



St. Sylvester, Woodsfield  
founded 1866



St. John Bosco, Sardis  
(founded 1863) 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

Phone: 740-472-0187

Fr. Timothy Davison  
Pastor

Mrs. Tammy Jones  
Office Assistant  
tjones0821@gmail.com

Fr. Virgil Reischman  
Retired

December 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

Is 7:10–14 Rom 1:1–7 Mt 1:18–24

**Bulletin information** must be in to the office by Thursday at 8:00am.

**Parish Registration:** *New Parishioners* are always welcome! Please contact the parish office (740-472-0187) to register.

**Infant Baptism:** contact the parish office (740-472-0187) to schedule.

**Confessions:** at Woodsfield: Sat. 4:00pm to 4:45pm.;  
Sun 7:45am to 8:15am. and by appointment.

**Weddings:** No date may be reserved for a wedding until the couple meet with the priest.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, (RCIA):** RCIA is an adult preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Mr. Joseph Long, coordinator.

**Pastoral Care of the Sick and Infirm:** call 740-472-0187. Hospitals and Care facilities **regularly do not notify** the parish unless specific request is made.

**Catholic Woman's Club:** will meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the Brown Center at 7:00pm.  
*St. Sylvester:* Diane Burkhart 740-391-0391;  
*St. John the Baptist:* Eileen Ackerman 740-757-2481 and/or Eileen Miller 740-472-0279

**St. Joseph of Monroe County Council 5009 of the Knights of Columbus** will meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at St. Sylvester Church, following 6:30pm Mass. Grand Knight Mr. Sam Schumacher.

**Parish Prayer Chain:** please call: Jackie Kirkland 740-472-0338.

**Purgatorial Society** founded in the 1780's to pray for those holy souls in Purgatory. To join or for more information con-

**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.**

### CATHOLIC EDUCATION

**St. Sylvester Central Elementary:** (PK-8) 119 Wayne Street, Woodsfield, Ohio. Mrs. Robyn Guiler, principal. 740-472-0321

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

**Cub Scout Pack 17,** Pack Leader is Missy Dean (740) 934-9382  
[Mkd\\_1972@yahoo.com](mailto:Mkd_1972@yahoo.com)

**Boy Scout Troop 17** Scout Master: Mr. Tim Dolan (740)-213-7365

### Catholic Cemetery Contacts:

**St. Sylvester** Woodsfield: Donald & Rita Biedenbach 740-472-1849

**St. John the Baptist, Miltonsburg & Immaculate Conception,** Ozark; Jason Weiss or St. Sylvester Parish Office 740-472-0187

**St. Joseph & Chapel Hill,** Burkhart Station: Russell Betts 740-567-3286

**St. Patrick's,** New Matamoras: Parish office: 740-472-0187

**Diocese of Steubenville Office of Family and Social Concerns & Referral** (i.e. Catholic Charities), 1-800-339-7890.

### Diocesan Child Protection and reporting of abuse

Father James M. Dunfee, Vicar General of the Diocese of Steubenville, 1-740-282-3631 or e-mail [jdunfee@diosteub.org](mailto:jdunfee@diosteub.org).

**St. Sylvester Choir**—practice on Thursday at 7pm at the church

**formed.org** - an incredible online gateway to the best Catholic content, all in one place. Available 24/7 It's free and easy to register: 1. go to [monroecountycatholic.formed.org](http://monroecountycatholic.formed.org) 2 click on register and enter name and email address and a password of your choosing.

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**Saturday**

**Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>**

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 5:00pm  
+Jim & Marie Kirkland by Their Daughters

**Sunday**

**Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30am  
Living and Deceased family of Danny Betts by Mom & Dad  
**St. John the Baptist**, Miltonsburg 10:30 am  
Living and Deceased of our parishes

**St. John Bosco Mission**, Sardis 12:30 pm  
Andrew Howell Family by Larry & Connie Richter Family

**Monday**

**Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30am  
+Mary Paulus (Birthday) by The Family

**Tuesday**

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>**

**St. John the Baptist**, Miltonsburg  
Holy Hour at 8:00 am Mass at 9:00am  
+Herman Burkhardt, by Don & Marleen Burkhardt  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 4:00pm  
Children's Christmas Mass  
+Martha Kress by Joe & Chris Hoff  
**St. John the Baptist**, Miltonsburg 7:30pm  
+Meri Welsh by Bob Welsh

