



Saint Joseph Catholic Church

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

A member of the St. George Deanery

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

Telephone: 419-286-2132 - FAX: 419-286-3132

Father Charles Obinwa, Pastor—419-203-7656

Email—obinwacm@yahoo.com

Larry Schimmoeller, Deacon: C: 419-302-2532~H: 419-286-2170

Email—larry@fjsb.com

Mrs. Rhonda Liebrecht, CRE—419-286-2019

stjoereled@bright.net

Mrs. Kelly Stant, Secretary—C: 419-235-2667

www.stjosephfortjennings.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday—9:00 until Noon

E-mail address: **stjoeparishofc@bright.net**

NORMAL MASS TIMES

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am and 9:30 am

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: 7:00 pm

Wednesday: 7:30 am

Thursday: 7:00 pm

Friday: 7:55 am

CONFESSIONS

Tuesdays 6:30 pm

Saturdays 4:30 pm

Anytime by request

BAPTISMS

Baptisms will be celebrated anytime agreeable with Fr. Charles 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 contacting the parish office.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA 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. A priest will be available if needed. 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 419-286-2989

Sacristan:

Mrs. Kathy Fischer 419-286-2003

Youth Minister:

Mrs. Rhonda Liebrecht 419-286-2019

Finance Council Chairman:

Mr. Larry Schimmoeller 419-286-2170

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

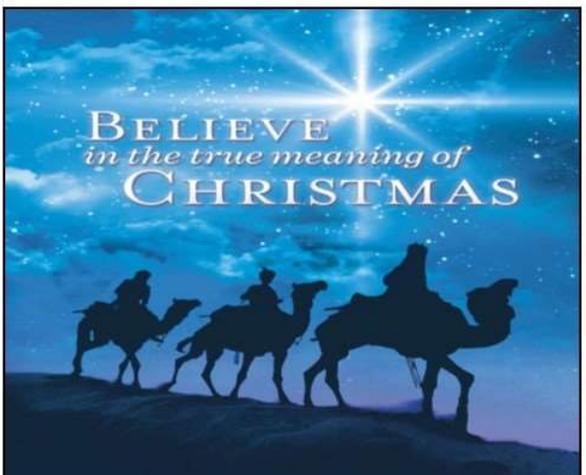
Maintenance & Hall Manager:

Mr. Tony Recker 419-286-5100

Funeral Luncheon Committee:

Mrs. Mary Menke 419-286-2504

Mrs. Sue Knippen 419-286-2429





Intentions

Sat	29	5:00 pm	Lawrence & Ida Schimmoeller
Sun	30	7:30 am	For Souls in Purgatory
		9:30 am	In Thanksgiving to God
Mon	31	4:00 pm	Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God Holy Day Vigil
Tues	01	9:30 am	Solemnity of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation) Pray for Peace Day Rosary every hour beginning at 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. with benediction at 5 p.m.
Wed	02	7:30 am	Deceased of the Jim & Rita Knott Family
Thur	03	7:00 pm	For Parishioners with Cancer
Fri	04	7:55 am	FIRST FRIDAY For the Sacred Heart of Jesus that bleeds each time we sin.
~ Exposition after Mass with Closing at Noon ~			
Sat	05		FIRST SATURDAY
		7:00 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		8:00 am	For the Immaculate Heart of Mary
		5:00 pm	Isadore & Rose Siefker Family Hoersten & Luersman Families Viola Lambert Leonard & Micky Ricker John Gerker
Sun	06	7:30 am	For Souls in Purgatory
		9:30 am	Charles & Mary Jane Landwehr

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Mon	12/31	Saint Sylvester I, Pope 1 Jn 2:18-21 Jn 1:1-18
Tues	01/01	Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21
Wed	01/02	Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops 1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28
Thu	01/03	The Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Jn 1:29-34
Fri	01/04	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious 1 Jn 3:7-10 Jn 1:35-42
Sat	01/05	Saint John Neumann, Bishop 1 Jn 3:11-21 Jn 1:43-51

Parish Office will be open Monday, December 31; Noon to 3:30 p.m., not the regular 9 – Noon hours.

