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

> 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 a.m. Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.

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

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)

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

facebook.com/johnstownascension
@johnstownascension on Instagram
youtube.com/johnstownascension

CHRIST IS RISEN EASTER 2024

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CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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MARCH 31, 2024 • EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Mass Intentions

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30

9:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass – Parish Family

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

8:30 a.m. Smitty & Catherine Williams by the Williams Family 11:00 a.m. Dennis Yingling by the Rush Family

MONDAY, APRIL 1

8:00 a.m. For the Intention of Leon Bombardier by Jennifer Fortner

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

5:00 p.m. Adoration & Confessions 6:30 p.m. For the Intention of Jim Andersen by Jennifer Fortner

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

8:00 a.m. For the Intention of Kristine Cowan by Jennifer Fortner

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

8:00 a.m. For the Intention of the Falter Family by Jeanne Falter

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

8:00 a.m. For Living & Deceased Members of the Family by Dr. Pat Scarpitti 4:00 p.m. Parish Family

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

8:30 a.m. Norma Steely by Jim & Kathy Stafford 11:00 a.m. For the Intention of Randy Conaway by Mike & Bernadette Fox

Pastor's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Easter! Christ has risen! Alleluia! As we know from the Gospels, Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day following his crucifixion, which would be Sunday. His Resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death. It is the singular event which proves that those who trust in God and accept Christ will be raised from the dead. Since Easter represents the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind, it is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar.

In the Gospels, the precise details of the Easter narrative vary slightly, but none of these variances are critical to the main story. In fact, it is argued that the variances are simply matters of style and not substance. Despite the variances, the key aspects of the Easter story all match. Above all, they agree that the tomb of Christ was indeed empty, which is the most essential fact.

Based on direct evidence from the mid-second century, it is believed that Easter was regularly celebrated from the earliest days of the Church. The Easter date is movable and always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Easter in the Roman Catholic Church is always on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.

At the celebration of the Easter Vigil, the most solemn celebration of Mass, those who have been preparing to come into the Church participate in the Sacraments of Initiation.

The Easter Vigil is the "Mother of All Vigils" and Easter Sunday is the greatest of all Sundays. The season of Easter is the most important of all liturgical times, which Catholics celebrate as the Lord's Resurrection from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church at Pentecost.

The Octave of Easter comprises the eight days which stretch from the first to the second Sunday. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day. There are 50 days of Easter from the first Sunday to Pentecost. It is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian: Alleluia! All faith flows from faith in the Resurrection: "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith." (1 Cor 15:14)

"What you sow is not brought to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel of wheat, perhaps, or of some other kind... So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown corruptible; it is raised incorruptible. It is sown dishonorable; it is raised glorious. It is sown weak; it is raised powerful. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual one. So, too, it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being," the last Adam a life-giving spirit. But the spiritual was not first; rather the natural and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man, from heaven. As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly, and as is the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one." (1 Cor 15:36-37, 42-49) May this celebration of Easter bring a renewal to our faith and peace to our hearts. Christ

God bless, Fr. Smith

is risen! Alleluia!

RCIA CLASS TOPIC FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024 Vigil Experience/ Stewardship – Time/Talent/Treasure Г

Holy Saturday MARCH 30, 2024	
	HOLY SATURDAY • VIGIL MASS 9:00 P.M.
	Joey Barb
ALTAR SERVERS:	Ben Orsini
	Luke Orsini
	Patrick Scarpitti
	Phil Scherer
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:	Linda Droege – Chalice
	Maureen Keebaugh – Chalice
	Tom Nann – Host
	1 – Mike Keebaugh
	2 – Maureen Keebaugh
	3 – Aaron Locker
LECTORS:	4 – Mike Keebaugh
	5 – Diana Lewis
	6 – Dave Bogner
	7 – Tom Nann
	8 – Maureen Keebaugh
GREETERS/USHERS:	MaryAnn Shaffer
GREETERS/ USTIERS.	Jan Orkis

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord MARCH 31, 2024

	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.
ALTAR SERVERS:	Brendan Sheehan	Alex Rush
	Christian Dorsten	Bode Cherry
	NEED VOLUNTEER	Mathew Cherry
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:	Karla Fox Somar – Chalice	Mike Rush – Host
	Rachel Barb – Chalice	
	Michael Robbins – Host	
LECTORS:	Rodney Tornes	Peter Luhrman
	Adele Robbins – Angelus	NEED VOLUNTEER – Angelus
GREETERS/USHERS:	Bubby Eichner	Lora Dunfee
	Robbi Eichner	Mike Dunfee
LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:		Jim Stafford

