



St. Sylvester, Woodsfield  
founded 1866



St. John Bosco, Sardis  
dedicated 1976



St. John the Baptist, Miltonsburg  
founded 1841

*Parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Steubenville*

## The Monroe County Catholic Churches

[www.monroecountycatholic.org](http://www.monroecountycatholic.org)

334 South Main Street

Woodsfield, Ohio 43793-1027

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Fr. David Gaydosik, Pastor  
dgaydosik @diosteub.org

Fr. Walter E. Heinz, retired  
wheinz@diosteub.org

### Pastoral Mission Statement for the Catholic Parishes serving greater Monroe County, Ohio

*They remained faithful to the  
teaching of the apostles,  
to the community, to the breaking of bread  
and to prayer. (Acts. 2;42ff)*

In the sacred tradition, as parishes of the Roman Catholic Church and the Diocese of Steubenville, we the Catholic Communities of Monroe County remain dedicated to our patron saints, united under our diocesan bishop and committed to:

**Worship**— Celebrating the Eucharist, the other sacraments and sacred rites with noble simplicity, as the summit and source of our faith, always keeping with the norms of the Church, and promoting appropriate prayer and Catholic devotions, retreats and times of recollection and spiritual growth.

**Christian Formation**—Fully supporting St. Sylvester Central Elementary and all parish religious education programs for youth and adults, we are on the journey of discovery, deepening and living our faith.

**Pastoral Care**—Ministering to the sick, the home-bound, the bereaved, those who feel alienated, excluded, wounded or unworthy of the active practice of their religion, the poor and all who have special need of the Church's care and attention.

**Outreach / Evangelization**—inviting those who have no other church home to join our church communities; cooperating with other churches in community endeavors, such as the SOMA thrift store and the SOMA food pantry, and joining with them for times of community prayer and service.

### January 1, 2017

*Mary, the Holy Mother of God (A)*

Nm 6:22–27

Gal 4:4–7

Lk 2:16–21

### Like the Morning Star

For the first four centuries following Jesus' ascension, Christians grappled with how to understand how his humanity and divinity commingled in his person. His humanity was evident to all who walked and talked with him. His divinity was also evident to his disciples because of the miracles he worked, not least his death and resurrection. In short, they knew he was fully human, and they knew he was fully God, but how could he be fully both at the same time?

The Council of Ephesus in 431 settled the issue definitively. The Church declared that in the one person of Christ there are two natures: one divine and one human. This same council also declared, as a natural consequence, that the holy virgin is the Mother of God (*Theotokos*), since she conceived and gave birth to the Word of God. So today's feast is one of the oldest, shared by all Christians from the earliest times. When Mary said "yes" to the Incarnation and gave birth to the Savior, all of us could bask in his divine light. She is like the morning star that first breaks the horizon and mirrors the light of the sun that she both foretells and follows. In loving Mary, we truly honor her Son. God was the first to praise her through Gabriel—"Hail, favored one!"—and the one who blessed her beyond all other creatures. We are merely following his example.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

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"The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!" (Numbers 6:24–25).

**Solemnity of Mary:  
The Holy Mother of God**

**Saturday** December 31<sup>st</sup>  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 5:00 pm  
+ Matt Singleton by Don & Rita Biedenbach

**Sunday** January 1<sup>st</sup>  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30 am  
+ William C Heddleson by George & Phyllis

**St. John the Baptist**, Miltonsburg 10:30 am  
+ Ralph Keevert by Joe & Debbie

**St. John Bosco Mission**, Sardis 12:30 pm  
+ Joseph & Ann Schumacher

**Monday** January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
*Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen*  
**St. Sylvester** Woodsfield 8:30am  
+ Monica Long by Anna Hinderlong

**Tuesday** January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
**No Mass Today**

**Wednesday** January 4<sup>th</sup>  
*Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton*  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 6:30pm  
Living & Deceased of SS CWC

**Thursday** January 5<sup>th</sup>  
*Saint John Neumann*  
**St. John the Baptist**, Miltonsburg 9:00am  
+ Joseph Burkhart by Sandra Bovenzi

