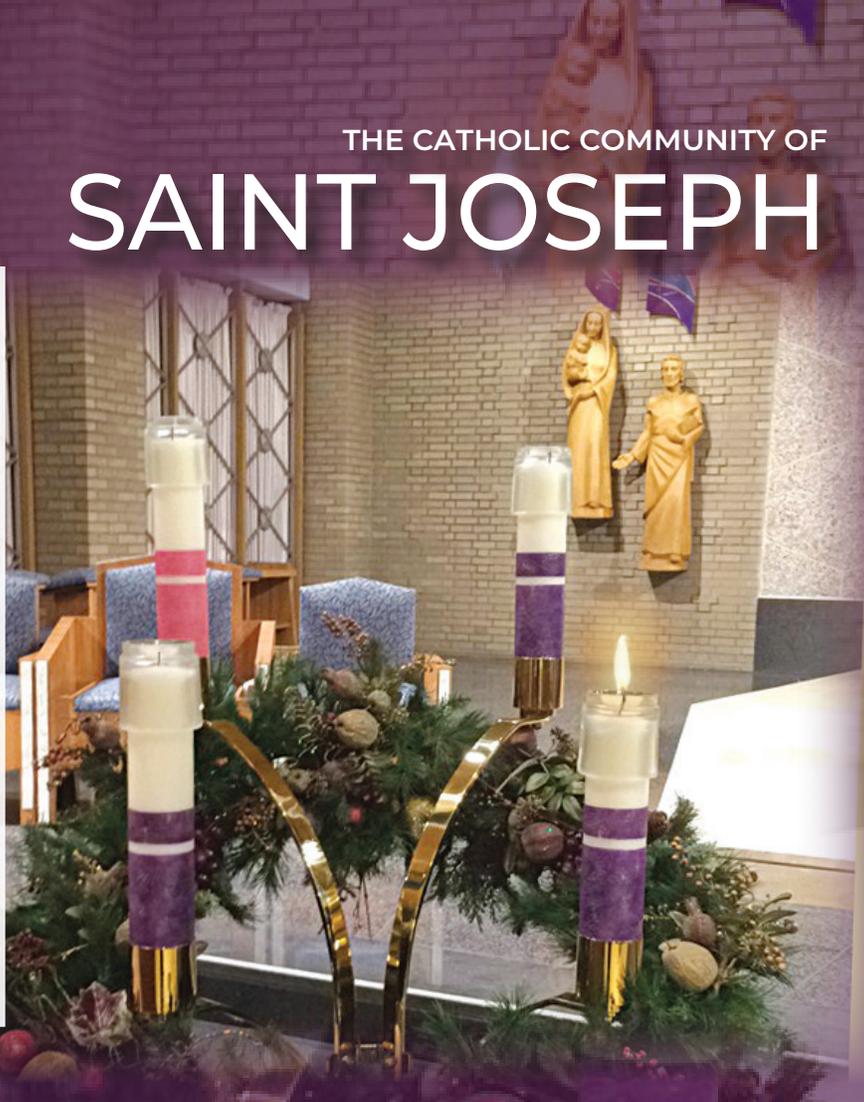




1848-2023

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. Jan-Michael LaBrake, Mrs. Brenda Pope, Mr. Frank Rose
- ◆ **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 preregister 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 charles 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 First Sunday of Advent
November 29 and 30, 2025
29 y 30 de Noviembre del 2025



Mass Intentions

Monday, December 1

No Mass

Readings: 175: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 2

5:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 p.m. Linda Argento

Readings: 176: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 3

8:15 a.m. Theresa Doriche

9:00 a.m. Rosary

Readings: 177: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, December 4

8:15 a.m. Jill Lovett

9:00 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration

Readings: 178: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 5 (First Friday)

8:15 a.m. Fr. James Csaszar

9:00 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration

3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet

Readings: 179: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday, December 6

The Vigil for the Second Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m. Larry Russ

