



# 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 Gasser .....419-236-0816
- 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 Recker .....419-286-5100
- 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, 12/06	5:00 pm	Herman & Vickie Luersman
Sun, 12/07	7:30 am	For Our Parish
	9:30 am	Todd Bidlack, Tony Davis & Michael Klein
	12 - 3 pm	<b>Adoration/Confessions</b>
	6:00 pm	<b>Barn Mass</b> For the Youth of Our Parish
Mon, 12/08	7:55 am	Fr. Rober Kill
	7:00 pm	For the Sanctity of Life
Tues, 12/09	6:00 pm	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
	6:00 pm	Confessions
	7:00 pm	Harry Liebrecht
Wed, 12/10	6:00 pm	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
	6:00 pm	Confessions
	7:00 pm	Denise Hohlbein-Wueller
Thu, 12/11	6:00 pm	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
	6:00 pm	Confessions
	7:00 pm	Rosie & Leo Wittler
Fri, 12/12	7:55 am	For Our Religious Ed Students
Sat, 12/13	5:00 pm	Paul & Mary Lou Menke
Sun, 12/14	7:30 am	Harry Howbert
	9:30 am	Tom Miehls

### THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon	12/08	Gn 3:9-15, 20	Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Tue	12/09	Is 40:1-11	Mt 18:12-14
Wed	12/10	Is 40:25-31	Mt 11:28-30
Thu	12/11	Is 41:13-20	Mt 11:11-15
Fri	12/12	Zec 2:14-17	Lk 1:26-38
Sat	12/13	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11	Mt 17:9a, 10-13

### Bible Trivia:

1. What was the first job God gave to Adam in the Garden?
2. To what city was Jesus going when the crowds said, "Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord?"

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

**Watch for Scams:** The Parish Office would like to remind you that if you receive an email from "Fr. Ron, asking for gift cards or favors, this is a scam. If Father needs help, he will contact you directly to ask for help.

### WEEKDAY SERVERS

Mon, 12/09:	<b>Immaculate Conception Mass</b> - Jordyn Buettner, Cece Schroeder, Katie Anspach
Tue, 12/09:	Nash Miller, Emma Hedrick, Mason Kohls
Wed, 12/10:	Savannah & Abby Gerdeman Jacob Meyer
Thu, 12/11:	Henry Brokamp, Levi & Liam Van Bibber
Fri, 12/12:	Claire Mistisshen, Loryn Gasser, Madelyn Neidert

### LITURGICAL MINISTERS: December 13 & 14:

#### SERVERS:

5:00 pm	Maddie, Josie & Jacob Anspach
7:30 am	Evelyn Neidert, Ava Knippen, Zach Wagoner
9:30 am	Sam, Nolan & Adeline Dube'

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

5:00 pm	Connor Hoersten, Christina Hoersten, Bailey Hile, Sue Knippen, Carla Norbeck
7:30 am	Volunteers Needed
9:30 am	Rhonda Liebrecht, Diane Stennett, Kim McCracken, Denise Sukup, Teresa Wurst, Madie Anspach

### LECTORS:

5:00 pm	Agnes Krietemeyer
7:30 am	Volunteer Needed
9:30 am	Mike Knippen

### USHERS:

5:00 pm	Alex Horstman, Kevin Leis
7:30 am	Volunteer Needed
9:30 am	Zach & Rhonda Liebrecht



### December 2025

Envelopes	\$ 1,675.00
Loose	\$ 1,115.00
Maintenance	\$ 498.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 515.00
Christmas	\$ 100.00
Thanksgiving Collection	\$ 383.46
Religious Retirement	\$ 95.00

YTD (2025) = \$ **89,761.61**

YTD Over Budget = \$ 1,761.61

**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:**

**NEW Bulletin submissions deadline:** Tues. at 10 a.m.

- Dec. 7 – Barn Mass will be at 6:00 pm (at Maenle Farm)
- Dec. 8 – Mass will be at 7:55 am & 7:00 pm
- 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

**Diocese of Toledo Night with the Toledo Walleye** is Jan. 9, 2026 at 7:15 pm at the Huntingdon Center. Cheer on the Walleye as they take on the Iowa Heartlanders in matchup perfect for families, parish groups, and sports fans alike. Get your tickets today and be part of the excitement!

**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



**Christmas Flower Fund:** If you would like your loved ones remembered on the bulletin, please put an envelope in the offertory collection marked "Christmas Flowers". Be sure to include the names of your loved ones in the envelope.

**This year's annual Barn Mass and Live Nativity** will be this Sunday, Dec. 7 at 6pm on the Ken and Karan Maenle’s Farm. All are invited to come and worship, sing Christmas songs, and pray together in a place that helps us to remember the humble beginnings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Mass will be followed with doughnuts and hot chocolate!

