CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

555 S. Main Street, Johnstown, Ohio 43031 • 740-967-7871 • www.johnstownascension.org

Father Stephen Smith, Pastor

frsmith@johnstownascension.org

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Deacon Byron Phillips bphillips@johnstownascension.org Secretary

Kathy Bartolomucci | 614-325-0188 office@johnstownascension.org kbartolomucci@johnstownascension.org

Music Director Valerie Tanner | 740-222-4381 vtanner@johnstownascension.org

Parish Youth Catechesis (PYC) Kelly Pertee | 740-817-1628 kpertee@johnstownascension.org

Youth Minister Mary Nelson | 419-261-3872 mnelson@johnstownascension.org

Cemetery Coordinator Jim Stafford | 614-402-3706

Baptism Preparation Class Molly & Bob Orsini | 614-446-5622

Social Committee Rodney Tornes | 740-817-0137

St. Vincent de Paul Society 24-hour Hotline | 740-349-0989

Home School Contact Christie Thomas | 614-937-9066 christie311@proton.me

MISSION STATEMENT

Church of the Ascension is a Catholic community in Johnstown, Ohio that keeps Christ at the center of our hearts, families, homes and parish, so we can live the truth and share it with others (John 14:6; 1 Peter 3:15).

With the help of sacred scripture, tradition, and the sacraments, we strive to know, love and serve God in this world, while encouraging others to do the same, so we may live eternally in heaven with Christ, the angels, and the saints (Ephesians 2:4-8).

WEEKEND MASSES Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:30 a.m. • 11:00 a.m.

HOLY DAYS Vigil 6:30 p.m. 8:00 a.m. • 7:00 p.m.

ADORATION

Tuesday 5:00-6:00 p.m. Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.

DAILY MASS Monday 8:00 am Tuesday 6:30 pm Wednesday-Saturday 8:00 am Ascension of Christ, Gebhard Fugel (c. 1893)

CONFESSIONS Tuesday 5:00-6:00 p.m. Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY AT CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION. TO REGISTER IN THE PARISH, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AT 740-967-7871.

f facebook.com/johnstownascension 👩 @johnstownascension on Instagram 💿 youtube.com/johnstownascension

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NOVEMBER 19, 2023 • THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

8:00 a.m. Warren Chantler by the Carter Family8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions4:00 p.m. Parish Family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8:30 a.m. Beryl Walters by Molly Walters 11:00 a.m. Gloria Cesar by Karen Hottinger

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

8:00 a.m. David Michael Smithhisler by Gus Smithhisler

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

5:00 p.m. Adoration & Confessions 6:30 p.m. Wilbur DePue by Cynthia Delong

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. Bernice Booth by Bill & Chris Corboy

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

8:00 a.m. For an end to Abortion by Janet Flood

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

8:00 a.m. Dr. V.J. Thomas by the Thomas Family

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

8:00 a.m. Cynthia King (Anniversary of Death) by Susan & Tom Bryan
8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions
4:00 p.m. Joan Roscoe by Nina Price

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

8:30 a.m. Parish Family 11:00 a.m. Diane Rush by the Rush Family

Pastor's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend, we hear the familiar story of the master who gave talents to his servants and went off on a journey. It is a story told by Jesus and is often interpreted as a lesson on the responsible use of one's abilities, resources, and gifts.

The master of this parable is clearly meant to represent Jesus. The servants are those who follow Christ. Similar to the parable, Jesus also has given responsibility to His followers, and like the parable, He, the master, has promised to one day return.

This parable often is understood as a lesson about the importance of wisely using one's God-given talents and resources and not squandering them out of fear or complacency. It emphasizes the idea that those who are faithful and responsible in using what they've been given will be rewarded, while those who are negligent or fearful will face consequences.

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His disciples, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that where I am you may also be." (John 14:3) But just because Jesus is physically absent from the earth, doesn't mean His followers are given the freedom to sit back and do nothing.

Just like the master in the parable, Jesus has entrusted His servants with his ministry of spreading the Gospel, loving others, feeding the hungry and caring for the poor.

