

Lawrence County Catholic Community

PO Box 499
Ironton, OH 45638

740-532-0712 ♦ www.lawcocatholic.org

March 16, 2025

2nd Sunday of Lent



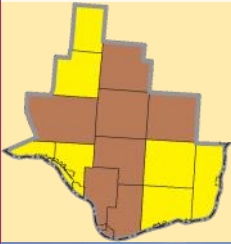
Lord Jesus, my mind can comprehend so little of your glory! You came as a humble infant and yet possess dazzling purity and power! Open my faculties to grasp both your nearness and your transcendence! And let me never take what you accomplished in Jerusalem for granted. Your "exodus" was foretold through Moses' generation, and the sufficiency of your sacrifice was foretold through the destruction of your enemies by Elijah on Mount Carmel. Never let me lose sight of the perfections of your finished work! AMEN



Saint Ann
310 3rd Avenue
Chesapeake, OH 45619
740-867-4434



Saint Joseph
501 Chestnut St
Ironton, OH 45638
740-532-0712



By this
sign you
will be
saved!



Saint Lawrence O'Toole
611 Center St
Ironton, OH 45638
740-532-0712



Saint Mary of Pine Grove
1059 Co Rd 26
Ironton, OH 45638
740-532-0712

Fr. Wayne Morris, Pastor
wmorris@diosteub.org

Fr. Peter Afoenyem, Parochial Vicar
pafoenyem@diosteub.org

C O N F E S S I O N

- Any Time by Request

45 min before Sunday Masses

SA – 5:30 Wednesdays

SJ – 6pm Wednesdays

A D O R A T I O N

SJ – Wednesday's 2-5:15 pm

SA – Wed's 5:15pm & Fri's 8:45am

Rosary

SA – Saturday @ 4:30pm

Baptism—Call rectory for info.

Marriage 6 months advanced notice.

BULLETIN Deadline WEDNESDAY
bulletin@lawcocatholic.org

Prayer Line—Jane 304-638-4809 or
janecooley@aol.com

LIVESTREAM: youtube.com/@lawcocatholic

WEBSITE: lawcocatholic.org

OFFICE STAFF

Nancy Rudmann
office@lawcocatholic.org

CJ Monnig
it@lawcocatholic.org

Cara Nelson
finance@lawcocatholic.org

Catechetical Leader

Jane Rudmann
740-516-0994

2nd Collection for Poor THIS WEEKEND

Unger's
SHOES (740)
532-5954

Since 1871
Our Family Serving Your Family
**O'Keefe-Baker
Funeral Home**
1108 South Sixth Street • 740-532-0454

Yvonne Dekay
SCHOOL OF DANCE
612 South 3rd Street
Ironton, Ohio 45638
740-533-2784
Your talent is a gift of divine individuality

Glockner
Family of Dealerships

We make it easy
CATHOLIC FAMILIES
SERVING CATHOLIC FAMILIES
740-532-4011

W Weber Financial Services
and
Wealth Management
T.J. Weber, Branch Manager
822 S. 7th Street, Ironton, OH 45638
740-377-9999 • tj.weber@lpl.com
Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC

PHYSICAL THERAPY EXPERTS
**TRI-STATE REHAB
SERVICES**
740.534.1156

Brad McFann, CPA
The Fyffe Jones Group
2155 Carter Avenue, Ashland, KY
606-329-8604

**MEN'S AND WOMEN'S
PREFERRED FITNESS
CENTER**
740.533.FIT1
Joe Isaac, PT/owner

Asthma & Allergy Assoc.
Katherine D. Carias, M.D.
2501 Lexington Avenue
Ashland, KY
606-324-7704

**IRONTON
VISION
CENTER, INC.**
STEVEN C. MILLESON, O.D.
220 South 6th Street
Ironton, OH 45638
(740) 532-2020
www.irontonvision.com
TREATMENT OF EYE DISEASE
CONTACT LENSES • GLASSES
PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED

R **Reger**
Funeral Home & Chapel
1242 Adams Ave
Huntington, WV 25704
304-522-2031
Patrick J. Reger, LIC
1135 US-60, PO Box 907
Ceredo, WV 25507
307-453-6181
Andrew J. Reger, LIC

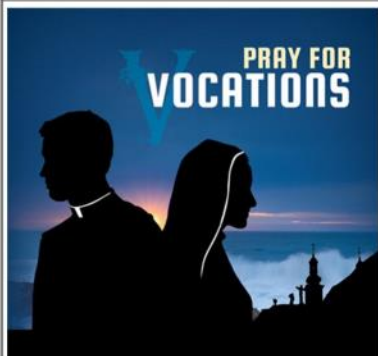
Liberty Bank
Lawrence County's Bank Since 1896
314 Park Avenue
Ironton, OH 45638
740-532-2856

ALICIA B. WALTERS, ESQ.
Wills & Probate Administration



EDWARDS, KLEIN, ANDERSON,
SHOPE & WALTERS, LLC
2122 South 9th Street
740.532.4554

**Pray for our
Troops**



7510 County Road 107
Proctorville, OH 45669
740-886-9491
FDIC

"ABOVE THE REST"
**SCHERER-
MOUNTAIN**
740-532-8755 **INSURANCE, L.L.C.**
IRONTON, OH AUTO, HOME, BUSINESS, LIFE

**CENTRAL
HARDWARE**
Est. 1909
110 South 2nd Street
Ironton, OH 45638
740-532-5162

GENERAL REFRIGERATION
www.general-refrigeration.com
HIRING TECHS 740-377-9162

**Ashland Regional
DANCE THEATRE**

"Where artistry, respect,
discipline and tradition meet"

346 13th Street
13th Street & Carter Avenue
Ashland, KY 41101

606-324-5434

Maria Whaley, Director

RICHARD D. SAXBY III, D.P.M., INC.
Podiatric Medicine and Surgery
2004 South 4th St. Phone: (740) 532-3611
Ironton, Ohio 45638 Fax: (740) 532-5077

**THE IRON CITY
HARDWARE &
FURNITURE CO.**
116 South Third Street
740-532-8414

J&J
GENERAL MAINTENANCE INC.
Mechanical, Electrical, Civil & Insulation INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTOR
2430 S. 3rd Street • Ironton, OH 45638
(740) 533-9729
www.jjgmi.com

**PHILLIPS
FUNERAL HOME**
www.phillipsfuneralhome.net

1004 South 7th Street
Ironton, Ohio
740-532-2144

NICK MEDINGER, D.D.S.
FAMILY DENTISTRY
504 Chestnut Street
Ironton, Ohio
(740) 532-6003

**ANDERSON &
ANDERSON CO., L.P.A.**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
408 Parke Ave Ironton, Ohio W. Mack Anderson
740-532-7779 Brigham M. Anderson
Andrea Kratzenberg

CHARLIE'S

Tire Sales, Inc.

