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

Daryl Wernette | 217-721-0802

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).

Ascension of Christ, Gebhard Fugel (c. 1893)

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

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.



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CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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MARCH 17, 2024 • FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

8:00 a.m. For Living & Deceased Members of the Scarpitti Family by Dr. Pat Scarpitti

8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions

4:00 p.m. Jack & Lucy Walsh by Stephen & Kathryn Eyerman

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

8:30 a.m. Parish Family 11:00 a.m. Mel Hawkins

by Mark & Joanne Hawkins

MONDAY, MARCH 18

8:00 a.m. For the Intention of Aaron Anderson by Jennifer Fortner

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

5:00 p.m. Adoration & Confessions 6:30 p.m. Betty Nicotra by the Robbins Family

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

8:00 a.m. Joe Martin by Patrice Paider

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

8:00 a.m. Kathy Fracasso by Francis & Hilda Doyle

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

8:00 a.m. For Living & Deceased Members of the Luley Family by Dr. Pat Scarpitti

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

8:00 a.m. For Living & Deceased Members of the Schaeufele Family by Dr. Pat Scarpitti

8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions 4:00 p.m. Parish Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

8:30 a.m. Howard & Beatrice Yeagle by John Yeagle 11:00 a.m. Beverly Meholick by the Cromwell Family

Pastor's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of the Season of Lent, also known as the beginning of Passiontide. Traditionally, the final two weeks of Lent are used as an immediate preparation for the sorrowful events of the Easter drama. It is a period of time to focus more and more on the Passion and death of Jesus and so accompany Him on His way to Calvary.

For several centuries, the Fifth Sunday of Lent was known as "Passion Sunday" and marked the beginning of a special sub-season called Passiontide, which extended up until Holy Saturday. During this time, the Church's liturgy became more somber and a sorrowful mood was reflected in the various practices that occurred in the liturgy.

The most obvious example of a more somber mood was the veiling of statues and images, which remains an optional practice in the current *Roman Missal:* "In the Dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from [the fifth] Sunday [of Lent] may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."

It was also on the Friday of this initial "Passion Week" that the Feast of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary was celebrated (it is now fixed annually on September 15.) The current *Roman Missal* still provides an alternative prayer for that day (Friday in the Fifth Week of Lent), remembering Mary's own bitter passion.

O God, who in this season give Your Church the grace to imitate devoutly the Blessed Virgin Mary in contemplating the Passion of Christ, grant, we pray, through her intercession, that we may cling more firmly each day to Your Only Begotten Son and come at last to the fullness of His grace.

Palm Sunday, which we will celebrate next weekend, was seen as the "Second Sunday in Passiontide," and is currently listed in the liturgical calendar as "Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion." It is on this day that the Passion narrative is read, the longest Sunday Gospel reading of the entire year. The Church beckons us on Palm Sunday to look toward the cross and see Christ's immense love for us, sacrificing himself for our sins. It is a preview of what is to come on Good Friday.

As we prepare ourselves for the coming celebration of our Lord's Passion, let us open our hearts to the wonderful gift of salvation for which Jesus offered Himself. May this Passiontide be for us a somber and reflective time as we unite ourselves to Our Lord's Passion, death, and Resurrection.

God bless, Fr. Smith



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent MARCH 16-17, 2024

	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.
ALTAR SERVERS:	Jolene Bogner	Paul Cuthbert	Ben Orsini
	Ethan Wnek	Annie Muntz	Joey Barb
	Christian Dorsten	Billy Staneart	Cole Fox
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:	Linda Droege – Host	Tom Staneart – Chalice	Mark Hawkins – Host
		Michael Robbins – Chalice	
		Jerri Burgel – Host	
LECTORS:	Dennis Murnane	Carrie Suess	Class Mass Volunteer
	Dennis Murnane – Angelus	Diana Lewis – Angelus	Class Mass Volunteer – Angelus
GREETERS/USHERS:	Mary Ann Shafer	Mark Sheehan	Class Mass Volunteers
	Jan Orkis	Mary Sheehan	
LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:			Jeff Thomas

