

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



St. Joseph's Lenten SCHEDULE

15TH MARCH	SUNDAY 1:30-5:00 ADORATION & CONFESSIONS 2:30 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS
21ST MARCH	SATURDAY 3:30-4:30 PM CONFESSIONS
22ND MARCH	SUNDAY 1:30-5:00 ADORATION & CONFESSIONS 2:30 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS
28TH MARCH	SATURDAY 3:30-4:30 PM CONFESSIONS
2ND APRIL	THURSDAY 7:00 PM HOLY THURSDAY MASS
3RD APRIL	FRIDAY 12:30 STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH DEACON LARRY 1:00 PM PASSION
4TH APRIL	SATURDAY 8:00 PM EASTER VIGIL
5TH APRIL	SUNDAY 7:30 AM EASTER MASS 9:30 AM EASTER MASS

Church Directory

Father Ron Schock 419-722-6817
 Email: fatherronschock@gmail.com
 Rev. Mr. Larry Schimmoeller, **Deacon:**C: 419-302-2532
 H: 419-286-2170 Email: larry@fjsb.com
 Mrs. Rhonda Liebrecht, **CRE**.....419-286-2019
 Email: stjoereled@bright.net
 Mrs. Kelly Stant, **Business Manager**C: 419-235-2667
 Email: stjoeparishofc@bright.net
 Mrs. Monica Bruskotter, **Bulletin Designer**419-286-2132
 Email: stjosephfjbulletin@gmail.com
Safe Environment Compliance Coordinator
 Mrs. 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
 Mr. Adam Anspach, Chair.....419-771-1747
 Mrs. Mandi Kahle, Vice Chair
 Mrs. Allison Gerdeman, Secretary Mrs. Jenny Smith
Pastoral Council
 Mr. Chad Recker, President..... 419-231-1428
 Mr. Adam Krietemeyer, Vice President
 Mrs. Lynn Anspach, Secretary
 Mrs. Jenn Gasser Mr. Scott Gerdeman
 Mrs. Laura Tenwalde Mr. Todd Warnecke
 Mrs. Michelle Menke Mr. Zach Liebrecht

Normal Mass Times

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

BAPTISMS will be celebrated anytime agreeable with Fr. Ron or Deacon Larry. 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. 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. Attend a Pre-Marriage Preparation Class before your marriage. Find Marriage Prep Classes at ToledoMarriagePrep.org.

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

Scripture Readings

Monday	Is 65:17-21 Jn 5:4:43-54
Tuesday	Ez 47:1-9,12 Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday	Is 49:49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30
Thursday	2Sm 7:4-5,12-14 Lk 2:41-51
Friday	Wis 2:1,12-22 Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30
Saturday	Jer 11:18-20 Jn 7:40-53

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.

Intentions for Mass

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR MASS INTENTIONS.

Sat, 03/14	5:00 pm	Allen ‘Doc’ Wittler
Sun, 03/15	7:30 am	For Our Parish
	9:30 am	Virgil & Mary Gerdeman
Tue, 03/17	7:00 pm	Jim & Lois McKowen
Wed, 03/18	7:00 pm	Raymond Brockman
Thu, 03/19	7:00 pm	Gary, James & Rita Knott
Fri, 03/20	7:55 am	For Our Religious Ed Students
Sat, 03/21	5:00 pm	Don Ostendorf Family Sandy Klinger & Paul Fisher
Sun, 03/22	7:30 am	For Our Parish
	9:30 am	For those discerning the Priesthood especially Jeremy Smith and Michael Fields

Liturgical Ministers: Mar 21 & Mar 22

Servers:

5:00 pm	Ryan, Abby & Leah Kahle
7:30 am	Christopher Moening, Chase & Joci German
9:30 am	Tessa, Waylon & Lacey Meyer

Eucharistic Ministers:

5:00 pm	Rose Ann Vetter, Carla Norbeck, Becky Uphaus, Nancy Wiechart, Karen Young
7:30 am	Volunteers needed
9:30 am	Tony Recker, Marilyn Metzger, Karan Maenle, Trish Moening, Katie Neidert, Jamie Saum, Chad Recker

Lectors:

5:00 pm	Lisa Kaverman
7:30 am	Volunteer needed
9:30 am	Shirley Hammond

Ushers:

5:00 pm	Jerry Vetter, Adam Luersman
7:30 am	Volunteer needed
9:30 am	Bryan & Michelle Hoersten

Weekday Servers:

Tue, 3/17	Loryn Gasser, Madelyn Neidert, Bishop Bruskotter	Thu, 3/19	Aiden Hoersten, Mason Osting, Quinn Askins
Wed, 3/18	Ava Maag, Rylen Hoersten, Kinsley Farling	Fri, 3/20	Tanner Warnecke-Schroeder, Alivia Wrasman, Weston Swick

Schedule your church Directory photos today:

Pictures will be April 14-18 & April 21-25.

