



Saint Joseph Catholic Church

135 N. Water St. P.O. Box 68 Fort Jennings, OH 45844

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“Like us on Facebook—St. Joseph Catholic Church—Fort Jennings”

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday — 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

NORMAL MASS TIMES

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am and 9:30 am

Tuesday: 7:00 pm

Wednesday: 7:00 pm

Thursday: 7:00 pm

Friday: 7:55 am

ADORATION & CONFESSIONS

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 6:00 pm

Fridays: 7:00 am

Saturdays: 4:00 pm

Anytime by request

BAPTISMS

Baptisms will be celebrated anytime agreeable with Fr. Ron or Deacon Larry. For BAPTISM INSTRUCTION date and time check the bulletin. Please call the parish office to register.

MARRIAGE

Make arrangements at least six months ahead of time by calling the parish office. Do not set wedding date prior to meeting with Fr. Ron.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA)

OCIA classes run from September to May. These classes are for anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith or who wish to join the Church. Call the parish office to register.

FAITH ENRICHMENT

Religious Education Classes for the elementary students from August through May. Classes for the Junior High and High School students run September through March. Adult Enrichment: Bible Study, Spiritual development, missions and retreats. Check the bulletin for details.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND ELDERLY

Visitation and Eucharist will be provided by a Eucharistic Minister. 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.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

If you are new to our St. Joseph Parish Family, please call or visit the parish office to register. **ALL ARE WELCOME HERE**



Director of Music & Liturgy Chairperson

Mrs. Joyce Gasser 419-236-0816

Sacristans

Ms. Mary Luersman 419-286-2306

Mr. Dave Luersman 419-286-2489

Youth Minister

Mrs. Julie Fischbach 419-905-8472

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

Laura Tenwalde

Michelle Menke

Scott Gerdeman

Todd Warnecke

Zach Liebrecht

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



Intentions

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR MASS INTENTIONS.

One family per mass only. Do not put mass intentions requests in the offertory before speaking to the office.

Sat	9/13	5:00 pm	Jerry Meyer
Sun	9/14	7:30 am	For Our Parish
		9:30 am	Toby Fields
Mon	9/15		
Tue	9/16	6:00 pm	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
		6:00 pm	Confessions
		7:00 pm	Harry Howbert
Wed	9/17	6:00 pm	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
		6:00 pm	Confessions
		7:00 pm	For Vocations
Thu	9/18	6:00 pm	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
		6:00 pm	Confessions
		7:00 pm	Mary Michel
Fri	9/19	7:55 am	Esther Ellerbrock
Sat	9/20	5:00 pm	Paul & Mary Lou Menke
Sun	9/21	7:30 am	For Our Parish
		9:30 am	For the deceased members of Our Parish

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Mon	9/15	Our Lady of Sorrows	
		1 Tm 2:1-8	Lk 2:33-35
Tue	9/16	St. Cornelius and Cyprian, Martyrs	
		1 Tm 3:1-13	Lk 7:11-17
Wed	9/17	St. Robert Bellarmine & St. Hildegard	
		1 Tm 3:14-16	Lk 7:31-35
Thu	9/18	1 Tm 4:1-16	Lk 7:36-50
Fri	9/19	1 Tm 6:2c-12	Lk 8:1-3
Sat	9/20	St. Andrew Kim & Paul Chong Ha-sang	
		1 Tm 6:13-16	Lk 8:4-15

Please pray for the sick of the Parish:

Contact the parish office to be added.

Jr. high & HS religious Ed, big KICK OFF

event will be Sept. 17, 7:30- 8:30 pm in Father's driveway. We are excited to begin our religious Ed classes for 2025-2026. There will be pizza, games, prayer, and fellowship as we kick off the year! See you there! If you have not yet turned in your enrollment form, please do so that evening. If you have misplaced or lost yours, contact Rhonda Liebrecht, 419-796-9044, for a new one.