WEEKDAY SERVERS:

Thursday, Jan. 3, Friday, Jan. 4 & Saturday, Jan. 5
Maggie Pothast, Morgan Siefker, Jarron Swick

LITURGICAL MINISTERS - January 5 & 6: SERVERS:

5:00pm Blake Schram, Anna Wisner,
Noah Wittler
7:30 am Emilee Calvelage, Grace Fischbach,
Reilly Fitzpatrick
9:30 am Justin & Jared Liebrecht, Brook Hellman

OFFERTORY GIFTS:

5:00 pm Isadore & Rose Siefker Family
7:30 am Volunteers Needed
9:30 am Charles & Mary Jane Landwehr Family

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

5:00 pm Sharon Kleman, Doreen Knippen,
Shelly Knippen, Sue Knippen,
Hannah Knippen, Kathy Luersman
7:30 am **Volunteers Needed**
9:30 am Chad Recker, Kelly & Tony Recker,
Jamie Saum, Larry Schroeder,
Doug Sickels

LECTORS:

5:00 pm Agnes Krietemeyer
7:30 am Volunteers Needed
9:30 am Pat Liebrecht

USHERS:

5:00 pm Kevin & Mandi Kahle
7:30 am **Volunteers Needed**
9:30 am Brian & Shelley Hoersten

Please Pray for the Sick: Penney Gerdeman



December 23, 2018:

Envelopes	\$ 3,837.00
Loose	\$ 908.00
Maintenance	\$ 40.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 75.00
All Saints Day Env.	\$ 25.00
Religious Retirement	\$ 40.00
Christmas Envelope	\$ 9,808.00
Christmas Loose	\$ 1,845.00

(YTD as of December 23, 2018,) = **\$ 95,498.83**

YTD Under Budget = \$ **-501.17**

Thank you for your continued generosity!

BAPTISMS: To arrange a baptism please
Call the Parish Office or Deacon Larry (cell)
(419) 302-2532 or by email larry@fjsb.com.

BAPTISM CLASSES

Baptismal Class will be Tuesday, January 8th.

Please attend instructions **before**
the birth of the child.

****Call the Parish Office to register for class****

**Attend a Pre-Marriage Preparation Class
before your marriage.**

Find Marriage Prep Classes at
<http://ToledoMarriagePrep.org>

Bulletin submissions deadline:
Wednesdays at Noon.

Pray for Peace Day

Pray for Peace Day – Tuesday, January 1, 2019 after
9:30 Mass we will have Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament.

The rosary and prayers for peace will be recited every
hour starting at 10:30 am (11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30,
3:30, 4:30) followed by closing benediction at 5:00 pm.
Please come and give one hour of prayer to God. This
is a great way for the family to start the New Year.

**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
(Holy Day of Obligation)**

MONDAY, DEC. 31, 4:00 P.M. VIGIL MASS:

SERVERS: Raylee Clay, Brad Eickholt, Tyler Kahle

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Don Bonifas,
Amy Eickholt, Nick Fields, Deena Walsh,
Christina Gerdeman

LECTOR: Penney Gerdeman

USHERS: Volunteers Needed

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 9:30 A.M.:

SERVERS: Carson Kazee, Kristen Luersman,
Kyle Norbeck

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Marilyn Metzger,
Erin Osting, Jennifer McElroy, Karan Maenle,
Trish Moening

LECTOR: Mike Knippen

USHERS: Volunteers Needed

**Memorial Mass for
Fr. Tony Borgia**

Sunday, January 13th at 9:30 a.m.

Come and celebrate the life of Fr. Tony who gave so
much to our Parish and the community of Fort Jennings.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual
light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all
the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in
peace.

Christmas is over, the presents unwrapped,
the parties ended, the food consumed. Maybe you are
feeling a little sad that the festivities are done.

But if you're reading this, you're a Catholic and
you need to realize Christmas has just begun. The TRUE
Christmas. Christ is here! Now we can truly focus on
what Christmas means. Not the presents, the food, the
beautiful lights and decorations. It's HIM... the son of
God, sent down to earth for YOU! This is the season to
reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with
him...including the fact that he was born to die for us.

The liturgical season of Christmas beings
Christmas day and ends on the Feast Day of the Baptism
of the Lord, January 13th.