Jesus has made Christians participants in His ministry. They are also stewards of the things Christ values most. Jesus has entrusted His followers with His greatest treasures, making them caretakers of His mission on Earth. This is an incredible responsibility; one Christians should take seriously.

A wise and faithful steward will be faithful to his master's possessions and take care of what he's been given because he knows the master will eventually return.

Let us go forth and fulfill the master's mission in the world as wise and faithful stewards of His great gift of faith!

God bless, Fr. Smith

COAT COLLECTION

There's a chill in the air these days and that means it is **COAT COLLECTION** time again. We will be collecting clean coats, hats, gloves and new socks for charity again this year. Please drop them in the box in the Gathering Space. Thank you so much to all who have already donated many items.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to The Women of Ascension for cleaning and preparing our sanctuary on Saturday for the upcoming Advent season.

	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.
	Jolene Bogner	Veronica Botts	Cole Fox
ALTAR SERVERS:	Ethan Wnek	Jackson Wernette	Bode Cherry
	Christian Dorsten	Annie Muntz	Mathew Cherry
	Mike Haefs – Host	Mary Sheehan – Chalice	Bernadette Fox – Host
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:		Rachel Barb – Chalice	
		Crystal Kapavik – Host	
LECTORS:	Dave Bogner	Volunteer Needed	Carrie Suess
LECTORS:	Peter Luhrman – Angelus	Aaron Locker – Angelus	Mike Dunfee – Angelus
GREETERS/USHERS:	Jan Orkis	Bubby Eichner	Lora Dunfee
GKEEIEK3/USTIEK3:	Dennis Murnane	Robbi Eichner	Mike Dunfee
LIVESTREAM OPERATOR			Jeff Thomas

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time NOVEMBER 18-19, 2023

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe NOVEMBER 25-26, 2023

	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.	
	Christian Dorsten	Billy Staneart	Alex Smithhisler	
ALTAR SERVERS:	Ethan Wnek	Volunteer Needed	Jack Smithhisler	
	Shelli Writesel Brendan Sheehan		Volunteer Needed	
	Mike Keebaugh – Host	Tom Staneart – Chalice	Cathy Biancone – Host	
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:		Mary Sheehan – Chalice		
		Jerri Burgel – Host		
LECTORS:	Peter Luhrman	Ali Staneart	Diana Lewis	
LECTORS:	Dave Bogner – Angelus	Nadia Staneart – Angelus	Sally Blubaugh – Angelus	
CDEETEDS/LICLIEDS.	Maureen Keebaugh	Mark Sheehan	Lora Dunfee	
GREETERS/USHERS:	Mary Ann Shaffer	Mary Sheehan	Mike Dunfee	
LIVESTREAM OPERATOR			Smithhisler Family	

Your Gifts to God

November 11/12, 2023

Total Offering
60 Envelopes
Loose Cash
Online

WEEKLY NEED \$5,730.00
425 REGISTERED FAMILIES

\$ 6,007.55	St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 110.00
\$ 4,182.00	SOLT	\$ 280.00
\$ 354.55	SOS	\$ 20.00
\$ 1,471.00		



Do you return a portion of your time/skills/possessions to God in a spirit of gratitude? Looking for an easier way to give? Scan the QR code to open a link to the Church of the Ascension ParishSOFT Giving. Simply hold your phone's camera over the square and touch the link that appears at the top of your camera

screen, or visit https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/ascensionjohnstown.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

All ladies of the parish are invited to a Christmas Cookie Exchange on Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. Bring a couple dozen of your favorite cookies and take home a couple dozen others ... and you didn't even need to bake them! A perfect way to diversify your holiday cookie collection! This parish has some awesome bakers! Come and take advantage of trying something new!



EMMAUS ROAD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Did you know you can turn your tax dollars into scholarships for Our Catholic Schools? It's true! As an Ohio taxpayer, when you make a donation to the **Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund**, the Diocese's very own scholarship granting organization (SGO), you can receive a dollar-for-dollar credit against your state income tax liability, while creating scholarships for students to attend the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Columbus. Please pick up a flyer on the credenza in the vestibule for more information.