Divine Mercy Sunday APRIL 6-7, 2024

	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.
	Isaac Dorsten	Veronica Botts	Gabi Cervantes
ALTAR SERVERS:	Christian Dorsten	Claire Barb	Ryan Neal
	Ethan Wnek	Joey Barb	CC Zirille
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:	Dennis Murnane – Host	Mary Sheehan – Chalice	Laura Sammons – Host
		Jerri Burgel – Chalice	
		VOLUNTER NEEDED – Host	
LECTORS:	Barbara VanHoose	Aaron Locker	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
	Dave Bogner – Angelus	Diana Lewis – Angelus	Carrie Suess – Angelus
GREETERS/USHERS:	Shelli Writesel	Bubby Eichner	Lora Dunfee
	Jan Orkis	Robbi Eichner	Mike Dunfee
LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:			Jeff Thomas

Your Gifts to God

WEEKLY NEED \$7,115.00

430 REGISTERED FAMILIES

MARCH 16/17, 2024

Total Offering	\$ 6,234.00
65 Envelopes	\$ 3,970.00
Loose Cash	\$ 441.00
Online	\$ 1,823.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 435.00
CRS	\$ 75.00

Due to early bulletin deadlines, YOUR GIFTS TO GOD for March 23/24 will be published in a later bulletin.

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.

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.



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.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to Bill and Patrice Paider and their team of incredible volunteers who helped to make our ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY such a wonderful success again this year. Thank you to the Scouts, the youth group, and all those who attended.

TORNADO RELIEF

If you were directly affected by the tornado on March 14, we have received some funds to help with repairs. Please let Fr. Smith or Kathy B. know if you need assistance.

DEAR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY TEAM,

Please remember that our monthly meeting is being held this coming Monday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We look forward to seeing you!

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.

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. 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. to 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.

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024 • SPEAKER WILLIAM HEYER

Join us Friday, April 5 at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a Luncheon featuring a talk by architect William Heyer about Sacred Architecture. The April Luncheon is sponsored by George Arnold. If you are interested in sponsoring a Luncheon, 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 Mr. Heyer's presentation. No reservations are necessary. \$12.00 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! **Our next Luncheon is Friday, May 3, 2024, and will feature a presentation by Fr. Steven Beseau, President/Rector of the Josephinum, about the seminary**.

ARC-55 AND OVER

Active Retired Citizens will be held on Monday, April 1st from 3:30-5:30 in Murphy Hall at St. Francis. Please come join us for a fun-filled afternoon of Euchre, Bingo, fabulous door prizes and a variety of refreshments. Bring a friend or make new ones. Questions? Call Chris at 740-364-0449 or Deb at 740-366-6924.

STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATE JOB OPENING

Church of the Resurrection (Resurrection) in New Albany, OH is looking for a fulltime Stewardship Associate (SA). This is a new position at Resurrection and its role is to ensure the successful continuation of campaign fundraising and implementation and elevation of a strategic stewardship and donor appreciation throughout the parish. Working closely with the Business Manager, the SA will develop and implement personalized stewardship plans for top donors and comprehensive stewardship strategies for donors at all giving levels to foster a culture of philanthropy. Resurrection is a large Catholic Church with approximately 3,000 families located in a suburb of Columbus, Ohio. More details can be found below. Please send a resume, cover letter and three references to jobs@cotrna.org. Please see the parish website (Career Opportunities) or scan the QR code for more details.

PILGRIMAGE TO PORTUGAL, SPAIN, AND FRANCE

Travel with Fr. Dave Sizemore and fellow Catholics on a trip of a lifetime! June 15-June 28, 2024 – 14 Days – 21 Meals

Visit Fatima, Aljustrel, Valinhos, Cathedral of Burgos, Lourdes, Grotto of Massabielle, Barcelona, La Sagrada Familia, views of Antoni Gaudi's Mila House (UNESCO), the Columbus Monument and Parc de Montjuic, the quaint mountain village of Montserrat, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, the Basilica of Sacré Coeur de Montmartre, and more! We are filling a second coach, so come join in the adventure. Brochures are available in the church and the Parish Office.

For more information, contact Collette Tours at 800-581-8942 and refer to Booking #1161671 or visit https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1161671.



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, April 15, from 12:00 Noon-6:00 p.m. Spring into action: Come give blood for a \$10.00 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice. PLUS, automatically be entered for a chance to win a \$7,000.00 gift card; there will be two lucky winners! Terms apply. Visit www.rcblood.org/spring.

TOTUS TUUS

Our Lady of Peace, 20 E. Dominion Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio.

Totus Tuus is a summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic Faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. The weeklong Parish Summer Catechetical Program not only teaches the Catholic Faith, but also ignites the hearts of the young people who participate.