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord MARCH 23-24, 2024

	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.
ALTAR SERVERS:	Shelli Writesel	Claire Barb	Alex Rush
	Ethan Wnek	Joey Barb	Jack Smithhisler
	Christian Dorsten	Billy Staneart	Alex Smithhisler
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:	Mike Haefs – Host	Mary Sheehan – Chalice	Pat Urban – Host
		Jerri Burgel – Chalice	
		Rachel Barb – Host	
LECTORS:	Peter Luhrman	Nadia Staneart	Diane Green
	Tom Nann – Angelus	Ali Staneart – Angelus	Joe Green – Angelus
GREETERS/USHERS:	Dennis Murnane	Tom Staneart	Lora Dunfee
	MaryAnn Shaffer	Aly Staneart	Mike Dunfee
LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:			Jeff Thomas

Your Prayers are Requested

Your prayers this week are asked for Bob & Sylvia Freed, Rick Potter & Family, Justin King, Virginia Ankrom, Maxine Nann, Letha Patton, 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 & Helen 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, 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.

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION JOHNSTOWN, OHIO

Your Gifts to God

WEEKLY NEED \$7,115.00

430 REGISTERED FAMILIES

MARCH 9/10, 2024

\$ 6,199.00
\$ 3,698.00
\$ 258.00
\$ 2,243.00
\$ 696.00
\$ 96.00
\$ 30.00
\$ 5.00
\$ \$ \$ \$

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.



If you would like a *STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2023*, please email the church office at office@johnstownascension.org, drop a note in the collection basket, or call the Parish Office at 740-967-7871. Please let us know if you would like to receive it via email or snail mail.

MINISTERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL MASSES

Please consider giving an hour of your time to be ministers to the Lord at Mass. We are in desperate need for all Mass times, especially the 4:00 p.m. Mass. We need Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers (5th Grade-Adult) and Greeters. Training provided. Contact Fr. Smith at frsmith@johnstownascension.org.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PALM SUNDAY

Palms strips are limited this year since there was a dry growing season where the palms are harvested. We only received half of our order, so please limit the number of palm strips that your family picks up at Mass next weekend, especially at the Saturday Vigil and early Sunday Mass.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Commemorate Jesus' Passion and death on the Cross Fridays during Lent at 7:00 p.m. after the Fish Fry.

40 CANS FOR LENT

Donate a can for every day of Lent to benefit the Johnstown-Northridge Food Pantry. Just bring your cans to the church. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Our *ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY* will take place every Friday in Lent through March 22 from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Dinners include fish, baked potatoes or fries, coleslaw, bun, dessert and drink. Cost: Adults, \$12.00; Children 6-12 and Senior Citizens, \$8.00; Children 5 and under eat free! Carry-out is available! If you would like to donate a dessert, please drop it off on Thursday or Friday. Any questions, call Bill Paider at 614-348-4216.

NO GREATER LOVE - A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH CHRIST'S PASSION

Video Series is continuing every Monday night at 7:00 p.m. through Lent. You're welcome to join us!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. Blood products are currently going to hospitals faster than blood donations are coming in, and in recent weeks, the Red Cross has had to limit distributions of Type-O blood products – among the most transfused blood types – to hospitals. Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, March 18 from 12:00 Noon-6:00 p.m.

BECOME A SERRAN!

Serrans ensure the future of the Catholic Church by creating a culture of vocations in our Columbus Diocese. Serrans affirm and encourage our priests and supporting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Serrans assist and encourage one another to respond to God's call to holiness. Check out our website at SERRACOLUMBUS.ORG for more information and scheduled events.

MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

We have many open dates for Mass Intentions on our calendar. Please contact us in the office at 740-967-7871, office@johnstownascension.org, or drop a note in the collection with the intention and your name. The Mass Stipend is \$10.00. We will do our best to accommodate any special date requests.

