



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

MASS TIMES

Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Spanish Sunday 1:30 p.m.
Holy Days Check inside of bulletin
Weekdays Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3:00-3:45 p.m.
Sunday 12:30-1:15 p.m.
or anytime by appointment

PARISH STAFF

Rev. James Hatfield, *Pastor*
Ms. Brenda Stilgenbauer, *Pastoral Associate*
Ms. Cindy Teynor, *Director of Religious Education*
Mr. Jeremiah Jones, *Director of Music*
Mrs. Jodi Lindberg, *Bookkeeper*
Ms. Diane Lemmermann,
Coordinator of Family Life Center
Mr. Russ Clay, *Church and Cemetery Maintenance*



In the spirit of St. Joseph, we lovingly serve Jesus Christ and His people.

Parish Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

- ◆ **FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS** Mr. Brian Bauer, Mr. Chris Chaney, Mr. Mark Clemence, Mr. Jack Dooling, Mr. Dennis Gonano, Mr. Jan-Michael LaBrake, Mrs. Brenda Pope, Mr. Frank Rose, Mr. Joe Sciarretti
- ◆ **MARRIAGES** Arrangements should be made through the Parish Office at least eight months before any other planning.
- ◆ **BAPTISMS / BAUTISMOS** Baptisms are celebrated on Sunday at 12:30 p.m. (outside of Mass). Parents must attend the Baptismal Preparation Program. This is at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the Family Life Center. Godparents are also welcome to attend. Please pre-register by calling the Parish Office. *Bautismo en español se celebran una vez al mes después de la Misa el Domingo. Los padres y padrinos deben recibir charlas de preparación en el Centro Familiar. Deben inscribirse llamando a las Oficinas de la Parroquia.*
- ◆ **NEW PARISHIONERS** Please register in person at the Parish Office or complete a registration form (available in church). Please return to Parish Office or put in collection.
- ◆ **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS** Please have bulletin announcements to the Parish Office by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, or email stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com.

Parish Office:

330-364-6661

After Hours Emergency Line:

330-364-6662

Fax:

330-602-7488

Youth Ministry:

330-364-6661

Hispanic Ministry:

330-364-6661

Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School:

330-343-9134

Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School:

330-343-3302

St. Joseph Church

Dover, Ohio 44622

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 9 and 10, 2023

9 y 10 de Diciembre del 2023



Mass Intentions

Monday, December 11

No Mass

Readings: 181: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 12

6:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

5:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary

6:00 p.m. Ann Sarago

Readings: 690A: Zec 2:14-17/(Ps) Jdt 13/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 13

8:15 a.m. Orlando Doriche

9:00 a.m. Rosary

Readings: 183: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 14

8:15 a.m. Denny Casady

9:00 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration

Readings: 184: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145/Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 15

8:15 a.m. Teresa Anne Rupp

Readings: 185: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 16

The Vigil for The Third Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m. Jim and Nancy Zifer

Sunday, December 17

The Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Patrick Bearducci

11:00 a.m. John and Katherine Gopp

1:30 p.m. The People the Parish (Spanish Mass)

Readings: 8: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/(Ps) Lk 1/1 Thes 5:16-24/
Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

Ministry Schedule

Tuesday, December 12 – 6:00 p.m. – Vicki Wilhelm

Wednesday, December 13 – 8:15 a.m. – Matt Ritzert

Thursday, December 14 – 8:15 a.m. – Jeannine Kennedy

Friday, December 15 – 8:15 a.m. – TCCES Students

December 16, 2023

4:00 p.m.