413 South Third Street
Ironton, Ohio
740-533-0677

**BASEDOW
FAMILY CLINIC, INC.**

- William Basedow, D.O. •
- Arlene Basedow, D.O. •
- Michael Basedow, D.O. •

Board Certified - Family Practice
Health Care with a difference

2301 South 7th Street
Ironton, OH 45638
(740) 532-3100

**Affordable Carpet
CLEANING**
740-534-8083
Bobby Cleary, Owner
www.affordable-cleaners.com

Rax
ROAST BEEF
2250 S. 3rd St.
Ironton, OH 45638 740-533-3883

HURLEY INSURANCE
Michael J. Hurley, CIC
Patrick L. Weisgarber, CIC
740-532-8712

Weber West
Eye Care
Nick Weber, O.D. Mary West, O.D.
2119 Carter Ave. • Ashland, KY
606-329-2243

McCauley Central Furniture
101 South 3rd Street
Ironton, OH 45638
740-532-0534

**CLYSE
ARBORIST CO.**

Tyler Clyde
740-442-1483
Tree Pruning & Removal

OUR SICK: Heidi Adams, Jerry Adams, Priscilla & Rodney Adkins, Donnie Aloï, Jennifer (Whaley) Baker, Mary Braun, Bruce Brown, Cory Brown, Greg Bryant, Anna Burke, Josie Butcher, Helen Cavanaugh, Fern Cielec, Jim Colegrove, Owen Conway, Danielle Cooper, Nancy & Mike Corn, Gigi de la Cruz, Doug Deeds, Linda DeWitz, Dennis Dickess, Kris Dixon, Alicia Edwards, Linnea Fields, Charles Francis, Vanessa Fuller, Patrick Gagai, Thomas Gait, Anita Gardner, Steven Gardner, John Gibbons, Connie Goheen, Melinda Griffith, George Gross, Brett Guess, Corey Gurnow, Patricia (Runyan) Hackworth, AJ Harris, Jim & Lillian Hart, Katey Hardesty, Matt Hearn, Bridget Heighton, Peggy Hixon, John, Larry & Rick Holtzapfel, Robert Hutton, Barb Jarrett, Sue Jenkins, Dulcy Jimenez, Tationa Johnson, Cindy Jordan, Vincent Keairns, Sue Keeney, Cassie Kelley, John Kelley, Cole Kemper, Chris Kimble, Bernadette Kinney, Martha Kirk, Don Kline, Janice Knoop, Rose Knotek, Justin Lane, Amanda Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Ralph Lewis, Ginger Logan, Chris Lunsford, Jim & Wanda Mahlmeister, Marie Majadalany, Dave Manning, Chloe Marcum, Jessica Mazurek, Mark McKee, Nathan Medina, Robbi Messenger, Johnny Meyers, Ginny Miller, Mike Miller, Monica Montallana, Tommy Mountain, Jeff & Shawn Nance, David Napalo, Bob Nelson, Donna Newman, Mark Nixon, Pattie Perry, Paul Peterman, Diane Pratt, Susie Prichard, Katie Prout, Cathy Pusey, Brent Pyles, Kenny Pyles, Roberta Ramsey, Jim Riedel, Ronald "Jr" Riggs, Debra Roach, Helen Robinson, Jarin Robinson, Kathy Robinson, Tim Rockwell, David Schaffer, Annette Scott, Troy Sheffield, Cathy Shine, Rosie Sinnott, Piper Smoot, Delores Spears, Mark van Steenberg, Shawn Summers, Catherine Sutton, Chris Thomas, Mark Tomondi, Mike Tonkovich, Don Trentel, Rich Whaley, Michelle Webb, Laura Willis, Marianne Wissman, Tommy Woods, Rose Yates, Gary & Kathy Zuccarelli, and all recovering from illness/surgery.

New this week: Steve Ash, Sherri Loyer, Ken Jordan

If there are people who should be taken off this list, please let the office know.

CWC News:

CHESAPEAKE—3rd Thursday Book Club at 1pm Chesapeake library

IRONTON—CWC Brooms & Greeting Cards are still FOR SALE at Unger's Shoes.

Knights of Columbus Friday Dinners

4:30-7 pm
Eat In or Take Out

Call
740-533-1405

Fish, Steak & more

Hall Rentals are available.
Call 740-533-1405 to reserve



We pray for:

*Grace, Levi,
Benjamin, Millie,
Charlotte, James*

and all of our Spiritual Adoption Babies.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
I love you very much.
I beg you, spare the life of the unborn baby(ies), that I have spiritually adopted,
Who are in danger of abortion. Amen
*by the Most Rev
Fulton J Sheen*

IGNORANCE OF SCRIPTURE IS IGNORANCE OF CHRIST —ST. JEROME

LUKE 9:28b-36

Entering the word

1. Imagine that you're Peter, John, or James.
 - a. What are you thinking as Jesus leads you up the mountain?
 - b. Why do you fall asleep?
 - c. What wakes you up?
 - d. How do you recognize Moses and Elijah?
 - e. Do you hear Jesus talk with Moses and Elijah? If so, what do they discuss?
 - f. Do you want Moses and Elijah to stay?
 - g. How would you describe the cloud?
 - h. What does the voice sound like?
 - i. What all do you feel?
 - j. Why don't you tell anyone about what happened? Do you ever tell?
 - k. If you talk about what happened with the other two disciples, what do you say?

Living the word

2. In what ways are you asleep?
3. How should God wake you up?
4. How well are you listening to God's Son? How do you know?

THE GOSPEL READING

While he was praying

Luke emphasizes the importance of prayer. In his Gospel the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus after his baptism, while Jesus is praying.

Here Jesus is praying on a mountain. In the Old Testament dramatic encounters with God often took place on mountains. Mountains were close to the heavens, the realm of God.

Moses & Elijah

Two of the most revered figures in Jewish tradition appear with Jesus. Their stories interconnect.

- Moses led people out of slavery and into a new relationship with God
- Moses went up a mountain to receive God's law, and a cloud descended upon it
- Elijah glimpsed God while on a mountain
- Elijah didn't die, but was taken up to heaven; people believed he would return to warn people of God's coming

Moses and Elijah represent God's law and the prophets. In the presence of Jesus, however, even these important people fade away. Jesus is the final law-giver and the greatest of God's prophets.

