

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

(Saint John the Baptist Stained Glass Nativity Window)



*4th Sunday of Advent ~
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 2024*

Christmas

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we cannot help but be filled with joy as we remember that God, “so loved the world that He sent his only begotten Son.” We use these days to thank God for the gift of Jesus, spend precious moments with our family and friends and gather around “the table of the Lord” to participate in the Eucharist. We use the “table” at our homes to recall the people that have gone before us, that have made our lives more blessed and to open gifts and eat our traditional foods with loved ones as we celebrate Light, Life and Love. Thank you to everyone! You are ALL a blessing to our parish. Have a very blessed and joyful Christmas Season!

Christmas History Lessons

Beginning and End of the Christmas Season

The liturgical season of Christmas **begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday January 12th.**

During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us.

Epiphany of the Lord...is the Christian feast observed on January 5, 2025. The word “epiphany” comes from the Greek *epiphainen*, a verb that means, “**to shine upon,**” “**to manifest,**” or “**to make known.**” Thus, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the many ways that Christ has made Himself known to the world, mainly the three events that manifested the mission and divinity of Christ: the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12), the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1:9-11), and the miracle at Cana (John 2:1-11). The visit of the Magi is emphasized on Epiphany Day, and Christ's baptism follows it.

The Baptism of Jesus

Christ's Baptism Foreshadows Our Own

At first glance, the Baptism of the Lord might seem an odd feast. Since the Catholic Church teaches that the Sacrament of Baptism is necessary for the remission of sins, particularly Original Sin, why was Christ baptized? After all, He was born without Original Sin, and He lived His entire life without sinning. Therefore, He had no need of the sacrament, as we do. In submitting Himself humbly to the baptism of St. John the Baptist, however, Christ provided the example for the rest of us. If even He should be baptized, though He had no need of it, how much more should the rest of us be thankful for this sacrament, which frees us from the darkness of sin and incorporates us into the Church, the life of Christ on earth! His Baptism, therefore, was necessary--not for Him, but for us.

Dynamic Catholic

Dynamic Catholic offers free Daily Reflections, Daily Mass Readings as well as Today's Saint and Rosary. They also feature Catholic Christmas Traditions! You can sign up at dynamiccatholic.com.

Ministries of Service

Are you looking for a gift to bring to Jesus this Christmas? We offer the opportunity to volunteer for a Church-ministry! These are some options: Adult and Youth Choir, Adult and Youth Altar Servers (adults can serve at funerals or Evening Masses), Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Mass Set-Up, Money Counters. You may even think of a new ministry where you see a need! Just see Sister Immacolata if you feel inspired to serve in any way!

Serra Club

The Serra Club of Lima Area, which exists to promote and support vocations to priesthood and religious life, will be meeting Thursday January 9 at Lima Central Catholic High School. Mass will begin at 5:45PM followed by dinner and a program. This month's speaker will be Matthew Etkorn, VP of Mission for Mercy Health-Lima speaking on "Vocation in Health Care". Persons who have an interest in this topic or the mission of the Serra Club are welcome to attend as guests. If interested in attending, please respond to Kathy at 419-303-0339 no later than Tuesday, Jan. 7.

FAITH, FAMILY, FOOTBALL...Men...mark your calendars! In an effort to promote men's faith formation, former Super Bowl, Pro-Bowl, and University of Michigan quarterback Elvis Grbac will be at St. John the Evangelist Church in Delphos on January 12 at 6:00 p.m. to talk about the role of fathers and men's faith on their families and the community. He will discuss the evolution of his faith through a football career that reached the peak of winning a Super Bowl and the importance of that faith in raising his own family through the highs and lows of serious illness and athletic journeys of their own. Adoration and confession will be available following Mr. Grbac's remarks. There is no fee for this event. All are welcome.

This Week in Parish History...

The nativity window of Delphos St. John's, located next to the St. Joseph Shrine was installed in 1916 and is made in the Tiffany style. The window is based on the painting "Adoration des Bergers" translated "Adoration of the Shepherds" by Martin von Feuerstein. The painting was originally done in 1891 for St. Maurice Church in Mommenheim Bas-Rhin, France. He was a German painter and art teacher in the late 1800s and early 1900s. In 1898, he painted stations of the cross for St. Anna's church in Munich, Germany. There are many stations of the cross based on these including the stations of the cross of Landeck, St. John's which were installed after the 1948 tornado. Merry Christmas!



~Written by Jack Bockey

**Last Weekend's Gifts
December 15, 2024**

Total: \$2,652.20

Sunday Envelopes: \$2,067.20

Loose Offering: \$161.00

Children's Loose: \$9.00

Maintenance: \$200.00

Immaculate Conception: \$20.00

Retirement for Religious: \$45.00

Christmas: \$150.00

**Capital Campaign for this week:
\$5,050.25**

Thank you for your generosity!