Lectors: Mary Salvo – 1st Lector

Lyle Tope – 2nd Lector

Eucharistic Ministers: Tim Avon, Jackie Hostetler,

Beth Cecil, Susan Murphy, Michelle Tope,

Volunteer Needed

Ushers: Tim Avon, Roy Montan, Vince Sandy

Servers: Cecilia Hostetler, Chase Hostetler,

Carter Gilmore

December 17, 2023

8:30 a.m. Mass

Lectors: Keith Knestaut – 1st Lector

Jack Burnham – 2nd Lector

Eucharistic Ministers: John Kuczirka, Sharon Kuczirka,

Andrea Settimio, Lou Settimio, Doug Telle,

Laura Barkett, Matt Ritzert

Ushers: Chris Chaney, Kelly Chaney, John Karl,

Max Burnham, Ronnie Saffell

Servers: Miya Olson, Matthew Olson, Jennifer Ajanel

11:00 a.m. Mass

Lectors: Mike Ernest – 1st Lector

Cathy Galbraith – 2nd Lector

Eucharistic Ministers: Dan Galbraith, Mary Elco,

Patti DeVault, Beth Ernest, Volunteers Needed

Ushers: Patti DeVault, Lindsay Williams,

Larry and Linda Clawson

Servers: Izzy Murphy, Megan Martinez, Nick Civiello

Offertory for December 2 and 3, 2023

Loose Cash and Checks	\$ 3,996.00
Adult Weekly Envelopes	\$ 6,575.00
Online Giving	<u>\$ 625.00</u>
Total	\$ 11,196.00
Other Funds	
Poor Fund	\$ 295.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 63.00
Youth Ministry	\$ 175.00
St. Joseph School Subsidy	\$ 180.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 555.00
Other Collections	\$ 350.00

Your contributions make the mission of St. Joseph
Parish possible and keep our parish financially sound.
Thank you for your generosity.

If you know of a friend or family member that is in the hospital for surgery or due to illness, or is currently homebound, please call the Parish Office and someone will visit them as soon as possible.



Prayer Chain: To place your request on the prayer chain, please call the Parish Office or Charlene Herzig at 330-343-1063. If no one is available, please leave a message.

Spiritual Notes

Today, we hear from the prophet known as Second Isaiah. Beginning in Chapter 40, the tone of the book changes, as does the perspective. A book that formerly presented words of judgment and doom to the people of Judah and Jerusalem now turns to prophecies of "comfort," addressing the exiled people in Babylon. The prophet announces that their "guilt is expiated" and calls them to "prepare the way of the Lord," who comes to deliver them and bring them home to Jerusalem. "Here is your God!" the prophet cries out. In Second Peter, we are encouraged to live in anticipation of the Lord's return, conducting ourselves "in holiness and devotion." God desires that all should come to repentance, and so what seems like a delay is an opportunity for us to reform our lives, a message echoed by the prophets of the Old Testament and John the Baptist. For Mark, the ministry of John the Baptist is a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy of a voice of one crying out in the desert. Today's Gospel is unusual in that while it anticipates Jesus' presence, He is not yet present. We hear from the precursor, John, who is presented in imagery echoing the prophets of Biblical Israel: clothed in camel's hair ... feeding on locusts and wild honey. John calls us to prepare the way of the Lord. Joan Chittister, in her book *The Liturgical Year*, reminds us that "it is while waiting for the coming of the reign of God ... that we come to realize that its coming depends on us." As we wait, let us prepare by transforming our lives with the power of God's love, that we may welcome Him when He comes.

For reflection: What can I do to help prepare the way of the Lord? Has there been a time in my life when I experienced God's patience with me before I repented?



Father Jimmy announced last week that after many requests, he has decided we will continue to pray the Rosary, 30 minutes before each of the weekend Masses. If you would like to volunteer to lead the Rosary, please call Brenda in the Parish Office.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis has granted the privilege of a plenary indulgence for all the faithful to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Christmas in Greccio, Italy. The indulgence is available, under the usual conditions, from December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception to February 2nd, the Feast of Presentation. In order to gain this plenary indulgence, one must visit a church run by the Franciscans throughout the world and stop in prayer in front of the nativity scene set up there. Those who are sick or unable to participate physically can equally benefit from the gift of the plenary indulgence by offering their suffering to the Lord or carrying out practices of piety. In the Diocese of Columbus, Christ the King Parish and St. Thomas Parish are run by Franciscans. Please check for Franciscan-run parishes in your travels to other dioceses.