Waking up

After his baptism God called Jesus his *beloved Son*. Now God declares that Jesus is his *chosen Son*. Although Peter calls Jesus *the Messiah of God* (9:20), a title that implies God has chosen Jesus for a special mission, Peter and the others struggle to understand that mission (9:44-45, 18:31-34).

God tries to awaken the disciples to who Jesus is and what true discipleship requires. God thus tells them to pay closer attention to what Jesus says about suffering and discipleship (9:22-23, 46-48).

Jesus' exodus

Jesus talks with Moses and Elijah about his *exodus* or *departure* (v.31). This refers both to his death and the new life his death brings. Such glorious new life can't be separated from Jesus' passion and death. Peter and the other disciples can't stay on the mountain.

Jesus has begun to warn his disciples that he will suffer and be killed. True disciples of Jesus will also walk difficult paths. New life will come, but only if Jesus' disciples listen to him and follow where he leads.

PRAYER

*Alternate Collect for the Second Sunday of Lent
(Roman Missal, 1985)*

Father of light,
in you is found no shadow of change
but only the fullness of life and limitless truth.
Open our hearts to the voice of your Word
and free us from the darkness that shadows our vision.
Restore our sight
that we may look upon your Son,
who calls us to repentance and a change of heart,
for he lives and reigns with you forever and ever.
Amen.

Adoration *a time to commune with our Lord:*

SJ Wednesday's—2-5:15
SA Wed.'s—5:15-6:15
Fri 8:45-9:45



SA Bible Study Mondays @ 6pm & Tuesdays @ 1pm. All are welcome to come and join us!

SA Meatless Soup Dinner will be at 6:30pm following the 6pm Stations of the Cross at St Ann. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of church to volunteer to bring your meatless soup.

The Knights of Columbus is looking for you. *"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."* Joshua 24:15 The Knights of Columbus promote a family first household that will serve the Lord in everything we do. Do you want to continue that journey with us and be a part of that? Go to kofco.org and click 'Join Us'. More information contact: Mike Hacker 740-547-8496

Diocesan CWC Lenten Retreat for all woman of the Diocese will be held on Sat. March 22 @ St Mary Church in St Clairsville OH. Speaker will be Fr David Cornett. Reservations call Dede 740-632-3372. Cost is \$25

MEN'S Day—March 22nd at St Stephen in Caldwell (1036 Belford St Caldwell OH). Registration and coffee being at 9am. The program will begin at 9:45am, and ends with Mass at 4pm, fulfilling the Sunday obligation. The Speaker this year is Michael Gormley whose theme is: *"The Eucharist and the Biblical Vision of Men"*. Info & to register visit: <https://athenscatholic.org/steubenville-mens-day>

SOMETHING NEW A special live stream Rosary and evening prayer is being offered this Lent. You can join us as our normal time will be at 7pm each Thursday. Holy Week will be on Tuesday @ 7pm. Fr. Morris, Fr. Peter, and Tom Pinkerton will rotate weeks of leading the Rosary and prayer. Please join us for this time of pray.

Men & Women Silent Retreat—Seek solace with God. Retreat has: daily Mass, confession, adoration, and a speaker to help guide you.

◇ MEN'S 3/27-30
◇ WOMEN'S 4/3-6 or 4/10-13
<https://afc.org/catholic-silent-retreat/>

Catholics at the Capitol:
March 25th in Columbus

Activate Your Faithful Citizenship

The Catholic Conference of Ohio is providing Catholics across Ohio the opportunity to meet with elected officials and advocate for policies that respect life, focus on the poor and vulnerable, and recognize families as the central social institution of society.



The event is March 25, 2025, in downtown Columbus. It is **free** to attend, and lunch will be provided. Diocesan coordinators will help set up meetings with legislators and provide talking points. There will also be opportunities to attend Mass at the St. Joseph Cathedral – *all within walking distance!* **Visit www.ohiocathconf.org to learn more and register by March 21st.**

Please contact Joseph Schmidt jschmidt@diosteub.org or 740-516-9270 [call/text]) with questions.

Community Hospice Volunteer Orientation will be Tues & Wed March 18 & 19 from 9-4:30pm. Needed are volunteers who would be willing

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE WEEKS OF MARCH 9, 2025

CHURCH COLLECTIONS	ST. ANN	ST. JOSEPH	ST. LAWRENCE	ST. MARY
Adult	\$9264	\$3650	\$2102	\$460
Loose	\$225	\$588	\$538	\$212
Votive Lights	\$108	\$65		
Restoration/Bldg Fund	\$4	\$120	\$150	
Church in Eastern Europe	\$97	\$25	\$20	\$65
Easter Flowers	\$60	\$40	\$110	\$65
Rice Bowl	\$2	\$25		
Catholic Relief Service	\$2			
Cath. Home Missions	\$2			
Good Friday (Holy Land)	\$2			
Mothers Day	\$2			



Prayer for Priests

Without the priest, there is no Eucharist; without the Eucharist, there is no Church. Let us pray for vocations to the priesthood.

- 3/16 Fr Dales Tornes
- 3/17 Fr Rich Tuttle
- 3/18 Bishop Edward Lohse
- 3/19 Msgr Mike Campbell
- 3/20 Fr Tom Chillog
- 3/21 Fr Vic Cinson
- 3/22 Fr Dave Cornett

	3/23	5:15 SL	5:30 SA	9am SJ	9:30 SA	Noon SL	Noon SM
Lector:		M.J. Holtzapfel	Scholl	B. Canter	Miller	T. Clyse	D. Haney
EM:		D. Vermilyea P. Webb M. Anderson M. Blackstock	Wheeldon Roush	K. Haas B./R. Lyons T. Mains	Lanning Mishoe	V. Mathis J./K. Beaumont S. Brown	
Servers:		A./A. Meyers B. Wilds		I./E. Whaley B. /M. Heighton		F. Clyse E. Rudmann E./T. Erlenwein	

SA Cleaner— 3/16 Agnes Lanning, 3/23 Jane Jarvis, 3/30 Mike & Allison

to: visit hospice patients who reside in area nursing facilities, make phone calls to families, sit with patients at home for a few hours to provide caregivers' time away. Interested, call 606-329-1890 (training at: 1480 Carter Ave Ashland.

St Ann CWC Rummage Sale dates this year are June 6–7. As you do your Spring decluttering, please keep that in mind.