**Wednesday**

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>**

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30am  
+Paul & Leoba Archer by Tamie Brown  
**St. John Bosco Mission**, Sardis 10:30am  
+John & Mary (Cuppy) Chaplin by Larry & Connie Richter Family

**Thursday**

**Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>**

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 5:00pm  
+Joseph Gallagher by Ron & Cathy Gallagher  
**St. John Bosco Mission**, Sardis  
Holy Hour of Reparation 7pm-8pm

**Friday**

**Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>**

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30 am  
+Fr. Elias Abi-Sarkis

**St. John the Baptist**, Miltonsburg  
Stations of the Cross 2:30pm, Holy Hour 3pm-4pm

**Saturday**

**Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>**

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield (Latin)8:30am  
Fr. Jonas Shell & Intentions

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 5:00pm  
+Imelda D. Scott by Eugene & Christina Scott

Continued at top of next column

**Sunday**

**Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>**

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30am  
Living and Deceased of our parishes

**St. John the Baptist**, Miltonsburg 10:30 am  
+Wilma & Charlie Burkhardt by Linda Swallie

**St. John Bosco Mission**, Sardis 12:30 pm  
+Ralph & Ella Richter by Larry & Connie Richter Family

**Decorating at St. Sylvester**-We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm. Many hands make light work.

**Thank you**-I would like to "thank you" to all those who gave me cards and wishes for a Merry Christmas. May the Lord bless and reward you for your kindness. Fr. Tim

**In Loving Memory of:** We will continue this program in 2020. If you wish to have someone listed (see opposite page), you may place the request in the collection in an envelope labeled "In Memory of 2020" with \$10 per name.

**Winter weather is here!**-When there is a two hour delay at St. Sylvester Central (due to weather) or cancelled that weekday Mass will be at noon. If there is a major winter event on the weekend, I will try to maintain the regular Mass schedule.

**Our Sunday Offering**

for  
December 15/16

**St. John Bosco Mission**  
Adult collection \$ 97.00  
Loose \$ 49.00  
Immaculate Concep. \$ 5.00  
Religious Retirement \$ 5.00

**St. John the Baptist**  
Adult Collection \$ 1048.00  
Loose \$ 30.00  
School Collection \$ 99.00  
Christmas Flowers \$ 5.00  
Immaculate Concep. \$ 25.00  
First Offering \$ 10.00

**St. Sylvester**  
Adult Collection \$2001.00  
Loose Collection \$ 129.00  
School Collection \$ 336.00  
First Offering \$ 5.00  
Christmas Flowers \$ 43.00  
Immaculate Concep. \$ 20.00  
Religious Retirement \$ 50.00  
Thanksgiving \$ 21.00

*Thank you  
for your generous financial  
support of our parishes and  
Catholic Elementary School.*

**For Reflection**

- How does knowing that Jesus is one of us make a difference in your life?
- We are on the threshold of Christmas. What religious sentiments fill your mind and heart?

**THE DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE**

*PRESENTS*

**"JOURNEYS OF FAITH 2020"**

**Celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Diocese of Steubenville by participating in an inspiring journey of faith:**

- \* Sacred Steubenville – Dec. 6
- \* Holy Pittsburgh – March 6
- \* Philadelphia and Emmitsburg – April 27-30
- \* Historic Marietta – June 24
- \* Washington D.C. and Baltimore – Oct. 21-23

**Informative travel presentations outlining these memorable pilgrimages are scheduled as follows:**

**Monday, Jan. 13, 10:30 a.m., Holy Rosary Church Marian Room, Steubenville**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 15, 10 a.m., Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1:30 p.m., St. Benedict Church, Cambridge**

