest and life in the Kingdom.

Thank you to her family for choosing for donations in her memory to go to St. Joseph Cemetery.

Addresses you may need:

Fr. Charles Obinwa
66 Chapel St.
Monroeville, OH 44847

Decon Larry Schimmoeller
17940 St. Rt. 190
Ft. Jennings, OH 45844

Mr. Jeremy Smith
6616 Beechmont Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45230

Mr. Jeremy Smith
22407 Road U20
Ft. Jennings, OH 45844
December 12 – Jan. 4.



OUR SYMPATHY goes out to the family and friends of Norene P. Ricker who passed away on Dec. 6 at the age of 97. To her children, John “Jack” (Tonda) Ricker of Ft. Jennings, Carol (Neal) Barnard of Elida, Donald (Maria) Ricker of Lima, Susan (John) Gerdeman of Kalida, Lisa (Larry) Beining of Ottoville, Kevin (Brenda) Ricker of Ft. Jennings, and Brian (Julie) Ricker of Findlay, as well as her many grandchildren, may you find comfort in this hard time.

Thank you to her family for choosing for donations in her memory to go to St. Joseph Maintenance Fund.

Linda Meyer Memorial Fund Linda Meyer, our “Candy Lady” of Ft. Jennings, brought so many smiles to the faces of children and adults alike. In honor of Linda, a Memorial Fund has been established for new playground equipment at the Fort Jennings Park. Donations can be made to “Linda Meyer Memorial” at any Ft. Jennings State Bank. For more information, please contact Cheryl Horstman 419-230-4210.



2025 Barn Mass: left to right: Fr. Ron Schock, Sam Dube’, Tenley Sarka, Decon Larry Schimmoeller, Row 2: Madie Anspach, Ryan Aldrich, Calvin Menke, Even Ellerbrock. Thanks to the seniors and students who helped!

REFLECTIONS *of a Country Priest*

Hello my Dear friends!

I pray all is well with you and your family. If Advent had a moment where the music suddenly turns up, the lights brighten, and everyone in the room lifts their head as if something just shifted, it's today. The Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, is that holy "plot twist" in the season.

We light the rose-colored candle, not because someone ordered the wrong shade, but because the Church wants us to feel the change. Rose is the soft color of hope peeking over the horizon. It's the Church's gentle-but-confident way of saying, "Hold on, joy is coming. You're closer to Christmas than you think."

For two weeks, Advent has invited us into patient preparation. But today? Today the Lord taps us on the shoulder and whispers, "Rejoice." Not because everything in life is perfect, it rarely is, but because God is faithful, God is near, and God is already at work in ways we can't yet see.

This Sunday, we hear about John the Baptist sending disciples to Jesus with a question that lives in many hearts: "Are you the one who is to come?" Jesus doesn't answer with theory. He points to what is happening: the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the poor receive good news. In other words, look around. Grace is already breaking into the world. The Messiah is not "on His way someday"; He is moving right now.

Advent joy is not naïve optimism. It is the confidence that God is working in the middle of everything, the busy schedules, the worries, the griefs, the blessings, the ordinary days where we wonder if we're making any progress at all.

Here's one small but powerful way to live Gaudete joy this week:

- Choose one person who needs encouragement and reach out.
- A call, a text, a Christmas card, a simple "thinking of you." When you do this, you aren't just "being nice." You become a sign like the rose candle, that God's joy is already in the world, already moving, already touching hearts. Joy grows fastest when we give it away.
- As we rejoice today, the Church also invites us to prepare our hearts more intentionally. Christmas isn't just about the decorations and traditions, beautiful as they are. It's about Christ finding room in us.
- One of the greatest gifts you can give yourself and the Lord, is a renewed, peaceful heart.

Next Sunday, December 21, we will offer Adoration and Confessions from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. here at St. Joseph. Think of it as a spiritual "deep breath" before Christmas. A chance to step out of the noise, sit with Jesus, and receive the gift only He can give: mercy, peace, and a fresh start.

Give yourself this gift. Let the Lord lift whatever has weighed you down. Let joy, real, lasting, Gaudete joy, take root in your heart. This is how saints in the making prepare for Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr, Ron

"Don't forget, you are a Saint in the making!"

*The blind see,
the lame
walk, the
deaf hear,
and the poor
receive good
news.*

Bible Trivia Answers: 1. None 2. Cut it off (Mat 18:8)

Fr. Ron's European River Cruise Pilgrimage cruise will be April 22-30, 2026. Several cabin options are available. Cost will vary. Please see flyers at the back of church.

Kidney donor is needed. Steve Hoersten of Ottoville is looking for a kidney donor. Steve has a rare autoimmune disease that attacked his kidneys and is now on home dialysis. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie 419-233-0273 The OSU Living Donor Process starts here. Survey takes 15 minutes to determine if you qualify for the next steps. Or Contact Donor Team at 614-293-6724, option 3. Thank you!
Steve and Carol Hoersten & Family

