

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR PARISH

NOVEMBER 9, 2025



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

250 N. Bridge St., Struthers, OH 44471



ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

764 Fifth St., Struthers, OH 44471

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Daily Mass Schedule

Monday

8:30am - Holy Rosary Church

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

8:30am - St. Nicholas Church

Friday

8:30am - Christ The Good Shepherd

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday | 4pm - St. Nicholas Church

Sunday | 8am - Holy Trinity Church

9:30am - Holy Rosary Church

11am - Christ the Good Shepherd

St. Nicholas School

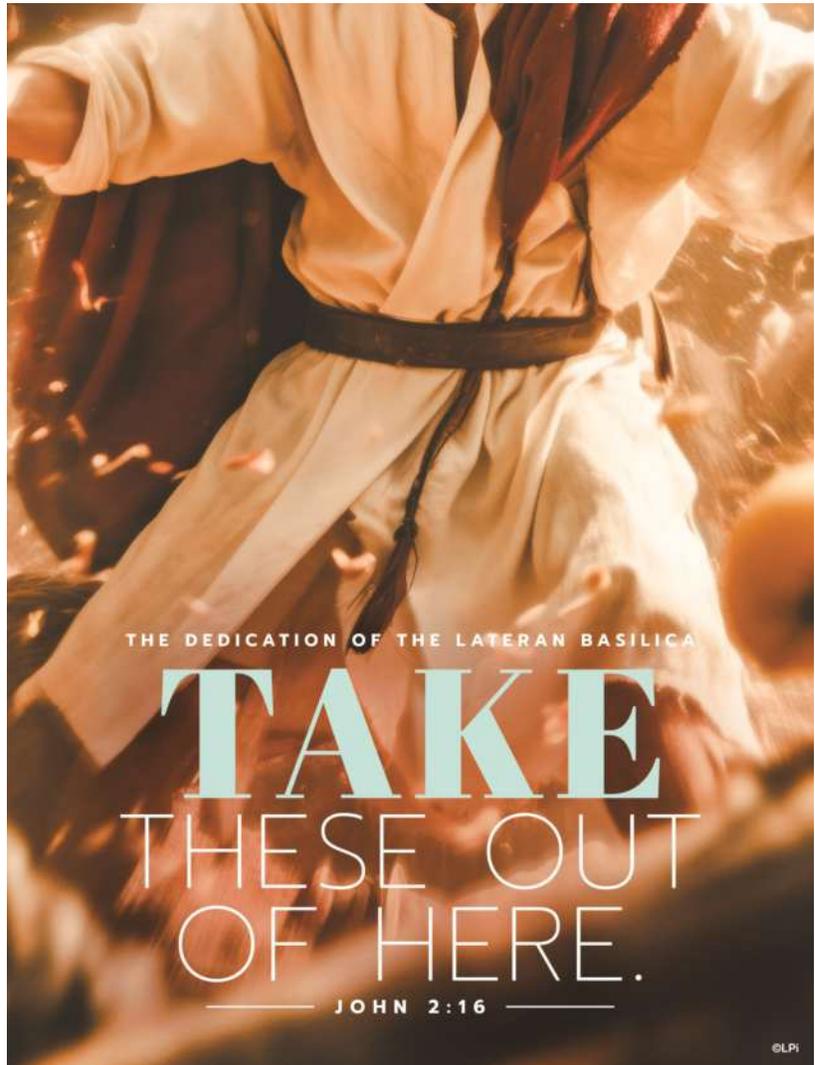
330-755-2128

stnickelem@youngstowndiocese.org

stnicholasschool.com

Katie Harold, Principal

Chrissy Goss, Secretary



GET IN TOUCH

330-755-9819 (p) | 330-755-9949 (f)

Emergency | 330-755-9810 Ext. 111

cosparishstruthers@gmail.com

www.cosparish.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday | 8:00am - 4:00pm

Rev. Thomas Kraszewski

Pastor

Religious Education

330-755-6245

BAPTISM

We baptize the 2nd & 4th Sundays each month. A preparatory class is required. Contact the Parish Office to schedule your baptism and class.