Mark Your Calendars!

December 13, 2023

TCCES Christmas Play
St. Joseph Church – 6:30 p.m.

December 16, 2023

Breakfast with Santa!
Knights Hall – 9:00 a.m.

December 17, 2023

Family Faith Formation Family Day
TCCES Gym – 9:45 a.m.

December 20, 2023

St. Joseph Seniors
Ricardo's Party Center – Noon



December 23, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mass – 4:00 p.m.

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Mass Times

December 24, 2023

Masses – 5:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m. (in Spanish) and 11:30 p.m.
Music begins 30 minutes before Mass

December 25th

Mass – 9:00 a.m.
Music begins 30 minutes before Mass.

St. Joseph Youth Ministry

December 17th – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Family Life Center

Upcoming Dates!

January 7, 2024

Family Life Center

January 21, 2024

Holy Trinity

The Youth Group's Pizza fundraiser forms will be coming next week. More details to come!



Christmas Flower Donation Envelopes are in your envelope packets for December. The cost is \$20.00 for three names. They must be returned by December 14, 2023.

PLEASE PRINT.

Name: _____

By: _____

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study each Monday, at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. If you would like more information, please contact John Kuczirka at 330-343-9988

O.C.I.A. Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

If you know of anyone who is interested in learning more about Catholicism and The Church's process for becoming Catholic, please encourage them to contact John Kuczirka at 330-343-9988.



**The last drawing of the year will be
Sunday, December 17th at 5:00 p.m.
There are a few tickets still available!**

St. Joseph Soup Kitchen

The intention for the Soup Kitchen is to serve God's children in need: the poor in spirit, as well as the needy. Teams, if you need assistance, please contact Andrea Settimio or the Parish Office.

December 13, 2023 - Team A (Mike and Jack)

December 20, 2023 - Team G (Joan Wenzel)

December 27, 2023 - Team D ()

January 3, 2024 Team C ()

January 10, 2024 - Team E ()

*** *please note schedule change* ***

Please keep our guests and volunteers in your prayers!

Mini Food Pantry

Our Mini Food Pantry box, located at the Family Life Center, has been able to provide food for many people in need. Our volunteers are restocking several times a week.

The items most in need are:

Tuna	Jelly
Canned Pasta	Beef Stew
Toothbrushes	Shampoo

If you would like to contribute items, there is a tote in the Vestibule of the church. Or you can make monetary donations, by placing an envelope in the collection basket marked "Mini Pantry."

We have been looking for a volunteer who would be interested in doing the shopping for our Mini Pantry.

If you would like more information, please call Brenda in the Parish Office.



Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools



You're Invited Christmas Concert

TCC High School

December 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Special performances by the Central Catholic Chorale
and
Saints Percussion

The Neal Kwasnicka Tuition Assistance Catholic Foundation Endowment Fund

The Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School, Tuition Assistance Fund named in honor of longtime custodian at Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School, is being established by the St. Joseph Parishioners at his retirement with love and gratitude for his service to the community. If you would like to make a contribution to this new endowment fund that will provide tuition assistance to deserving students, who will attend TCCES, in the future, please make your checks payable to either TCCES or the Catholic Foundation. For more information, please call the St. Joseph Parish Office.

Do you want to help our Catholic Schools financially?