Sunday, December 7

The Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Herb and Rosemary Wadsworth

11:00 a.m. Kathy Phillips

1:30 p.m. The People of the Parish

(Mass in Spanish)

Readings: 4: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/
Mt 3:1-12

Ministry Schedule

Tuesday, December 2 – 6:00 p.m. – Mary Salvo

Wednesday, December 3 – 8:15 a.m. – Matt Ritzert

Thursday, December 4 – 8:15 a.m. – Jeannine Kennedy

Friday, December 5 – 8:15 a.m. – TCCES Students

December 6, 2025

4:00 p.m.

Lectors: Janice Cosenza – 1st Lector

Bonnie Edwards – 2nd Lector

Eucharistic Ministers: Tim Avon, Beth Cecil,
Susan Murphy, Giovanni Ionno, Michelle Tope,
Lyle Tope, Jacki Hostetler

Ushers: Tim Avon, Steve DeBois, Vince Sandy

Servers: Miya Olson, Matthew Olson, Sofia Ionno

December 7, 2025

8:30 a.m. Mass

Lectors: Matt Ritzert – 1st Lector

Keith Knestaut – 2nd Lector

Eucharistic Ministers: Doug Telle, Andrea Settimio,
Lou Settimio, John Kuczirka, Sharon Kuczirka,
Jack Burnham, Volunteers Needed

Ushers: Chris Chaney, Kelly Chaney, John Karl,
Max Burnham, Ronnie Saffell

Servers: Nadia Pope, Brady Pope, Easton Pope

11:00 a.m. Mass

Lectors: Mike Ernest – 1st Lector

Elizabeth Allison – 2nd Lector

Eucharistic Ministers: Marcus Clemence, Mark Clemence,
Patti DeVault, Mary Elco, Beth Ernest, Mike Ernest,
Volunteer Needed

Ushers: Patti DeVault, Lindsay Williams,
Larry and Linda Clawson

Servers: Izzy Murphy, Johnny Sica, Tessa Williams

Offertory for November 23 and 24, 2025

Loose Cash and Checks	\$ 14,172.00
Adult Weekly Envelopes	\$ 4,946.00
Online Giving	\$ 700.00
Total	\$ 19,818.00
	Other Funds
Poor Fund	\$ 167.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 162.00
St. Joseph School Support	\$ 50.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 435.00
Other Collections	\$ 205.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Your contributions make the mission of St. Joseph
Parish possible and keep our parish financially sound.

If you know of a friend or family member that is in a 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

Advent is a time of remembering and a time of waiting. We remember Christ's birth into our world, and we watch and wait for His Second Coming. During the first weeks of the season, our focus is on the latter. It is only in the final days of Advent that our focus shifts to commemorating His birth in Bethlehem. The Book of Isaiah is attributed to three different authors writing at different times. In the final part, the section called Third Isaiah, we encounter a prophet living among the people returned from exile. He and his people are anticipating a glorious restoration of the nation and God's return to them. "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down," he implores, hoping that God will once again dwell in the midst of the people. For us, this hope is fulfilled in Jesus, God with us. In today's Gospel, Jesus calls us to "be watchful and alert!" This message had a greater sense of immediacy in the early days of the Church because many believed that Jesus' return was imminent. Obviously, they were mistaken. But we are still called to live lives of watchfulness in anticipation of His return. We share in the mission of the Church to transform the world as God's reign unfolds in anticipation of the parousia. Paul and Sosthenes greet "the church of God that is in Corinth" with "grace ...and peace." They go on to thank God for the spiritual gifts given to Corinthians "as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ." The gifts are given by God for the good of the Church.

For reflection: As we await Christ's return, how can I use my spiritual gifts for the good of the church? Do I use the season of Advent to reflect on Christ's return?

Please keep in your prayers Edward Hagarman, age 98, who died on Friday, November 21, 2025. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.* Please, also keep his family in your prayers.