VISITING OR ANOINTING THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

Contact Parish Office to make your request

MATRIMONY

Arrangements need to be made at least 6 months in advance. Contact the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 8

4:00 pm: St. Nicholas Church:
James Evanson (Beckie & Steve Evanson)
Sandra & Frank Bell (Ralph Genova Jr)
Thomas Gregory (Linda Cifalde)
Jane Genova (Husband & Sons)
Killmeyer Family (Jeanne Dereich)
Richard A. Silvers (Joe Kraynak)

Sunday, November 9

8:00 am: Holy Trinity Church:
Antonio Battaglini (Carmen & Angela Ramunno)
Tom Kolat (Mary Ann Mihaly)
9:30am: Holy Rosary Church
11:00 am: Christ the Good Shepherd

Monday, November 10

8:30 am: Holy Rosary Church: People of the Parishes

Tuesday, November 11

8:30 am: St. Nicholas Church: Steve & Helen Martinko
(Janet & Steve Planey)

Wednesday, November 12

8:30 am: St. Nicholas Church: Mary Ann Sweder (Andy & Marilyn Prox)

Thursday, November 13

8:30 am: St. Nicholas Church: Teresa Colista (Family)

Friday, November 14

8:30 am: Christ The Good Shepherd:

Saturday, November 15

4:00 pm: St. Nicholas Church:
John Kostelnak (Family)
Adolf Kralj (Bob Gaydos)
Donald Malatok (Jim & Beverly Ramunno)
Helen Morrocco (Bulletin Stuffers)
Richard & Catherine Zebrowsky (Family)
James & Josephine DeChellis (Family)
Bill Jones (Karen & Mary Jean Antal)

Sunday, November 16

8:00 am: Holy Trinity Church:
Patsy Frattaroli (Paul & Valerie Palumbo)
Edward Walko (Wife & Family)
9:30am: Holy Rosary Church
11:00 am: Christ the Good Shepherd

Memorial Candles

for the week of November 16, 2025

Frank Babik (*Wife, Margaret*) St. Nicholas Church
Steve Millich Jr (*Pat & Joe Vagnarelli*) St. Nicholas Church
Phillip & Mary Ann Constantino (*Doreen*) Holy Trinity Church



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding Of Scripture

When I was 22, I entered St. Peter's Basilica for the first time. It floored me. I could hardly take it in, its grandeur, majestic arches, vibrant colors, and the light that danced through its high windows. Somehow, amidst such splendor, I felt an overwhelming sense of belonging, as if I had finally come home.

Jesus reorients how we Catholics see sacred buildings. In today's Gospel he says, "**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up**" (John 2:13-22). His riddle implies, shockingly, that his own body is now the fundamental dwelling place of God and humanity. The temple in Jerusalem has been superseded.

In our churches today — whether they mirror the basilica's grandeur or embrace humble simplicity — we experience architectural symbols of Christ's risen body. It is no accident we call them "churches": they make visible in brick-and-mortar Christ's body which is made up of the living stones we call Christians. Each church building, like St. John Lateran in Rome, or St. Peter's, or any other, is meant to be a vibrant sign of Christ's resurrected body. We should cherish and protect our churches as places where heaven touches earth, where we, as a community, are raised to the fullness of life in Christ.

— Father John Muir

STEWARDSHIP

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells within you?" 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

Simply remembering that we are "temples of the Holy Spirit" should make our daily decision making relatively easy. If we truly want to imitate Jesus, then our words and actions should reflect the love, mercy, and forgiveness that flow from His Sacred Heart. Try it for one week. Try to remember that we temples of the Holy Spirit and see how it affects the way that you live.

