CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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

Father Stephen Smith, Pastor

frsmith@johnstownascension.org

Father Jesse Chick, CFIC Parochial Vicar jchick@johnstownascension.org

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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JANUARY 21, 2024 • THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

8:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Church of the Ascension
8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions
4:00 p.m. Joan Louise Fischer Cain by Loved Ones

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

8:30 a.m. Parish Family 11:00 a.m. Nancy Crurine by Janet Johnson

MONDAY, JANUARY 22 8:00 a.m. Duane Flood by Janet Flood

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

5:00 p.m. Adoration & Confessions 6:30 p.m. For the Intention of Deacon Byron Phillips by Deacon Joe & Maureen Meyer

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

8:00 a.m. For Unborn Babies

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 8:00 a.m. For Vocations

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

8:00 a.m. Les Zajac by Mike Haefs

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

8:00 a.m. For the Intention of the Hawbaker Family by the Thomas Family
8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions
4:00 p.m. Nola Chevaliar by Joe & Jan Orkis

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

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

RCIA Class topic for Wednesday, January 24, 2024 – The Sacrament of Confirmation The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Pastor's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend, we celebrate the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. In the Gospel Reading this weekend, we hear the story of the calling of the first disciples. This marks the beginning of Christ's public ministry. After years of prayer and preparation, the climax of salvation history has finally begun!

This version of the calling of the disciples from the Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the Synoptic Gospels and provides little detail of the conversation between Simon, Andrew and Jesus.

The Gospel begins with the account of John the Baptist's arrest, which foreshadows Jesus' own fate and then moves into the ministry of Jesus in Galilee. The Galelian ministry of Jesus is central to the Gospel of Mark.

Galilee is not only the scene of Jesus' earthly ministry, but also the meeting place of the Risen Lord. Mark could be exhorting the Jerusalem Church to turn its sights on this "Galilee," recognizing in the locale of Jesus' earthly ministry, the scene of his impending *parousia* (Second Coming).

The early Church knew that certain of Jesus' disciples had been with Him from the time of John, hence Mark places this particular episode at the beginning of His ministry in Galilee. Although the words suggest an almost casual encounter, Jesus' call of the disciples was anything but casual.

Jesus makes an imperative claim upon His disciples and gives them new direction to their lives. No less important is the immediate effect of His summons.

Mark gives the impression that Peter and Andrew answered Jesus' call by leaving behind their livelihood, whereas James and John responded by severing family ties. His primary purpose is to show that discipleship entails renunciation of possessions and family ties.

Ultimately, to be a disciple of Christ, we must be willing and ready to give up everything to follow Him.

During this week, let us meditate on Jesus' call of His first disciples, understanding that like Andrew and Simon and James and John, each of us are called by God to follow Him. The question that remains is how we will respond.

God bless, Fr. Smith

IT'S ALMOST FISH FRY TIME

Please remove old items from the refrigerator and freezer in the kitchen to make room for needed supplies for the FISH FRY crew. Anything remaining after February 1 must be labeled for a specific group and dated or it will be discarded. Thank you!

LECTOR WORKBOOKS are now available in the closet in the east hallway. If you are a Lector, please pick up one for your reference.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time JANUARY 20-21, 2024

	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.
ALTAR SERVERS:	Jolene Bogner	Claire Barb	Alex Smithhisler
	Shelli Writesel	Joey Barb	Jack Smithhisler
	Ethan Wnek	Annie Muntz	C.C. Zirille
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:	Linda Droege – Host	Jerri Burgel – Chalice	Laura Sammons – Host
		Michael Robbins – Chalice	
		Rachel Barb – Host	
LECTORS:	Dennis Murnane	Adele Robbins	Diana Lewis
	Tom Nann – Angelus	Dale Anne Davidson – Angelus	Carrie Suess – Angelus
GREETERS/USHERS:	MaryAnn Shaffer	Bubby Eichner	Zirille Family
	Volunteer Needed	Robbi Eichner	
LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:			Smithhisler Family