The Diocese of Columbus Office of Catholic Schools recently launched the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund, a scholarship granting organization of the Diocese of Columbus that was formed to capitalize on a new tax credit passed into law by the Ohio Legislature in late 2021. As dictated by Ohio law, the funds raised by the SGO are to be used *primarily* for academic scholarships for students to attend K-12 schools and *prioritized* for low-income families. However, ALL students in Our Catholic Schools have the potential to benefit from these scholarship funds. **How does it work?** Donors who make a gift to the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund receive a dollar-for-dollar credit (not a deduction) on their Ohio income tax liability - up to \$750.00 per person, or \$1,500.00 if married filing jointly - effectively allowing them to make a choice about how their Ohio tax dollars are utilized. Donors can restrict their gift for the benefit of one or more schools of their choosing, or they may direct their dollars to the unrestricted fund which helps the greatest number of students in the diocese.

The Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund creates much-needed scholarship dollars for Our Catholic Schools while giving donors the power to put their tax dollars to work to support Catholic education. For additional information, visit the fund web site at www.emmausroadscholarship.org or contact OCS Associate Director of Advancement Theresa Vivona at tvivona@columbuscatholic.org.

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

*"What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?" ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)*

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

"If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself. Order your soul; reduce your wants; live in charity; associate in Christian community; obey the laws; trust in Providence." +SAINT AUGUSTINE

Monday, December 11 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent Saint Damasus I, Pope

Holy Gospel: Luke 5:17-26 One day as Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there, and the power of the Lord was with him for healing. And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; they were trying to bring him in and set him in his presence. But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "As for you, your sins are forgiven." Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply, "What are you thinking in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – he said to the one who was paralyzed, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He stood up immediately before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God, and, struck with awe, they said, "We have seen incredible things today."

Meditation: Jesus' treatment of sinners upset the religious teachers of the day. When the paralyzed man was brought to Jesus because of the faith of his friends, Jesus did the unthinkable. He first forgave the man his sins. The scribes regarded this as blasphemy because they understood that only God had authority to forgive sins and to unbind a man or woman from their burden of guilt. Jesus claimed an authority which only God could rightfully give. Jesus not only proved that his authority came from God, he showed the great power of God's redeeming love and mercy by healing the cripple of his physical ailment. This man had been crippled not only physically, but spiritually as well. Jesus freed him from his burden of guilt and restored his body as well. The Lord is ever ready to bring us healing of body, mind, and soul. His grace brings us freedom from the power of sin and from bondage to harmful desires and addictions. Do you allow anything to keep you from Jesus' healing power?

Prayer: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may constantly exalt the merits of your Martyrs, whom Pope Saint Damasus so venerated and loved. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Is there anything in your life that keeps you from receiving the blessings of God's kingdom? The prophets foretold that when the Messiah came to usher in God's kingdom the blind would see, the deaf hear, and the lame walk (Isaiah 35:5-6). Jesus not only brought physical healing, but healing of mind, heart, and soul as well. Jesus came to bring us the abundant life of God's kingdom (John 10:10). But that new life and transformation can be stifled by unbelief, indifference, and sinful pride. Sin cripples us far more than any physical ailment can. Sin is the work of the kingdom of darkness and it holds us in eternal bondage. There is only one solution and that is the healing, cleansing power of Jesus' forgiveness. In this Season of Advent, as we prepare our hearts and minds, let us humble ourselves, let us be honest with ourselves, and let us conform ourselves to Christ, who was sent by God to redeem us.

About Saint Damasus: Saint Damasus was Supreme Pontiff from 366 to 384. He was a very learned man, well versed in the Scriptures. He commissioned Saint Jerome to complete the translation of the Bible into the Latin language. Shortly after his reign the 72 books of the Bible, hitherto scattered in different parts of the Orient, were collected into one volume. He defended the rights of the Holy See, and beautified

the Roman resting places of the Christian dead and of the saints. He also confirmed the practice of singing the Psalms day and night in the churches and adding a "Glory Be" at the end of each Psalm.

Tuesday, December 12 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Meditation: How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, "how shall this be, since I have no husband" is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust. Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the "mother of God" because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. When we pray the Nicene Creed we state our confession of faith in this great mystery: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man". God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heart-felt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help, strength, and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises and do you yield to his grace?