	Envelopes:	Online:
November 2nd	\$8128.00	\$1115.00
All Saints:	\$684.00	
Christmas Flowers:	\$175.00	
Energy:	\$20.00	
Mission Sunday:	\$457.00	
Religious Retirement:	\$90.00	
Mass Attendance:	341	

November Envelopes: Christmas Flowers, Retirement for Religious, St. Vincent de Paul

The Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica - November 9, 2025

"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." (John 2:19)

The Church needs those who are willing to dedicate their lives to nurturing the Body of Christ. Are you being called to help build up the Church as a priest or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Diocese of Youngstown Office of Church Vocations at vocations@youngstowndiocese.org.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Did you know there are churches in Rome older than St. Peter's? St. John Lateran is one of four major basilicas in the Eternal City, and it is by far the oldest. The land was donated by an ancient Roman family to the Emperor Constantine, who in turn gave it to the Church. For hundreds of years, St. John Lateran was the "mother church." Popes lived on the grounds through the 14th century. The church itself suffered from pillaging by invaders, fires, and earthquakes. It has been restored and rebuilt five times since the 300s. On this feast, we remember more than a building. We celebrate the resiliency of our faith. Though trials may come in our parishes, personal lives, and the world, the Church endures through the grace of Jesus Christ.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This past week the Catholic Church in the United States has been celebrating National Vocation Awareness Week. This annual week-long celebration is dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and lay pastoral ministry through prayer, education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations. There is a very important need for vocations in the Church during these challenging times. There is a need for priests, deacons, men and women religious, and lay ministers to face the ministerial and evangelical mission of the Church.

As part of the efforts of the Diocese of Youngstown to build a culture of vocations, Bishop Bonnar has asked that every Parish in the Diocese establish a Vocations Promotion Committee. You might recall a general invitation to all the congregations at Mass in mid-September. The idea from the diocese is that I would be able to identify members who would be good candidates for this committee and offer them a personal ask as pastor. It is bit of a challenge being only pastor of two of the parishes in our collaboration for about three months and there are three parishes.

I have been told that we only need to have one Vocations Promotion Committee between the three parishes since we are in collaboration. They suggest that the committee have at least three people on it. If we can get one person from each parish it would be a start, but it might be nice to have a few more people participating. The committee would work on ways to promote vocations in the parishes. There will be a session with Vocation Office of the diocese to help the committee get started. We were to have names submitted to the diocese before October 18th. They did take note that there was no one from our parishes submitted and Bishop Bonnar called me to make me aware of this fact.

Again, I ask if anyone would be interested then please call the parish office to let me know. This is an important need for us to address and much gratitude if you help.

Your brother in Christ,
Fr. Tom

Saint Nicholas School News

Saint Nicholas School is taking registrations for the 2025-2026 school year.

Come and check out what our school has to offer. Students who are attending or would be attending an eligible school can apply for the EdChoice Traditional Scholarship. A list of designated schools can be found on the Ohio Department of Education website under EdChoice Scholarships. EdChoice Expansion Full Scholarships are also available to all families who are at or below 450% of the federal poverty level. A decreasing pro-rated amount dependent on the family's economic status over 450% of the poverty level is then available. Call the school office at 330-755-2128 for more information about our school and scholarship information.

Saint Nicholas School students will be collecting can goods for Christ Our Savior Parish Pantry from November 10th through November 24th. Our donations from dress down days during November will be donated to the Rescue Mission.

School Mass-Wednesday, November 12th, 2025 at 8:30am.

All are welcome.

Thank you to all who supported the Saint Nicholas School's Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser. Your support is greatly appreciated!

We would like to Congratulate the following students who have won Honorable Mention awards in the "Stay in School" poster contest sponsored by Mahoning County Juvenile Court.

<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
Lillyahna Mede Balog	Anna Waggoner	Angel Bellard
Cylina Lively		Kyia Peake
Dondre Perry		Anthony Ramos-Martinez
		Mario Reyes

Saint Nicholas School Mission Statement: *Saint Nicholas School of Struthers, Ohio in the Diocese of Youngstown, was founded in 1928 and exists to teach the Catholic Faith. Saint Nicholas School provides a learning environment committed to educating the whole child academically, spiritually and emotionally within a diverse environment in accordance with the Gospel values. We promote high standards in behavior and respect in a nurturing atmosphere that encourages success for all students in kindergarten through eighth grade.*

National Collection For The Archdiocese For The Military

This week our parish will take a collection to benefit the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS). The AMS is the Archdiocese for the Military Services, not of the Military Services. This is an important distinction, because the AMS receives no funding from the U.S. Government or U.S. Military and has no parishes from which to receive a weekly assessment. Instead, it must rely on the generosity of those whose values and priorities align with its mission, programs and services, to meet its costs. Please prayerfully consider a contribution to this special collection to support active-duty military men and women, and their families – including those from our own parish. Please give generously.