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time JANUARY 27-28, 2024

	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.
ALTAR SERVERS:	Volunteer Needed	Veronica Botts	Volunteer Needed
	Ethan Wnek	Luke Orsini	Bode Cherry
	Shelli Writesel	Ben Orsini	Mathew Cherry
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:	Dennis Murnane – Host	Jerri Burgel – Chalice	Danielle Wetzel – Host
		Volunteer Needed – Chalice	
		Volunteer Needed – Host	
LECTORS:	Tom Nann	Adele Robbins	Peter Luhrman
	Dennis Murnane – Angelus	Rodney Tornes – Angelus	Sally Blubaugh – Angelus
GREETERS/USHERS:	Jan Orkis	Tommy Botts	Lora Dunfee
	MaryAnn Shaffer	Andrea Botts	Mike Dunfee
LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:			Jim Stafford



NEW! ONLINE BOOKING

Fr. Smith is using a new, easier online booking system to meet with parishioners. If you'd like to schedule a meeting with Fr. Smith, please scan the QR code or visit his calendar at https://calendly.com/frstephensmith.

Your Gifts to God

WEEKLY NEED \$7,115.00 430 REGISTERED FAMILIES

JANUARY 13/14, 2024

\$ 3,957.00
\$ 2,610.00
\$ 271.00
\$ 1,076.00
\$ 760.00
\$ 10.00
\$ 20.00
\$ 30.00
\$ 20.00
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

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.

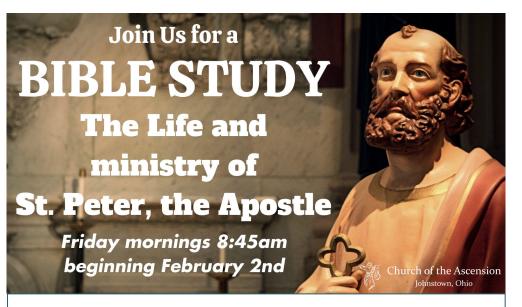


Our 2024 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

for pickup in the east hallway across from the restrooms. Please note that they are arranged in alphabetical order, but you may not have the same number as last year, so please double-check your name before taking any. If there is not a set with your name on it, please see the sheet on the table for instructions.

MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

We have many open dates on our calendar for Mass Intentions. Please contact Kathy in the office at 740-967-7871, on my cell at 614-325-0188 or office@johnstownascension.org, or drop a note in the collection with the intention and your name. We will do our best to accommodate any special date requests.



ST. PETER BIBLE STUDY

The character of St. Peter is both inspiring and confounding to many of us. How could a stubborn and impulsive fisherman become the "rock" upon which Jesus would build His Church? Bringing together biblical accounts, historical evidence, Church teaching, classical art, and personal insights, Dr. Tim Gray gives a fresh perspective on Simon Peter that is immediately informative and relevant to our lives. After all, if Jesus could bring out the very best in someone like Peter, then there is hope for the rest of us.

Questions? Please contact Carrie Suess at carriesuess@yahoo.com.

RESPECT LIFE MASS

Monday, January 22, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad Street, Columbus.

On this date of the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision, our Diocese will join all dioceses of the United States in observing a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Principal celebrant and homilist is Bishop Earl K. Fernandes. All are invited. For more information, contact the Diocesan Office for Social Concerns at socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org or 614-241-2540.

ROE REMEMBRANCE AT THE STATEHOUSE

Monday, January 22, 2024, Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Greater Columbus Right to Life will sponsor the Annual *Roe* Remembrance at the Ohio Statehouse (West Lawn), following the 10:30 a.m. Respect Life Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral. For additional information, visit www.gcrtl.org/roe.html.

GIVE BLOOD

American Red Cross

There will be a *RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE* on Monday, February 19 from 1:00-7:00 p.m. here at Ascension. Please consider giving the gift of life by donating a pint of blood. You can make an appointment at redcross.org.

The *FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR* this weekend are in celebration of the Anniversary of Charlie & Lydia Lewis by Diana Lewis.