Fr Peter's Sunday Reflection

Dear friends in Christ,

Today, as we continue in our self-denials and mortifications in this holy season of lent, St. Paul in today's second reading is asking us to choose whom we want as our model. One's model is one whom we "admire" so much, whom "whatever" he does pleases us. Is our model in life in accordance with the gospel of Jesus Christ that is preached to us, or is our model in life the things we see in the world that is passing by? This was why St. Paul said that those whose model in life center on earthly things, their destruction is close at hand. So, this Lenten season is a time through which we access ourselves inwardly to determine where our model lies in this passing world. Does our attraction lie on the things that are externals only which can fade within a time, or does it lie on the things of God which are eternal?

Let us not be carried away by externalism rather, let us anchor our inner joy and happiness on things above where our joys and happiness will last forever.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus decided to show to his disciples' tip of his glory, and a tip of who He really is in case they are having doubts about him. He did not show that to all his disciples but only a selected few. On that mount of transfiguration, Moses and Elijah came to visit him, to encourage him for the journey ahead. So, Jesus' transfiguration is a manifestation of his Divine nature, it shows his Divine authority, and the impending suffering and future glory that is to come. The presence of Moses and Elijah at His transfiguration highlights Jesus's role as the fulfilment of both the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah).

Dear friends, today's first reading and the gospel had much in common in such a way that God revealed to Abram the future glory of what is to come, and not only that He revealed it to him, but He sealed it with a covenant assuring (Abram) Abraham that he will definitely fulfill his promise. In the gospel reading, the glory of God was revealed through Jesus Christ to His disciples because Jesus is the New and everlasting covenant of, (Numbers 25:13, Isaiah 55:3, Ezekiel 37:26, Luke 22:20 and Heb 12:24) whom the Laws of Old represented by Moses and the Prophets represented

by Elijah had foretold long ago. So, Jesus's transfiguration is an assurance to us who are following Him that we are not wasting our time. It is an assurance of the glory of God that we will enjoy at the end of our lives if we remain faithful to the end. That was why the gospel of Matthew chapter 24:13 said that he who endured to the end shall be saved. Trials and persecutions will come but when we endure them and remain steadfast in the Lord we will be saved Matthew 16:25.

In the gospel reading, we noticed that the apostles though with heavy eyes of sleep still were able to be

awake in order to witness this marvelous revelation of Jesus Christ, the season of Lent, is a season in which the Church constantly reminds us of the importance of keeping awake and be ready and waiting for the glory of God to be revealed in our time. If we keep awake like the disciples did, we will experience the glory of the risen Christ on the day of resurrection, Easter Sunday. And what will keep us awake is the acts of self-denial, prayer, good work, and love for one another. Let us ask God to give us the grace of repentance even as we listen to his voice today. Amen.

St Joseph has been designated as a place of Pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year. I asked Fr Peter to write this article to help us understand what a Jubilee year means. FWM

THE JUBILEE OF HOPE by Fr Peter

Dear friends in Christ, in the beginning of creation, it was God who took the initiative to create man even after having created all that exists in the universe. He created man so that man can take care of all that he created

Genesis 1 & 2. Thus, Adam and Eve were created as the first creatures of God that bears his Spirit and Image. Unfortunately, man failed God through the act of disobedience. Till today, that fall of man in Genesis 3 is what we are suffering.

However, despite man's unfaithfulness to God, it never deters God in finding other means through which he can make peace with man because God will not abandon his own nor let his own see decay, Psalm 16:10. Thus, through all the generations, God has made several moves in order to win back the soul of man. He used the Israelite nations as a point of contact to all humanity.

When the Israelites were taken into exiles in Babylon, they lost everything. They were denied their consistory, their temple, their heritage. But it was at the events of this hopelessness that hope came through the voice of the prophet Isaiah saying;



<p>16 SJ 8:15 Conf. Mass at 9am SA 8:45 Conf. Mass at 9:30 SL 11:15 Conf. Mass at Noon SM 11:30ish Conf. Mass at Noon SJ 4:15 conf Mass at 5pm</p>	<p>17 8am—SJ Mass</p>	<p>18 8am—SJ Mass Noon—SA Mass</p>	<p>19 8:00—SJ Mass 10:30am—SJ Mass w/SLES & SJHS 2-5:15 Adoration SJ 5:30pm Mass—SJ 5:15-6:15 Adoration SA 6:30pm Mass—SA</p>	<p>20 8am—SJ Mass Noon—SA Mass</p>	<p>21  8am—SJ Mass 8:15—SA Mass 8:45-9:45—Adoration SA 10am Stations—SJHS 3pm Stations—SL 6pm—Stations—SA 6:30—SA Soup Supper 7pm—Stations—SJ</p>	<p>22 9am—SJ Mass SL 4:30 Conf. Mass at 5:15 SA 4:45 Conf. Mass at 5:30</p>
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion -- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61, 1-3a)

The prophet prophesized the liberation of the people of Isreal from slavery and the consolation he is going to give them. This liberation and consolation of the people is what is regarded as the Jubilee year. It is regarded as the year of the Lord.

The term Jubilee in Leviticus 25 refers to a unique year of release that takes place every 50 years. During this year, all debts were forgiven, enslaved Israelites were freed, and land that had been sold was given back to its original owners. The Jubilee year was designated as the time for the release of all enslaved Israelites. God promised to bring Jewish people back to the land of Israel from their dispersion among the nations, signifying a restoration of their homeland after exile. Ezekiel 36:24: "And I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries where you have been scattered, and I will bring you back to your own land."

The Jubilee year which took its root from the book of Leviticus 25, signaled the restoration, reconciliation, forgiveness and pilgrimage of coming home. It is a year of hope. Pope Francis made this year 2025, a Holy Jubilee Year of Hope, through which all humans especially Catholics should go back to the God through various means like, going for confessions and getting absolution for our sins and receiving holy communion, visits to any site of the jubilee pilgrimage, perform works of mercy, praying for the

intentions of the Pope. And these acts win us plenary indulgence. Pope Francis holds, "Jubilee is meant to support us, so that our hearts get bigger and more generous so that we become more like children of God with greater love".

In the Roman Catholic Church, Jubilee began to be formally celebrated in 1300 AD which was proclaimed by Pope Boniface VIII with his Bull *Antiquorum habet*, this means that for 725 years, the church had celebrated Jubilee, which holds every 25 years. The last Jubilee was celebrated in the year 2000. These celebrations mark the forgiveness from sins and reconciliation of man with God.

So, this Jubilee year, 2025, makes it the 2,025th anniversary of the God made man in our salvation's history. Pope Francis termed it the "Jubilee Year of Hope", and we all who will take part in this Jubilee become the "Pilgrims of Hope", because this journey of hope will bring us reconciliation and forgiveness, and time of going back to the Father Luke 15:11-32. It is a great time in the spiritual life of the church. It is a time to give the "world that is suffering from wars, covid-19 pandemic and climate change hope" showing that all these will come to an end.