**The Parish Bookstand** has new items for the Advent season. Some of the new titles include *Advent Gospel Reflections* by Bishop Robert Barron, *Joy to the World* by Scott Hahn, *The Mystery of Christmas* by Fr. Larry Richards, and *Lectio Prayer* by Tim Gray. The suggested donation is \$3.00.

**Our Youth Group along with the St. George Deanery** are heading to the Steubenville Youth Conferences July 17-19 where they will explore their faith with other teens, attend Mass, listen to dynamic speakers, experience Adoration, and meet the Holy Spirit! The theme this year is "Worthy". This is open to incoming Freshman to outgoing Seniors in high school and the total cost before fundraising is \$275. Registration is now open, but it will be closing soon. Call Julie Fischbach for more information or to reserve your teen's spot!

**Fr. Ron’s European River Cruise Pilgrimage** combines the leisurely and scenic experience of a river cruise with visits to sacred locations and historic churches in a relaxing and reflective manner. The cruise will be April 22-30, 2026. Several cabin options are available. Cost will vary. Please see flyers at the back of church.

**Looking around the Community:**

**Landeck St. John the Baptist will be having “Breakfast with Santa”** on Sun. Dec. 7 from 9:00 – noon in the church basement. Santa will be available to listen to your child’s wish-list. This event will be Free-Will offering.

**The Serra Club of Lima Area, in support of vocations** to priesthood and religious life, will be meeting Thurs. Dec. 11 at LCC HS. Mass will begin at 5:45 pm followed by dinner and a program. This month's program will be a panel discussing "Deacons and Their Wives - It's a Team Effort." If you are interested, please respond to Kathy at 419-303-0339 by Tues, Dec. 9.

**2026 Men’s Welcome Retreat** Glandorf St. John’s parish center. Jan. 31 through Feb.1. For more info contact: Travis Tenwalde (419) 236-0324.



# REFLECTIONS *of a Country Priest*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent moves fast. And in this Sunday's Gospel we see why. John the Baptist steps out of the desert like a spiritual alarm clock, shouting "*Prepare the way of the Lord!*" Advent isn't passive. It's God calling each of us to clear space, real space, for His grace to break in.

John's message is simple: something holy is coming, someone holy is coming, and nothing in your life is too messy, too tangled, or too late for God to transform. Many people believe they have to "get their life together" before returning to church. The Gospel says the opposite. Come as you are, that's exactly where Jesus begins His work.

Advent is your reminder that God still desires you. He still calls you. He still wants to meet you in the quiet places of your life.

Where can you make room this week? Where can you invite God into the stress, the hurt, the habits, or the heaviness?

One small "yes" makes a straight path through even the most twisted terrain.

## **Annual Barn Mass & Live Nativity**

This year's Barn Mass and Live Nativity will be held on Sunday, December 7, at 6:00 PM at the Ken and Karan Maenle Farm. All are welcome to come worship, sing Christmas carols, and pray together in a setting that beautifully reminds us of the humble beginnings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. After Mass, everyone is invited to stay for doughnuts and hot chocolate — a simple, joy-filled way to begin the Advent season together. Come, bring a friend, and experience this cherished tradition!

## **Holy Day of Obligation** — Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8

Masses at 7:55 AM and 7:00 PM

This solemnity reminds us of the breathtaking truth that Mary was preserved from original sin from the first moment of her life, *not because she didn't need a Savior, but because God applied the saving work of Christ to her in advance.* The Catechism calls this a "singular grace," preparing her to be the pure dwelling where Christ Himself would take flesh.

In other words: God began the story of our salvation in Mary's heart. Come celebrate this gift. Let Mary's "yes" awaken yours.

Finally, I want to share that your generosity at our Thanksgiving eve Mass has created a parish fund that will quietly and concretely serve those in real need here in our community. If you know someone who is struggling spiritually, financially, emotionally please let me know. I will reach out personally on behalf of our parish family and offer assistance.

Your kindness allows the Church to extend compassion in your name. This is what love looks like when it becomes action.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Father Ron Schock

*"And don't forget... you are a saint in the making."*

The Advent wreath's significance lies in its symbolism of hope, faith, joy, and peace as Christians prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ. The circular shape represents God's eternal love, while the evergreen leaves symbolize eternal life. The lighting of candles over the four weeks of Advent signifies the gradual arrival of Jesus as a light that overcomes the darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday of Advent, as each color carries a different meaning. Purple symbolizes penance, preparation, and hope, or the "Prophet's Candle" on the first Sunday. There are three purple candles, one for each of the first, second, and fourth Sundays. Pink represents joy and is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. It is also known as the "Shepherd's Candle".



Did you  
**Know?**