**For additional information, telephone Wendt Touring  
(740) 282-5790  
or toll-free at (877) 565-8687**

**In Loving Memory  
of:**

*Emma Schumacher*  
*Sr. Joanna Burkhart*  
*Sr. Evelyn Ann*  
*Schumacher*  
*Msgr. Joseph G Mehler*  
*Fr. Joseph Finan*  
Walter & Alma Heinz  
Imelda D Scott  
David Baker  
Lowell Baker  
William H Bolon  
Michael & Bertha  
Burkhart  
Paul & Barbara Conner  
Hilda & Herman  
Burkhart  
Katy & Paul Madison  
Francis & Freeda Paulus  
Mary & Hilda Paulus  
Robert Miller, Sr.  
Walter J Knox  
Danny Betts  
Monica Long  
Meri C Welsh  
Cyril Burkhart  
Joe & Eunice Gallagher  
Michael E Koval

*Eternal rest grant unto  
them, O Lord.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are only a few days away from the great Feast of Christmas. Hopefully, our desire to have Christ enter our hearts in a new way has steadily increased in these weeks of Advent. Come Lord Jesus!! I pray that for each and every one of you the Lord will indeed enter into your hearts and fill you with indescribable joy and peace. Merry Christmas to one and all!!

We will be decorating the Church of St. Sylvester on Monday evening. At St. John's in Miltonsburg and St. John's in Sardis, decorating will take place right after the Sunday Mass on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Our Mass schedule for Christmas is as follows: On Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> there will be a morning Mass at 9:00 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Church as usual. This is the Mass of the morning, the last day of Advent. Then, in the evening we will have a children's Mass at 4:00 p.m. at St. Sylvester's and then a 7:30 p.m. Mass at St. John's in Miltonsburg. On Christmas Day, we will have a Mass at 8:30 a.m. at St. Sylvester's and then a 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. John Bosco in Sardis.

I will be visiting my family in Gallipolis on Christmas Day after I finish at Sardis and won't be back until Thursday afternoon. Therefore, I have changed the Mass schedule on Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. On that day our Mass will be at 5:00 p.m. at St. Sylvester's in Woodsfield. After that, our Mass schedule for the rest of the week will be as usual.

Let us keep each other in our prayers and rejoice in this beautiful season of the year. God bless you.

Sincerely yours,

Father Timothy Davison

### **Why did early Christians begin celebrating Christmas on December 25th?**

Placing Christmas near the winter solstice can be traced to pagan celebrations in Christianity's early years. The celebration of Christmas in December began in Rome as a Christian response to a civil festival honoring the sun god Sol.

The Romans celebrated the sun climbing into the northern skies, signaling the lengthening days after the cold winter nights. On December 25, 274, Aurelian proclaimed the sun god principal patron of the empire. Christmas originated when this sun cult was strongest. Christians wouldn't go to the temple to pay homage to a sun god. They believed in the one true God, and God's only son made human, Jesus Christ.

It's almost as if Christians substituted "son" for "sun" and celebrated the birth of the son of justice into this world. The parallels are uncanny. As the extending sunlight broke night's grip and softened the cold sting on the world, so Jesus' coming broke the long reign of sin and darkness. Jesus was the true son, the light and life of the world, the reason for renewed hope.

Narrow fundamentalists fail to understand that Christmas is more than a birthday celebration of the day Christ was born. It's wider in scope, celebrating the reality that Jesus was born human. It's not the when but the what that we celebrate. So, Jesus' precise birthdate doesn't matter. What matters is that Jesus was truly born human—like us in all things but sin. For this we celebrate.

—Fr. Joseph Morin, CSsR

***“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.” Matthew 1:23***

## **A Word from Pope Francis**

We need, then, to open our hearts to the true light, Jesus Christ. He is the light that can illumine life and turn our darkness into light; the light of goodness that conquers evil; the light of the love that overcomes hatred; the light of the life that triumphs over death.

