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:
Tuesday: 7:00 pm
Wednesday: 7:00 pm
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
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Fort Jennings, Ohio                                             September 13, 2020

Sat  12  5:00 pm  Marie Hill
      Alice Zimmerly
Sun  13  7:30 am  For Souls in Purgatory
      9:30 am  Bob Meyer Family
      Jerry Meyer
Mon  14
Tues 15  7:00 pm  George Krietemeyer
Wed 16  7:00 pm  For our Church & it’s Leaders
Thurs 17  7:00 pm  For our Beloved Deceased
Fri 18  7:55 am  For the Religious Ed Students
Sat 19  5:00 pm  Mary Michel
Sun 20  7:30 am  For Peace in our Country
      9:30 am  Theodore “Ted” Wieging
      Dave Gasser

THIS WEEK’S READINGS
Mon 09/14  The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
         Nm 21:4b-9  Phil 2:6-11  Jn 3:13-17
Tues 09/15  Our Lady of Sorrows
         1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a  Jn 19:25-27
Wed 09/16  Saints Cornelius, Pope and
         Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
         1 Cor 12:31-13:13  Lk 7:31-35
Thu 09/17  Saint Robert Bellamie, Bishop
         1 Cor 15:1-11  Lk 7:36-50
Fri 09/18  1 Cor 15:12-20  Lk 8:1-3
Sat 09/19  Saint Januarius, Bishop & Martyr
         1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49 Lk 8:4-15

FRIDAY MORNING MASSES are at 7:55 am

RCIA will begin in September!!  RCIA is for those discerning a call to enter the Catholic Church as well as for Catholics who, for whatever reason, have not yet received their First Communion and/or Confirmation. If you are interested in joining RCIA, please contact Karan Maenle at 419-286-2877.

Have you ever wondered what the Catholic Church really teaches about the Bible, Mary, the Communion of Saints, Eucharist, Baptism, Marriage, Papal Authority, Confession, Purgatory, the End times, etc.? If so, this inquiry class, known as RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) may be for you!

LITURGICAL MINISTERS -  September 19 & 20:
SERVERS:
5:00 pm  Kyle Britton
7:30 am  Ryan Aldrich
9:30 am  Owen Dube

Eucharistic Ministers:
5:00 pm  Nancy Wiechart, Karen Young,
         Don Bonifas
7:30 am  Volunteers Needed
9:30 am  Denise Sukup, Lisa Wisner, Teresa Wurst

Lectors:
5:00 pm  John Michel
7:30 am  Volunteer Needed
9:30 am  Doug Sickels

Ushers:
5:00 pm  Jerry Vetter, Roger Trentman
7:30 am  Volunteers Needed
9:30 am  Darren Beining, Charlie Gerdeman

Please pray for the sick:  Cherie Luersman

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Collections are severely down.  If you do not come to Mass due to Covid, you can mail in your offertory or drop it off at the FJ Bank, Fort Jennings location.

We thank you for wearing masks and social distancing from those not in your household and ask you continue to do so. Following the guidelines protects your fellow parishioners and will keep our church open. We must follow these rules to continue worshipping as a parish family.

St. Joseph Parish Job Opening: We are looking for someone to mow lawn at the cemetery & church and do snow removal of the sidewalks at Church before Masses and morning religion. If you are interested, please email the parish office or stop in.

September 6, 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Envelopes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loose</td>
<td>$ 210.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>$  762.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YTD as of September 6 = $32,340.60
YTD Under Budget = $7,659.40

Thank you for your continued generosity.

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BAPTIZED as a new member of the Catholic Church:
CHARLOTTE ROSE NEIDERT, daughter of Nolan & Kathryn (Wallenhorst) Neidert. May these parents be guided by the Holy Spirit as they share the faith with Charlotte. Best Wishes from the Catholic Community in Fort Jennings.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
Town & drop off kids should be dropped off between 7:45-7:55 AM.

Friday Morning Masses: Please reserve all the front pews on all sides for the children. You may use the back two rows on the baptismal & choir sides. No pews are available in the center sections, use the folding chairs.

PARKING for Friday morning Masses: Please, do NOT park alongside the church in the parking lot or the street spaces in front of church, these areas need to be used for buses. Use the side of the church by Brown Insurance Agency for parking or in the lot closest to the bus garage. Thank you all for your cooperation.