Do not despair in a post-Holiday let down. Do
not be sad that the fun and festivities are over. Open
your hearts, continue to spend time with family, enjoy
them for who they are not what they have given you.
Play a game with them or just sit and talk.

This is the time where people also start to
consider New Year's resolutions. One of the top is to
lose weight, perhaps cut back on a certain food you
enjoy, spend less money, etc. Most resolutions are
about changing something you consider "bad" about
yourself.

Perhaps this year your resolution could be about
making your behavior more giving. Resolve to go visit
local nursing homes once a month. To volunteer at the
hospital, to become a Eucharistic Minister to the home
bound. What about volunteering for the "Friends of
Hope" ministry here at church that helps with funerals.
Go to adoration of the blessed sacrament once a month.
Maybe take a parishioner who doesn't drive out to eat or
shopping every other month; go play cards with the
elderly. These may be little things to you but the world
to the person you give the attention. Make your New
Year less about "you" and more about others.

Christ came down on Christmas day, it's up to us
to keep him alive all year long.

What you have done...

Gazing at the sight before her, she crumpled to the ground with tears streaming down her face. All she could utter was, "I cannot repay you" over and over again. She sobbed the words "Thank You" repeatedly. She was dumbfounded, humbled and grateful.

"I just want to thank you, again, you have no idea what you have done for my children," another lady told me. She couldn't say those two words enough as she tried to hold back the tears. "You have given my children a great Christmas, one that they deserve".

He came down the stairs and was shocked at the sight before him. A young man who works but has a family and it's just too hard to make Christmas gifts happen. When told these presents were for him and his family, he literally covered his face with his hands and cried.

These are the situations those of us that work at church and the person that organizes the Christmas Sharing program here at St. Joseph are blessed to see every year. We even said how we are blessed that we are the ones that get to witness the gratitude of those our parishioners help. We wanted to share it with you in some way without compromising the confidentiality of the program. To share with you the blessings YOU have given to these individuals and families. Their gratitude and shock are so very sincere and heartfelt. Every one of us that were involved were crying at some point, our hearts full of joy at what our parishioners had done to help those in need.

Let me tell you some about these families, again without compromising their confidentiality. One family is a single parent with severe health problems, which prohibits substantial employment.

Every other family we helped are what are called the "working poor". One has had health issues in the past, requiring surgery, is now thankfully working again; but that just started a little over a month ago.

Another, the mother works multiple jobs but all low paying and just enough to cover the essentials like utilities, rent, food and clothing for her family.

These families are not "lazy", they work but are not blessed with jobs that have high pay. I know some people think, "Why don't they just get a better job." That's not always possible. Some have issues that prohibit them from working factory jobs, perhaps their age or just physically unable. Perhaps they don't have the education to obtain a high paying job. Others just aren't mentally equipped to go to college and get that type of employment. Also, if we didn't have people working the lower waged jobs, where would we be as a society? No cashiers, gas station attendants, nursing home aides, restaurant employees, etc. All of those jobs are vital to the smooth running of our everyday life but not exactly the most substantial pay. That's where we come in, the children of Christ and bless them at this, one of the holiest times of year. We are paying back what God has given us... Christ, His son born to die on the cross for our sins.

We want to thank each of you that donated to the Christmas Sharing Tree and want you to know that what you have done, you changed the lives of these people. Yes, gifts are temporary, the things that you donated will be well used and eventually worn out, but you have given them hope. Faith that humanity is still good. You've made them thankful and perhaps you've sparked their faith as they've witness what true Christians are.

To the lady that kept saying, "I can't pay you back." She was told, "We don't want you to pay us back, that's not what this is about, this is about us giving from our hearts. If you are ever in the situation where you can help someone else, pay it forward."

We truly believe if she can help someone in just the smallest way, she will; because of the help we have given her and the thankfulness in her heart to each of you for caring about her. She was told, "this is what the town you live in will do for you."

What we witnessed was a testament to the small-town generosity and goodness we have here in Fort Jennings, the caring about your neighbors and being there for them in their time of need.

We pray that God will bless each of you for your generosity of heart, your caring for His children. We pray he blesses you with health, happiness and a grateful heart for all you have in your life. We pray he blesses you that you are never in the situation where you need help, we pray that if you ever are; we are still here helping.

Christmas is not over... as long as the joy of Christ is in your hearts.