Religious Education

EMAIL: gland@youngstowndiocese.org
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FACEBOOK: @COSRelEd

Bible Study

Bible Study will continue on Thursdays at 6:00 pm in the conference room of the parish



Centering Prayer Group - meets from **3:30 - 4:30pm** on the **2nd & 4th Tuesdays** of the month in the St. Nicholas Lower Church Chapel. Tuesday, November 11 will be the last meeting of the year. Meetings will be cancelled if St. Nicholas School is closed due to inclement weather.

Chapel Crochet & Knitting Group - meets the **1st Monday** of the month at **6:30 pm** in the **St. Nicholas School library**. All skill levels are welcome. Contact Virginia Bartos at 330-406-0364 for more information.

Quo Vadis AA Meetings - Meetings are held on **Fridays** at **8 pm** in the St. Nicholas Lower Church Hall and are open to anyone seeking recovery from alcohol addiction.

Knights of Columbus Council #4471 - Meetings are held on the **first and third Monday** evenings of the month beginning at **6:30 pm** in the St. Nicholas Lower Church.

Thank You To Last Week's Pirohy Workers

Mary Helen Accattato, Doris Almasy, Carrie Antalocy, Virginia Bartos, Jackie Blake, Pauline Chrapcynski, Mike Clemente, Karen Ewsichek, Art & Arlene Ginnetti, Dan & Maria Ginnetti, Bob & Chris Granchie, Carol Grimm, Lora Latessa, Michele Liggett, Chris Maker, Paulette Marks, Sue & Tony Martucci, Mary Ann McCloskey, Barb Micco, Mary Narducci, Marty Oravec, Patty Pethel, Joe & Michele Restivo, Diane Rubino, Stephen & Faye Tarajcak, Carla Wilaj, Ed Yurcisin, Kathy Zackasee, Linda Zappia, Rich Zebrowski

(PRACTICING)

CATHOLIC

Modern Money-Changers

The “liturgy wars” are something of a hot topic in contemporary Catholic circles.

Latin chant or guitar hymns? Communion on the tongue or in the hand? Chapel veils or bare heads? Surplice or alb? It’s giving me a headache just writing it all out.

I don’t mean to say that none of this matters. The worship of the Almighty God, especially in the context of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, is no trifling matter. It is good for people to be concerned about whether or not their worship is pleasing to God. I am happy that Catholics care enough about these things to have an opinion.

I’m not going to say where I fall on this spectrum of liturgical sensibility (the headache intensifies thinking of the emails I would get). And I won’t pretend it’s not something I feel passionate about, in my own way.

But too often I find myself sniffing dismissively at the “other camp,” the folks who are drawn to a different style or tradition. Too often I see them sniffing dismissively back to me. We are, both groups, obsessed with the form of a thing — so much so that we risk forgetting the function of it.

And when I stop to think about it, I wonder if Jesus shouldn’t crack the whip at us all, the modern money-changers of the temple, who have allowed worship to become a transaction (I offer x sacrifice, I am rewarded with y feeling of fulfillment and satisfaction).

I look at the Gospel today, and I can see the purpose of the money-changers. It could be argued that, in a way, they were facilitating the laws of Moses, making possible the temple sacrifices stipulated by God.

But it matters *why* you do something, not just *how* you do it.

What good is any act of worship, if at its conclusion we do not more closely resemble the One before whom we kneel?

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



OUR SICK

Linda Agnew	Ashley Moody
Catherine Armstrong	Wendy Pakalnis
Marie Belloto	Beth Ferrell Pearce
Marilyn Blissenbach	Sebastian Pieton
Ed Bonilla Jr	Sherry Pieton
Sally Branson	Anthony Pignatelli
Linda Dallevale	Doreen Ponigar
Kathy Dean	Elizabeth Quarm
Blake Doss	Jeanette Rusu
Donny	Robert Skalada
Melissa Ferro	Jack D Slifka
Stan Floryjanski	Sgt. Robert Smith
Kathy Grecko	Goldie Strong
Heather Hanlon	Tom Sweder
Sarah Hill	Kathy Tomko
Chester Leone	Hannah Tringhese
Mark Lett	Matt Turner
Shauntelle Lett	Justine Valley
Michael Lombard	Janet Will
George S Maczko Jr	Blake Wilson
Ed Mahoney	Larry Yates
James Marco	David Yost
Maria Meadors	Richard Zebrowski
Joe Mogulich	