Employment Opportunity

St. Joseph Church is looking for a person to join our Parish Staff. This is a part-time, hourly position, with approximately 12 to 15 hours a week. An understanding of communications and the Catholic perspective; the ability to both serve others; excellent reading skills and communication skills and flexible to adapt to changing needs are a must. Individuals interested in this position, may apply in person, or by sending a résumé to stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com. Passing a background screening and completion of the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" course are mandatory.



Catholic estate planning scheduled for November 13th has been rescheduled for January 29, 2026.
More information to follow!



St. Joseph is on a journey to know, love, and serve Christ in our parish community. Together, we must embrace Christ's vision for missionary discipleship, so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

The very first step in this process involves assessing our greatest strengths and opportunities, and that is where the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) comes in! The DMI is an important survey tool that invites you to reflect on your discipleship journey here at St. Joseph. The Disciple Maker Index is designed to:

- Invite parishioners to reflect on their journey of discipleship.
- Enable parish leadership to make data-driven decisions.
- Help parishioners grow in their faith.

The 10-15-minute survey can be accessed through an online link from December 1st to January 1st, and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide your perspective on our parish's efforts to help you grow in relationship with Christ. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. We will share the link with you next week. Paper surveys will also be available for those who do not have the ability to complete the survey online.

Together, we must embrace Christ's vision for missionary discipleship so our parish can thrive and be a place for others to grow together in faith.

Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our parish.



Advent Wreath Signup

Sign-up sheets for lighting the Advent Wreath Candles are hanging in the Vestibule of the church. All family and friends are encouraged to sign up. The sheets will remain in the Vestibule to give parishioners the opportunity to check your schedules and select the Mass time that is convenient for your family.



All gifts for Share-a-Christmas must be received no later than Monday, December 1st. Gifts for Birthright and donations for needy St. Joseph Families should be returned to the Parish Office by Sunday, December 14th.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Monday, December 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: Friday, December 12th. The celebrations will begin with Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday, December 11, beginning at 7:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, with Las Mananitas from 5:00 to 6:00 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 a.m. in Spanish and in English at 8:15 a.m.

"Mark Your Calendars!"

December 3, 2025

TCCES Reconciliation Service
10:00 a.m.

December 7, 2025

Lessons and Carols

Music begins at 5:30 p.m.

December 9, 2025

L.C.B.A. Christmas Meeting

Family Life Center

12:00 p.m. (Noon)

December 16, 2025

Posadas begin

December 17, 2025

TCCES Nativity Play

St. Joseph Church – 6:00 p.m.

December 20, 2025

Breakfast with Santa

Knights Hall – 9:00 a.m.

December 24, 2025

Masses – 5:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.

Music begins 30 minutes before Mass

December 25, 2025

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Music begins 30 minutes before Mass

December 26, 2025

Parish Office is Closed

December 27, 2025

Parish Caroling

5:30 p.m.

January 1, 2026

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

The Parish Office is Closed

January 4, 2026

Tres Reyes Magos

Mass – 1:30 p.m.

Ministry Schedules

Due to the holidays and families traveling we did not do a Ministry Schedule for December 24, 25, and 31, 2022 and January 1, 2023

Please call or email Brenda at the Parish Office if you would like to serve. Thank you!



Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools



...and help make an authentic Catholic education affordable and accessible for all!

Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund

DESIGNATE FUNDS TO...

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



Donate Online Today! OR **Mail a check!**

<https://emmausroadscholarship.org/gift>

Use the provided envelopes and make checks payable to Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund

St. Joseph Meal

The intention for our community meal 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 3, 2025 – Team G (Joan Wenzel)

December 10, 2025 – Team H (Cindy Jones)

December 17, 2025 – Team I (Isabellas)

December 24, 2025 – Team J (Ashley Graham)

**** note schedule change****

December 31, 2025 – Team L (Chrissy Hensel)

January 7, 2026 – Team K (Hannah Jacobs)

January 14, 2026 – Team M (Andrea Settimio)

Captains, please remember to pick up your key

before 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Office

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. The items most in need are:

Canned Vegetables	Canned Fruit
Hearty Soup/Stew	Peanut Butter
Canned Pasta	Jelly (No glass, please)
Rice	Black Beans

PLEASE, NO GLASS

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 cannot accept food items that have expired.