RCIA

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - Death, Judgment, Heaven, Hell - 4 Last Things

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 17, 2024

Holy Week Schedule MARCH 24-31, 2024

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

Mass on Saturday, March 23 at 4:00 p.m.

Mass on Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

Mass on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. (Incense will be used at 11:00 a.m. only)

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024

8:00 a.m. Mass

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024

No Holy Hour and Confessions

No 6:30 p.m. Mass

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024

8:00 a.m. Mass

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024

No morning Mass

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m. (Incense will be used)

Food Pantry donations of boxed and canned foods may be left in the baskets in the Gathering Space. Operation Rice Bowl donations may be left in the box in the Gathering Space. The Eucharistic Chapel will be available for Eucharistic Adoration in Classrooms 5, 6, 7 and 8, immediately following Mass until 10:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024

No morning Mass

Celebration of the Passion and Death of Our Lord

Walking Stations of the Cross at 12:00 p.m. (Meet at City Offices)

Veneration of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024

No morning Mass

No Holy Hour and Confessions

Easter Vigil Mass at 9:00 p.m. (Incense will be used)

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Mass at 11:00 a.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS, ORGAN IMPROVISATION

On Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m., a special Stations of the Cross will be held at St. Joseph Cathedral. The Stations, presided over by Fr. Paul Keller, O.P., Director of Divine Worship, will have a unique addition of an organ improvisation by Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, Director of Diocesan Music. Although the Stations of the Cross are a traditionally a Catholic Lenten meditation on the sufferings of Christ's Passion, Christians of all denominations are welcome to attend. Each Station will have a musical reflection and a prayer composed of musical notes as we contemplate Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

GOOD FRIDAY WAY OF THE CROSS WITH BISHOP EARL K. FERNANDES

Please join us in walking the Way of the Cross though downtown Columbus on Good Friday, March 29, led by Bishop Fernandes. The procession will begin at 2:00 p.m., directly following the Good Friday service in the Cathedral, and will conclude at 4:00 p.m. The route begins on the Cathedral steps and has five stops throughout downtown, where people carry their crosses every day. Each stop will have moments of readings, music and poetry. The Way of the Cross is organized by the lay ecclesial movement, Communion and Liberation. For more information, please contact Alessandro at ando.scotti@gmail.com.





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BECOME A KNIGHT!

Men – this Lent, are you looking for a way to enrich your faith, make a difference in the world and build friendships with likeminded men in your parish? Become a Knight at kofc.org/join or scan the QR code. Use 4324 as your local council.

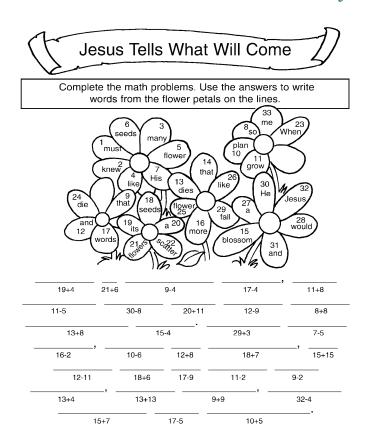
CATHOLIC SCHOOLHOUSE HOMESCHOOL CO-OP

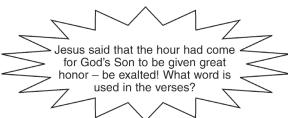
Church of the Ascension is hosting a Catholic Schoolhouse Co-op that focuses on Pre-K through 3rd grade students. Along with the CSH curriculum, the group focuses on Catholic liturgical living. Beginning March 21, interested families will be meeting to discuss planning and exploring what the Co-op is. These interest meetings will be on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. with the opportunity to attend the 8:00 a.m. Mass. This will be a great time to allow the children to get to know each other as well. If you would like to join us or would like more details, please contact Jessica Santarelli at 614-330-2903 or email at me@jessicasantarelli.com.

CHECK OUT OUR BACK COVER!