Scan the QR code to book your time!

Enter Code: oh2930

Password: photos2



Cancer Prayer Service at the Shrine on Sun, March 15, at 2:00pm in the Shrine's Adoration Chapel. Please contact Caleb Gaier at c.gaier@mariasteinshrine.org or call 419-925-4532. The Shrine is located at 2291 St. John's Rd. in Maria Stein.

Ft. Jennings Showmen 4-H club Steak Dinner is Sun, March 15 from 4:00 - 6:00pm at the FJ American Legion, carry-out only. Cost is \$12.00. Members are currently selling tickets, please contact a member or Amy Jo Schumaker at 419-302-7795.

2026 Woman's Welcome Retreat will be held March 28-29. For More info, contact Kari Norbeck 567-204-5399 or Linda Knippen 419-236-6298 or use the QR code to register.

**MCCR Life in the Spirit Retreat Weekend** Aug.

14-16, at Maria Stein Retreat Center, Come make or renew a personal commitment to Jesus through your openness to the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

**Fort Jennings High School Presents - Disney's, THE LITTLE MERMAID JR.**

on March 27 and 28 at 7:00 p.m. and on March 29 at 2:00 p.m. Presale tickets are available in the High School Office March 23-26; tickets will also be available at the door. All tickets are \$10. The school cast includes over 40 talented FJ students - you don't want to miss this MUST-SEE show!



I AM THE LIGHT
of the world.

A look ahead:

Sun, Mar. 15 - 1:30-3:00 Adoration & Confessions

2:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Tues, Mar. 17 - 6:00 Adoration & Confession

Wed, Mar. 18 - 6:00 Adoration & Confession

Thurs, Mar. 19 - 6:00 Adoration & Confession

Sat, Mar. 21 - 3:30-4:30pm Confessions

Sun, Mar. 22 - 9:30 (after Mass) First Communion Parent's Meeting

1:30-3:00 pm Adoration & Confessions

2:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Please Check Facebook for Mass Cancellations and updates!

Bulletin Submission deadline:

Monday 10:00 am

Fort Jennings American Legion Fish Fry, every Fri. 4:30 - 6:30 pm. Cost is \$12. Dine-in and Carry-Out.

Legion Easter Buffet will be held Sun. April 5. Dine in 10:30- 12:30 Carry-out 11:00-Noon. Menu includes: ham, roast beef, mashed potatoes, noodles, green beans, salad bar, roll & assorted desserts. Adults:\$15, kids under 10 are \$7.50. For Reservations call 419-286-2100 by April 3.

Let us make best use of the fleeting moments.

They will not return. - Marianne Cope

ST. JOSEPH VBS
 May 26-28
 9:00 am - 11:15 am



Checking to find out if there is an interest?
 I am thinking about offering a **BIBLE STUDY for GIRLS** this summer.
 For young ladies in the 7th & 8th grade and possible separate sessions for high school ladies.
 Once I get all who are interested, we will discuss what day/time might work best?
 If you google this book title, you are able to go into the Leader Guide to see what the sessions will cover.

Please let me know by Easter Sunday if you would be interested in joining.

The book cost is \$20, so that would be the cost to join. (I will order the books.)

There are 6 sessions, with an option for 2 extra sessions.
 There is no commitment to come to every session.

Please call or text Julie with any questions at 419-905-8472

The Price of a Poor Sermon
 An old country pastor who raised chickens happened across a mysterious box in his closet. The box contained three eggs and 1000 one dollar bills. Amazed, he called his wife to ask her about his find. Embarrassed, she admitted to having hidden the box for their entire 45 years of marriage. Curious, the pastor asked, "Why would you hide this from me?" "Oh, I never meant to hurt your feelings." his wife replied. "What do you mean, hurt my feelings?" "Well," she responded. "Every time I have heard you preach a poor sermon, I put an egg in the box." The pastor thought that three poor sermons was nothing to feel badly about, so he asked her what the money was for. His wife replied, "Every time I got a dozen eggs, I sold them to the neighbors for one dollar."



Volunteers Needed

Putnam County HomeCare & Hospice is seeking motivated and caring individuals to join our Volunteer team



"VOLUNTEERS GIVE THE GREATEST GIFTS OF ALL... THEMSELVES"

SERVICES OPTIONS:

- Administrative assistance
- Visiting Hospice patients
- Caregiver Relief

If interested in joining our Volunteer team or would like more information, please call Kaylee Wilhelm at 419-523-4449

DOUG AND DAVE PROUDLY PRESENT
MASS CONFUSION
 TWO-NIGHT PARISH MISSION // EACH NIGHT IS DIFFERENT!

MARCH 18-19
 @ 6:30 P.M.

"An amazing mix of humor, song and teachings of the Catholic Church."

AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

DOUGANDDAVESHOW.COM



MINISTRIES AT OUR CHURCH:

Eucharistic Ministry, more formally known in the church as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is a layperson commissioned to assist ordained clergy in distributing the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during Mass or to those unable to attend.

Senior, Evan Ellerbrock shared, "I feel as if I am doing some of what God is calling me to do. It is a privilege to give the Body of Christ to others."

"When I distribute the Body of Christ, everything else leaves my mind. I'm reminded that I'm there to serve the Lord," added Calvin Menke, also a senior at Jennings.

Lectors are the story tellers of our Mass. They are responsible for proclaiming Sacred Scripture during the Liturgy of the Word at the service. Penney Gerdeman, a lector for over 20 years commented, "It is an honor and privilege to share God's word at

Mass. I usually study it ahead of time and try to convey the true message of the readings, as they are meant to be received."

Church Choir is a beautiful part of our Mass. Our choir practices on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 pm. Anyone in the seventh grade and older can join. Joyce Gasser has directed the choir for 46 years.

"We sing every third Sunday of the month and of course Christmas and Holy Week and any other special celebrations," says Gasser. "We take summers off. My favorite part of my position is when we accomplish a difficult song. Music can be so powerful and inspiring. To me, this is such a great way to praise the Lord."

She also works with the youth choir, which is grade 4 through 6. They practice once a week on Thursday mornings, and try to sing about once a month.

Ushers, serve as Ministers of Hospitality, acting as the primary point of contact and official hosts of the parish community. Their role is to ensure a welcoming atmosphere, maintain the reverent flow of the liturgy, and assist with logistical needs such as seating, collections and passing the bulletins out after Mass. Kevin Leis has been ushering for the past two years and shared, "I wanted to contribute more to the church. I felt this was the best way for me to do that. I normally have my sons help me and feel its a great way for them to feel more involved as well."

Each of these ministries would benefit from additional volunteers! Please prayerfully consider how you can support these efforts at our church.

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!...' Mathew 25:21

Offertory March 2026

Envelopes	\$2,847.00
Loose	\$1,231.00
Maintenance	\$1,518.00
Easter Flowers	\$100.00
Initial Offering	\$6.00
YTD Total:	\$160,929.33
YTD over Budget:	\$20,929.33

THANK YOU for your continued support.

Sign up Electronic Funds Transfer to have your contribution's deducted directly from your bank account. Forms are on our parish website or contact the parish office.



Reflections of a country Priest

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have now reached the Fourth Sunday of Lent, and the Church gives this day a special name — Laetare Sunday. The word simply means “Rejoice.” The Mass begins with the words, “Rejoice, Jerusalem.” It is the Church’s way of reminding us that even in the middle of Lent... Easter is getting closer.

You may notice something different at Mass this weekend. The deep purple vestments of Lent give way briefly to rose. It is a small but beautiful sign that the light of Easter is already beginning to appear on the horizon.

In the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus gives sight to the man born blind. At first, the man cannot see at all. But after encountering Jesus and washing in the water, his sight is restored. More importantly, his faith begins to grow. By the end of the Gospel, he is not only able to see physically... he recognizes who Jesus truly is.

Lent works in a similar way in our own lives. Through prayer, fasting, and repentance, the Lord slowly opens our eyes. We begin to see more clearly, our need for God, His presence in our lives, and the ways He is leading us forward.

Over these past weeks our parish has been walking this Lenten journey together. Many have gathered for our Sunday Holy Hour of Adoration from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., with the Sacrament of

Reconciliation available throughout the hour. At 2:30 p.m., we continue with the Stations of the Cross. These quiet moments before the Lord help us slow down... listen... and keep our eyes fixed on Christ.

I also encourage you to follow our Lenten reflection series, Carrying It Differently, which is available for anyone who would like to go deeper during this season. You can find it on the parish Facebook page, on my personal Facebook page, Ronald Schock, on my Instagram, fatherronnieschock, or on my TikTok: The Catholic Priest.

As we continue this Lenten journey, I also invite you to keep our parish in your prayers in a special way. As we prepare for a new priest to arrive on July 1, let us pray for our future pastor. May the Holy Spirit guide Bishop Thomas and the Priest Personnel Board to the right decision so that our parish may continue to grow in love and faith in Jesus Christ.

Laetare Sunday reminds us not to lose heart. The journey of Lent continues, but the joy of Easter is drawing near. So this Sunday... take a moment to rejoice. The Lord is helping us see more clearly.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Ron

“Don’t forget, You are a Saint in the Making!”

Due to Father’s uncertainties with appointments, please check Facebook for any Weekday Mass cancellations or changes.

Ottoville: the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Tues (of the month): 7:00 pm, Wed & Thurs 8:10am,

Delphos: Mon-Fri 8:00am & Wed 12:15pm, **Kalida:** Thurs 7:30pm, Tues, Wed, & Fri 8:00am