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

“Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God’s own love and concern.” +SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA (MOTHER TERESA)

Monday, December 1 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 8:5-11 When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully.” He said to him, “I will come and cure him.” The centurion said in reply, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come here,’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven.”

Meditation: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! As we begin this Season of Advent we want to begin this first Monday of our Advent journey by rallying ourselves to turn to the Lord with great hope. In the midst of many discouraging challenges in our lives – the economy, violence, political in-fighting, problems in our own lives – we desire to spend this day in anticipation of the graces our God desires to give us. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; “One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.” (Isaiah,2) Let us remember the words in scripture which we state during each Mass before we receive the Eucharist: “Lord, I am not worthy to receive you; but say only the word and my soul will be healed.”

Prayer: Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God, as we await the advent of Christ your Son, so that when he comes and knocks, he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: The prophet Isaiah foretold a time of restoration for the holy city Jerusalem and for its remnants (ref. Isaiah 4:2-6) and also a time of universal peace when all nations would come to Jerusalem to “the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob” and “beat their swords into plowshares” (Isaiah 2:2-4). Jesus fulfills this prophecy first by restoring both Jew and Gentile to fellowship with God through the victory he won for us on the cross. When he comes again he will fully establish his universal rule of peace and righteousness and unite all things in himself (ref. Ephesians 1:10). His promise extends to all generations who believe in him that we, too, might feast at the heavenly banquet table with the patriarchs of the Old Covenant who believed but did not see the promised Messiah. And so we need to ask ourselves: Do you believe in God's promises and do you seek his kingdom first in your life? The Season of Advent reminds us that the Lord wants us to actively seek him and the coming of his kingdom in our lives. The Lord will surely reward those who seek his will for their lives. We can approach the Lord Jesus with expectant faith, like the centurion did in today's gospel reading, knowing that he will show us his mercy, love, compassion, along with guidance and help in our time of need.

Tuesday, December 2 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent

Holy Gospel: Luke 10:21-24 Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.” Turning to the disciples in private he said, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.”

Meditation: What does Jesus' prayer in today's gospel tell us about God and about ourselves? First, it tells us that God is both Father and Lord of earth as well as heaven. He is both Creator and Author of all that he has made, the first origin of everything and transcendent authority, and at the same time, goodness and loving care for all his children. All fatherhood and motherhood are derived from him (ref. Ephesians 3:14-15). Jesus' prayer also contains a warning that pride can keep us from the love and knowledge of God. Pride closes the mind to God's truth and wisdom for our lives. Jesus contrasts pride with child-like simplicity and humility. The simple of heart are like "babes" in the sense that they see purely without pretense and acknowledge their dependence and trust in God who is the source of all wisdom and strength. They seek one thing – the "summum bonum" or "greatest good" which is God himself. Simplicity of heart is wedded with humility, the queen of virtues, because humility inclines the heart towards grace and truth. Just as pride is the root of every sin and evil, so humility is the only soil in which the grace of God can take root. It alone takes the right attitude before God and allows him as God to do all. "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (Prov. 3:34, James 4:6). The grace of Christ-like humility inclines us towards God and disposes us to receive God's wisdom, grace, and help. Nothing can give us greater joy than the knowledge that we are God's beloved and that our names are written in heaven (ref. Luke 10:20).