It was on May 9th, 2024, that Pope Francis released the Bull of Indiction; *Spes non confundit* ("Hope does not disappoint") announcing the Ordinary Jubilee Year of 2025. It started in Rome on the vigil of the Lord's Nativity, December 24, 2024, and in local dioceses on Holy Family Sunday, December 29. It will conclude in local dioceses the following Holy Family Sunday, December 28, 2025, and in Rome on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, January 6, 2026.

Therefore, in order that we all will have complete participation and share of this great spiritual encounter to gain the indulgence thereof, the church gave us a privilege of visiting various sites designated for pilgrimages, like the visit to the

Vatican city, Rome, Fatima, Lourdes etc. Here in our country, the Major place for this pilgrim visitation remains the National Association of Shrines and Pilgrimage Apostolate and so many other shrines across the country, including the Cathedrals.

More importantly, for us in our diocese, Bishop Edward on 29th of December 2024, made available 4 pilgrim sites for our diocese: Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption Marietta, St. Benedict Church Cambridge, St. Joseph Church Ironton, Father of Mercy Chapel (located at the Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother's motherhouse) Toronto. When we visit these sites to pray, we will gain a Plenary Indulgence. So, "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints" CCC 1471.

The Jubilee Prayer by Pope Francis

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos into the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen



THE DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE

OFFICE OF THE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR

February 7, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In this Holy Year, I greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus, in whom we place our hope, a hope which does not disappoint.

Since I began my term as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville on June 14, 2024, I have worked extensively with the diocesan consultors, members of the diocesan finance council, diocesan administrators, and the priests of the diocese to complete what is essentially a self-study of the state of the diocese. The diocesan consultors and I now present this summary of that self-study. We hope that this information will shed some light on the reality of our present situation.

OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY:

Overall finding: The most significant issue facing the Diocese of Steubenville in the next 5 to 10 years, and indeed in the next 30 years, is the projected decrease in population. The general population has declined noticeably, and the Catholic population even more so, with no reversal of this trend in sight. This reality is troubling and the challenge it will present to the future viability of the diocese will be significant. The presence of Franciscan University and numerous apostolates have helped somewhat to soften this decline, but they are not able to prevent it. Therefore, in our opinion, a significant question to ask considering possible paths forward is: *When does a diocese simply become too small?*

I. SOME BACKGROUND CONTRIBUTING TO THE PRESENT SITUATION.

The 13 counties of the Diocese of Steubenville are the spiritual home of more than 29,000 Catholics comprising 6% of general population. The diocese's recent difficulties have their origin partly in the establishment of the diocese in 1944. When it was established on October 21, 1944, the diocese was widely acknowledged to be a missionary diocese. The result is twofold: the diocese continues to operate with less-than-ideal and occasionally inadequate resources, but at the same time a vibrant missionary spirit remains present in the diocese.

More recently, the financial scandal which became public in 2018 and the fact that the cathedral has fallen into dilapidation have negatively affected public confidence in diocesan leadership. On a positive note, following the discovery of the fiscal mismanagement, financial reforms were put in place in 2018 and 2019, and staffing and program cuts were implemented to increase efficiency and bring expenses in line with the budget. With the financial reforms in place and a return to some normalcy, the Diocese of Steubenville is on a stronger financial footing than in the recent past.

II. PASTORAL OBSERVATIONS.

It must be said at the start that good things have happened and are still happening in the Diocese of Steubenville. With that as background, I and the Consultors offer the following observations:

A. The Faithful.

The faithful of the diocese identify strongly with the Catholic Church and with their parish, but less so with the diocese. For the most part, they continue to attend Mass, contribute financially, and support their parishes.

The entire Diocese of Steubenville lies within the region of Appalachia. Typical of that region, decades of economic decline have taken their toll on the population. In many places, there is a general sense of having been abandoned by structures and institutions which once supported a robust community. Watching the decline of once vibrant communities over the course of decades has been difficult for many. The prospect of the diocese itself being merged into another is seen by some as one more institution now abandoning them as well.

There are exceptions to this general disposition, most notably in the City of Steubenville and the surrounding area where the presence of Franciscan University draws significant numbers of young, dedicated Catholics. There are other such pockets as well, but they are less notable than in the Steubenville area properly speaking.

B. The Clergy.

The clergy are very loyal to the diocese. From young to old, they share an awareness of the missionary nature of the diocese, which for them is a source of pastoral zeal. Frustrated by a general sense of having been “spinning their wheels” pastorally for the past several decades, they express a willingness to do the hard work needed to build the Kingdom if they are given a chance, but they acknowledge that they cannot do this without a bishop who will lead them.

C. The Process.

The more than two years since the announcement of the proposed merger have been hard on both faithful and clergy alike. Many people believed from the announcement of a proposed merger that it had already been decided, even though in truth no decision had actually been made.

The faithful and clergy have been in limbo waiting for the merger to take place. The mistrust that arose from the financial mismanagement has contributed to a mistrust of this process, which some see as not only as lacking in transparency but even as disingenuous. The sudden replacement of the Apostolic Administrator in June of 2024 exacerbated the situation.

The priests respect the authority of the Church to alter the structure of the diocese if that needs to happen, but they are desirous for the chance to offer their input.

III. FINANCES.

A. Overall Finances.

A report issued in June of 2023 on the financial health of the diocese foresaw a negative cash flow within 5 years without any prospect of reversing the trend. The report included a caveat that leadership decisions and other factors could alter the financial forecast.

It appears that the caveat was well-placed. Cost-cutting efforts to bring the budget into balance, the end of the pandemic, market performance, and management reforms have resulted in the financial state of the diocese beginning to rebound, at least modestly. In fiscal years 2023 and 2024, the total diocesan net assets and liabilities increased from \$18.2 million to \$19.8 million.

B. Known Liabilities.

1. Priest Pension Fund.

The priest pension account will receive a significant influx of capital in 2025 when assets from a trust are scheduled to be disbursed to the plan. This should assure that the plan's funding level is within the range recommended by Standard & Poors (80% or higher).

2. Holy Name Cathedral.

The condition of the cathedral has deteriorated to the point that the most likely solution is to tear it down. Donors with restricted gifts to the cathedral fund have been contacted and the donations returned or re-directed according to the donors' instructions. It will be necessary to demolish the structure.