UNDONE: FREEDOM FOR THE FEMININE HEART

St. Francis de Sales Parish in Newark proudly hosts *Undone: Freedom for the Feminine Heart* – a conference in partnership with the JPII Healing Center. This is the first-ever healing ministry conference solely for women. *Undone* offers women an encounter with truth and healing tailored to their specific identities as daughter, sister, bride and mother. The weekend includes three great speakers, small group discussion, Adoration time for prayer, and much more. Two evenings and one full day: Thursday, January 25, 6:00-10:00 p.m.; Friday, January 26, 6:00-10:00 p.m., and Saturday, January 27, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Livestreaming is also available. Visit jpiihealingcenter.org/events/ for details and to buy tickets now.

ANDREW DINNERS

Young men high school-age and older are invited to share a meal with Bishop Fernandes to learn more about discernment, seminary life and the priesthood. The dinner begins with Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and a talk from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 24 – Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus

Monday, March 4 – Blessed Sacrament Church, Newark

Tuesday, March 5 – Bishop Ready High School, Columbus (oriented toward Latinos) Please RSVP at least one week prior to the dinner to vocations@columbuscatholic.org or call the Vocations Office at 614-221-5565.

SUPER BOWL WEEKEND SUB SALE

Women of Ascension are having a Sub Sandwich Sale. Choose from Turkey and Cheese or Italian on a large bakery sub roll made fresh for you. Orders will be taken now through February 4 after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Orders can be dropped in the box outside the church office or after Masses February 3 or 4. Subs are \$8.00 each or \$7.00 each if you order four or more. Use the order form in the bulletin today. Pickup after the Masses on February 10 and 11 in time for the big game. See insert for details.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

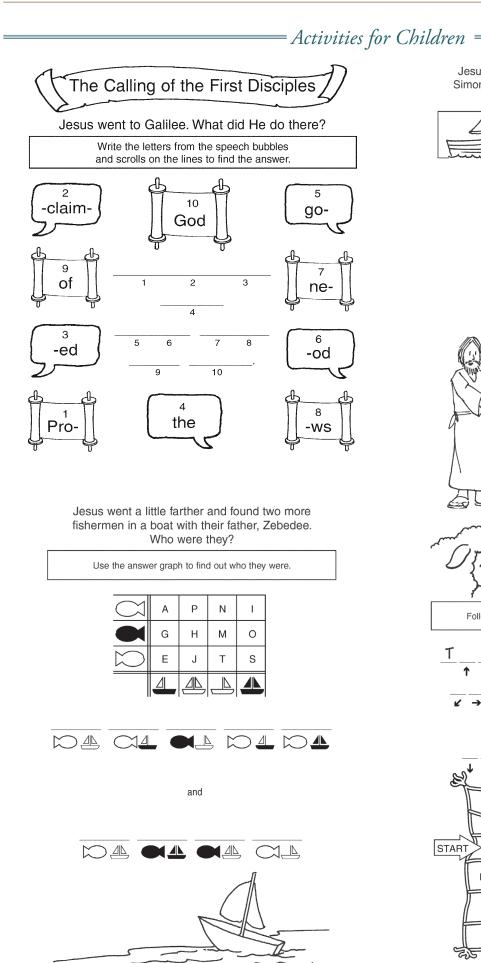
We need volunteers to provide Meals at St. Vincent Haven on the third and fourth Sunday evenings in 2024. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the book on the podium in the Gathering Space. There are also information sheets in the back folder of the book. Questions? Call Mike at 614-432-0656 or Lora at 614-432-0657. They would be happy to explain the program to you. You can use food that the Haven has in their freezers and pantry. They just need volunteers to prepare it. Volunteers are also needed to pick up donated items from Panera Bread on Saturday and Sunday nights, (There are 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).

Your Prayers are Requested

We have revamped our Prayer List. We left parishioners names who still need our prayers and have removed names that were special requests. We will be adding any new requests, but removing them after three months, unless they ask to continue to be listed.

Your prayers this week are asked for Maxine Nann, Letha Patton, John Yeagle, the Keasey Family, Wesley Potts, Susan Welch, Joyce Curran, Gabrielle & Shawn, Dana Caswell, Suzanne Kubin, Sharon Freitag, Di Habash, Gordon Cromwell, Joe Lindsay, Ivan Booth, Donna Dellapina, Mark & Cathy Mann, Peggy Hall, Terry Baesmann, John Tomich, Barbara Penhorwood, Margie Easterday, John & Neva Stover, Jared Writesel, Don Vocca, Karen Reitz, Jeff Ankrom, JoAnn Wright, Bob Muench, Ron & Ann Mullins, Ron Gallo, Helen Tomich, 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.