****If it is raining, we will meet in the church basement.****

WEEKDAY SERVERS

Tue, 9/16: Levi & Liam Van Bibber, Henry Brokamp
 Wed, 9/17: Claire Mistisshen, Olivia Amstutz, Logan Krietemeyer
 Thu, 9/18: Loryn Gasser, Madelyn Neidert, Bishop Bruskotter
 Fri, 9/19: Aiden Hoersten, Ava Maag, Rylen Hoersten

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: September 20 & 21:

SERVERS:

5:00 pm Iris Tenwalde, Christopher Moening, Austin Askins
 7:30 am Zach Wagoner, Chase & Joci German
 9:30 am Brody, Connor & Harper Leis

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

5:00 pm Carla Norbeck, Sue Knippen, Addison Sarka, Tenley Sarka, Rose Ann Vetter
 7:30 am Volunteers Needed
 9:30 am Chad Recker, Kelly Recker, Tony Recker, James Schroeder, Rhonda Liebrecht, Diane Stennett, Kim McCracken

LECTORS:

5:00 pm Agness Krietemeyer
 7:30 am Volunteer Needed
 9:30 am Pat Liebrecht

USHERS:

5:00 pm Ralph Knippen, Rick Horstman
 7:30 am Volunteer Needed
 9:30 am Darren Beining, Charlie Gerdeman



September 7, 2025

Envelopes	\$ 1,490.00
Loose	\$ 798.00
Maintenance	\$ 1,520.00
Catholic Univ of America	\$ 45.00
Children's Mass	\$ 37.38

YTD as of August 31, 2025 = \$ 44,108.26

YTD Over Budget = \$ 4,108.26

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.

**New Email for bulletin submissions:
stjosephfjbulletin@gmail.com**



Revelation Bible Study starting September 16 at 7:30pm in the church basement. This study will take 9 weeks to complete and is 100% Catholic teaching. This study is open to both adults and high school teens. The book we are using can be found on Amazon by searching "Revelation (Little Rock Scripture Study)." For info, contact Julie Fischbach at 419-905-8472.

Tim Luersman will be celebrating his 67th birthday on September 21. Please shower him with birthday cards and bright wishes to brighten his day. Send card to: Tim Luersman, VanCrest Care Center, 1425 E Fifth St. Room 38C, Delphos OH, 45833.

Sunday School classes for 2025/26 will begin on Sunday, Nov. 2 and run through Mar. 29. Classes are held during the 9:30 am Sunday Mass, and all children ages 3-PreK are welcome to attend. Enrollment forms are available at all church entrances. Forms are due **Oct. 26**. For more information/questions, contact Laura Tenwalde at 419-303-5752 or lauratenwalde@gmail.com. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for your child to learn about God's love & presence in their life!

Springs in the Desert, a Catholic infertility ministry, is hosting monthly meetings to accompany women struggling with infertility and loss. There will be a guest speaker on October 2nd during our regularly scheduled 7:30 pm meeting in the St. Joseph's church basement. Edward Luersman, MA, LPCC is the owner of "Blessed Are They" Grief Counseling and will be joining us to offer his unique perspective as a counselor on various topics related to the hidden grief of infertility. All women of the parish & surrounding parishes are invited to join us. New faces are welcome at any time. For more information, contact Laura Tenwalde (419)303-5752.

Ft. Jennings Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts are kicking off the 2025-2026 Scouting year! Cub Scouts, grades K-5 & will be meeting on Sunday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. Boy Scouts, boys in grade 6 through age 17 will begin meetings on Sunday, September 21, at 7 p.m. in the church basement. Ft. Jennings Scouts need a Cub Scout Master, Assistant Cub Scout Master, Boy Scout Master, and Assistant Boy Scout Master. The current leaders are willing to mentor. The leaders do NOT have to have a boy in scouts to be a scout leader. If you have any interest, please reach out to Matt Calvelage at 419.233.2840.

2025 Homecoming Festival			
	Income	Expense	Net
Big Ticket	\$10,739.00	\$3,253.68	\$7,485.32
Country Store	\$28,762.41	\$570.85	\$28,191.56
Dinners	\$17,035.00	\$8,390.03	\$8,644.97
Gas & Grocery	\$6,281.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,281.00
Tractor Pull	\$791.00	\$649.00	\$142.00
Lunch Stand	\$5,789.00	\$3,761.50	\$2,027.50
Bingo	\$1,592.50	\$585.00	\$1,007.50
Drink Tent	\$6,596.00	\$1,963.87	\$4,632.13
Money Wheel	\$392.50	\$0.00	\$392.50
Kid's Games	\$3,394.00	\$787.47	\$2,606.53
Ice Cream	\$922.00	\$0.00	\$922.00
Famers Market	\$1,108.00	\$0.00	\$1,108.00
Miscellaneous		\$6,118.86	\$6,118.86
Total	\$83,402.41	\$27,080.26	<u>\$56,322.15</u>
Previous Years Net Incomes:			
2024	\$50,669.04		
2023	\$48,010.57		
2022	\$36,554.76		
2021	\$44,102.05		

OCIA will begin in September. If interested, please call Karan Maenle at 419-286-2877.