C. Sources of Income.

1. Diocese and Parish Share Campaign (DPSC)

The Diocesan and Parish Share Campaign (DPSC) is the annual appeal for the Diocese of Steubenville. This last year, the diocesan share of the income was increased to \$1.5 million, the first increase since 2017. The diocese achieved 98% of its goal. Although the diocese increased its income by raising its share, the combined diocesan and parish income from the DPSC actually decreased \$145,000 in the last two years. This has resulted in less money remaining in the parishes.

2. Cathedraticum.

The diocesan assessment income (cathedraticum), which is based on a percentage of parish offertory, increased slightly over the past two years. Long term, however, the projected decrease in the population will likely result in a decrease in parish income and a decrease in the cathedraticum.

3. Oil and Gas Revenues.

The diocese administers the contractual agreements governing numerous oil and gas wells on parish properties. Currently, the diocese retains 30% of the royalties to cover

administrative costs and returns 70% to the parishes. This has been well received as an equitable distribution of the income from these wells.

4. Investments.

Income from investments is heavily dependent on the rise and fall of the market. During fiscal years 2023 and 2024, investments increased from \$11.7 million to \$12.3 million.

D. Parish and School Finances.

Most of the diocese's 50 parishes and 2 missions are financially stable, but none are wealthy. A few are struggling, as much from a lack of parishioners as from a lack of finances. This reality highlights the need for pastoral planning, regardless of whether or not the diocese merges. Such parish reorganization will likely result in fewer parishes with a more efficient use of resources and a better distribution of priests.

Since the recent arrival of state-supported financial assistance for parents who choose to send their children to a Catholic School, the schools have done better financially. The diocese has 2 Catholic high schools and 8 primary schools. State aid for parents has helped enrollment, which is up 4.6% across the diocese for this year.

E. Future Needs.

The diocesan budget, currently balanced, provides only for basic services. If the diocese were to remain separate, then it would need a more robust budget to support pastoral growth and vitality. If that were to happen, the Consultors have identified the following needs which would require additional funding that the diocese does not currently have:

First in importance:

- Hire a Development Director with adequate IT and office support.

And then:

- Increase the presence of diocesan services in all 13 counties.
- Invest in and support evangelization.
- Expand Catholic Charities services to all 13 counties.
- Increase funding for seminary education.
- Increase support for campus ministry at Ohio University in Athens.

IV. DEMOGRAPHICS: GENERAL AND CATHOLIC POPULATION

Population demographic trends in Ohio vary from diocese to diocese. According to catholic-hierarchy.org, between 1980 and 2022 Steubenville had the largest percentage decrease among the Ohio dioceses both in general population and in Catholic population. It is troubling to note that the diocese's Catholic population decreased at a much higher percentage (- 46.5%) than did the general population (- 13.4%).

The State of Ohio Department of Development's Office of Research predicts that Ohio's general population will decrease by 5.7% by 2050, with only a few counties showing actual growth, mostly in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Diocese of Columbus.¹ As for the Diocese of Steubenville, the majority of population loss occurred between 1980 and 2010, but it continues even now. Between 2010 and 2020, Harrison County was the fastest shrinking county in Ohio (by percentage of the total, not by actual persons).²

According to the State of Ohio, every county in the Diocese of Steubenville is projected to experience a decline in the next 25 years. Athens, Carroll, Gallia, Guernsey, and Noble Counties are predicted to experience between a 10% to 20% decrease in population, while Belmont, Harrison, Jefferson, Lawrence, Meigs, Morgan, Monroe, and Washington Counties are all predicted to see between a 20% to 30% drop in population.³ Given that there are presently only around 29,000 Catholics in the diocese, and that in recent decades the Catholic population has been decreasing at a rate more than three times that of the general population, these figures suggest a very problematic road ahead.

It should be noted that the percentage of Catholics in the general population continues to decrease in every diocese in Ohio. According to catholic-hierarchy.org, Catholics made up 12.4% of the population in the Diocese of Steubenville in 1950, dropping to 9.8% in 1980 and further dropping to 5.9% in 2023. Steubenville has fared better in this regard than Cleveland, Youngstown, and Cincinnati but worse than Toledo or Columbus. Regardless of the underlying reasons, the entire State of Ohio is becoming increasingly less Catholic.

V. DEMOGRAPHICS: CLERGY AND VOCATIONS

The Diocese of Steubenville has the smallest Catholic population and correspondingly the fewest number of priests of any diocese in Ohio. Currently, there are 33 priests actively assigned to pastoral ministry in the diocese (excluding Franciscan University and the priests who study or work there). Of these priests, 29 are incardinated in the Diocese of Steubenville, 2 are religious, and 2 are externs. There are 16 permanent deacons incardinated in Steubenville, and there are no religious or extern permanent deacons serving in the diocese. In addition, 3 incardinated priests are active outside of the diocese: 1 serves at the Josephinum and 2 are in religious communities discerning religious life. There are 29 incardinated retired priests, some of whom still assist occasionally with the celebration of Mass.

Although the number of diocesan priests in Steubenville is small, the ratio of active (i.e., non-retired) diocesan priests to faithful in Steubenville (1 to 997) is better than anywhere else in Ohio. Even if those priests presently over retirement age but still active all chose to retire immediately, Steubenville's ratio would still be well ahead of the rest of Ohio.

¹ Ohio Department of Development, December 2022.

² Data from the US Census Bureau as reported in *The Columbus Dispatch*, 12 August 2021. An online article from September 4, 2023, identifies the 10 fastest-shrinking counties in Ohio; 8 of them are in the Diocese of Steubenville. See <https://www.newsbreak.com/a-z-animals-1693032/3145702959354-residents-are-fleeing-these-fastest-shrinking-counties-in-ohio>.

³ Ohio Department of Development, December 2022.

With 10 seminarians, Steubenville has one of the highest ratios of seminarians to faithful in the United States. If all goes well, the projected priestly ordinations are: 0 in 2025, 2 in 2026, 0 in 2027, 2 in 2028, and 1 in 2029. As with all such information, there is no way to account for unforeseen circumstances.

VI. DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATION

With there being no diocesan bishop, only an apostolic administrator, the office of Vicar General cannot be filled. Aside from this office, the remaining diocesan offices are staffed by competent, trained professionals.

The diocesan administration functions well but, due to numerous cost-reduction efforts over the years, the administration is largely limited to providing essential services. Some services, e.g., IT work, are now outsourced. Catholic Charities services throughout the diocese were gradually reduced over the years as a cost-saving effort; counseling services in the Steubenville area were recently restored. The positions of Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Vicar for Clergy, and Development Director were all eliminated. Diocesan officials are fully aware that organized efforts for development, growth of the annual appeal, and planned-giving all must be restored, either through a diocesan merger or by the diocese itself.