BOOK SALE

The 9th Annual K of C Council 11207 **Book Sale at St. Patrick Church**, 280 N. Grant Avenue. The proceeds benefit our Diocesan Seminarians. Hundreds of religious books and items for sale, Saturday, December 2, 2023, 4:00-7:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 3, 2023, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in Patrick Hall. For details, contact Dave Ball, Chairman, at 614-753-1696.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE HOMEBOUND

We will once again be making Christmas gift bags for our homebound that our Eucharistic Ministers visit. If you would like to send Christmas cards to include in the gift bags, please pick up a name list from the pocket on the box that is wrapped in Christmas paper in the Gathering Space. Prepare your Christmas cards and return them to the box no later than Wednesday, December 6th and we will put them in the gift bags that will be delivered December 9/10 and December 16/17. Please, do not bring cookies! Thank you!



DID YOU KNOW?

Families are considered to have diaper needs when they cannot afford a supply of diapers adequate for changing at healthy intervals. Diaper need is a public health issue that threatens child health, maternal health, and household income. Half of all households in the U.S. with young children in diapers experience diaper need. For more information, and ways you can help, visit www.bottomsup.life.



"KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" BUMPER STICKERS

The Knights of Columbus will be selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" bumper magnets and boxes of Christmas cards after each Mass November 18 and 19. They are \$5.00 each. Get yours while supplies last!

"LIGHT UP FOR CHRIST" CEREMONY

Please join the Knights of Columbus on December 8 after the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Evening Mass for a special "Light Up for Christ" ceremony. We will meet in the lobby, process out to the Nativity scene in the parking lot, sing hymns and hear a brief reflection before lighting the Nativity. All are invited.

STEWARDSHIP EMPLOYMENT MINISTRY

The Stewardship Employment Ministry (SEM) is a 501(c)(3), charitable organization providing training and support for those unemployed and under-employed. Founded by Church of the Ascension Parishioner Tom Nann in 2008, thousands of families have been assisted by this ministry. They are a Christian-based organization not only focused on the individual, but also on the spouse and family also suffering. Since there are no fees for our services, we must rely on donations, grants, and the annual fundraiser.

ALTAR FLOWER BOOK

There are new sheets in the Altar Flower Book on the podium in the Gathering Space for you to sign up if you would like to provide flowers in memory, honor, celebration, thanksgiving, or for any other reason. Please fill out an envelope and return it with a check for \$35.00 for each of the dates that you would like your intention to be remembered.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

St. John Chrysostom, 5858 Cleveland Avevnue, Columbus, OH, is holding their Annual Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Items available include: Trays of more than six-dozen assorted cookies for \$50.00/each; Nut & Poppyseed rolls (sold frozen) for \$15.00/each; Baklava in an 8"x8" pan for \$25.00/each; and Gourmet Pirohi for \$7.00/package. Pirohi fillings are: Potato/Cheese, Sauerkraut, Sweet Cheese, and Whole Prune. These are sold frozen in packages of one dozen per filling. There are also individual items available for sale in the hall during this time.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL PRODUCT QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED and may run out prior to order deadline. Place your order now. ORDER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 3. Cash, check or card are accepted (preferred method). Go to our website at www.byzantinecolumbus.com OR call 614-882-7578 and follow the prompts. ALL PREORDERS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 1:00 P.M. ON THE DAY OF SALE. After 1:00 p.m., they will be offered for general sale.

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023 – SPEAKER BISHOP EARL FERNANDES

Join us Friday, December 1 at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a luncheon featuring His Excellency Bishop Earl Fernandes, Bishop of the Columbus Diocese, who will present his annual address to the luncheon club. The December luncheon is sponsored by The Catholic Foundation. Started in 1984, the Catholic Foundation has provided over \$200 million in funding for organizations throughout the Columbus Diocese and beyond. More information about the Catholic Foundation is available at https://catholic-foundation.org/. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, please contact Pat Foley at foleyp513@gmail. com. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Bishop Fernandes' presentation. No reservations are necessary. \$12.00 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! There is no luncheon in January, but plan on attending our luncheon on Friday, February 2, 2024, when Bishop Fernandes will return to present the Catholic Man of the Year Award.