Prayer: Look with favor, Lord God, on our petitions, and in our trials grant us your compassionate help, that, consoled by the presence of your Son, whose coming we now await, we may be tainted no longer by the corruption of former ways. 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: Jesus makes a claim which no one would have dared to make – He is the perfect revelation of God. Our knowledge of God is not simply limited to knowing something about God, but we can know God personally. Jesus makes it possible for each of us to personally know God as our Father. To see Jesus is to see what God is like. In Jesus we see the perfect love of God – a God who cares intensely and who yearns over men and women, loving them to the point of laying down his life for them upon the Cross. Do you pray to your Father in heaven with joy and confidence in his love and care for you?

Wednesday, December 3 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent Saint Francis Xavier

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:18-22 As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

Meditation: Jesus speaks the same message to us today as he did when he walked this earth – we will "catch people" for the kingdom of God if we allow the light of Jesus Christ to shine in and through us. God wants others to see the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak, and witness the joy of the truth contained in the gospel. Saint Paul the Apostles says, "But thanks be to God, who in Christ Jesus always leads us in triumph, and who through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing" (2 Corinthians 2:15). Do you show others around you the joy of the gospel and do you pray for your neighbors, co-workers, and relatives that they may come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and grow in the knowledge of his love?

Prayer: O God, who through the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier won many peoples to yourself, grant that the hearts of the faithful may burn with the same zeal for the faith and that Holy Church may everywhere rejoice in an abundance of offspring. 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: What is God calling you to do in your brief earthly life? As God calls you (as he calls each of us) how are you responding? Are you ready to respond? When Jesus began his ministry he went everywhere he could – the streets, towns, hills and lakeside of Galilee – to speak to people about the kingdom of God. He chose as his closest friends and coworkers those who were ready to follow as his disciples and he gave them an unusual mission – "to catch people for the kingdom of God." What kind of disciples did Jesus choose? Ordinary fishermen! In the choice of the first apostles we see a characteristic feature of Jesus' work: he chose ordinary people. They were non-professionals, had no wealth or position of power or fame in society. They were chosen from the common people who did ordinary things, had no special marks of education, and no social advantages. Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an

assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these individuals, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. When the Lord calls us to be his disciples, we must not think we have nothing to offer him in exchange. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom.

About Saint Francis Xavier: The great missionary St. Francis Xavier was from a Basque noble family, like his beloved mentor Saint Ignatius of Loyola. When Francis met Ignatius in Paris he was a proud, autocratic, ambitious man wanting to accomplish great deeds in the world. For three years Ignatius patiently encouraged Francis to look at his life differently. "What profits a man," Ignatius asked Francis, "if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?" Francis joined Peter Faber as the first of Ignatius's companions. Francis Xavier was ordained in 1537. In 1541 King John of Portugal asked Ignatius for priests to send to the missions in India. Despite knowing he would never see his beloved companion again, Ignatius chose Francis Xavier for the mission. Francis left for India, arriving at the city of Goa in 1542. For the next ten years the missionary Francis Xavier traveled from Goa to Cape Comorin in south India, then to the East Indies, Malacca, and the Moluccas, and onward to Japan. It was Francis Xavier's great ambition to get permission to enter China as a missionary. He died in 1552, exhausted from his labors and fasts, on a small island off the coast of China with a single companion at his side. St. Francis Xavier's great ambition was to bring the world to Jesus Christ. Armed only with his breviary and a book of meditations, Francis preached the Gospel to the poor and sick, spending most of his time ministering to their needs. His nights were taken up in prayer. His only attention to his personal needs was to have a pair of boots. He barely ate enough to stay alive. As the missionary Francis Xavier, SJ, moved on, he left behind flourishing churches that were the foundations for the Catholic faith in Asia. (Courtesy of IgnatianSpirituality.com)

Thursday, December 4 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent **Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 7:21, 24-27 Jesus said to his disciples: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined."