Ministry Schedule

4 th Sunday of Advent December 22 nd ~ 8:30 a.m. Mass		Feast of Holy Family ~ Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 29 th ~ 8:30 a.m. Mass	
Sunday Rosary	Terry Knebel	Sunday Rosary	Martha Miller
Gift Offering	Bonifas Family	Gift Offering	Mike Pohlman Family
Lectors	1 st Reading – Dan Kill 2 nd Reading – Sue Honigford	Lectors	1 st Reading – Melany Knippen 2 nd Reading – TJ Knippen
Commentator	Sarah Jamison	Commentator	Ben Rahrig
Communion Distributors	Nancy Kroeger, Martha Miller, Ed Paxton Choir: Julie Schroeder	Communion Distributors	Karen Bonifas, Tess Rahrig, Karen Stant Choir: Ron Bonifas
Servers	Brylee Geary Isabelle Miller Mia Munoz	Servers	Kolton Arnold Stella Meyer Joseph Meyer
Cantor	Adult Choir	Cantor	Adult Choir
Usher	Ed Paxton	Usher	Ed Paxton
Projector	Chloe Kroeger	Projector	Chloe Kroeger
Mass Set-Up	Rick Stant	Mass Set-Up	Pat Flanagan
Money Counters	Dick and Marilyn Heitz Steve and Lois Hemker	Money Counters	Dick and Marilyn Heitz Steve and Lois Hemker

Mass Intentions

(Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22nd)

8:30 a.m. – Stan Mozingo
Ralph Bonifas
Rob Mason

5:30 p.m. – Joe Owen
Ron Miller

(Monday ~ December 23rd)

7:00 p.m. – Marvin Brenneman

(Tuesday ~ December 24th Christmas Eve)

4:30 p.m. – Caden Meyer
Arnold Miller
Frank Youngpeter
Kenny Rahrig (Ann)

(Wednesday ~ December 25th Christmas Day)

9:00 a.m. – Bob Martin
Vernon "Skip" Youngpeter

(Sunday ~ December 29th)

8:30 a.m. – Mike Pohlman
Deceased members of the Rahrig
Family

5:30 p.m. – End of War

Please pray for...Anita Bertsch, Sam Bonifas, Janice Etkorn, Leonard Etkorn, Tony Kahle, Dave Kroeger, Marilyn Heitz, Linda Hoffman, Tom and Darlene Klausing, Fr. Bob Kill, Joan Mason, Joan Minning, Gerry Mueller, Jodi Parsons, Patti Poling, Kenzie Ray, Ann Rees, Kristy Ringwald, Dorothy Trentman and Hailey Wannemacher.

Worship Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent, December 22nd	Tuesday, December 24th Christmas Eve Mass
8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. – Confessions	4:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m. – Mass	
5:30 p.m. - Mass	Wednesday, December 25th Christmas Day Mass
	9:00 a.m.
Monday, December 23rd	
4:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. – Adoration	Sunday, December 29th
6:00 p.m. – 6:40 p.m. –Confessions	8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. – Confessions
6:45 p.m. -Benediction	8:30 a.m. – Mass
7:00 p.m. Mass	5:30 p.m. - Mass

More Important Information

GRIEFSHARE

Are you searching for hope and healing after the death of a loved one? The GriefShare program, sponsored by **Landeck St. John the Baptist, Delphos St. John the Evangelist, and Spencerville St. Patrick**, will offer a 12-week session beginning on Thursday evening, January 9, 2025 thru March 27, 2025 from 6:30- 8:00 p.m. at the Delphos St. John Annex. No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful, confusing process. A GriefShare group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief.

At this support group program, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. No matter how long it's been, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. If you have experienced the death of a family member or friend, you are invited to attend. You may attend all of the sessions, or come when you can; however, the more sessions you attend the better your experience will be. This program will be facilitated by volunteers from our parish. To register or get more information on how GriefShare may be of benefit to you or someone close to you, contact the St. John's Ministry Center in Delphos (419-695-4050), The Landeck Church office (419-692-0636) or a CORE leader of our GriefShare team. Kathy Ulm 419-516-3994 Christy Schwinnen 419-234-3727 Tamie Reindel 419-236-4052

WOMEN OF WELCOME

Save the Date - The Women of Welcome will be having their Annual Retreat on April 5-6, 2025. This is a spiritual renewal weekend designed to help women grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and others in their faith community. More details to follow. You do not want to miss this opportunity. Mark your calendar for April 5-6, 2025.

Landeck License Plates

We have a great opportunity to purchase aluminum front license plates for our vehicles. They sell for \$10 each. There's an option for either a red or a blue trim. Checks are payable to Landeck Community Committee. The proceeds of this sale will be used to pay for the annual bill from AEP for the Christmas lights on Landeck Rd and around the corner to Kill. If interested, contact Catherine Heitz, Sue Beining or leave a message in the Parish Office.