OPENINGS AVAILABLE

There are still openings available to pick up donated items from Panera Bread on Saturday night and deliver it to The Haven in Newark and drop off at Ascension on Sunday nights, (sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space or text your availability to Diane Green at 859-380-1944, or sign up on Flocknote.)

Youth Group News

LUNCHES NEEDED!

Every week, we provide lunch during Youth Group, and we need people who are willing to provide these lunches. It can be as easy as ordering pizzas to cooking up a lunch and bringing it. If this is something you would like to help provide, there is a sign-up sheet on the Youth Group door or reach out to Mary at mnelson@johnstownascension.org. Thank you in advance! Youth Group meets right after the 11:00 a.m. Mass every Sunday.

MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

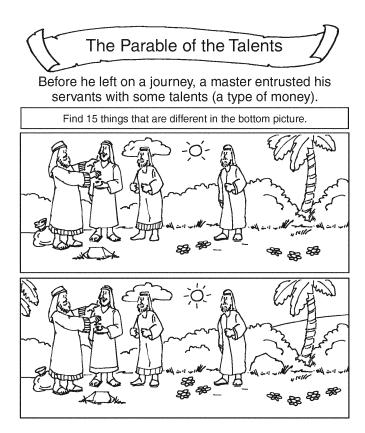
We have many open dates for Mass Intentions on our calendar. Please contact Kathy in the office at office@johnstownascension.org or 740-967-7871 or drop a note in the collection with the intention and your name. We will do our best to accommodate any special date requests.

Your Prayers are Requested

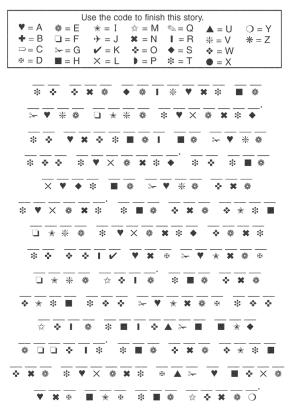
Your prayers this week are asked for Wesley Potts, Susan Welch, Dale Anne Davidson, Joyce Curran, Wilbur Suver, Gabrielle and Shawn, Dana Caswell, John & Sophie Wetherell, Suzanne Kubin, Sharon Freitag, Di Habash, Gordon Cromwell, Shalena and her twin baby boys, Sloane & Lorenzo, Rosalie Lewein, Frank Eggart, Ross McClain, Taylor Byrer, Betty Melick, Debi Clark, Joe Lindsay, Little Mark Douglas, Ivan Booth, Zsolt Csaba, Mick, Donna Dellapina, Mark & Cathy Mann, Emily Scott, Peggy Hall, Mike Riordan, Steph Esselstein, Kristine Neal, Olivia Williams, Al Tharp, June Larick, Terry Baesmann, Mike & Jane Gaylk, John Tomich, Dakota Basford, Blair Lemon, Mike Colle, Janice Good, Barbara Penhorwood, Albert Luikart, Basil Crawford, Lois Hottinger, Margie Easterday, Lacey McLoughlin, Tony Gallo, John & Neva Stover, Jared Writesel, Katie Dooley, Judy Miller, Ann Bishop, Randy Hostetler, Joseph & Debbie Ford, Rita Reali, Peg Peyton, Don Vocca, Mike Dunn, Rose Neilson, Teresa Walton & her brother Richard, Deborah Parkey, Joseph Ford, Karen Reitz, Jeff Ankrom, JoAnn Wright, Carol Cope, Barb VanHoose, Kris Bowers, Joyce Priest, Shane Hatten, Bob Muench, Hannah Cohagen Lehman, Ron & Ann Mullins, Ron Gallo, Sutton Parish, Helen Tomich, Sylvia Freed, and for those who have no one to pray for them.

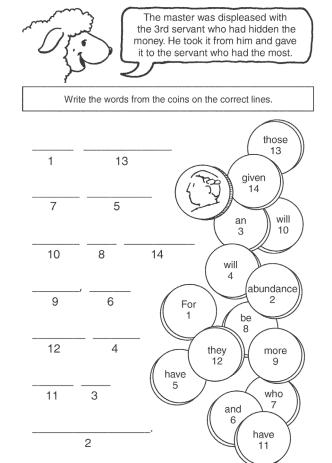
ARE YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE MILITARY? Please let us know and we will add the names to our Prayer Requests.