Meditation: What can satisfy the deepest hunger and longing of the human heart? Isaiah prophesied that God would provide a heavenly banquet for all peoples and would destroy death once and for all (Isaiah 2:6-8). God sent his only son into the world to fulfill that promise. The miracles performed by Jesus are both a sign of God's kingdom and a demonstration of God's power. They also show the magnitude of God's love and mercy. When the disciples were confronted by Jesus with the task of feeding four thousand people many miles away from any source of food, they exclaimed: Where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them? The Israelites were confronted with the same dilemma when they fled Egypt and found themselves in a barren wilderness. Like the miraculous provision of manna in the wilderness, Jesus, himself provides bread in abundance for the hungry crowd who came out into the desert to seek him. The gospel records that all were satisfied and they took up what was leftover.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may be helped by the prayers of the Priest Saint John Damascene, so that the true faith, which he excelled in teaching, may always be our light and our strength. 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 miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes we see a sign and a symbol of what God always does. God knows our needs and he truly cares about us. When God gives, he gives in abundance. The gospel account records that the leftovers from the miraculous meal was more than seven times the amount they began with. Seven is a symbol of completion and wholeness. When God gives, he gives until we are satisfied. When God works for his people he gives abundantly – more than we could deserve and more than we need. He nourishes us with his life-giving word and with the bread of heaven. In the kingdom of heaven God will feast us at his banquet table. Are you satisfied with God's provision for you? In this Season of Advent, do you long with expectant hope for the coming of his kingdom in all its fullness? If not, why not?

Friday, December 5 ~ First Week in the Season of Advent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:27-31 As Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying out, "Son of David, have pity on us!" When he entered the house, the blind men approached him and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this?" "Yes, Lord," they said to him. Then he touched their eyes and said, "Let it be done for you according to your faith." And their eyes were opened. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." But they went out and spread word of him through all that land.

Meditation: The kind of foundation that each of us builds our lives upon will determine whether we can survive the storms that are sure to come, and come again, and again, as simply part of life. Builders usually lay their foundations when the weather and soil conditions are at their best. It takes foresight to know how a foundation will stand up against adverse conditions. Building a house on a flood plain, such as a dry river-bed, is a sure bet for disaster! Jesus prefaced his story with a warning: We may fool humans with our speech, but God cannot be deceived. He sees the heart as it truly is – with its motives, intentions, desires, and choices (ref. Psalm 139:2). There is only one way in which a person's sincerity can be proved, and that is by one's practice. Fine words can never replace good deeds. Our character is revealed in the choices we make, especially when we are tested. Do you cheat on an exam or on your income taxes, especially when it will cost you? Do you lie, or cover-up, when disclosing the truth will cause you injury or embarrassment? A true person is honest and reliable before God, one's neighbor and oneself. His or her word can be counted on. If you heed God's word and live according to it then you need not fear when storms assail you. God will be your rock and your refuge. Is your life built upon the sure "rock" of Jesus Christ and do you listen to his word as if your life depended on it?

Prayer: Stir up your power, we pray, O Lord, and come, that with you to protect us, we may find rescue from the pressing dangers of our sins, and with you to set us free, we may be found worthy of salvation. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: So what is our best security against disaster and destruction? In the ancient world a strong city, an impregnable fortress, and a secure house were built on solid rock because they could withstand the forces of nature and foe alike. Isaiah speaks of God as an "everlasting rock" (ref. Is. 26:4). He is the rock of refuge and deliverance (ref. Psalm 18:2) and the rock in whom there is no wrong (ref. Psalm 92:15). Scripture warns that destruction will surely come to those who place their security in something other than God and his kingdom. Jesus' parables invite us to stake our lives on the coming of his kingdom or face the consequences of being unprepared when the day of testing and destruction will surely come. In this Advent season, we are reminded to place all of our trust in Jesus Christ, the promised Savior, the Son of God who was sent to this world for our redemption.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

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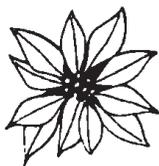
A PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus! Come!"

