

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



135 N. Water St. PO Box 68 Fort Jennings, OH 45844 Phone: 419-286-2132 Fax: 419-286-3132

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

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.

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

Scripture Readings

Monday	Acts 6:8-15 Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday	Acts 7:51-8:1 Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday	Acts 8:1-8 Jn 6:35-40
Thursday	Acts 8:26-40 Jn 6:44-51
Friday	Acts 9:1-20 Jn 6:52-59
Saturday	1 Pt 5:5-14 Mk 16:15-20

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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.

Trust in the Lord

WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING;
IN ALL YOUR WAYS SUBMIT TO HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATH STRAIGHT.

Intentions for Mass

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR MASS INTENTIONS.

Sat 04/18	5:00 pm	For Our Parish
Sun 04/19	7:30 am	Harry Howbert
	9:30 am	Joe & Shirley Mesker
Tue 04/21		NO MASS
Wed 04/22		NO MASS
Thu 04/23		NO MASS
Fri 04/24	7:55 am	Dale & Marilyn Ricker
Sat 04/25	5:00 pm	Art Gasser & Ben and Mary Sergeant
Sun 04/26	7:30 am	For Our Parish
	9:30 am	Bockrath & Meyer Families

Liturgical Ministers: April 25 & 26

Servers:

5:00 pm	Abby Leah & Ryan Kahle
7:30 am	Christopher Moening, Sophia Osting, Austin Askins
9:30 am	Lucas Knippen, Chase & Joci German

Eucharistic Ministers:

5:00 pm	Connor & Christina Hoersten, Bailey Hile, Evan Ellerbrock, Sue Knippen
7:30 am	Volunteers needed
9:30 am	Doug Sickels, James Schroeder, Layla Schroeder, Diane Stennett, Kim McCracken Denise Sukup, Teresa Wurst

Lectors:

5:00 pm	Dave Luersman
7:30 am	Volunteer needed
9:30 am	Karen Maenle

Ushers:

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

Weekday Servers:

Tue 4/21	- No Mass
Wed 4/22	- No Mass
Thu 4/23	- No Mass
Fri 4/24	- Tanner Warnecke-Schroeder, Katie Anspach, Jordyn Buettner

Thank-you to N.R. Lee Restoration in Delphos for allowing us to use their equipment to help with church repairs!

Schedule your church Directory photos today:

Scan the QR code to book your time!

Enter Code: oh2930

Password: photos2



Beginning on Tuesday, April 21 there will no longer be Masses on Tuesday evenings. If you currently have a Mass Intention scheduled for a Tuesday evening, it has been moved to the first available date following your original dates. Watch the bulletin for your new date or contact the parish office.

Rosary for the safety and Unity of our Nation

On the second Mon. of the month, April-Oct. at 7:30 there will be a St. Rita's Rosary Walk starting at 620 E Blake St. Ottawa (near Glandorf Elementary). Led by the 4th degree Knights of Columbus. All are welcome.

St. Joseph's Religious Ed Students brought in \$288.02 for their Rice Bowl Collection! This money is collected every year at the end of the Lenten Season to help feed children around the world. Thank-you to all the students who donated!

American Legion Is hosting a Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet on Sun. May 10, from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. The Breakfast includes: bacon, sausage, ham, home fries, sausage gravy & biscuits, French toast, scrambled eggs, fruit, & breakfast rolls. Cost is \$13 for adults and children under 10 are \$7.00. Call 419-286-2100 for reservations by May 8.

Local Mass:

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

Delphos: Mon-Fri 8:00 am & Wed 12:15 pm

Kalida: Thurs 7:30 pm, Tues, Wed, & Fri 8:00 am

THE LORD
had truly been raised



A look ahead:

Tues. Apr. 21 - NO MASS

Wed. Apr. 22 - NO MASS

Thurs. Apr. 23 - NO MASS

Fri. Apr. 24 - 7:55 am Children's Mass

Thurs. Apr. 28 - NO MASS

Sun. May 3 - 9:30 am First Communion Mass

Sat. May 9 - 5:00 pm Baccalaureate Mass

Bulletin Submission deadline:

Monday 10:00 am

Week 2 Fort Fest Winner is Paula Hull.

Congrats to the week 4/6 winner!