VII. OTHER ENTITIES WITHIN THE DIOCESE

The following ecclesiastical entities within the Diocese of Steubenville merit mention.

A. Religious Institutes – Men.

There are 5 religious institutes of men operative in the diocese: 1) Camaldolese Hermits, 2) Franciscan Friars, TOR, 3) Marians of the Immaculate Conception, 4) Canons Regular of the Holy Cross, and 5) Brothers of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Most are doing well, but the Brothers of the Immaculate Heart of Mary have only three remaining members.

B. Religious Institutes – Women.

Religious institutes of women present in the diocese are: 1) Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, 2) Sisters of the Holy Cross, OA, 3) Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, 4) Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration, 5) Sisters of Saint Francis of the Martyr Saint George, 6) School Sisters of Notre Dame, and 7) Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. Of these, the last 4 institutes have three or fewer sisters present.

Although canonically they are still a public association of the faithful and not yet a religious institute, the Franciscan Sisters, TOR, of the Penance of the Sorrowful Mother have a significant presence, especially in and around the City of Steubenville.

C. Franciscan University.

Franciscan University plays a large role in ecclesial life in the Steubenville area. The university is juridically distinct from the diocese itself, but most of its faculty, staff, and administration are members of area parishes. Historically, the Diocese of Steubenville and Franciscan University seem to have enjoyed cordial relations but only with a limited interaction with each other.

D. Other Apostolates.

The presence of Franciscan University has contributed to the growth of other apostolates in the area. Among the more noteworthy are: 1) College of Saint Joseph the Worker, 2) Apostolate for Family Consecration / Catholic Family Land, and 3) Saint Paul Center. Anecdotally, it is reported that young Catholic families are moving to Steubenville specifically because of the strong Catholic culture of the area supported not only by the parishes but also in part by Franciscan University and these other apostolates.

VIII. THINGS NEEDED FOR THE CHURCH IN SOUTHEAST OHIO TO FLOURISH

This section considers what is needed for the Church in southeastern Ohio to flourish. Resources could come from within the existing 13 counties (without merging), from another diocese (via merger), or from external sources (e.g., from grants). They fall into three categories, as follows:

- a. Regardless of a whether or not the diocese merges:
 - reinvigorate evangelization efforts
 - undergo parish reorganization
 - reduce the number of Masses
 - restore active role of deans (there have been no visitations since COVID)
 - increase Catholic Charities presence in other counties
 - be sensitive to what people and clergy have experienced in this process
 - provide leadership and vision
- b. In addition to the needs in (a) above, if the diocese merges into another diocese:
 - take the time to make sure that things are done well
- c. In addition to the needs in (a) above, if there is no merger and the diocese continues as is:
 - restore development director
 - restore trust and hope for the future
 - strengthen diocesan identity and bonds with the counties farther from Steubenville
 - designate a new cathedral

IX. CONCLUSION.

Presently, the diocese is viable. Looking ahead, however the forecasted decreases in both the diocese's general population and Catholic population pose the single greatest challenge to the

diocese continuing as a free-standing entity. This decrease in population will have considerable financial ramifications as the donor base shrinks. If nothing is done and diocesan and parish structures and services remain unchanged, the decreased donor base will eventually lead to deficit spending and financial instability.

Regardless of the decision to merge or to remain free-standing, whichever bishop assumes responsibility for these 13 counties will need to engage in serious pastoral long-range planning to ensure that the infrastructure and pastoral services remain proportionate to the population of the faithful.

We are left with two important questions:

1. Most of the things needed for the faith to flourish in southeastern Ohio are the same regardless of a merger or not. Pastorally, is merging or remaining free-standing the better way to provide for these things so that the faith can flourish?
2. If indications point to the likelihood that there is no long-term viability, then is it better to merge now while the diocese is still viable, or to do so only after the diocese is no longer viable?

XI. ONE FINAL NOTE FROM BISHOP LOHSE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE:

For over 80 years, you – the clergy, religious, and faithful of the Diocese of Steubenville – have given tremendous witness to your faith in Christ and your love of God and neighbor. You can rightly be proud of the diocese and all that you have accomplished with the help of God’s grace.

As we face difficult realities, the only way that we can do so is to be grounded in the truth. The Consultors and I have been as objective as possible in assessing the state of the diocese. Grace remains powerfully at work throughout the diocese, but there are also significant problems coming down the road. We cannot ignore these.

In our discernment, we have been asking, “What is the Lord asking of us?” He has helped us to affirm what is essential: our faith in God; our Baptismal call; our membership in the Body of Christ; the presence of Lord’s Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist; the call to give our whole selves to Christ who Himself held nothing back from us. We must unyieldingly hold firm to these things.

As for everything else, we will follow where He leads, no matter the cost, not because it’s easy (which it isn’t) but because it’s right. We do not know what the road ahead will bring, and that can be unnerving. But wherever He leads, we will travel that path together. That is the way of a disciple. That is our way.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Edward M. Lohse

The Most Reverend Edward M. Lohse, JCD
Apostolic Administrator of Steubenville

We Remember...

John Edwards

by Vicki Edwards

Andy Gagai

Andy & June Gagai

Jim & Ruth Carman

by Brenda, Traci, Tyler & Patrick

Kay & Bennie Blankenship

by Cara Nelson

Pam Mathews

by The Hastings

John (Meat) Compliment

by Pat & Family

Larry Shelton

John (Meat) Compliment

by Bobbi Shelton Deeds

Janice Akers

Mickey Akers

by Lisa, Dwane, Alyson, Jared, Zachary Johnson

Phyllis Turner

by The Turner Family

Holy Souls in Purgatory

Bery L Jenkins

Don Jenkins

Danny & Mary Sue Mains

by Tim & Rae Ann Mains

Fred Anson

by Family

Ira C Sheridan

by Michael F Sheridan

Bill Pfaffenberger

Father Charlie Moran

by Sue Pfaffenberger

Robert-Jill & Jean Kurucz

by Donna Kurucz

Fred Neville Sr. Family

Dick Rice

by Judith Rice

Carol & Howard Waller by Children

Tom & Sally Cannon

by Lynn, Susan & Amy

Denis C McGinity

Ann Naum McGinity

Kathleen McGinity Maynard

Ethel McGinity Mudd

Carl Vance

Holy Souls in Purgatory

by Rita McGinity Vance

Charles James Paese

by Mary Sue Paese

Patricia Kleinman

by Joseph Kleinman

Ellis & Betty Lou Payne

by Janie Payne

Shawn Walker

by Sarah, Nicholas, Samuel & Molly

Michael J Fuller

Robert P Fuller

Ryan A Justice

John S Fuller & Stella N Fuller

by Tom Fuller

Julie Fugitt

Jacob Fugitt

by Paul Fugitt

Joyce Lewis

Lawrence & Myrtle Meyers

by Amy Lewis & Family & Ralph

The Cellucci Family

by Diana Leith

Tom Sutton

by Cathy & Children

Scherer Mountain Insurance

Please support our Sponsors.