Grades 1-6: Monday, June 17-Friday, June 21 (9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)

Grades 7-12: Sunday, June 16-Thursday, June 20 (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

Registration fee is \$45.00 per camper, with a \$100.00 family cap.

Registration is now LIVE at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church – Totus Tuus – Columbus, OH (olp-parish.org). For more information, email arosselli@olp-parish.org.

Your Prayers are Requested

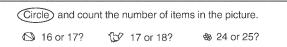
Your prayers this week are asked for Bob & Sylvia Freed, Rick Potter & Family, Justin King, Virginia Ankrom, Maxine Nann, Letha Patton, Wesley Potts, Susan Welch, Joyce Curran, Gabrielle & Shawn, Dana Caswell, Suzanne Kubin, Sharon Freitag, Di Habash, Joe Lindsay, Ivan Booth, Donna Dellapina, Mark & 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.

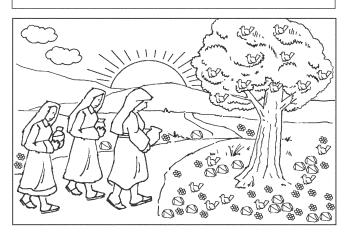
Are you or someone in your family on active duty in the military? Please let us know and we will add the names to our Prayer Requests.

Activities for Children =

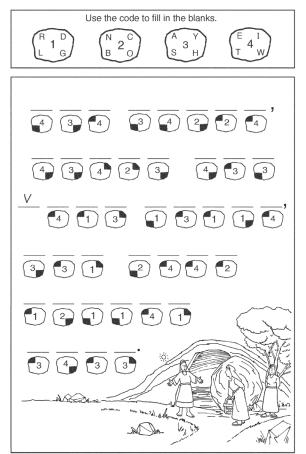


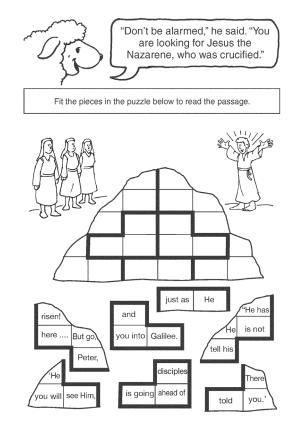
Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices ... to anoint Jesus' body. ... On the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb. They asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"



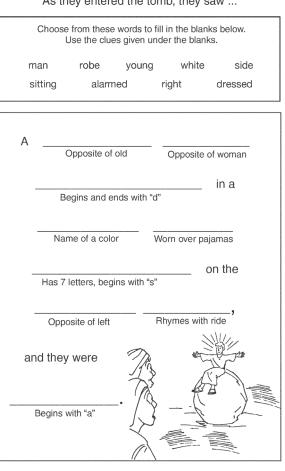


But when they looked up, they saw that ...





As they entered the tomb, they saw ...



LIGHT

Reflection on John 20:1-9

God is Light! In God there is no darkness!

The Resurrection opens up a new world for us. If God is Love, if the very source of existence is nothing but light, then our world which is so characterized by the shadows of violence, hatred, retribution, and the inability to forgive, is itself the illusion, the shadow. And we who belong to Christ are the lights to show that darkness for what it is, we are the heralds of a new way of being.

At the Easter Vigil celebration on Holy Saturday evening, we welcome those who, through Baptism and Profession of Faith, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation, and by joining us for the first time at the Lord's Eucharistic table, have been on a long journey to the Catholic Church. The Church now calls them neophytes – New Lights. They are living and breathing symbols of this new way of life made possible by Christ's Resurrection. And all of us, in renewing our baptismal vows, are asked to say NO to the shadows and darknesses of vengeance, violence and sin, and YES to the light we are called to be through the power of Christ's Resurrection. May we work with Christ to dispel the darkness in this world with the Light of love we have been given.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, March 31, 2024 *Easter Sunday* Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Col 3:1-4 or I Cor 5:6b-8 Jn 20:1-9

Monday, April 1, 2024 Monday in the Octave of Easter Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 *Tuesday in the Octave of Easter* Acts 2:36-41 Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Wednesday in the Octave of Easter Acts 3:1-10 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 24:13-35 Thursday, April 4, 2024 Thursday in the Octave of Easter Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 24:35-48

Friday, April 5, 2024 *Friday in the Octave of Easter* Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a Jn 21:1-14

Saturday, April 6, 2024 Saturday in the Octave of Easter Acts 4:13-21 Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 Mk 16:9-15

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



On this holy day, and in this season of renewal, we pray in thanksgiving for the many blessings You give us. May our words and deeds today, and always, serve as reminders of the transformative power of Your love.

Amen.

~ Fr. Jay

