



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

334 South Main Street

Woodsfield, Ohio 43793-1027

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Fr. David Gaydosik, Pastor
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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 31st
St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 5:00 pm
+ Matt Singleton by Don & Rita Biedenbach

Sunday January 1st
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 2nd
Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
St. Sylvester Woodsfield 8:30am
+ Monica Long by Anna Hinderlong

Tuesday January 3rd
No Mass Today

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

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

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

The Epiphany of the Lord

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

Sunday January 8th
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. 4th 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 22nd 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 6th grade and up.. Information meeting will be held Sunday, January 22nd 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 27th Consider helping to make the pro-life message heard throughout the world. You can make a difference.

Your pastor will be leaving on January 3rd 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

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

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 basics.

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