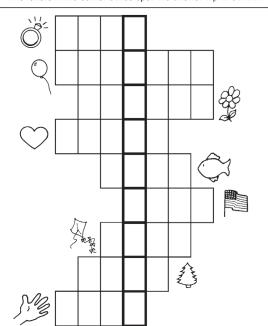
Please take some time to look at the ads on the back of our bulletin. We have some new ones this year and there are some coupons on there. These advertisers provide us the opportunity to have such a nice bulletin from Dee Printing. Please patronize them as often as possible.

Activities for Children



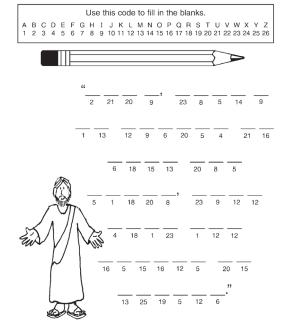


Write the name of each picture.
The letters in the darker boxes spell the answer top to bottom.





Jesus talked to the crowd about His work and death to come. What did He say?

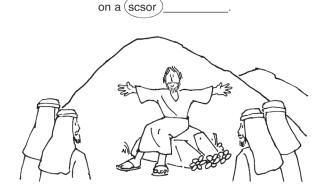


What did Jesus tell the people?

Unscramble the circled words to find out.

"But I, hwen _____ I am fdelit _____, will _____, will _____, will to esfylm _____."

By this, Jesus meant that He wlodu _____ die



MAGNETIC PULL

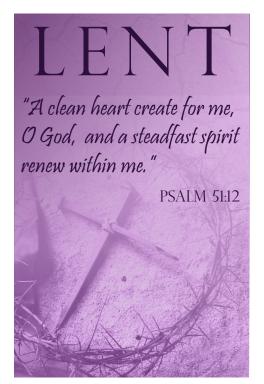
Reflection on John 12:20-33

In the story of Abraham, we encounter faith as obedience to the summons of God; faith as a venture, a journey, where God is present in the midst of our historical lives, in the realm of concrete events and personal relationships.

This is clearly the God we encounter in today's readings, in the prophecy of Jeremiah, who tells us that God is written into our hearts, and in the Christ of the Gospel, who is even now drawing all hearts to Himself. Our hearts are like magnets, drawn by their very design to the source and power of love that is God. Christ is doing the drawing; He is the magnetic field, if you will. And our lives are a journey, like Abraham made, to that place of blessing promised to us by God. We walk by faith, our obedience to facing the demands of the journey.

Jeremiah unveils a certain truth, a key to the mystery of obedience along the journey with Christ. The prophet says, "No longer will they have to teach their friends and kinsfolk how to know the Lord. All, from least to greatest shall know me, says the Lord." The leap into the light, the illogic that is faith, is not unknown to us. It is written into our very hearts, our very beings, if only we would allow Christ, the magnetic pull of God's love, to draw us to Himself.

~ Fr. Jay



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent Ez 37:12-14 Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45

Monday, March 18, 2024

Lenten Weekday
Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95
Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56
Jn 8:31-42

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Lenten Weekday Gn 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Jn 8:51-59

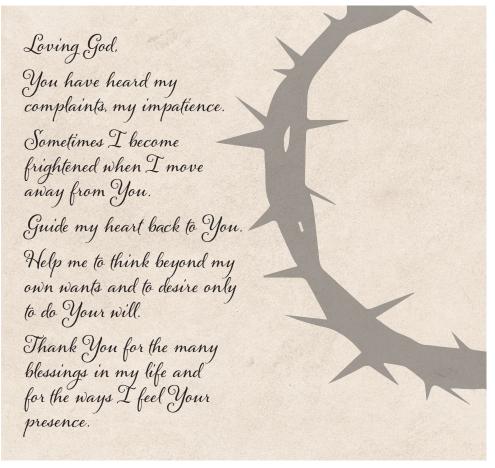
Friday, March 22, 2024

Lenten Weekday Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 Jn 10:31-42

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Lenten Weekday Ez 37:21-28 Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 Jn 11:45-56

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







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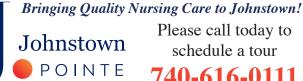
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