~ Fr. Henri Nouwen

Tuscarawas County Catholic Seniors (50+)

Seniors from Holy Trinity, Immaculate Conception, Sacred Heart and St. Joseph are invited to attend the December 17th meeting at Sacred Heart. Entertainment will be Christmas music performed in the church by Marita Tornabene, Judy Burnham, Beth House and Jeremiah Jones. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. Guests are asked to be seated in the church no later than 11:45 a.m. The program will begin at Noon. Christmas Dinner will follow the performance. The meal will include beef, ham, potato, vegetable, salad, beverage and assorted desserts. The cost is \$15.00. You do not need to be a member to attend your first meeting. Come and enjoy conversations with fellow Catholics. Call Linda Rupe at 330-343-4934 to make a reservation. There will not be a meeting in January and February. The next meeting will be March 25, 2026.



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 15, 2025.

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"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Matthew 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given. You begin to see God's active presence in your life. 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.

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.

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.

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



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.

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.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions December 2025

For Christians in areas of conflict.

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

OUR ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK



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**Iglesias San José
Ministerios Hispanos
Primer Domingo de Adviento
30 de Noviembre del 2025**



Calendario Litúrgico:

Misas en Español

Domingo	7 de Diciembre	1:30 p.m.
Viernes	12 de Diciembre	6:00 a.m.
Domingo	14 de Diciembre	1:30 p.m.
Domingo	21 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

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.



Horario de los Coros

Diciembre 7	Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
Diciembre 14	El Nuevo Sembrador
Diciembre 21	Seguidores de Cristo
Diciembre 28	Mensajeros de Cristo
Enero 4	El Buen Pastor
Enero 11	Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
Enero 15	Seguidores de Cristo
Enero 18	El Nuevo Sembrador

**Intenciones de Oración del Santo Padre
December 2025**

Por los cristianos en contextos de conflicto.

Oremos para que los cristianos que viven en contextos de guerra o conflicto, especialmente en Medio Oriente, sean semillas de paz, reconciliación y esperanza.

Clase de Bautismo: La próxima clase será en el Centro Familiar San José 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.

Notas Espirituales

El Adviento es un tiempo de recordar y un tiempo de espera. Recordamos el nacimiento de Cristo en nuestro mundo, y nosotros observamos y esperamos su segunda venida. Durante las primeras semanas de la temporada, nuestra atención se centra en este último. Es sólo en los últimos días de Adviento que nuestro enfoque cambia a conmemorar su nacimiento en Belén.

El libro de Isaías se atribuye a tres autores que escriben diferentes en momentos diferentes. En la parte final, la sección denominada Tercer Isaías, nos encontramos con un profeta viviendo entre el pueblo de vuelta del exilio. Él y su pueblo están anticipando una restauración gloriosa de la nación y el regreso de Dios a ellos. "¡Oh, que rasgados los cielos y descenderás," implora, con la esperanza de que Dios volverá a habitar en medio de la gente. Para nosotros este deseo se cumple en Jesús, Dios con nosotros.

En el evangelio de hoy Jesús nos llama a "estar atentos (y) alerta!." Este mensaje tenía un gran sentido de inmediatez en los primeros días de la iglesia, porque muchos creían que el regreso de Jesús era inminente. Obviamente, estaban equivocados. Pero todavía están llamados a vidas vividas de vigilancia a la espera de su regreso. Compartimos la misión de la Iglesia para transformar el mundo en el reino de Dios que se desarrolla en anticipación de la parusía. Pablo y Sostenes saludan a "la iglesia de Dios que está en Corinto," con "la gracia y la paz...." Ellos van a dar gracias a Dios por los dones espirituales dados a los Corintios, "como ustedes esperan la revelación de nuestro Señor Jesucristo." Los dones son dados por Dios para el bien de la iglesia.

Para la reflexión: Mientras esperamos el regreso de Cristo, ¿cómo puedo usar mis dones espirituales para el bien de la iglesia? ¿Utilizo el tiempo de Adviento para reflexionar sobre el regreso de Cristo?



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