OUR HOMEBOUND

Penny Barone
Christine Peluso Kinsley

THOSE IN NURSING HOMES or ASSISTED LIVING

Darlene Fox	Patricia Watt
Norma Higgins	Regina Yurick
John Kotch	Amelia Zaluski
Phyllis Miglarese	Linda Ziars
Marie Phillips	

Prayer for the Sick

For those in pain and in sorrow,
God be their comfort.

For caretakers and medical staff,
God give them grace.

Surround those afflicted with Your
love, care, and mercy, You who are
our healing and hope.

Amen.

St. Catherine of Siena Parish
at ST. LUKE CHURCH
5225 South Avenue



CHRISTMAS KOLACHI

Cost: \$15.00 each

**ALL orders MUST be picked up by 2:00pm
on Saturday, December 6th.**

Orders may be picked up at the following times
at the Saint Luke Church Hall:

Thursday, December 4, 9am - 3pm

Friday, December 5, 9am - 3pm

Saturday, December 6, 10am - 2pm

Extras sold on Sunday, December 7, 11am - 11:30am

Questions? Call the parish office 330-782-9783

**ALL ORDERS AND PAYMENTS MUST BE IN BY
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

Questions, call 330-782-9783

Holiday Food Drive



*We can make a difference this holiday
season by helping those in need.*

Our parish nurses invite you to participate in a Food Drive to help stock the shelves of our food pantry in time for the holidays. Please bring your un-expired, non-perishable food items to the St. Nicholas Lower Church or the parish office by November 15.

The following items are needed:

Mashed Potatoes	Cranberry Sauce
Gravy	Pumpkin Pie Mix
Sweet Potatoes	Cookie Mix
Stuffing Mix	Flour
Green Beans	Sugar
Corn	

Thanksgiving Food Give Away

Monday, November 24, 2025 9:30 - 11am

Christmas Food Give Away

Monday, December 22, 2025 9:30 - 11am



The Christ Our Savior Food Pantry is moving to the St. Nicholas Great Hall starting November 10, 2025. The pantry hours will remain the same, 9:30 - 11am.

KOLACHI ORDER FORM

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Quantity Desired:

_____ Apricot @ \$15.00

_____ Nut @ \$15.00

_____ Poppy Seed @ \$15.00

_____ Lekvar (Prunes) @ \$15.00

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to
St. Catherine of Siena Parish.