99.58% of our goal!!! Will you be the donation to put us over the top? 140 parish families have donated $13,940.50 of our $14,000 goal! If you have not yet donated, PLEASE do so today. Our parish consistently meets our goal and that is something to very proud of! Envelopes for the ACA can be found around church or for more information, visit the Diocesan website at Toledodiocese.org/ACA.

DUE to COVID, and direction from our CLC HOME OFFICE, ALL CLC events are to be cancelled through the end of 2020! We will not be hosting our annual ELECTION NIGHT SUPPER! We hope to continue with the ELECTION DINNER in November 2021! Stay safe during these uncertain times and mostly, remember to do your civic duty and VOTE on November 3rd!!

Well it is finally here! and available for ALL St. Joseph parishioners to use and watch. The Toledo Diocese has purchased this program for every parish in the diocese for 2 years, as a way to help families stay connected to and nourish their faith. This is like a Netflix type format, with Catholic content and teachings. To sign up you can use your computer, iPad or phone. Go to FORMED.ORG Click “sign up”. Click “I belong to Parish or Organization”. Create an new account. Search our parish by typing in our zip code 45844- click “St Joseph OH 45844”. Click “next” then type in your name and email address and click “sign up”. It is that easy and from there you watch, learn and listen to whatever you like. There is so much on here from kids shows, movies, pod cast and much more. If you have any questions you can reach out to Rhonda Liebrecht.

Immaculate Conception Parish Festival will be October 4, 2020 – in a scaled down version! Drive-thru Chicken and Beef dinners will be available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Presale tickets only, at a cost of $10 includes chicken and beef, mashed potatoes/gravy, noodles, green beans, coleslaw and dinner roll. Tickets can be purchased at the Immaculate Conception Parish Office weekdays between the hours of 8am-3pm or call the Parish Office at (419) 453-3513 to make other arrangements, or after any weekend Mass in Ottoville. Final day to purchase meal tickets is September 20th!

For your convenience, the Ottoville K of C will be delivering meals to the St. Josephs’ Church parking lot at 11:00 am for you to pick yours up there, but PLEASE call the Ottoville parish office to make those arrangements! Big-Ticket drawing tickets are available at the parish office & after Ottoville weekend Masses! Big Ticket drawing is at 3:00 and includes $1500, $500, $250 & $200. Bucket Raffle tickets available at the Parish Office during business hours & you can view the items in our Fitness room or Facebook page. Tickets available after most of our weekend Masses the Fitness will be open using the west side entrance to view the items & purchase tickets on Wednesdays Sept. 9th, 16th, & 23rd from 6:00-7:00 pm, Tues., Sept. 29th and Oct.1 from 5:00-7:00 pm.

Please pray for those from Fort Jennings currently serving in the Military: Jeremy Neidert, Justin Tumlinson, Alan Fischbach, Austin Weprauch, Ryan Krane, Michael Bohmer, Austin Kehres, Matt Schramm, Andy and Adam Kleman
In marriage, communication is more than just talking. At some point, did you stop sharing about the things that were important to you? Did your spouse? Improving a marriage takes time and a conscious effort to learn about your spouse. Growing closer in a marriage does not happen automatically. Retrouvaille is a marriage program dedicated to helping couples grow closer and develop a stronger bond. You give your heart and soul to everything you do, between your work and your family. Are you giving your heart and soul to your marriage? Sometimes the distance between a husband and a wife can seem so wide that it cannot be repaired. Retrouvaille is a marriage program designed to bring couples closer together. The next weekend in our area is September 25-27, 2020.

2020 Diocesan Celebration of Wedding Anniversaries
Congratulations on your milestone wedding anniversary! The Diocese of Toledo will honor you and other couples celebrating 25, 40, 50, 60 and 60-plus years of marriage. They have met the maximum number of in person participants but will live stream the Mass celebrated by Bishop Daniel E. Thomas on Sunday, Oct. 25th, at 3:00 pm. You can still register and receive a certificate at [www.toledoanniversarymass.org](http://www.toledoanniversarymass.org) or contact Alice Jacobs at ajacobs@toledodiocese.org or 419-214-4978.