Prayer: O God, Father of mercies, who placed your people under the singular protection of your Son's most holy Mother, grant that all who invoke the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe, may seek with ever more lively faith the progress of peoples in the ways of justice and of peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Do you know the favor of the Lord? God lavishes his grace upon all who believe in him. He shows his favor to the lowly, to those who are humble and receptive to his word. We see the unfolding of God's plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. The new era of salvation begins with the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This child to be born is conceived by the gracious action of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, who finds favor with God. As Eve was the mother of all humanity doomed to sin, now Mary becomes the mother of the new Adam who will father a new humanity by his grace (Romans 5:12-21). This child to be conceived in her womb is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He will be "great" and "Son of the Most High" and "King" (Luke 1:32-33), and his name shall be called "Jesus", which means "the Lord saves." "He will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The promise of an everlasting kingdom to the house of David (Isaiah 9:6-7) is fulfilled in the King to be born in Mary's womb. Let us prepare ourselves in these weeks of Advent to come and adore him.

Web site of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Wisconsin including prayer intentions and Mass intentions: <http://www.guadalupe Shrine.org/>

Wednesday, December 13 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent

Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said to the crowds: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Meditation: The Jewish people used the image of a yoke to express submission to God. They spoke of the yoke of the law, the yoke of the commandments, the yoke of the kingdom, the yoke of God. Jesus says his yoke is "easy." The Greek word for "easy" can also mean "well-fitting." Yokes were tailor-made to fit the oxen well. We are commanded to put on the "sweet yoke of Jesus" and to live the "heavenly way of life and happiness." Oxen were yoked two by two. Jesus invites us to be yoked with him, to unite our lives with him, our wills with his will, our heart with his heart. Jesus also says his "burden is light." There's a story of a man who once met a boy carrying a smaller crippled lad on his back. "That's a heavy load you are carrying there," exclaimed the man. "He ain't heavy; he's my brother!" responded the boy. No burden is too heavy when it's given in love and carried in love. When we yoke our lives with Jesus, he also carries our burdens with us and gives us his strength to follow in his way of love. Do you know the joy of resting in Jesus' presence and walking daily with him along the path he has for you?

Prayer: May the glorious intercession of the Virgin and Martyr Saint Lucy give us new heart, we pray, O Lord, so that we may celebrate her heavenly birthday in this present age and so behold things eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: In the Season of Advent we celebrate the coming of the Messianic King who ushers in the reign of God. The prophets foretold that the Messiah would establish God's kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy. Those who put their trust in God and in the coming of his kingdom receive the blessings of that kingdom - peace with God and strength for living his way of love and holiness (ref. Isaiah 40). Jesus fulfills all the Messianic hopes and promises of God's kingdom. That is why he taught his disciples to pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (ref. Matthew 6:10). In his kingdom sins are not only forgiven but removed, and eternal life is poured out for all its citizens. This is not a political kingdom, but a spiritual one. The yoke of Christ's kingdom, his kingly rule and way of life, liberates us from the burden of guilt and from the oppression of sin and hurtful desires. Only Jesus can lift the burden of sin and the weight of hopelessness from us. Jesus used the analogy of a yoke to explain how we can exchange the burden of sin and despair for a burden of glory and yoke of freedom from the grip of sin. The yoke which Jesus invites us to embrace is his way of grace and freedom from the power of sin. Do you trust in God's love and submit to his will for your life? If not, why not?

