

# 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: 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 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	5:00 pm
Sunday	7:30 am & 9:30 am
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](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.

**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 19:1-8  
Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday Acts 20:17-27  
Jn 17:1-11

Wednesday Acts 20:28-38  
Jn 17:11-19

Thursday Acts 22:30,23:6-11  
Jn 17:20-26

Friday Acts 25:13-21  
Jn 21:15-19

Saturday Acts 28:16-20,30-31  
Jn 21:20-25

## Intentions for Mass

### CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR MASS INTENTIONS.

Sat 05/16 5:00 pm Elwood & Rita Broecker

Sun 05/17 7:30 am Bob Heitmeyer

9:30 am For Our Parish

Wed 05/20 7:00 pm Dale & Marilyn Ricker

Thu 05/21 7:00 pm Linda Meyer

Fri 05/22 7:55 am For Our Religious Ed Students

Sat 05/23 5:00 pm Roger Broecker

Sun 05/24 7:30 am For Our Parish

9:30 am For the Future of Our Parish

## Liturgical Ministers: May 23 & 24

### Servers:

5:00 pm Brody, Connor & Harper Leis

7:30 am Tessa, Waylon, & Lacey Meyer

9:30 am Addison, Sarka, Iris Tenwalde,  
Christopher Moening

### Eucharistic Ministers:

5:00 pm Alyssa Luersman, Dave & Kathy Luersman  
Sue Knippen, Carla Norbeck

7:30 am Volunteers needed

9:30 am Doug Sickels, Rhonda Liebrecht, Denise  
Sukup, James Schroeder, Layla Schroeder  
Kim McCracken, Diane Stennett

### Lectors:

5:00 pm Dave Luersman

7:30 am Volunteer needed

9:30 am Shirley Hammond

### Ushers:

5:00 pm Ralph Knippen

7:30 am Volunteer needed

9:30 am Kevin Leis, Charlie Gerdeman

**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.

### Weekday Servers:

**Wed 5/20-** Henry Brokamp, Claire Mistisshen,  
Olivia Amstutz

**Thu 5/21 -** Anden Maenle, Madelyn Neidert,  
Bishop Bruskotter

**“Do you not know that in a race  
all the runners run,**

**BUT ONLY ONE GETS THE PRIZE?  
RUN IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GET  
THE PRIZE.”**

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24

**Baptized as a new member of the Catholic Church on April 26: Drew Louise Hoersten**, daughter of Connor and Christina (Gerdeman) Hoersten. May the power of the holy Spirit guide these parents in sharing the faith with Drew. Best wishes from the Fort Jennings Catholic Community.

**Are you needing some help?** The 2026 Y.E.S. project is hosted by St. Joseph's Parish in Ft. Jennings 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. The project takes place on June 5 & 6. If you would like a team of youth and adults to help with jobs around inside or outside of your home, please contact Julie Fischbach at 419-905-8472. Deadline to submit a request is May 24.

**The 2026 Y.E.S. Project is looking for volunteers!!** will be held at Ft. Jennings High School beginning Thurs., June 4 at 5:30 pm. Students 7th grade - seniors are encouraged to join. This meaningful 3-day experience will conclude with 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sat., Jun. 6 at our Church. Registration forms are available from Julie Fischbach or on the tables at the church entrance and are due by May 22. For questions or to register as a participant or team leader, please contact Julie Fischbach at 419-905-8472 (evenings or weekends). Answer His call today—the opportunities are endless, and the reward is eternal!

**All CLC Members**—you should have all received a letter from the home office stating that CLC has entered into an agreement with Nationwide Life and Annuity Insurance Company and they will be assuming all existing CLC policies, effective June 22, 2026. There will be no more state fraternal support, plus activity among our members has greatly lessened so the officers have decided it is in our council's best interest to dissolve. All our remaining monies have been donated to Sufficient Grace Ministries. Council 88 would like to THANK Ft Jennings for all of your support over the last 129 years!!

## BAPTIZING THEM

*in the name of the  
Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy  
Spirit*



### A look ahead:

**Tues. May 19** - NO MASS

**Wed. May 20** - 6:00 pm Adoration & Confession

**Thurs. May 21** - 6:00 pm  
Adoration & Confession  
&

**Last day of SCHOOL**

Early Dismissal 2:00 pm

Please watch for kids on bikes & scooters!

**Sun. May 24** - 12:00 pm Memorial Day Service @ Memorial Hall

**Sat. & Sun June 27 & 28** - Father Ron's Last weekend Masses  
Please Join us in sending him off at Mass.

**Bulletin Submission deadline:**

**Monday 10:00 am**

**Week 6 Fort Fest Winner  
is Jerry Siefker**

Congrats to the winner!