St. Joseph's Youth Group News

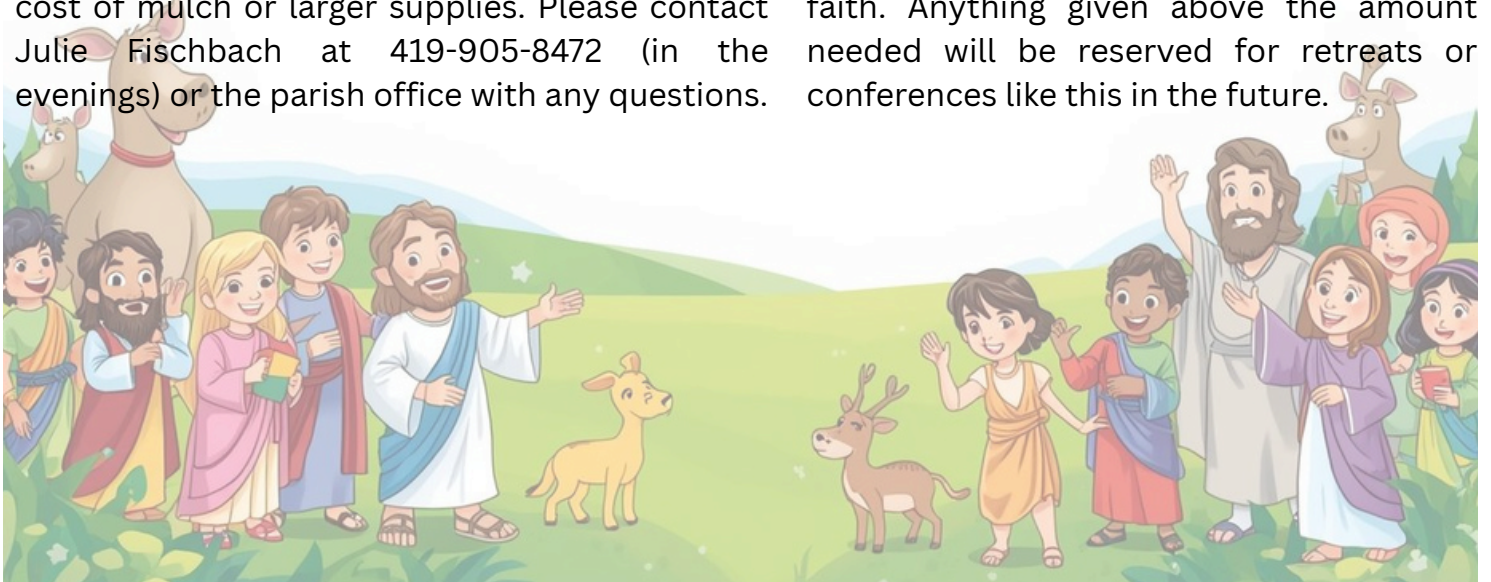


Y.E.S. – Youth Elect Service Project Donations

needed The 2026 Y.E.S. project is hosted by St. Joseph's in Fort Jennings June 4-6 and involves high school youth and adults helping those in need with painting, cleaning, landscaping, or many other tasks that are just too difficult for our area residents to do. The ultimate goal is to spread the love of Christ and His message of Hope to those who need it most. Our work consists of helping private homeowners without family members nearby who are unable to maintain or improve their homes. Work sites are all over the county and supplies are needed. All of the work done is at no cost to those being helped. The youth and adults are asked to contribute a fee to cover the cost of a t-shirt, food and their supplies. We are asking residents, businesses and organizations to contribute as you can. If you would like to make a donation of supplies, we can always use cleaning supplies, small tools, water, soda or snacks. A monetary donation is appreciated as well to help cover the cost of mulch or larger supplies. Please contact Julie Fischbach at 419-905-8472 (in the evenings) or the parish office with any questions.

Checks may be payable to St. Joseph's Catholic Church- YES and sent to P O Box 68, Ft. Jennings, OH 45844. Thank you for your support of this project that teaches being of service to others offers long term benefits! The rewards are eternal!

Our Youth Group is going to the Steubenville Youth Conference, this summer on July 17-19! We have several students attending. We are asking our generous parish to consider making a donation to ease the cost. There is a donation board in the Narthex, with more information on the conference itself and what you would be graciously supporting. Please take an envelope and send your donation in the mail to the parish office or drop it in the collection baskets at any Mass. Feel free to take as many envelopes as you want. Thank you in advance for your generosity and making it possible for our kids to learn more about how to live their faith. Anything given above the amount needed will be reserved for retreats or conferences like this in the future.



Putnam County Right to Life would like to thank everyone who supported the garage sale! It was a great success. This sale isn't possible without the helpers, without those who donate items, and without the loyal shoppers. God bless all of you for your generosity! Our sale days for our garage sale in 2027 will be March 16 and 17. Our next meeting will be Wed. May 6 at 7:30 in Kalida St. Michael's Church basement. All are welcome.