Join other young adult women to explore the call to religious life and learn more about the Sisters of the Precious Blood. This virtual retreat will be held in a series of four one-hour zoom calls beginning at 7:30 EST each evening, Monday-Thursday, September 21-25th. "Why should I attend?" We're glad you asked! Jesus issued an invitation to his disciples to "Come and See." He invited them to test the waters and learn through experience. We're offering you the same thing. Come and see what life as a Sister is like! For more information and to register: [tinyurl.com/pbcomeandsee](http://tinyurl.com/pbcomeandsee)
The "Zoom and See" retreat is an invitation for women ages 18-45 to get to know the Sisters of the Precious Blood through a series of short Zoom calls. We will meet each day Monday (Sept 21) - Thursday (Sept 24) for one hour, beginning at 7:30 pm EST. There will be an opportunity to hear vocation stories from our sisters, learn about community life, the vows, and Precious Blood Spirituality. On Sunday, September 20th, you will receive an e-mail with the Zoom link and other pertinent information. We do ask that women commit to attend to all four evenings.
If you have any questions, please e-mail Jenna at JLegg@cppsadmin.org.

Did you know you can give donations to our parish through the Diocesan website?
At [toledodiocese.org/help-your-parish-now](http://toledodiocese.org/help-your-parish-now) you can make a one time or recurring donation to our parish using your credit or debit card!
Parish receives 100% of your donation amount!
After you select the donation amount, designate Fort Jennings, St. Joseph from the drop-down menu.

September 27, 2020
A VOCATION MUST BE NURTURED
For a lifetime, not just until ordination or the taking of vows. You can help nurture the vocations of priests by praying, listening, and expressing appreciation. A life of service needs support from those served.

Please honor our Priests on this special day.
Are you grieving from a miscarriage or stillbirth? Are you, or someone you know, in need of prayer support, resources, or someone to listen who has been there before? We know this deep pain that many do not understand. We would love to send you a free care package of helpful resources, meaningful connections and a special gift in memory of your little one. Email us at [zelieministry@gmail.com](mailto:zelieministry@gmail.com) The Zelie Ministry is a miscarriage ministry sponsored by Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo.
CONSCIENCE AND THE CATHOLIC VOTER – 2ND OF 8

"In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation.”
- Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, 13

Since participation in political life is a moral obligation, Catholics need to form their conscience with the mind and heart of the Church on issues of consequence. This outline is the second of eight, which will examine important moral and political issues. This second outline will provide an overview of the issue of abortion.

Abortion

Every single human life is valuable and possesses a dignity beyond our imagination. As 4th century Church Father St. Gregory of Nyssa wrote:

God did not make the heavens in his image, nor the moon, the sun, the beauty of the stars, nor anything else which you can see… You alone are made in the image and likeness of that nature which surpasses all understanding… Nothing in all creation can equal your grandeur. (Kyriaki Fitzgerald, Persons in Communion, p. 72)

This is why the Church has unequivocally taught that abortion is an intrinsic evil, which must be opposed. It violates the fifth commandment of ‘thou shalt not kill’ as it destroys an innocent human life. No circumstance warrants any person, let alone a mother of a child, to end the life of another human person. This is why Archbishop Jose Gomez, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) once remarked,

Abortion is not a “Catholic” issue. It is a matter of fundamental human rights. In fact, I believe it is the foundational issue of our time. Because it is so important, the church has spoken clearly about it and believes it is an essential aspect of the Catholic faith. (Today’s Catholic, Newspaper of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, 10 October 2008)

Because the opposition to abortion is an essential aspect of the Catholic faith, Catholics cannot support politicians who advocate for abortion or ‘abortion rights.’ While this does not mean Catholics should only care about the abortion issue, it does mean Catholics cannot excuse or dismiss this grave error in judgment concerning politicians political positioning on this issue. As the USCCB has written:

Any politics of human dignity must seriously address issues of racism, poverty, hunger, employment, education, housing, and health care … But being ‘right’ in such matters can never excuse a wrong choice regarding direct attacks on innocent human life. Indeed, the failure to protect and defend life in its most vulnerable stages renders suspect any claims to the ‘rightness’ of positions in other matters affecting the poorest and least powerful of the human community. If we understand the human person as the ‘temple of the Holy Spirit’ — the living house of God — then these latter issues fall logically into place as the crossbeams and walls of that house. All direct attacks on innocent human life, such as abortion and euthanasia, strike at the house’s foundation. These directly and immediately violate the human person’s most fundamental right — the right to life. Neglect of these issues is the equivalent of building our house on sand. Such attacks cannot help but lull the social conscience in ways ultimately destructive of other human rights. (1998 Pastoral Letter of the USCCB, Living the Gospel of Life, 22)

In summation, abortion is not just one issue among many. It is the human rights issue of our time and the preeminent issue of life and importance in this election. As Catholics, it is our duty to protect the most fundamental right of the human person: the right to life. The intentional destruction of innocent human life is intrinsically evil. It must always be opposed.