# A CATHOLIC AND AMERICAN MOMENT!

Growing up Catholic in Philadelphia, there were a few realities that simply went with the territory! In our living room, there was always an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, hung there by my parents in accord with the promises of Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque. What memories I have of hearing my Dad whisper prayers to the Sacred Heart as he passed by that image! My folks instilled in us a deep love for Jesus and His Church! In the City of Brotherly Love and nearby, there was always the draw of historical places, and my parents made sure that early on we had an appreciation for history and a love for our country. What memories I have of my parents taking us on tours and visits to the Liberty Bell, to Independence Hall, and to Valley Forge. My folks instilled in us a deep love and respect for our country and for her citizenry.

On July 4th of this year, we will celebrate the 250th birthday of our nation, grateful for the blessings of this our “land of the free and the home of the brave.” And to mark this “semiquincentennial”, on June 11th, the eve of the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Bishops of the United States gathered in prayer will consecrate our Nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This truly is a Catholic and American Moment!

It was two hundred and fifty years ago that a remarkable group of men, including several faithful Catholics, gathered in my hometown of Philadelphia. Their deliberations would change the course of history. The Declaration of Independence proclaimed that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness” As an American, I have always found those words moving. As a bishop, I find them even more so, for they echo, however imperfectly, truths the Church has proclaimed from her very beginning: that every human person bears the image and likeness of God, and that human dignity is not a gift of

government but a gift of God Himself; that our freedom has been won for us by the crucified and risen Lord, and that perfect happiness awaits us in heaven!

The story of the Catholic Church in America is as old as the nation itself, indeed, older. Long before the first shots of the Revolution were fired, Catholic missionaries were planting the Cross in American soil. Franciscan and Jesuit priests journeyed into the unknown wilderness, learning the languages of indigenous peoples and sharing the Gospel at great personal cost. The North American Martyrs, Saints Isaac Jogues, Jean de Brébeuf, and their companions, gave their lives for the faith on this very continent. Their blood, shed out of love, planted the first seeds of the Church in the New World....

To read Bishop Thomas’s full article go to:  
<https://toledodiocese.org/diocesan-news/flock-american>

<b>Offertory March 2026</b>	
Envelopes	\$3,054.00
Loose	\$1,546.15
Maintenance	\$290.00
Cath. Comm. Camp	\$20.00
Children’s Mass	\$4.79
Ascensions	\$60.00
YTD Total:	\$197,967.54
YTD over Budget:	\$25,967.54

**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.



## Seniors 2026

Pictured: Ryan Aldrich, Madalynn Anspach, Brooklyn Stone, Tenley Sarka, Bailey Hile, Row two: Evan Ellerbrock, Kailey Meyer, Calvin Menke, Samuel Dube', James Schroeder, Chase German, Deacon Lawerance Schimmoeller, Father Ronald Shock

Not Pictured: Hayden Bidlack, Kyle Britton, Rayne Burgei, Taylor Jackson, Landon Calvelage, Nathan Calvelage, Tiffany Coller, Madilyn Crawford, Dylan Schaefer, Reilly Stegaman



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We read in Acts 1:11, “Why are you standing there looking at the sky?”

This weekend, the Church celebrates the great feast of the Ascension of the Lord. At first glance, the Ascension can seem like a moment of departure—Jesus returning to the Father and leaving His disciples behind. But in reality, the Ascension is not about Jesus abandoning His people. It is about Jesus fulfilling His promise.

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus assured His disciples that they would not be left alone. He promised to send the Holy Spirit—and Jesus never breaks His word. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles and continues to dwell among us today.

The Holy Spirit is not simply a symbol or an idea. The Spirit is God actively working within us—guiding, strengthening, comforting, and leading us closer to Christ. When we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, we begin to see more clearly, choose more wisely, and live more faithfully.

Every day we are faced with decisions: how we speak to others, how we respond to

frustration, how we treat those in need, and whether we choose selfishness or love. The Holy Spirit helps us make choices that are Christlike. The more we listen to the Spirit, the more our lives begin to reflect Jesus Himself.

In a world that can often feel dark, divided, or uncertain, Christians are called to be light. Not a light that draws attention to ourselves, but a light that points others toward Christ. Through kindness, forgiveness, compassion, patience, and faithfulness, we become witnesses to the presence of God in the world.

The Ascension reminds us that Christ has not left us alone. He remains with His Church, and through the gift of the Holy Spirit, He continues to guide His people each and every day.

As we prepare for Pentecost, may we pray more intentionally: “Come, Holy Spirit. Guide my thoughts, my words, and my actions. Help me to live as a light for others and lead me always closer to Christ.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Fr. Ron

Don't forget, *You are a Saint in the Making!*