**Friday** January 6<sup>th</sup>  
*Saint Andre Bessette*  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30am  
+ Cyril T Burkhart by Rosemary & Family

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Saturday** January 7<sup>th</sup>  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 5:00 pm  
+ Francis & Freeda Paulus by John Paulus Family

**Sunday** January 8<sup>th</sup>  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30 am  
+ Imelda Scott by Eugene & Christine

**St. John the Baptist**, Miltonsburg 10:30am  
Floyd Longwell (health) by Joe & Debbie

**St. John Bosco**, Sardis 12:30pm  
+ Rita Yontz by Connie & Larry Richter

**St. Sylvester CWC** will meet Wednesday Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> at the Brown Community Center following the 6:30pm Mass at St. Sylvester Church.

**For Reflection:** *Do I let God's face shine on me by spending time in prayer or before the Eucharist? How can I honor Mary today for her lifelong fidelity and grace?*

**A Word From Pope Francis:** *"History has always been accompanied by the Lord!...In him was revealed the grace, the mercy, and the tender love of the Father....He has pitched his tent in our midst."* —Homily, December 24, 2013 (Midnight Mass)

In our parish bulletin, we list: *In Loving Memory*. It is once again time to begin a new year and a new list. For \$20.00 per name, you may add a name to this list. Please place a separate envelope in the weekly collection with your love ones name and donation. The new List will begin in January.

The Sacrament of **CONFIRMATION** will be celebrated for the Catholic Parishes of Monroe County on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm at St. Sylvester's in Woodsfield. Candidate classes will begin at the end of January for those wishing to be confirmed from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up.. Information meeting will be held Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00pm in the basement of St. Sylvester Church.

*Winter Weather Rule for Monroe County Catholic: Weekdays* - when school is in session: if St. Sylvester Central is a **two hour delay** that daily Mass moves to NOON (12:00) at St. Sylvester. If school is **cancelled** due to weather issues: that day's Mass is also cancelled. **On the weekends or when school** is not in session; Please use caution in adverse weather...the Published Mass schedule will be observed (if at all possible).

**Pilgrimage/Historical Trip to Philadelphia, Pa.**

September 19-22, 2017; September 19th Malvern Retreat Center in Malvern, Pa. Sept. 20th visit the shrine of St. John Neuman and St. Katherine Drexel with a tour of Independence Hall with a view of the Liberty Bell and other historical sites. Sept. 21, the Shrine of our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa. and travel to Lancaster, Pa. to experience JONAH at the Sights and Sound Theatre. And Sept. 22 a visit to the National Clock Museum, Wilbur's Chocolate Co. & other unique shops before heading home.

**Pro-Life March** January 27<sup>th</sup> Consider helping to make the pro-life message heard throughout the world. You can make a difference.

Your pastor will be leaving on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be away for approximately 10 days. In his absence Fr. Leonard Cencula will again be in residence to cover your priestly needs.

Again allow us the opportunity to say "thank you" for all the kindnesses, prayers and best wishes extended to Fr. Heinz and Fr. David in this Wonderful time of the year. We hope and pray that you and your will experience a blessed New Year.

**This Week**

**Sunday**  
Happy New Year

**Tuesday**  
School resumes

St. Sylvester Central  
Bingo at Brown  
Community Center  
Doors open at 5:00pm  
Bingo begins at 6:30pm

**Wednesday**  
7:00pm K of C Meeting SS  
7:00pm SS CWC Mtg. at  
Brown Center

**Sunday**  
St. Sylvester Central  
Bingo at Brown  
Community Center  
Doors open at 5:00pm  
Bingo begins at 6:30pm

**Contribution Report**  
for  
December 25, 2016

**St. John Bosco**  
Adult Collection \$ 115.00  
Loose Collection \$ 119.00  
Christmas Offering \$ 163.00

**St John the Baptist**  
Adult Collection \$ 835.00  
Loose \$ 172.00  
School \$ 48.00  
Christmas offering \$ 310.00  
Special Bequest \$ 2,096.04  
Bequest \$ 5,100.00  
SJB Cemetery \$ 260.00  
S Joe Cemetery \$ 250.00

**St. Sylvester**  
Adult Collection \$ 2,463.00  
Loose collection \$ 392.00  
Christmas Offering \$ 3,198.00  
School Collection \$ 3,177.00  
Special Bequest \$ 997.21  
SS Cemetery \$ 2,000.00  
Bequest \$ 3,000.00  
DPSC rebate \$ 50.00  
Religious Retirement \$ 20.00  
Solmn. of Mary \$ 55.00  
Christmas Flowers \$ 15.00  
First Offering \$ 30.00

Thank you for your  
generosity.

