

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH



Pastor

Rev. Jeff Walker
jwalker@delphosstjohns.org

Associate Pastors

Rev. Tony Vera
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Rev. Thomas Hunyor
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Parish Manager

Sr. Immacolata, SCC
570-815-1179

Parish Secretary

Mary Lou Weber
churchoffice@stjohnthebaptistchurchlandeck.org

Parish House

419-692-0636

Emergency Needed

Contact Sister Immacolata

Mass Times

Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Monday 7:00 p.m.

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Reconciliation

Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
Monday 6:00 p.m. – 6:40 p.m.

Anointing of the Sick

419-695-4050

Baptism

Please call the parish office three months prior to your child's baptismal date to schedule pre-baptismal instructions.

Matrimony

Please contact Sister Immacolata at least six months in advance to schedule your wedding preparation and celebration.

December 29, 2024
Feast of the Holy Family

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. Have a very blessed and joyful Christmas Season from beginning to end!

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.

Annual Bishop's Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has contributed. We exceeded our goal of \$9,179.00 and raised \$9,802.05. We are so grateful to everyone.

Holy Day Masses

January 1st is a Holy Day of Obligation. It is the Solemnity of “Mary, the Mother of God.” Here are the Mass dates and times for our three Sister parishes.

Saint John the Baptist

Tuesday December 31st 7:00 p.m.

Saint Patrick

Wednesday January 1st 9:00 a.m.

Saint John the Evangelist

Tuesday December 31st 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday January 1st 9:00 a.m.

Landeck Foresters Meeting

There will be a Foresters meeting at the “Landeck Forester’s Hall” at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, December 30th. Please join us!

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 Etzkorn, 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.

Last Weekend's Gifts

Christmas Eve Gifts

December 24, 2024

Total Offering: \$ 7,040.01

Sunday Envelopes: \$ 1,580.00

Christmas: \$4,986.00

Loose: \$ 449.01

Maintenance: \$20.00

Initial Offering: \$5.00

Christmas Day Gifts

December 25, 2024

Total Offering: \$ 1,866.00

Sunday Envelopes: \$ 70.00

Christmas: \$1,620.00

Loose: \$147.00

Maintenance: \$2.00

Retirement for Religious: \$20.00

Initial Offering: \$5.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass Intentions

(Sunday ~ December 29th)

8:30 a.m. – Mike Pohlman

Deceased members of the Rahrig Family

5:30 p.m. – End of War

(Monday ~ December 30th)

7:00 p.m. – Cythnia Etzkorn

(Tuesday Mary, Mother of God ~ Decemeber 31st)

7:00 p.m. – Alberta Maas

(Sunday ~ January 5th)

8:30 a.m. – Living and deceased parishioners
Bill and Norie Hemker

5:30 p.m. – Carol Hohman

(Monday ~ January 6th)

7:00 p.m. – All those buried in our cemetery

Ministry Schedule

Feast of Holy Family ~ Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sunday, December 29 th ~ 8:30 a.m. Mass		Epiphany of the Lord Sunday, January 5 th ~ 8:30 a.m. Mass	
Sunday Rosary	Martha Miller	Sunday Rosary	Mary Lou Paxton
Gift Offering	Mike Pohlman Family	Gift Offering	Hemker Family
Lectors	1 st Reading – Melany Knippen 2 nd Reading – TJ Knippen	Lectors	1 st Reading – Carl Weber 2 nd Reading – Diane Bonifas
Commentator	Ben Rahrig	Commentator	Catherine Heitz
Communion Distributors	Karen Bonifas, Tess Rahrig, Karen Stant Choir: Ron Bonifas	Communion Distributors	Pat Flanagan, Casey Flanagan, Barry Stirn Choir: Melanie Mueller
Servers	Kolton Arnold Stella Meyer Joseph Meyer	Servers	Lanie Flanagan Quinn Flanagan Ezra Erickson
Cantor	Adult Choir	Cantor	Children's Choir
Usher	Ed Paxton	Usher	Carl Renner
Projector	Chloe Kroeger	Projector	Josh Mueller
Mass Set-Up	Pat Flanagan	Mass Set-Up	Matt Etzkorn
Money Counters	Dick and Marilyn Heitz Steve and Lois Hemker	Money Counters	Rabbit and Jann Bonifas Carl and Kathy Renner

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

Sunday, December 29th	Tuesday ~ The Mother of God, December 31st
8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. – Confessions	7:00 p.m. Mass
8:30 a.m. – Mass	
5:30 p.m. - Mass	Sunday ~ The Epiphany of the Lord, January 5th
	8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. – Confessions
Monday, December 30th	8:30 a.m. – Mass
4:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. – Adoration	5:30 p.m. - Mass
6:00 p.m. – 6:40 p.m. –Confessions	
6:45 p.m. -Benediction	Monday, January 6th
7:00 p.m. Mass	(Schedule same as December 30th)

More Important Information

Pope Francis Opens Holy Door

On Christmas Eve, the Jubilee Year of Hope began for the entire Catholic world! Pope Francis solemnly opened the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica. Here are a few thoughts from his homily that night to guide us in forming our New Year’s Resolutions *this year* as “Pilgrims of Hope.” “The door of hope has opened wide to the world. God speaks to us and says: There is hope for each of us. Do not forget, God forgives everything. God always forgives.” “With haste, let us set out to behold the Lord who is born for us, ready to meet him and then bring hope to the way we live our daily lives. This is our task: to bring hope into the different situations of life. We are called to recover lost hope, to sow seeds of hope amid the bleakness of our time and world. As disciples of the Lord, we are called to find our greater hope in Him and then, without delay, carry that hope with us, as pilgrims of light.” “All of us have received the task of bringing hope wherever it has been lost: to lives broken, promises unkept, dreams shattered and hearts overcome by adversity.” “The *holy door* of God’s Heart lies open before you. Jesus, God-with-us, is born for me and you. And with him, joy flourishes, with him, life changes; with him, hope does not disappoint.”

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