



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
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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 8, 2017

The Epiphany of the Lord (A)

Is 60:1–6

Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6

Mt 2:1–12

Wise Humility

An amazing thing happens in today's Gospel: Representatives from the farthest ends of the earth follow a heavenly light and end in the humble cave of Bethlehem. The Wise Men first consult with King Herod, Galilee's civil authority. He checks with the high priest and rabbis to determine when and where the Messiah is to be born. The Jewish leadership is able to read the Scriptures and give Herod and the Wise Men all the information they need. Yet only the Eastern travelers go to adore the Lord. The priest and lawyers lack faith to see in those Scriptures a fulfillment of their hopes, while King Herod is blinded to Christ's salvific mission and moved by a will to power, as the killing of the Innocents will make clear. They all have ears to hear and eyes to see but few pay heed to the signs of the times. The Wise Men from the East, merely following their study of the stars and asking help from others, travel months in search of Jesus. Raphael shows the moment when they finally find what they have been looking for. The band of travelers—complete with horses, guards, and royalty—arrives at a broken down stall. One of the Wise Men kneels, removes his crown, and offers Jesus his treasure. This small gesture shows an internal attitude that Herod and the chief priests were missing: the humility to lay aside power, wealth, and status to bend the knee before the king born in their midst.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

“Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you—Your sons from afar” (Isaiah 60:4).

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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 Scott

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

Monday January 9th
The Baptism of the Lord
St. Sylvester Woodsfield 8:30am
+David & Lowell Baker by Carolyn Miller

Tuesday January 10th
First Week in Ordinary Time
St. John the Baptist 9:00am
+ Virginia Burkhart by Sandra Bovenzi

Wednesday January 11th
St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 8:30am
Deceased of Scott Family by Eugene & Christine Scott

Thursday January 12th
St. John the Baptist, Miltonsburg 9:00am
+ Hilda Burkhart by Sandra Bovenzi

Friday January 13th
Saint Hilary
St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 8:30am
+Neil & Margie Weisend by William Frank

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday January 14th
St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 5:00 pm
+ Victor & Dorothy Davidson by John Paulus Family

Sunday January 15th
St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 8:30 am
+ Roman Schumacher by Mike Schumacher

St. John the Baptist, Miltonsburg 10:30 am
+ Raphael Yontz by Tom & Becky Stephen

St. John Bosco Mission, Sardis 12:30 pm
The Ruth Kehl family by Ada Morris family

The Hillbilly 10 commandments

1. Ain't but One God.
2. Honor yer Ma And Pa
3. No tellin' tales or gossipin'
4. Git yer hide ta Sunday Mass
5. Ain't notin' come before the Lord.
6. No foolin' with another fellers gal
7. No Killin', sept fer critters
8. Quit yer foul mounthin'
9. No swiping' yer kin folks stuff
10. Don't be hankerin' fer it either

For Reflection: Am I willing to humbly accept Jesus for who he is: the Son of God? From what must I detach myself in order to accept Jesus more fully?

A Word From Pope Francis: *“Religious man is a wayfarer; he must be ready to let himself be led, to come out of himself and to find the God of perpetual surprises.”* —On Faith (*Lumen Fidei*), 35

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. *Information meeting will be held for those in the 6th grade and up on Sunday, January 22nd at 4:00pm in the basement of St. Sylvester Church. Parents and candidates are welcome to attend.*

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.

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 Neumann 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.

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).

This Week

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

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

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

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.

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 8

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

Monday

January 9

The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or

Acts 10:34-38

Mt 3:13-17

Tuesday

January 10

Weekday

Heb 2:5-12

Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday

January 11

Weekday

Heb 2:14-18

Mk 1:29-39

Thursday

January 12

Weekday

Heb 3:7-14

Mk 1:40-45

Friday

January 13

Weekday

Heb 4:1-5, 11

Mk 2:1-12

Saturday

January 14

Weekday

Heb 4:12-16

Mk 2:13-17

Sunday

January 15

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 49:3, 5-6

1 Cor 1:1-3

Jn 1:29-34

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.

Prayer Chain

Jackie Kirkland:

740-472-0338



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

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.

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.

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.

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

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

**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

If God wants everyone to believe in him, why doesn't God offer undeniable proof of his existence? Surely more would join the Church if adequate proof were available.

Perhaps what is missing is the ability to perceive and understand the evidence before our eyes. In the *Catechism* we are taught that God “provides men with constant evidence of himself in created realities” (CCC 54). Despite the evidence, however, God does seem to be hidden from the sight of some. Why might this be? Again, the *Catechism* offers an important truth: While faith is a grace, it is also dependent on the “free assent” of the human person to accept what God has revealed (CCC 150). Faith is a gift, but it is also a human act: “Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace” (CCC 155; see *Summa Theologica*, II-II.2.9).

In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19–31), Abraham declares to the rich man, “If they [his brothers] will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead” (16:31). So evidence of God’s presence, the witness of the Church, and even the most persuasive arguments might not be enough to convince every person to come to faith.

Fr. Tom Santa, CSsR

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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 :

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 the 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 on the side the church, replacing the roof on the social hall, the repair of yet another of the stain glass window, removal of the trees in the older part of the cemetery before they damage tombstones or individuals.

Tuesday Bingo

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

January 24
Monica Habig
Dara Butler
David Schnegg
Tiffany Zeakes
Vaughn or Pam Christy
Chuck Dye or
Heather Smith

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

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

Jan 24
Sandy Barnes
Alice Piatt