Thursday, December 14 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:11-15 Jesus said to the crowds: "Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force. All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah, the one who is to come. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Meditation: John the Baptist is the last and greatest of the prophets of the old covenant. He fulfilled the essential task of all the prophets: to be fingers pointing to Christ, God's Anointed Son and Messiah. John proclaimed Jesus' mission at the Jordan River when he exclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (ref. John 1:29). John saw from a distance what Jesus would accomplish through his death on the cross — our redemption from bondage to sin and death and our adoption as sons and daughters of God and citizens of the kingdom of heaven. John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets who point the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus the Messiah. Jesus confirms that John has fulfilled the promise that Elijah would return to herald the coming of the Messiah (Malachi 4:5). Jesus declares that John is nothing less than the great herald whose privilege it was to announce the coming of the Messiah. Jesus equates the coming of his kingdom with violence. John himself suffered violence for announcing that the kingdom of God was near. He was thrown into prison and then beheaded. Since John's martyrdom to the present times the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence and persecution at the hands of violent men. The blood of the martyrs throughout the ages bear witness to this fact. The martyrs witness to the truth — the truth and love of Jesus Christ who shed his blood to redeem us from slavery to sin and Satan and the fear of death. The Lord Jesus gives us the power of his Holy Spirit to overcome fear with faith, despair with hope, and every form of hatred, violence, jealousy, and prejudice with love and charity towards all — even those who seek to destroy and kill.

Prayer: O God, who gave the Priest Saint John of the Cross an outstanding dedication to perfect self-denial and love of the Cross, grant that, by imitating him closely at all times, we may come to

contemplate eternally your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

A Prayer of Saint John of the Cross: O blessed Jesus, give me stillness of soul in You. Let Your mighty calmness reign in me. Rule me, O King of gentleness, King of peace.

Contemplation: God may call some of us to be martyrs for our faith in Christ. But for most of us our call is to be dry martyrs who bear testimony to the joy and truths of the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ in the midst of daily challenges, contradictions, temptations and adversities which come our way as we faithfully follow the Lord Jesus. What attracts others to those who follow the truth of God and his son, Jesus Christ? When they see Christians loving their enemies, being joyful in suffering, patient in adversity, pardoning injuries, and showing comfort and compassion to the hopeless and the helpless. Jesus tells us that we do not need to fear our adversaries. He will give us sufficient grace, strength, and wisdom to face any trial and to answer any challenge to our faith. Are you eager to witness to the joy and freedom of the gospel?

Friday, December 15 ~ Second Week in the Season of Advent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19 Jesus said to the crowds: "To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by her works."

Meditation: The prophets remind us that God's kingdom is open to those who are teachable and receptive to the word of God. Jesus' parable challenges us to examine whether we are selective to only hear what we want to hear. The children in Jesus' parable react with dismay because they cannot get anyone to join in their musical medley. They complain that if they play their music at weddings, no one will dance or sing; and if they play at funerals, it is the same. This refrain echoes the words of Ecclesiastes 3:4 – "there is a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance." Are you in tune with the message of the kingdom or reign of God? Jesus' message of the kingdom of God is good news and it produces true joy and spiritual freedom for those who will listen; but it is also a warning for those who refuse to listen.

Prayer: Grant that your people, we pray, almighty God, may be ever watchful for the coming of your Only Begotten Son, that, as the author of our salvation himself has taught us, we may hasten, alert and with lighted lamps, to meet him when he comes. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Why did the message of John the Baptist and the message of Jesus meet with deaf ears and with stiff resistance? It was out of jealousy and spiritual blindness that the scribes and Pharisees attributed John the Baptist's austerities to the devil and they attributed Jesus' table fellowship as evidence for messianic pretense. They succeeded in frustrating God's plan for their lives because they had closed their hearts to the message of John the Baptist and now to Jesus' message. What can make us spiritually dull and slow to hear God's voice? Like the generation of Jesus time, our age is marked by indifference and contempt, especially in regards to the things of heaven. Indifference dulls our ears to God's voice and to the good news of the gospel. Only the humble of heart can find joy and favor in God's grace. Have you come to experience the joy of the Advent season? Do you know the joy of the Gospel? Is your life in tune with Jesus' message of hope, salvation and redemption through him? 'Tis the season to get in tune with what Christ brings to each of us!