Peter Range, Director, Office for Life and Justice, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Toledo. prange@toledodiocese.org.

“Facing Fear with Faith”

“Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid” (Mt 14:27).

You may remember these words from only a few weeks ago, taken from the Gospel for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary time. We heard of the Lord who, amidst a raging storm, came walking on the water, approaching the disciples who were in the boat. His message to them in the midst of the storm, is his message to us in the storm of this moment, indeed of these months.

It was just about one year ago in this column that I reflected on another passage from Matthew’s Gospel, remember? That one too was about a storm, and we were in the midst of the storm of the reported abuse and harassment of now former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the release of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report on the sexual abuse of minors, and the failure of some bishops to protect children.

Last year, I shared a well-known painting, Rembrandt’s “Storm on the Sea of Galilee,” and reflected on what a powerful image it was, with the reassurance that “Christ is in the Boat!”

Now, one year later, I’m sharing a lesser known image by a little known artist, of this other storm recounted by Matthew. This time, Jesus is not in the boat, but walking on the water toward the disciples. We’re told when they saw him, they were terrified and cried out in fear.

The disciples were afraid! We are afraid: afraid of drowning in the polarizing messages of the media; afraid for ourselves or for our loved ones of getting sick or dying; afraid of the results of the upcoming election; afraid of the direction so many seem to be going; afraid of the increased violence and anarchy; afraid for our children and the reopening of school; afraid of going back to attend Sunday Mass; afraid of wearing or not wearing masks; afraid of so many things!
This summer, the fear of Covid-19 hit close to home as I had traveled to the Philadelphia area for some vacation time with family and friends. Soon after I arrived, I was informed that I had been exposed to someone who had tested positive, was to get tested myself, and needed to “self-quarantine.” My vacation became isolation. I never got to see or visit with family or friends. Only after eight days did the results come back that I had tested negative. I experienced fear for myself and for those with whom I had come in contact. The fear was real. I came to understand more deeply the fear of so many of our faithful. But I found the only antidote to the fear was faith: faith that the Lord was in charge, faith that His will would be done, and faith that He would provide whatever grace I needed to confront whatever was to come.

These days, Jesus comes to us in the midst of the storm as he did to his first disciples, and offers this powerful word: “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid.” Peter made bold to tell the Lord “If it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” But once Peter saw how strong the wind was he became frightened and, beginning to sink, cried out “Lord, save me!” Today, realizing how paralyzing is the fear all around us, we might feel like we’re sinking, but we take courage in the one who can save us, and we cry out with Peter “Lord, save me!”

On my Facebook page post in which I reflected briefly on this Gospel passage, someone left this insightful comment referring to Jesus: “He offered not only his word but he offered his hand to Peter. I will grab it and hold on for this scary ride.”

The winds are strong and the storm has been raging, the Coronavirus, painful staff reductions, the loss of jobs, the inability to gather together, so many cancelled events, and now, the horrible crimes leading to the arrest of one of our priests that have once again outraged and grieved us. The storm is raging. When we were in the midst of some storm in life, my Dad would often counsel us: “just be sure to keep your nose above the water line!”

Once Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, he said to him “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” Jesus desires us to face our fears with faith, faith in Him which overcomes our doubts.

There’s another image I want to share with you – from the perspective of Peter who, looking up from under the water, vaguely sees the figure of Jesus, and a strong hand and arm plunged into the water ready to pull him up! Jesus questioned Peter’s faith, but He saved him. In the midst of all the storms raging around us, we need to ask ourselves whether we are concentrating on how strong the winds are, whether our attention is turned to being frightened by all that is around us, or whether we’re keeping eyes fixed on Christ, seeing his strong hand and arm plunged through the wind swept waters ready to pull us up, and whether we’re reaching out to him with confidence. We can face fear with faith, or with doubt. Together, let’s face our fears with faith.

These days, don’t focus on the storms but on Christ Jesus, and with deep faith hear him say: “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid.”

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
September 8, 2020