Please mark the envelope Kolachi

Mail to: 7345 Westview Dr., Boardman, OH 44512

ALL SOULS DAY 2025

**Mary Ricottilli, Laboria Ricottilli, Julia Vernarsky,
Stephen R. Vernarsky**

By: Stephen & Joanne Vernarsky

**Mary Ann Sweder, Michael Sweder, Steve & Mary
Terlesky, John & Catherine Sweder, Nancy Sweder**

By: Mr. Thomas Sweder

**Richard J. Fallat, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Andrew G. Fallat, Mr.
& Mrs. Walter B. Zyvith**

By: Mrs. Kathryn Fallat

**Ralph & Theresa, Pete & Betty, Rose & Mel, Vito,
Danny, Neisha & Tyler**

By: Lucille Antonucci

Louis and Virginia Boano

By: Dr. Gary Boano

Ben & Lucille Siembieda

By: Mrs. Lucille Pastirak

Adamo family, Toto family, Witherow family

By: Mrs. Ann Witherow

Joseph Reichert, Emro Zetts, Adam Reichert

By: Mrs. Anna Marie Reichert

Fred Fisher, Sabel family

By: Mrs. Delores Fisher

**Mary & Amil Dannaessa, Mary & George Delost, William
Smith**

By: Atty. & Mrs. Raymond Delost

All Parents and Grandparents

By: Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wagner

Ann Marie & Phil Pizzola

By: Mr. Robert Pizzola

John & Mary Sedlacko, Robert Sedlacko

By: Miss Vivian Sedlacko

Navy & Payne family members

By: Family

Frank & Donna Malagisi,

Margaret & William Vagillion

By: Denise Malagisi

Floryjanski and Baron families

By: Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Floryjanski

Stephen S. & MaryAnn Komara,

Gene & Juanita Henry

By: Mr. & Mrs. Stephen J. Komara

Paul Martin, Mark Martin, Theresa Pavlich

By: Mrs. Frances Martin

Louie Parenti, Parenti family, Tomei family

By: Mrs. Lola Parenti

Frank Babik, Kristin Babik

By: Mrs. Margaret Babik

Catherine Gerlach, John Gerlach

By: Janet Gerlach

Boyd & Alice Henry, Betty Beil

By: Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Henry

Mr. Matthew Zanni

Michael B. Slavens, Caroline Slavens

By: Michael L. Slavens

Vito Carchedi, Ben & Virginia Marapese,

MaryJane, John, Joe McCormick,

Alex Carchedi family, John Marapese family

By: Mrs. Donna Carchedi

**Lawrence, Darrold & Larry Carroll,
deceased members of Carroll & Singer families**

By: Marilyn Carroll

Walter Reichert, Dolores Reichert,

Anna Kopper, Joe Kopper

By: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kopper

Deceased of Ornelas family & Zamily family

By: Mr. & Mrs. Dan Ornelas

Julie Markotan, John & Helen Markotan,

Mary & Adolph Chrapcynski, John Markotan, Sr.

By: Mr. & Mrs. William Chrapcynski

George A. Brandenstein,

Dorothy M. Brandenstein,

Georgie A. Brandenstein,

Carol Brandenstein Solana, Joseph P. Koken

By: Mr. & Mrs. George Brandenstein

Bolha family, Eperjesi family, Hunter family,

Koscak family, Bernardich Family

By: Mr. & Mrs. John Eperjesi

Bob McCullough, Richard Jonda,

Paulette Petrosky, Bob, Mary, Bob, Jr. &

Kevin Dougherty

By: Mrs. Betty McCullough

Virginia R. Cifra, Mary H. Cifra, Geo S. Cifra

By: Mr. Edward Cifra

John & Helene Hamrock, Rubicky family &

Hamrock family

By: Cindy Hamrock

Ron Bartholomew

By: Mrs. Suzanne Bartholomew

Pat Gaia, George Gemma, Mary Gemma

By: Mary Ann Gaia

Patsy A. Dorenzo, Catherine H. Dorenzo,

Howard Austin, Elsie I. Austin,

Howard E. Austin

By: Mr. & Mrs. David W. Austin

Helen Schultz, Marjorie Dunn,

John Novakowski, Kenneth R. Dunn,

Kenneth A. Dunn

By: Mrs. Nancy Dunn

All people that have died from our church

By: Mrs. Helen Belchyk

Pete & Mary Lou Kasper,

Joe & Mary Zumpella, Andy & Martha Joseph,

Pete & Katherine Kasper

By: Mr. & Mrs. Clement Zumpella

Vieitez family, Novoa family

By: Mrs. Dolores Vieitez

Joseph Delfre, Carol Delfre, Angelo Delfre

By: Assunta Delfre

Hegedusich, Kulisz and Pokopatz Families

By: Family

John Vidman, Irene Ginnetti, Anneta Carano,

Angela Commisso, John Seman

By: Nancy Nabakowski

**Albert & Mari Kvackay,
Luis & Helen Leskovjansky,
Albert J. & Margaret Kavaky, Albert M. , Joseph,
Lucille Kavaky, William, Jean & June Ferguson,
Maryann, Nancy & Michael Sweder**
By: Mr. James R. Kavaky

**Robert & Clara Andrews, Marie Lenhard,
Flo Aylor** *By: Nicole Brenner*

**Anthony & Mary Helen Jasinski,
Charles T. Jasinski, Jessica Jasinski,
Charles & Nellie Kovac, Anthony & Victoria Jasinski,
Edward Evans, George A. Mitchell**
By: Patricia Jasinski

**Fe Decena, Higino Abatayo, Joseph Gabrielcik,
Helen Gabrielcik, Emma & Joseph Becker,
MaryAnn Becker, Dennis Becker**
By: Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Becker, Jr.