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Daily meditations and contemplations adapted from the Irish Jesuits' *Sacred Space* web page and *Biblical Medications for Ordinary Time* by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P.; prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2023



Walking With Moms in Need (WWMIN)

A small core team of volunteers has been collaborating to complete the objectives of the WWMIN initiative as provided by the diocese of Columbus. Our team consists of volunteers from all four Catholic parishes in Tuscarawas County. Primary goals revolve around completing a local inventory of pregnancy help resources; development and utilization of the WWMIN website at www.mintusc.com; adding content to the website and building a base of volunteers interested in helping us in this initiative. We ask you to please take a look at the resource inventory on the website. Let us know if anything needs to be corrected, added or removed.

The next steps of this committee will be to increase awareness of the needs of mothers; the helpful resources within our community; and how every Catholic can work toward creating a culture of life for mothers in need by walking with them through the challenges of our modern world.

Urgent Support Needed in the Holy Lands

As the war rages on, Pope Francis is reaching out to world leaders calling for a cease fire, entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza and the release of all hostages being held by Hamas. Due to longstanding presence, Catholic Relief Services has been responding to meet urgent comprehensive needs, while also monitoring possible extended needs across the region. To support their efforts, pray and consider learning more and donating to CRS at Catholic Relief Services crs.org. For more information, contact the Diocesan Office of Social Concerns at socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org or call 614-224-2540.

Save the Dates!

The 2024 Catholic Women's Conference will be held on Saturday, February 17th at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus. A week later on Saturday, February 24th, the Annual Catholic Men's Conference will be held at the same location. More information will be following



"Prepare the way of the Lord..."

– Mark 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

Learn how you can show your faith by supporting your parish and contact The Catholic Foundation. Visit www.catholic-foundation.org/development for more information.



Other Information To Note:

Pray for the Priest, Deacon, or Seminarian of the Day: Posted on the bulletin boards are calendars with the names of Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians. As you come into the church, you may want to look at the calendar and pray for the designated person of the day.

Please Note: If you would like to present the gifts at the Offertory, please contact the Ushers before Mass.

Low-gluten Hosts: If you are a person who needs to receive a **low-gluten host** because of wheat allergies or celiac disease, please call the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions: Please be reminded that any parishioner is welcome to request Masses be celebrated for deceased or living loved ones. To schedule a Mass Intention, please contact the Parish Office.

Bulletin deadline: The bulletin deadline is Monday at 12:00 p.m. Please include your contact information with phone number and email address. Bulletin notices may be in writing, faxed to 330-602-7488, dropped off, or emailed to stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com.

St. Joseph Cemetery

If you are interested in purchasing lots, or if you have questions regarding rules and regulations, please call Russ in the Parish Office, and he will be happy to assist you.



Online Giving. If you manage your bills online, we're sure you'll like giving to your church online. It's safe and secure, and you decide exactly when your gift is made and where it goes. To get started, please visit www.stjosephdover.org. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call the Parish Office.



When traveling, and you need to find information on the closest Catholic Church and the times for their Masses, please check out www.masstimes.org.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

December 2023

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

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***...and help make an authentic Catholic education
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It's true! As an Ohio taxpayer, when you make a donation to the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund, you could receive a dollar-for-dollar credit* against your state income tax liability while creating scholarship dollars for students to attend Our Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Columbus.

Even with the recent expansion to Ohio's EdChoice Scholarship program, financial need still exists for many families. Your gift helps bridge the gap between state scholarships and the cost to educate a child while reducing your Ohio tax burden, making it a win-win for everyone!

Designate your gift for scholarships at the school(s) of your choosing!

- **Tuscarawas Central Catholic Jr/Sr High School, New Philadelphia**
- **Immaculate Conception School, Dennison**
- **Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School, Dover**

Envelopes are available in church pews. Make checks **payable to Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund** and return envelopes to the collection basket.