—  
ADDRESS TO VATICAN  
CURIA, DECEMBER 21,  
2018

## Tuesday Bingo

December 24<sup>th</sup>  
NO BINGO

December 31<sup>st</sup>  
NO BINGO

January 7<sup>th</sup>  
Monica Habig  
Schumacher  
Jon/Pam Knowlton  
Joe/Connie Kress  
Christopher/Andrea Hall  
Catlin Habig

January 14<sup>th</sup>  
Monica Habig  
Sam Schumacher  
Teresa/David McMillan  
John/Melissa Miller  
Tyler/Beth Knowlton  
Aaron/Brady Lucas

## Sunday Bingo

December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
NO BINGO

December 29<sup>th</sup>  
NO BINGO

January 5<sup>th</sup>  
Amanda Schumacher  
Sam Schumacher  
Randall/Kim Sefert  
Michael/Adrienne Shelton  
Gary/Keshia West  
Jonathan/Nicole Wilson

January 12<sup>th</sup>  
Monica Habig  
Schumacher  
Ted Babcock  
Nathan/Rachel Arden  
Tiffany/Sean Zeakes  
John/Shelly Blackstone

## St. Sylvester Central School News

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. The predetermined percentage we receive can be directed to be applied to a student's tuition or just given to the school.

**Thank you Daniel & Joyce Weiss** for your continued support of the school. We greatly appreciate your generous donation.

## Bingo Kitchen

TBA



## St. Joseph of Monroe County, Council 5009 of the Knights of Columbus Samuel Schumacher, Grand Knight

**Leading by Example**—Our council seeks to develop a culture of charity, unity, and fraternity in faithful service to the Church and community. New members are welcome to join us!

**Knights of Columbus Christmas dinner** will be Saturday, January 11th at St John's hall in Miltonsburg. New this year will be musical entertainment provided by the barbershop quartet "The Love". BYOB and RSVP to Sam by January 5th. More information to come.

**Double Chance Winners for December** : Mike Schumacher and Joe Lang

**Next Meeting**—The next Knight's of Columbus Meeting will be January 8th. There will be no Mass. Rosary will be at 6:45pm with the meeting to follow at 7:00pm.

## He's One of Us

The Incarnation means that God is one of us. He is made of our flesh and blood; he laughs, sings, and loves people. Though we believe he is God, he is still one of us. We can choose him to be on our team, trusting that he will play to win.

When identifying ourselves, we normally tell others what we do. Societies like the one to which Jesus belonged usually identified themselves by tracing ancestry. As Isaiah tells us today, Jesus belonged to the house of David. Paul says that he was of David "according to the flesh" (Romans 1:3). The Gospel identifies Joseph as a "son of David" (Matthew 1:20). Since Jesus was considered Joseph's legal son, he also was a "son of David." Joseph is told that the child will be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23). Thus, Incarnation means God is with us in a unique way in this man who is one of us. The Incarnation also gives extraordinary dignity to material creation, of which we are all a part and of which he is a part as well, for he is one of us. In other words, Emmanuel (God with us) is a child of earth. Like Joseph, we cannot fully comprehend what has happened. We can only stand with him in awe as this wondrous mystery unfolds before us. As we await Christmas, we wait for him to appear. When he comes, we will be amazed to see that he is really one of us.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

## Scripture Reading of the Week

### Saturday

DECEMBER 21  
Advent Weekday  
Sg 2:8–14 or  
Zep 3:14–18a  
Lk 1:39–45

### Sunday

DECEMBER 22  
Fourth Sunday of  
Advent  
Is 7:10–14  
Rom 1:1–7  
Mt 1:18–24

### Monday

DECEMBER 23  
Advent Weekday  
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24  
Lk 1:57–66

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 24  
Advent Weekday  
Sir 35:1–12  
Mk 10:28–31

### Wednesday

DECEMBER 25  
Christmas  
Is 52:7–10  
Heb 1:1–6  
Jn 1:1–18 or  
Jn 1:1–5, 9–14

### Thursday

DECEMBER 26  
St. Stephen, First Martyr  
Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59  
Mt 10:17–22

### Friday

DECEMBER 27  
St. John, Apostle and  
Evangelist  
1 Jn 1:1–4  
Jn 20:1a and 2–8

### Saturday

DECEMBER 28  
The Holy Innocents,  
Martyrs  
1 Jn 1:5–2:2  
Mt 2:13–18

### Sunday

DECEMBER 29  
The Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary, and  
Joseph  
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14  
Col 3:12–21 or  
Col 3:12–17  
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23