**Annetta Carano, Joe Carano, Eida Raybuck,
Maria Giammarco** *By: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Carano*

**Ronald Vasvari, Robert Vasvari, Joseph Novak,
Helen Novak, Victor Vasvari, Nellie Vasvari,
Ronald Havallo** *By: Mrs. Joanne Vasvari*

**Ralph Porfilio, Mary Porfilio, Robert Porfilio,
Angela Lewis, Jean Porfilio, Harry Dworak,
Albert Yurcisin, Sr.** *By: Mrs. Merceda Yurcisin*

**Andy & Kathryn Koval, Michael Koval,
Edward Koval, John & Joan High,
Scott & Barbara Carnahan** *By: Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey High*

**Richard Brenner, James & Mary Brenner,
Evelyn & Joseph Burgmyer** *By: Mr. Paul Brenner*

Mediate & Ramunno families
By: Mrs. Anita Mediate

**Alphonso & Jean Ghioldi, Dorothy & Thersea Cutteri,
Aldo Cederone** *By: Michael Brenner*

Mike & Gerry Butch, John & Annie Paul
By: Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Myers

**Paul Hassey, Veronica Hassey, Robert Bernard,
Helen Carl, Helen Kosek, Mildred Bernard**
By: Mrs. Eleanor Bernard

**Alfredo & Antonietta Centofanti, Arnaldo & Filomena
and Dino Polce, Tonino Centofanti**
By: Mr. & Mrs. Gino Centofanti

**Pompie & Mamie Ghioldi, Raymond & Susan Nikoloff,
Joseph Burgmyer** *By: Joann Burgmyer*

Jean Cooksey, Paul & Betty Ghioldi
By: Christina Brenner

**Michael Rusnak, Mary Rusnak, George Rusnak,
Ted Churparkoff, Don Gulick, Irene Chrislip,
Michael Chrislip** *By: Regina Yurick*

*Mr. Jack White
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bionci, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. William Norris
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Stenglein
Joyce Centofanti
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Restivo
Mr. & Mrs. Benny Marapese, Jr.
Mr. Mark Dubiel, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Flesher
Mrs. Sally Almasy
Mr. Gary Malagisi
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Allshouse
Mrs. Domenica Leone
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Eiselstein
Mrs. Clara Silvers
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Becker
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Granchie
Mr. Paul Melone*



©LPI



Diocese of Youngstown

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 28, 2025

To the Clergy, Religious, and Faithful of the Diocese of Youngstown,

Traditionally, in the month of November it is our custom as Catholics to pray for and remember our beloved dead. These prayerful remembrances typically involve such things as Holy Mass, the veneration of relics, Books of Remembrance and visits to the cemetery.

As we remember our beloved dead, we also become mindful of our own mortality and the need to prepare accordingly. To that end, it is important that we embrace this November time to prepare a Last Will and Testament, along with Advanced Medical Directives with the establishment of a Durable Power of Attorney and ensuring that we have in place arrangements for a proper funeral and burial. Some people even are intentional about selecting the readings and music for their funeral liturgy. Some make it known as to whether they prefer direct internment or cremation. At the time of our death, our loved ones can find solace from their grief in knowing that everything is in order and few if any decisions need to be made on their part.

At a time in which words are hard to come by, the Church has in place an Order of Christian Funerals that offers words and a direction forward in commemorating the death of a loved one while, at the same time, celebrating their life with reverence and solemnity. The Church is always available and willing to accompany those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The clergy and staff of our parishes stand ready to be of support to you when your loved one dies along with our local funeral directors. Our diocese is blessed to collaborate with these professionals at what is unquestionably a difficult time.