**Purgatorial Society:**

An organization founded in the 1890's, to pray for each other and the repose of the souls in Purgatory. Contact Fr. David 740-472-0187

St. Sylvester's **Cub Scout Pack 17**, Woodsfield, meet Monday at 6:00pm September through May. Pack Leader is Melissa Smithberger

**Catholic Woman's Club:** CWC is an organization of all the Catholic women in a parish and is devoted to fostering spiritual, social and moral values within its members and their parish.

St. Sylvester: Mrs. Diane Burkhart

St. John the Baptist: Mrs. Eileen Ackerman and Mrs. Eileen Miller.

**Prayer Chain**

Jackie Kirkland: 740-472-0338

**Parish Membership:**

*New Parishioners* are always welcome. Please contact the parish office to register

**Infant Baptism:** contact the parish office

**Weddings:**

No date may be reserved for a wedding until the couple meet with the priest at least six (6) month advance and **pre-Cana is required** as mandated by Diocesan Policy.

**Confessions:** at St. Sylvester's Saturday 4:15pm to 4:45pm Sunday 7:45am to 8:15am or upon request.

**Catholic Cemetery Contacts:**

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield:

Donald & Rita Biedenbach 740-472-1849

**St. John the Baptist**, Miltonsburg &

**Immaculate Conception**, Ozark:

Tony Schumacher 740-827-3626

**St. Joseph**, & **Chapel Hill**, Burkhart Station:

Russell Betts 740-567-3286

**St. Patrick's**, New Matamoras:

St. Sylvester Parish office: 740-472-0187

**St. Sylvester Central**

**Elementary:** (PK-8)

119 Wayne Street, Woodsfield, Ohio.

Mrs. Robyn Guiler, principal. 740-472-0321

**St. John Central High School,**

3625 Guernsey Street, Bellaire, Ohio. 740-676-4932

Mrs. Kim Leonard, principal [www.stjohncentralhs.org](http://www.stjohncentralhs.org)

**Scripture Reading of the Week**

**Sunday**

January 1

*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

Nm 6:22-27

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

**Monday**

January 2

*Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen,*

*Bishops and Doctors of the Church*

1 Jn 2:22-28

Jn 1:19-28

**Tuesday**

January 3

*Christmas Weekday*

1 Jn 2:29-3:6

Jn 1:29-34

**Wednesday**

January 4

*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious*

1 Jn 3:7-10

Jn 1:35-42

**Thursday**

January 5

*St. John Neumann, Bishop*

1 Jn 3:11-21

Jn 1:43-51

**Friday**

January 6

*Christmas Weekday*

1 Jn 5:5-13

Mk 1:7-11

**Saturday**

January 7

*Christmas Weekday*

1 Jn 5:14-21

Jn 2:1-11

**Sunday**

January 8

*The Epiphany of the Lord*

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

**Parish School of Religion (PSR):** [aka. CCD] The Parish Religion Classes for children (not enrolled in a Catholic School) in grades 1 through 8.

**St. Sylvester:** Jill Schumacher 740-472-5483

**St. John the Baptist** Eileen Ackerman 740-757-2481

**Call to register your children.**



**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, (RCIA):** RCIA is an adult preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Contact the parish office.



**St. Joseph of Monroe County, Council 5009**

meets the first and third Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the basement of St. Sylvester Church.

**Retrouvaille** (help for troubled marriages), 740-749-3335

**Diocese of Steubenville Office of Family and Social Concerns & Referral**

(i.e. Catholic Charities), 1-800-339-7890.

