

# 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

|            |   |
|------------|---|
|            | SUNDAY  |
| 22ND MARCH | 1:30-3:00 ADORATION & CONFESSIONS<br>2:30 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS  |
| 28TH MARCH | SATURDAY<br>3:30-4:30 PM CONFESSIONS  |
| 29TH MARCH | SUNDAY<br>1:30-3:00 ADORATION & CONFESSIONS<br>2:30 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS                              |
| 1ST APRIL  | WEDNESDAY<br>DAY OF GRACE<br>9:00AM - 12:00PM, 2:00PM - 5:00PM<br>6:00PM - 7:00PM,<br>AFTER MASS - 9:00PM |
| 2ND APRIL  | THURSDAY<br>7:00 PM HOLY THURSDAY MASS<br>7:30-11:00 PM ADORATION & CONFESSION                            |
| 3RD APRIL  | FRIDAY<br>12:30 STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH DEACON LARRY<br>1:00 PM PASSION                                |
| 4TH APRIL  | SATURDAY<br>8:00 PM EASTER VIGIL  |
| 5TH APRIL  | SUNDAY<br>7:30 AM EASTER MASS<br>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: stjoeeparishofc@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 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**  
 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 &<br>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](http://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    | Dn 13:1-9, 15-17<br>Jn 8:1-11 |
| Tuesday   | Nm 21:4-9<br>Jn 8:21-30       |
| Wednesday | Is 7:10-14,8-10<br>Lk 1:26-38 |
| Thursday  | Gn 17:3-9<br>Jn 8:51-59       |
| Friday    | Jer 20:10-13<br>Jn 10:31-42   |
| Saturday  | Ez 37:21-28<br>Jn 11:45-56    |

**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, 03/21 | 5:00 pm | Allen ‘Doc’ Wittler  |
| Sun, 03/22 | 7:30 am | For Our Parish   |
|            | 9:30 am | For those discerning the Priesthood especially Jeremy Smith and Michael Fields |
| Tue, 03/24 | 7:00 pm | Eva Warnecke   |
| Wed, 03/25 |         | <b>NO MASS</b>   |
| Thu, 03/26 | 7:00 pm | Rev Stanley S Szbka  |
| Fri, 03/27 | 7:55 am | For Our Religious Ed Students  |
| Sat, 03/28 | 5:00 pm | Terry Maag   |
| Sun, 03/29 | 7:30 am | Linda Meyer  |
|            | 9:30 am | Greg Fields  |

## Liturgical Ministers: Mar 28 & Mar 29

**Servers:**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 5:00 pm | Lucas Knippen, Jase Metzger, Caleb Von Sossan |
| 7:30 am | Sophia Osting, Ava Knippen, Zach Wagoner      |
| 9:30 am | Maddie, Josie & Jacob Anspach                 |

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 5:00 pm | Alyssa Luersman, Dave & Kathy Luersman<br>Evan Ellerbrock, Bailey Hile                       |
| 7:30 am | Volunteers needed  |
| 9:30 am | Addison Sarka, Doug Sickels, James Schroeder, Layla Schroeder, Kim McCracken, Diane Stennett |

**Lectors:**

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| 5:00 pm | Dave Luersman    |
| 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   |

**Weekday Servers:**

|           |  |           |  |
|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| Tue,3/17  | Jordyn Buettner, Katie Anspach, Cece Schroeder | Thu, 3/19 | Emma Hedrick, Jacob Meyer, Mason Kohls |
| Wed, 3/18 | Nash Miller, Savannah & Abby Gerdeman          | Fri, 3/20 | Levi & Liam Van Bibber, Henry Brokamp  |

**The Holy Thursday Pilgrimage** Inspired by the seven-church pilgrimage of St. Philip Neri dating back to the 16th century, we are making a pilgrimage on Holy Thursday to seven churches in our area to visit Jesus. St. Joseph's is one of the "Chosen Seven." Choose 7 of the 11 churches, spend approximately 10 minutes at each location, and read the provided meditations. See Resource tab on our website. Locations under Fr.'s column, page 7.

**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



**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!

**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.



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

**Jennings Legion Auxiliary Bake Sale** will be held on Fri, April 3, from 4:00-6:30. Colored eggs will be \$3 per doz. for more info contact Alice Wiegand at 419-234-7293. Auxiliary members are asked to donate baked goods by 3:00 pm.

**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.

**I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE**

*whoever believes in me will live.*



**A look ahead:**

**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

**Tues, Mar. 24** - NO Adoration & Confession

**Wed, Mar. 25** - NO MASS

**Thurs, Mar. 26** - Father Ron's Birthday - No Adoration & Confession

**Sat, Mar. 28** - 3:30-4:30pm Confessions

**Sun, Mar. 29** - 1:30-3:00 pm Adoration & Confessions  
2:30 PM Stations of the Cross

**\*\*Wed, April 1** - **deadline to clean up at the Cemetery**

**Bulletin Submission deadline: Monday 10:00 am**

**The Putnam County Council on Aging** will be hosting their fall prevention program, A Matter of Balance, at the Ottoville Parish Center beginning Wed, April 15, and running for eight consecutive weeks through June 5. The class will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This free program is designed for adults age 60 and older who are interested in improving balance, strength, and confidence while reducing their risk of falls.