In recent years throughout our diocese those involved in parish life and pastoral care to the grief stricken who have lost a loved one have been experiencing a definite and growing trend. The trend concerns the locations of wakes or visitations in the parish church. It should be noted that this trend does not happen in some of our churches given the fact that the church building is unsuitable for such an arrangement. Another reason why it may not happen is that the pastor, out of respect for the sacredness of the church, has not permitted it to happen. Some of these permissions depend solely on the pastor and when a new pastor changes direction it can become personal and problematic. Despite the growing trend, there is no consistency in practice in our diocese making the protocols uneven and disjointed. As a result, for the past year, we have been with the help of our funeral directors, presbyteral council, and deans examining this situation in the hopes of establishing a uniform policy for the diocese that would best reflect Church teaching and give both due respect to our church buildings and the deceased as well.

144 West Wood Street • Youngstown, Ohio 44503
(330) 744-8451 • Fax (330) 742-6448 • Email: dbonnar@youngstowndiocese.org

In reviewing this matter, it was discovered that many years ago when a member of the Catholic faithful died, the wake or visitation would often take place in the family home. The purpose of this event was to gather as a family to mourn, tell stories and to pray together. Eventually, the age of funeral homes arose, and funeral home became the place for visitations.

Today more families are requesting to hold the visitation for a loved one in church. This increasing trend to hold visitation in church can be attributed to several factors including, a matter of convenience, and cutting costs.

One of the concerns about having visitation in church is that the sacred space is compromised by noise and activity unbecoming of the reverence due to the Blessed Sacrament. The recent National Eucharistic Revival called a greater attention to the Holy Eucharist and the need to practice and maintain proper respect and reverence. While we pray for the dead in our churches, they are not meant to be a funeral home.

The church building is where the community gathers to hear the Word of God, to pray together, receive the sacraments and to celebrate Holy Eucharist. The church building is both the house of God on earth and a house fit for prayer. Churches are sacred buildings intended for divine worship and prayer.

The structure of the Order of Christian Funerals serves as a guide in the discernment of this matter. The funeral liturgy is comprised of specific stations. The first part of the funeral liturgy is the Vigil which involves the prayers to be prayed during the visitation in the funeral home. The second part of the liturgy is the Transfer of the Body to the Church. The fact that there is a transfer to the church clearly indicates that the ritual does not envision a viewing in the church building.

Article 1686 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church references the Order of Christian Funerals and identifies three places in which the rites are conducted, namely, “the home, the church, and the cemetery.”

The only exception to this practice is when a priest or religious dies. The priest or religious is customarily placed in the church/chapel for public visitation. This is a tradition of the Church that will continue to be practiced in the Diocese of Youngstown.

According to the Order of Christian Funerals, we celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just. (Order of Christian Funerals #5)

Having funeral visitation in one of our churches is not in keeping with the spirit of the Order of Christian Funerals. Moreover, our study of this matter found that it is not practically possible in many of parishes for various reasons, therein, exposing a glaring inconsistency in practice.

Therefore, a after year-long study with the unanimous support of the Presbyteral Council, the Deans, the Pastoral Council, members of the clergy, and some of our area funeral directors, I hereby decree that funeral visitation will no longer be permitted in church buildings or facilities owned and operated by the Diocese of Youngstown effective December 1, 2025. The only exception to this practice will be when a priest or religious dies. The priest or religious is customarily placed in the church/chapel for public visitation. This is a tradition of the Church that will continue to be a practice in the Diocese of Youngstown.

Please know that as bishop I have a responsibility to ensure the sacredness of our church buildings with proper reverence for the Holy Eucharist. Moreover, I cannot allow a trend to compromise the spirit of the Order of Christian Funerals.

As we continue our earthly journey as pilgrims on the way, let us continue to prayerfully remember our beloved dead. "Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen." And together, let us pray, "That all may be one."

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David J. Bonnar".

Most Reverend David J. Bonnar
Bishop of Youngstown



PIROHY

@ Holy Trinity Church

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Wednesdays 4pm - 6pm and
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The COSP Food Pantry is moving to the St. Nicholas Great Hall starting **November 10, 2025**. The pantry will be **OPEN** from **9:30am - 11am** on the following Mondays:

- ⇒ **November 10**
- ⇒ **November 24**
- ⇒ **December 8**
- ⇒ **December 22**



Suggested Donations for November:

Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Sweet Potatoes, Canned Vegetables, Cranberry Sauce, Flour, Sugar, Pumpkin Pie Mix

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by Robert H. Needham

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