**Diocesan Child Protection and Reporting:** Msgr. Kurt Kemo V.G., 1-740-282-3631

**Diocesan Vocation Director:** Fr. Michael Gossett e-mail: [mgossett@diosteub.org](mailto:mgossett@diosteub.org)

**Mass Intentions.** To remember a loved one (Catholic or not) or a special occasion with a Mass intention. Suggested donation is \$10.00 per Mass. Dates are scheduled on a first come basis.

**Pastoral Care of the Sick and Infirm:** If you or someone you love wishes to receive the Eucharist or have a priest visit, call 740-472-0187. Hospitals and Care facilities **regularly do not notify** the parish, so you have to if you want us to know.

**Monroe County Suicide prevention hotline** 1-800-354-4357

**Praying the Rosary: Witness to Faith.** At St. Sylvester and St. John the Baptist Parishes, we recite the rosary before each of the weekend Masses praying together through the intercession of the Blessed Mother for our church, our county, and the world.



**We extend out heartfelt thoughts and prayers** to the families of the following who have died: Glenn E. Nalley, Ronald P. Turner, and William A. Buchanan. May they find eternal peace.

**In Loving  
Memory of:**

Emma Schumacher  
Sr. Joanna Burkhart  
Sr. Evelyn Ann  
Schumacher  
Msgr. Joseph G Mehler  
Fr. Joseph Finan  
Imelda D Scott  
Walter & Alma Heinz  
Vernon Butler  
Brandon Butler  
Francis & Freda Paulus  
Mary Paulus  
Hilda Paulus  
Hilda & Herman  
Burkhart  
Michael & Berta  
Burkhart  
Paul & Barbara Conner  
James Scott  
Paul & Katy Madison  
The Ulrich Family  
David Baker  
Lowell Baker  
William H. Bolon

**Does calling Mary “the Mother of God” mean that  
she came before God?**

No; it simply expresses our belief that Mary is truly the Mother of Jesus, who from the moment of his conception was both human and divine. Catholics believe that God is a Trinity of persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—in one divine nature. We believe that God existed from all eternity and is the source of all created things. We also believe that, to save us from sin, the second person of the Trinity, the Son, took on a human nature. God became one of us in the mystery of the Incarnation. Luke’s Infancy narrative (1:26–38) tells us that God sent Gabriel to Mary to announce that she would have a child, the Son of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary consented, and Jesus Christ was conceived in her womb.

Later, Mary is greeted by Elizabeth as “the mother of my Lord” (1:43). This greeting expresses the reality that the Lord, the God of the Hebrew Scriptures, is present in Mary’s womb. Other passages testify to the same fact. Mary is the Mother of Jesus. Jesus is God (John 20:28). Therefore, Mary is the Mother of God. When we honor Mary as “the Mother of God,” we are professing our belief that Jesus is truly God. We are not saying that Mary came before God but rather that the Son, who existed from all eternity, “became flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14).

Source: *Dear Padre: Questions People Ask*, Liguori, 2003

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***St. Sylvester Central School News***

**School Website** is up and running: [www.monroecountyatholic.org](http://www.monroecountyatholic.org) then click on the school tab.

**St. Sylvester Central Script Program** is an excellent way to support Catholic Education and St. Sylvester Central without costing you money out of your pocket.

**Trojan Alumni**—SSC Home & School Subcommittee is collecting names, year of graduation & current contact information of former students. We are also looking for class representative for the various years to help with this project. You are invited to join the St. Sylvester Central School Alumni Facebook page and submit information. It is our hope to host a gathering during the Woodsfield/Monroe Central alumni weekend in June.

**Boys Basketball schedule for St. Sylvester :**

Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at Woodsfield at 5:55pm;  
Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at Skyvue at 5:55pm;  
Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at Powhatan at 5:55pm;  
Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Mary’s, Marietta at 6:00pm;  
Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at Beallsville at 7:15pm

**Projects:**

We were getting bids to replace the roof on the school....but the commercial roofers informed us that the bulk of the roof is in good shape. There are some problem areas that do need attention. We are currently getting bids on their repair. We are grateful for the good news... and await the bids.