The Ottawa Senior Center is looking for a new director for the agency. Hours would include Mon-Fri 9:00am-3:00pm with some flexibility. Must have knowledge in Microsoft Word, and be able to prepare an agenda for a monthly Board meeting, prepare a monthly newsletter and prepare information for special events. If you are interested in applying email your resume to ottawaseniors2015@outlook.com. or bring a resume to the center for review. Questions about benefits will be answered at interview.



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 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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 SACRED AVENGER**  
AND HIS SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

**ST. JOSEPH VBS**  
May 26-28  
9:00 am - 11:15 am  
Deadline: April 1

THE EPIC TRIUMPH OF GOOD OVER EVIL

# MINISTRIES AT OUR CHURCH:

**The Prayer Line** is a big part of the “behind the scenes” at our parish. A prayer line (also referred to as a prayer chain) is a spiritual ministry composed of parishioners who commit to praying for the specific needs and intentions of others. This network provides a way for community members to support one another through intercessory prayer, praying on behalf of those facing difficulties such as illness, loss, or sudden crisis. Laurie Maag has been in charge of our prayer line for 7 years. In the past, this has been done through land-line phone calls and then emails. The goal is to update our prayer line, and moved toward a text-message prayer chain. In doing so, we can provide a real-time response to prayer requests, as well as unification. For any members of the prayer line that currently receive emails, and have a cell phone number that is texting capable, please contact Laurie with your number. If you would like to join our Parish’s prayer line, contact Laurie directly.

“Just keep your mind open and pray to the ministry

needs in our church. It’s hard to get out of your comfort zone and do things you’re not comfortable with. It will help you with your spiritual growth.” commented Maag.

**A Sacristan** is a lay minister responsible for preparing the church for liturgy, managing the sacristy, and maintaining sacred vessels, vestments, and linens. They ensure all items (books, wine, bread) are set up before Mass and cleaned afterward. Their role ensures that liturgical celebrations run smoothly. Mary Luersman is our Head Sacristan and Dave Luersman was appointed as her assistant.

“Father Charles called both me and my brother Dave and appointed us as Sacristans. Holy Week is probably the most hectic part of the job.” commented Mary. Other sacristan’s include Karan Maenle, Mike & Jenny Smith, Tom & Laura Hark, Sue & Dan Knippen, and Doug & Cheryl Sickles. “We are always in need of a back-up if anyone is interested!” Finished Luersman.

Mary is also a Rosary Leader before Mass. “We are always looking for another person willing to lead the rosary. Especially a man with a loud voice.” Please Prayerfully consider volunteering for our church.

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

## Offertory March 2026

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Envelopes               | \$2,287.00          |
| Loose                   | \$873.91            |
| Maintenance             | \$255.00            |
| Catholic Relief         | \$130.00            |
| Children’s Mass         | \$19.72             |
| <b>YTD Total:</b>       | <b>\$164,090.24</b> |
| <b>YTD over Budget:</b> | <b>\$20,090.24</b>  |

**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.

## PUTNAM CO. HOME CARE & HOSPICE

### 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



Reflections of a country Priest

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the Church gives us one of the most powerful Gospel passages of the entire season: the raising of Lazarus.

When Jesus arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has already been in the tomb four days. Martha and Mary are grieving. The crowd is mourning. Everything seems finished.

And yet Jesus speaks words that echo into every difficult moment of our lives: "I am the resurrection and the life."

Before Jesus performs the miracle, He asks for something that must have seemed almost impossible. He tells them to roll away the stone. Imagine what that must have felt like for those standing there. The stone represented grief, loss, finality, and the belief that nothing more could be done. But Jesus asks them to move it anyway.

Lent often asks something similar of us. There are stones in our own hearts that the Lord invites us to move — stones of fear, regret, resentment, or sin. When we allow Christ to enter those places, He brings new life where we once believed only darkness remained.

One of the most beautiful ways we experience that new life is through the Sacrament of

Reconciliation. This Sunday afternoon, confessions will be available from 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. here at the parish. Immediately following, we will pray the Stations of the Cross from 2:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity as we continue preparing our hearts for Holy Week and Easter.

I would also like to share that during the week of March 23 through March 27, I will be away at the Cleveland Clinic undergoing a series of infusion therapies. I deeply appreciate the many prayers you have offered for me during this time. Please know that each and every one of those prayers means more to me than I can adequately express. Your kindness, encouragement, and support continue to be a great source of strength.

As we move closer to Holy Week, may we allow the Lord to help us roll away whatever stones may be weighing upon our hearts.

Christ does not come to leave us in the tomb. He comes to call us to life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Fr. Ron

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

Local Mass:

**Ottoville:** the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> 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

**The Holy Thursday Pilgrimage Locations:** St. Mary's Bluffton, Immaculate Conception Botkins, St. John's Delphos, St. Michael's Kalida, St John's Landeck, St. Charles Lima, St. Gerard Lima, St. Patrick Spencerville, St Joseph Wapakoneta