Activities for Children =



He distributed the money to them in a certain manner. What did they do with it?





When the master returned, he called his servants to him to settle his accounts. His words to the first two servants are below.



"Well done, good and faithful servant!

You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in

charge of many things. Come and share

your master's happiness!"

F	Е	W	Н	А	V	Е	Е	Υ	С
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1	Μ	А	S	Т	Е	R	S	U	Μ
T	Ρ	Υ	Ρ	W	1	Т	Н	R	Е
Н	U	0	С	Ρ	D	Μ	А	Ν	Y
F	Т	U	Т	Н	1	Ν	G	S	Е
U	S	Е	R	V	А	Ν	Т	F	R
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CHILD OF THE LIGHT

Reflection on Matthew 25:14-30

Today's parable follows immediately upon last week's story of the wise and foolish virgins in Matthew's Gospel; they both direct our attention to the last days and the Lord's coming. This story highlights for us the truth that there will be some kind of final accounting for our lives. As the servants report to their master on their use of "talents" entrusted to them, so each of us will be required to give an account of our lives to the Master, our Almighty God.

The affirmation of the second reading that we are "children of light," and the first reading's praise of "a worthy wife," and by implication, lifting up the gifts of all women, grab our attention. Perhaps these descriptions of our identity and purpose which flow from our divine inheritance (created in the image and likeness of God) can function as beacons for self-assessment, or an examination of conscience.

What does it mean to be a child of the light? In Baptism, we each "received the light of Christ... to be kept burning brightly." More than ever, the world needs the gifts of women and men to be in service of the Kingdom of God. With Baptism as the source of our mission and common priesthood, we spend our talents, our gifts, our very lives in service of God's reign, the Light that is conquering the darkness of this world.

~ Fr. Jay



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, November 19, 2023

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 1 Thes 5:1-6 Mt 25:14-30

Monday, November 20, 2023 Weekday

1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63 Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158 Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 2 Mc 6:18-31 Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday, November 22, 2023 Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31 Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15 Lk 19:11-28 **Thursday, November 23, 2023** *Thanksgiving Day* 1 Mc 2:15-29 Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15 Lk 19:41-44

Friday, November 24, 2023

Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd Lk 19:45-48

Saturday, November 25, 2023

Weekday 1 Mc 6:1-13 Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19 Lk 20:27-40

> Access Daily Readings from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) online at https://bible.usccb.org

SAINT ANDREW DUNG-LAC AND COMPANIONS

Feast Day: November 24

Andrew Dung-Lac, a Catholic convert ordained to the priesthood, was one of 117 people martyred in Vietnam between 1820 and 1862. Members of the companions group gave their lives for Christ in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and received beatification during four different occasions between 1900 and 1951. All were canonized during the papacy of Saint John Paul II.

Christianity came to Vietnam through the Portuguese. Severe persecutions were launched at least three times in the 19th century. During the six decades after 1820, between 100,000 and 300,000 Catholics were killed or subjected to great hardship. Foreign missionaries martyred in the first wave included priests of the Paris Mission Society, and Spanish Dominican priests and tertiaries.

In 1832, Emperor Minh-Mang banned all foreign missionaries, and tried to make all Vietnamese deny their faith by trampling on a crucifix. Like the priest-holes in Ireland during English persecution, many hiding places were offered in homes of the faithful.

Persecution broke out again in 1847, when the emperor suspected foreign missionaries and Vietnamese Christians of sympathizing with a rebellion led by one of his sons. The last, of the martyrs were 17 laypersons, one of them a 9-year-old, executed in 1862. That year a treaty with France guaranteed religious freedom to Catholics, but it did not stop all persecution.

During the Vietnamese war, Catholics again suffered in the north, and again moved to the south in great numbers. It may help people who associate Vietnam only with a 20th-century war to realize that the cross has long been a part of the lives of the people of that country. Even as some people ask again the unanswered questions about the United States' involvement and disengagement, the faith rooted in Vietnam's soil proves hardier than the forces that willed to destroy it.

Read the full article: "Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-albert-the-great/. (Accessed November 7, 2023).