Use the code to find out what He said. 2 3 1 2 4 3 3 4 5 3 2 1 3 1 2 5 2 3 3 3 1 3 2 5 4 5 2 2 4 2 73 2 4 1 4 2 4 4 3 2 æ Jesus called the four fishermen to follow Him. What did they do? Follow the arrows from letter to letter to fill the blanks. Т Ť R Ľ Ť Ľ -T J Е Е I R Н D Е F S В А Π START ·т Т Ν Ν D Т В 0 Н А I 0 F Е D R Е R S w S Н Q F Ν 0 Μ

Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee. He saw

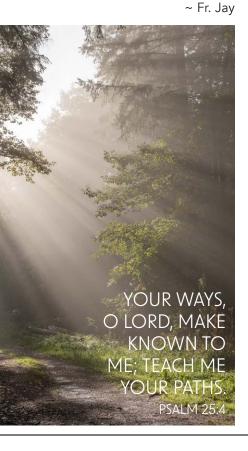
Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the lake.

Reflection on Mark 1:14-20

We have been caught in the net. So we are fish, as followers of Jesus. But if that is all we are, what is exciting about that? If we are just swimming around in the holding tank of the Church, then we are like fish in public aquariums, well fed and well protected with little more to do than look back at all the funny folks looking at us.

The invitation for us to also be fishers of people is still being issued today, and is perhaps immensely more urgent than ever before. Jesus and His Church need all the help they can get! That is why the Second Vatican Council kept emphasizing the role of ALL God's people to spread the faith, to possess missionary spirit, to evangelize, to show and tell the people we live with, work with, attend classes with, play and pray with, that God's Kingdom of life and love, of peace and forgiveness, of justice and healing, is very much "at hand" - is in our midst – is with us now, today, and until the end of time.

So today, Jesus is not just talking to Simon and Andrew and James and John. Today Jesus is speaking to each one of us. There are many fish in the sea! Get out there and hook some!



Sunday, January 21, 2024

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Jon 3:1-5, 10 Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 1 Cor 7:29-31 Mk 1:14-20

Monday, January 22, 2024

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10 Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26 Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday, January 23, 2024 *Weekday*

2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19 Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 2 Sm 7:4-17 Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30 Mk 4:1-20

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Thursday, January 25, 2024

The Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Mk 16:15-18

Friday, January 26, 2024

Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 Mk 4:26-34

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Weekday 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17 Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 Mk 4:35-41

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

SAINTS TIMOTHY AND TITUS

Saint of the Day: January 26 Patron Saint of: Relief from Stomach Disorders

Timothy had a Greek father and a Jewish mother named Eunice. Being the product of a "mixed" marriage, he was considered illegitimate by the Jews. It was his grandmother, Lois, who first became Christian. Timothy was a convert of Paul around the year 47 and later joined him in his apostolic work. He was with Paul at the founding of the Church in Corinth. During the 15 years he worked with Paul, he became one of his most faithful and trusted friends. He was sent on difficult missions by Paul—often in the face of great disturbance in local churches which Paul had founded.

Timothy was with Paul in Rome during the latter's house arrest. At some period, Timothy himself was in prison (Hebrews 13:23). Paul installed him as his representative at the Church of Ephesus.

Titus has the distinction of being a close friend and disciple of Paul as well as a fellow missionary. He was Greek, apparently from Antioch. Titus is seen as a peacemaker, administrator, great friend. Paul's second letter to Corinth affords an insight into the depth of his friendship with Titus, and the great fellowship they had in preaching the gospel. When Paul was having trouble with the community at Corinth, Titus was the bearer of Paul's severe letter and was successful in smoothing things out.

The "Letter to Titus" addresses him as the administrator of the Christian community on the island of Crete, charged with organizing it, correcting abuses, and appointing presbyter-bishops. In Titus, we get another glimpse of life in the early Church: great zeal in the apostolate, great communion in Christ, great friendship.

Read the full article: "Saints Timothy and Titus" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saints-timothy-and-titus/. (Accessed January 10, 2024).