ROMEO'S
established 1971

740-866-8100

Pizza, Sandwiches, & more!!

Dine-in or Take Out

75 County Rd 411

Located across from the
Lawrence Co Fair Grounds



Now serving Lawrence County residents from 8 locations.

**FAMILY CARE
PEDIATRICS
DENTISTRY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

familymedicalcenters.org

Agent: Javie Staggs

Serving Proctorville,
Chesapeake, South
Point, & Surrounding
Townships

740-867-3141



AA
held at St Ann
Thursday & Friday
8-9pm
Saturday's 7-8pm
Women's Group
Monday's 6-7pm

**MAINTENANCE &
MATERIAL SOLUTIONS**

Coatings to repair and protect steel,
concrete, wood and piping.

For industrial, commercial and
residential use.



Hal Newhouser
OWNER

hal@mmscoating.com

(740)534-3853
Ironton, Ohio

No other published Mass times in the bulletin are to be believed.

Official Mass Calendar for the week

Sat. 3/15	SL—5:15 pm SA-5:30pm	Kevin Dufore(4th Anniv.) (Mary Ann & children) Brent Gool (A friend)
Sunday 3/16	SJ—9:00 am SA—9:30 am SL—Noon SM—Noon SJ — 5 pm	Fr. Joseph Huong (Thuy Nguyen) Billie Lee Slone (Tracey, Adam & Billie) Howard Waller(1st Anniv) (Children) Patricia Kleinman(25th Anniv) (Joe) People of the 4 Parishes
Mon. 3/17	8:00 am—SJ	June Gagai (Kevin/Sue Keeney)
Tues. 3/18	8:00 am—SJ Noon—SA	Dale Motycka (Family) Intentions of Ayden Stapleton (Kara Stapleton)
Wed. 3/19	8:00 am—SJ 11:00 am—SJ 5:30 pm—SJ 6:30 pm—SA	Julie & Jacob Fugitt (St. Mary's OR) Fr. Charles Moran Liv./Dec. of SJHS Class of 1967 The Moran Family
Thur. 3/20	8:00 am—SJ Noon—SA	Barb Waginger (Barb Lutz) Health of Kara Stapleton & baby
Fri. 3/21	8:00 am—SJ 8:15 am—SA	The Moran Family Sr. Rosalie Belanger
Sat. 3/22	9:00 am—SJ SL—5:15 pm SA-5:30pm	Bill Pinkerton (The Pinkerton Family) Jimmy Joe Sheridan (Sisters and Brother) Intentions of Anita Prelaz (A Friend)
Sun. 3/23	SJ—9:00 am SA—9:30 am SL—Noon SM—Noon SJ — 5 pm	Marvin Black (Nathan McKnight) Healing of Fatima Karimpour (Family) June Gagai (Mary Beth Boyd) Fr. Charles Moran Peo

Daily Readings

- 3/16—2nd Sunday of Lent**—Gn 15:5-12 17-18, Ps 27:1 7-8 8-9 13-14, Phil 3:17 -- 4:1 or 3:20 -- 4:1, Lk 9:28b-36
- 3/17**—Dn 9:4b-10, Ps 79:8 9 11 and 13, Lk 6:36-38
- 3/18**—Is 1:10 16-20, Ps 50:8-9 16bc-17 21 and 23, Mt 23:1-12
- 3/19—Solemnity of St Joseph, Husband of Mary**—2 Sm 7:4-5a 12-14a 16, Ps 89:2-3 4-5 27 and 29, Rom 4:13 16-18 22, Mt 1:16 18-21 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- 3/20**—Jer 17:5-10, Ps 1:1-2 3 4 and 6, Lk 16:19-31
- 3/21—Abstinence day from meat 14+** - Gn 37:3-4 12-13a 17b-28a, Ps 105:16-17 18-19 20-21, Mt 21:33-43 45-46
- 3/22**—Mi 7:14-15 18-20, Ps 103:1-2 3-4 9-10 11-12, Lk 15:1-3 11-32
- 3/23—3rd Sunday of Lent**
1st Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7, Ps 95:1-2 6-7 8-9, Rom 5:1-2 5-8, Jn 4:5-42 **Otherwise:** Ex 3:1-8a 13-15, Ps 103:1-2 3-4 6-7 8 11 (8a), 1 Cor 10:1-6 10-12, Lk 13:1-9

A winning ticket, just like this one could be in your future! See a KofC member to purchase.



Purse Bingo
March 23rd
Limited Seats Available
Call 740-532-0485
or Text 740-357-1973
to reserve your spot



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3/16 2nd Collection for the Poor**
2pm Rite of Election in Marietta
- 3/17 11am Funeral @ SJ
4:30 School Board Mting
- 3/18 Ironton Parish Council Mting—PLC
- 3/19 11am Joint SLES/SJHS Mass for St Joseph, Husband of Mary
7:15 Chesapeake Parish Council— Hall
- 3/20 7pm Evening Prayer/ Rosary Livestream
- 3/21 10am SJHS Stations**
3pm SL Stations
6pm SA Stations
7pm SJ Stations
- 3/24 5pm ICS Tech Meeting—HS
- 3/27 6:30 Ironton CWC mting—SJ
- 3/27 7pm Evening Prayer/ Rosary Livestream
- 3/28 10:30 SLES Stations**
3pm SL Stations
6pm SA Stations
7pm SJ Stations



CONGRATULATIONS BRIAR, GRIFFIN, LILY, & MOLLY

Congratulations to Briar Clyse, Griffin Rowe, Lily Dalton, and Molly Ferguson! They were chosen to take the Eddy Test and represent St. Lawrence Elementary School. Students in the top 25% of their class at St. Lawrence and Ironton Middle School will take the test on March 20th. Students scoring in the top 1/3 will receive an Eddy Award and be honored at a banquet this spring at Ohio University Southern. Thank you to the members of the Ironton Child Welfare Club for sponsoring the test and the banquet.

Visit Our Website
www.stjohncatholicchools.org

Call Us
+740-532-0485