THANK YOU to all donors who made our Blood Drive a success. Also, THANKS to all the volunteers for your hard work and to all who donated cookies. It is through your generosity and giving spirit that makes our Drive succeed. Thanks to the FJ American Legion Post 715 for the use of the hall. It is greatly appreciated. - Dianne and Alice



Layla's Cancer Care Club first annual 5k color run September 20, 2025 at Fort Jennings Park. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Kids fun run (age 9 & under) begins at 9:30 – no cost. 5k color fun run ages 10-17 \$10. Ages 18 & up \$15. Walkers begin at 9:30. Runners begin at 10. Day of registration is \$20. All paid runners will receive raffle entry ticket. All proceeds benefit Layla's cancer care club a nonprofit created by Layla Korte, who was diagnosed with cancer at 7 years old. Register with the QR code.

Mark your calendar!
Fr. Sichko will be coming to our parish for weekend Masses on November 1 & 2 with evening talks
November 3 through November 5.

Hello Friends!

This Sunday we celebrate the Cross—not as a sign of defeat, but as the great symbol of victory and love. Jesus said: “So must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.” (John 3:14–15).

The Cross reminds us that God enters into our suffering and transforms it. Even when disaster strikes, the Cross remains. After the recent fire at the Church of the Assumption in Minnesota, parishioners wept as firefighters carried out the surviving cross. One woman said: “If the cross survived, then our faith can survive too.”

This is the message of the feast: the Cross always endures.

How can we live it this week?

See your crosses as a way to draw closer to Christ. Lift high the Cross for others by your witness of love.

Next, I want to thank everyone for your kindness and support during my installation Mass as pastor of St. Joseph Parish.

Whether you were here in person or joining us from home, I was deeply moved by the whole experience with Bishop Thomas.

I am grateful to all who served at the Mass—servers, greeters, ushers, lectors, choir, decorators, and so many others whose efforts made the liturgy so beautiful.

Finally, thank you for your cards, gifts, prayers, and well wishes. They mean so much to me. More than anything, I am grateful for the gift of this parish family, and I look forward to walking with you in faith as we lift high the Cross of Christ together.

In just over a week—on Monday, September 22—I will be leaving to lead a pilgrimage to Paris, Lourdes, Assisi, and Rome. I will return late on October 3rd.

If you would like me to carry a special prayer intention with me on this journey, please email me or send me a message on Facebook. I would be honored to bring your intentions to these holy places.

While I am away, daily Mass will continue on Tuesdays @ 7:00 pm and Fridays @ 7:55 am.

Please take good care of yourselves while I am away and let us pray for each other!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Ron

“Don’t forget, you are a saint in the Making!”



Christ the King Center, Ottawa – On Sunday, September 28, Experience a Slice of Holy Land. At 2:00 pm activities include fishing derby bible bingo, face painting, chalk drawing, outdoor games, prizes, and drawings. Outdoor Mass at 4:00 pm under that tent, 5:00 pm dinner, 6:15 pm Family Rosary Walk, and at 7:00 pm sunset and campfire. For questions contact: contact@christthekingcenter.org. 620 E. Blake St., Ottawa.

Landeck St. John the Baptist Church: breakfast on Sunday, Sept 28th from 9:00 am to noon in the Landeck Church Basement. Meal: sausage, pancakes, eggs, burritos, toast, coffee, and juice. Free Will Offering.

Soup and Pie Day Ottawa Senior Center will be September 18, 2025 at 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. (1035 East Third St. Ottawa)

Menu includes choice of beef vegetable soup or ham and bean soup, fruity chicken salad, pulled BBQ pork, assorted homemade pies and drinks. Seating available inside or outside. Bob Clark will provide music outside in the gazebo. Carry outs are available by calling 419-523-5593.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 1st; 12:00 pm for an Outdoor Rosary Rally in Honor of our Lady of Fatima, at Continental, St. Joseph.

She Shall Be Called Woman is a transformative journey designed to meet the deepest longings of the feminine heart. Our program is a sanctuary for women seeking to be truly seen, known, and loved, as they grow in their relationship with the Lord. Through authentic conversations, vibrant speakers, and enriching prayer experiences, we equip you with the tools to embark on a profound spiritual journey. Join us for food, fellowship, and faith beginning weekly on Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings at the Ottoville Parish Center. Our Fall session starts Wednesday 9/24@6:30pm in the Chamber room or Saturday 9/27@8am in the K of C room. Sessions are not progressive, come when you can. Babysitting available upon request, contact Beth at 419-230-5740. All women are welcome! Learn more at www.SheShallBeCalledWoman.com.