Food for Thought

Plant three rows of squash:

- 1. Squash gossip
- 2. Squash grumbling
- 3. Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

- 1. Lettuce love one another
- 2. Lettuce be charitable
- 3. Lettuce be faithful
- 4. Lettuce not be discouraged

Plant three rows of turnips:

- 1. Turnip for church each week
- 2. Turnip to serve in a ministry
- 3. Turnip to help one another

Plant six rows of thyme

- 1. Thyme for the Lord
- 2. Thyme for your family
- 3. Thyme for prayer
- 4. Thyme for work
- 5. Thyme for rest
- 6. Thyme for play



Offertory April 2026

Envelopes	\$1,798.00
Loose	\$1,038.00
Maintenance	\$1,275.00
Catholic Relief	\$100.00
Easter	\$905.00
Children's Mass	\$6.31
Home Mission	\$20.00
Holy Land	\$20.00
YTD Total:	\$177,896.74
YTD over Budget:	\$21,896.74

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.



Highlights Include:

- Amish Country, 2 nights
- Gettysburg, 2 nights
- Included Meals: 4 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 1 Dinner
- Group Seating for the JOSHUA performance at Sight & Sound Theater
- Celebrate America 250 Gettysburg Tour
- National Center for St. Padre Pio
- National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Tanger Outlet Malls near Lancaster, PA
- Kitchen Kettle Village stores, Amish Country
- Flight 93 National Memorial
- Luxury Motor Coach transportation and more!

JULY 27 - 31
5 DAYS, 4 NIGHTS
\$1,148



Deadline:
Mon, April 20

For complete details, contact
Diane Utrup 419-306-5588
letsgotravelclub2@gmail.com



Reflections of a country Priest

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the weeks leading up to Lent, our parish entered into a five-week period of catechesis focused on the Eucharist, deepening our understanding of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and reflecting on the central place He holds in our lives and in our church.

During Lent, we continued that journey through Sunday holy hours, adoration, and confessions. These weeks were spiritual preparation, inviting all of us to pray and discern how best we honor the Lord truly present among us.

Since that time, we have also received the news that, because of my health, I will be retiring as your pastor effective July 1. While that announcement shifted many parish conversations, the deeper question before us—the importance of Jesus in the Eucharist and how His presence is expressed in our church—remains unchanged. Pastors come and go, but Christ remains.

All of the information gathered thus far, including reflections, concerns, and suggestions already shared, will be passed on carefully to our new pastor so that he may continue this process prayerfully and thoughtfully with you.

At this time, I am still inviting additional parish input. If you have thoughts, questions, or concerns regarding the placement of the tabernacle, please continue to send them to me. You may email me, text me, or place written comments in the collection basket. I will make certain they are included in the materials given to the incoming pastor.

One recent question raised concerned the Cathedral in Toledo. Bishop Daniel E. Thomas recently announced that the tabernacle at the cathedral will be moved from the former baptistry chapel area back into the main body of the cathedral, returning to a central place behind the altar where it had originally been located.

In his letter to the diocese, Bishop Thomas made an important distinction: this is not renovation—it is restoration. Restoration does not condemn the decisions of the past. Those who made earlier choices acted according to the clarity and pastoral needs of their time. Rather, restoration reflects the

Church's continuing deepening understanding of how sacred space should clearly proclaim Eucharistic faith.

Today throughout the Church, we are seeing renewed emphasis on the Eucharist. More people are entering the Church. More people are rediscovering Eucharistic adoration. More Catholics are longing for churches that visibly proclaim: Jesus is here. That is the heart of this conversation. This is not about architecture alone. This is not about nostalgia or preference. This is about keeping Jesus first, visible, and central in our lives and in our worship.

As you prepare in the months ahead to speak with your new pastor, I encourage you to continue praying deeply: How can our church building best reflect what we believe about Jesus truly present in the Holy Eucharist?

As many of you know, our parish is also continuing the important transition into the new Pastoral Council model as guided by the Diocese of Toledo. Earlier this year, we were blessed to welcome Mr. Andrew Reinhardt from the Diocese, who helped us better understand the purpose and best practices of a true Pastoral Council and how it serves the mission of the parish. This coming year will be one of gradual implementation as we move into this renewed structure.

One of the most noticeable changes is how council members will now be chosen. In the past, parish council members were elected by parish vote. Under the diocesan model for a Pastoral Council, that process changes from election to discernment.

Rather than campaigning or voting, I, as pastor, will prayerfully appoint members after receiving recommendations from parishioners and current council members. I warmly encourage you to submit the names of parishioners whom you believe possess wisdom, faith, good judgment, and a sincere love for our parish.

Referrals may be given directly to me or to any current Pastoral Council member. After prayerful discernment, those individuals will be invited to serve.

Thank you for your continued prayer, patience, and faithful support as our parish moves forward. Let us remain united in Christ, always seeking His will above all things.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Fr. Ron
Don't forget—you are a saint in the making.