Our new security surveillance systems have been install at the school and church in Woodsfield.

In the coming months we will he parish of St. Sylvester will be forming committees to investigate adding A/C to the church; resolving the water problem in the church basement and redoing of the basement and restrooms. At St. John the Baptist...the possibility of planting trees along the bank aside the church, replacing the roof on the social hall and the repair of yet another of the stain glass window.

**Tuesday Bingo**

**January 3**  
Monica Habig  
Richard Schenk  
Dani Wheeler  
Shelby Young  
Sara Yonak  
David Schnegg

**January 10**  
Monica Habig  
Adam Dick  
Jeff Dean  
Jeff or Misty Yontz  
Stephen or Cyndee Habig  
Jason Baldwin

**January 17**  
Monica Habig  
Lance LaFollette  
Anna Lang  
Terry or Ruthie Valkovic  
Deborah Blacstone  
Tom or Lydia Brodegard  
Randall or Michelle  
Christman

**Sunday Bingo**

**January 8**  
Amanda & Sam  
Schumacher  
Heather Robbins  
Michaela Murdy  
Bill or Becky Bolon  
Audrey Lydick

**January 15**  
Monica Habig  
Adam Dick  
Adam Chambers  
Jr. or Barb Burkhart  
Ted Babcock  
Dustin or April Parden

**January 22**  
Missy Knowlton  
Tony Schumacher  
Stacey Schumacher  
Chrissy Ferguson  
Andrew Harper  
Juli Harper

**BINGO KITCHEN**

January 3  
Rita Biedenbach  
Michelle Spellman

Jan 8  
Rita Griffith  
Terri Gordon

Jan 10  
Carol Kuhn  
Kim Petho

Jan 15  
Becky Baldwin  
Louise Kress

Jan 17  
St. John CWC

Jan 22  
Linda Dick  
Mary Bolon



## Consecration to the Holy Family

Families today face many struggles, through both cultural pressures and personal difficulties that accompany family life. Despite these struggles — a partly as a result of conquering them — families have great capacity for love and joy.

To help families experience the fullness of this joy, the following prayer through which families seek the protection and guidance of the Holy Family.

O Lord Jesus, you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth.  
There you grew in age, wisdom and grace as you prepared to fulfill your mission as our Redeemer.  
*We entrust our family to you.*

O Blessed Mary, you are the mother of our Savior.  
At Nazareth you cared for Jesus and nurtured him in the peace and joy of your home.  
*We entrust our family to you.*

O St. Joseph, you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary,  
and gave us a model of fatherhood while showing us the dignity of work.  
*We entrust our family to you.*

Holy Family, we consecrate ourselves and our families to you.  
May we be completely united in a love that is lasting, faithful  
and open to the gift of new life. Help us to grow in virtue,  
to forgive one another from the hearts, and to live in peace all our days.  
Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer,  
diligent in our work, and generous toward those in need.  
May our home, O Holy Family, truly become a domestic church  
where we reflect your example in our daily life.  
*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!*

### *Joy in Family Life*

It is often remarked that faith is caught more than taught in the family context. One of the best ways faith is caught is through joy. Joy is not an emotion that can be faked or forced. There is something authentic about that points to a deeper reality.

Joy should be part of the regular fabric of Christian life. The Lord promises his disciples that “no one will take your joy from you” (Jn16:22), and we are instructed by St. Paul to “rejoice in the Lord always” (Phil 4:4).

But how is it possible to be joyful when there is sorrow in our lives? The answer is that joy in its deepest sense is not dependent on positive circumstances or upbeat feelings. Joy means having an encounter (*encuentro*) with God’s infinite love for us, which is always present in our lives. It “adapts and changes, but always endures,” even amid great sorrow. It takes the form of quiet assurance, a reminder that we are God’s beloved sons and daughters. At other times, joy means that one “rejoices with the truth” (1Cor 13:6), praising aloud the lord and thanking him for his gifts. But above all, joy comes from “an expansion of the heart” through prayer and gestures of love toward others, creating a bright, warm and cheerful atmosphere.