OR donate online at <https://emmausroadscholarship.org/gift>

*Ohio tax credit is up to \$750 per person, or \$1,500 if married filing jointly. Based on tax rates posted by the Ohio Department of Taxation, an individual with an annual income of \$40,000 has an average state tax liability of \$750. Consult a tax advisor for guidance on your specific situation. The Diocesan Education Corporation (dba Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund) is a certified scholarship granting organization (SGO) in the state of Ohio.



OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
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Learn more!

Iglesias San José
Ministerios Hispanos
Segunda Domingo de Adviento
10 de Diciembre del 2023



Calendario Litúrgico:

Misas en Español
Domingo 17 de Diciembre 1:30 p.m.

Navidad
24 de Diciembre
5:00 p.m. en Ingles,
7:30 p.m. en Español
11:30 p.m. en Ingles
25 de Diciembre - NO MISA en Español

Confesiones
Antes de misa de español de 12:30 a 1:15 p.m.

Misas en Ingles
Sábados 4:00 p.m.
Domingos 8:30 a.m. y 11:00 a.m.



ADVIENTO

Un período de tiempo que dura aproximadamente las cuatro semanas que preceden a la Navidad, durante el cual los fieles se preparan espiritualmente para la celebración del nacimiento de Cristo.

Intenciones de Oración del Santo Padre
Diciembre 2023

Por las personas con discapacidad
Oremos para que las personas con discapacidad estén en el centro de atención de la sociedad, y que las instituciones promuevan programas de inclusión que potencien su participación activa.



Horario de los Coros

17 de Diciembre Seguidores de Cristo
24 de Diciembre Mensajeros de Cristo
Misa a las 7:30 p.m.

Notas Espirituales

Hoy escuchamos del profeta conocido como Segundo Isaías. Comenzando en el capítulo 40 el tono del libro cambia, al igual que la perspectiva. Un libro que presentó formalmente palabras de juicio y condenación a la gente de Judá y Jerusalén se dirige ahora a las profecías de "confort," dirigidas a los exiliados en Babilonia. El profeta anuncia que su "culpa está expiada" y los llama a "preparar el camino del Señor," que viene a liberarlos y llevarlos a casa a Jerusalén. "Aquí está su Dios!," El profeta exclama.

En la segunda de Pedro se nos anima a vivir a la espera de la venida del Señor, conociéndonos nosotros mismos "en santidad y devoción." Dios desea "que todos procedan al arrepentimiento," y así lo que parece ser un retraso es una oportunidad para nosotros para reformar nuestras vidas, un mensaje repetido por los profetas del Antiguo Testamento y Juan el Bautista.

Para Marcos, el ministerio de Juan el Bautista es un cumplimiento de la profecía de Isaías de "Una voz que clama en el desierto" El evangelio de hoy es inusual, ya que si bien se anticipa la presencia de Jesús, que aún no está presente. Escuchamos a partir del precursor, Juan, que se presenta en las imágenes haciendo eco a los profetas de Israel bíblico: "vestido de pelo de camello... (alimentándose) de langostas y miel silvestre." Juan nos llama a "preparar el camino del Señor." Joan Chittister, en su libro El año litúrgico, nos recuerda que "es a la espera de la venida del reino de Dios... que nos damos cuenta de que su venida depende de nosotros." Mientras esperamos, vamos a prepararnos mediante la transformación de nuestras vidas con el poder del amor de Dios, para que le hagamos la bienvenida cuando llegue.

Para la reflexión: ¿Qué puedo hacer yo para ayudar a preparar el camino del Señor? ¿Ha habido un tiempo en mi vida cuando yo experimenté la paciencia de Dios conmigo antes de que me arrepintiera? ¿Cómo puede este conocimiento ayudarme en mi relación con los demás?



Sacramentos. Si necesita sacramentos como: Penitencia, Comunión o Confirmación, por favor regístrese en la Iglesia al 330-364-6661.

Por favor, recuerde en su oración, a todos los enfermos, al salir de casa, y la recuperación de nuestra parroquia. Además, orar por aquellos que sufren de condiciones físicas o mentales.

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