# 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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### APRIL 7, 2024 • SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

### Mass Intentions

### SATURDAY, APRIL 6

8:00 a.m. For Living & Deceased Members of the Scarpitti Family by Dr. Pat Scarpitti 8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions

### 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

### MONDAY, APRIL 8

8:00 a.m. Herbert & Anna Esselstein by Janet Flood

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 9**

5:00 p.m. Adoration & Confessions 6:30 p.m. Joyce Davis by Deacon Byron & Nancy Phillips

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

8:00 a.m. For the Intention of Kinga Champion by Jennifer Fortner

### THURSDAY, APRIL 11

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

8:00 a.m. No Mass

### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

8:00 a.m. For Living & Deceased Members of the Schaeufele Family by Dr. Pat Scarpitti
4:00 p.m. The Eyerman Family by Stephen & Kathryn Eyerman

### SUNDAY, APRIL 14

8:30 a.m. Parish Family 11:00 a.m. Virginia Howe by Virginia Ankrom



# Knights of Columbus<sup>®</sup>

Ascension Council 4324, Johnstown, OH

### SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus, Council 4324, is holding their annual Scholarship Essay Contest again this year.

### Topic: How can the Church evangelize in the digital age?

Who can enter? Any graduating High School Senior who is a member of the Church of the Ascension

What could I win? One winner will be awarded a 1,000.00 Scholarship. Presented upon completion of the first grading period at the college they are attending. Must present grade card with average of C or better.

When is my entry due? All entries must be submitted by May 1, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. How do I enter? Entry forms and flyers are in the Gathering Space. Entries may be emailed to: kofc@johnstownascension.org

Subject: K of C Council 4324 Scholarship Contest

### THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEED YOU!

It's that time of year when the Knights of Columbus offer many charitable contributions, including our Keep Christ in Christmas program, Tree for Life, and more. Want to make a difference in the world and build friendships with like-minded men in the parish? Join us! Go to kofc.org/join and use 4324 when asked for your preferred local council. For more information, please contact Grand Knight Jeff Thomas at 614-580-6772 or jeffmthomas@protonmail.com.

### FAMILY FULLY ALIVE:

The Knights of Columbus encourage each family to strengthen the Domestic Church by inviting God into our homes in the coming year. The Family Fully Alive program provides guidance on ways to establish and strengthen your Domestic Church in the form of themes, Scripture verses and activities. This is not simply a booklet and you are on your own, but a continuous program that will take feedback, offer support, and grow with our parishioners throughout the year and beyond.

To begin this program with your family, please pick up a booklet in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions, please contact Gus Smithhisler at 614-530-0160. And watch for additional opportunities and programs in coming months.

**RCIA CLASS TOPIC FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024** Apologetics and Evangelization

	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.
ALTAR SERVERS:	Isaac Dorsten	Veronica Botts	Gabi Cervantes
	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
livestream operator: Third Sunday of	<i>Easter</i> , April 13-14, 2 <i>SATURDAY</i> • <i>4:00 P.M.</i>	2024 SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.	Jeff Thomas SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.
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Third Sunday of	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M. Cole Fox
Third Sunday of	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M. Isaac Dorsten	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.       Austin Eckstein	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M. Cole Fox VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Third Sunday of	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.         Isaac Dorsten         Christian Dorsten	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.       Austin Eckstein       Luke Orsini	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M. Cole Fox VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Third Sunday of	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.         Isaac Dorsten         Christian Dorsten         Ethan Wnek	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.       Austin Eckstein       Luke Orsini       Ben Orsini	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M. Cole Fox VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Third Sunday of	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.         Isaac Dorsten         Christian Dorsten         Ethan Wnek	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.         Austin Eckstein         Luke Orsini         Ben Orsini         Jerri Burgel – Chalice	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M. Cole Fox VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Third Sunday of A	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.         Isaac Dorsten         Christian Dorsten         Ethan Wnek	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.         Austin Eckstein         Luke Orsini         Ben Orsini         Jerri Burgel – Chalice         VOLUNTEER NEEDED – Chalice	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M. Cole Fox VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED
	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.         Isaac Dorsten         Christian Dorsten         Ethan Wnek         Mike Keebaugh – Host	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.         Austin Eckstein         Luke Orsini         Ben Orsini         Jerri Burgel – Chalice         VOLUNTEER NEEDED – Chalice         Michael Robbins – Host	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M. Cole Fox VOLUNTEER NEEDED VOLUNTEER NEEDED Keith Ryan – Host

Mary Sheehan

## Your Prayers are Requested

**GREETERS/USHERS:** 

LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:

Your prayers this week are asked for Ernie Burnam, 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.

Jan Orkis

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.

### WE CONGRATULATE AND WELCOME

Smithhisler Family

Mike Dunfee

our newest members of the Ascension Parish family who were received into the church at Easter Vigil Mass: May God's blessings be upon them.

Abigail Arcos Aguilar Benito Ventura Arcos Aguilar Donna Beth Cuthbert Chadwick Bo Junior Hall

# Your Gifts to God

### WEEKLY NEED \$7,115.00

### **430 REGISTERED FAMILIES**

### MARCH 23/24, 2024

Total Offering	\$ 4,648.05
59 Envelopes	\$ 3,505.00
Loose Cash	\$ 465.05
Online	\$ 678.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 15.00
Good Friday	\$ 15.00
Operation Rice Bowl	\$ 139.00

### MARCH 30/31, 2024

Total Offering	\$ 8,437.00
85 Envelopes	\$ 4,969.00
Loose Cash	\$ 710.00
Online	\$ 2,758.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 45.15
SOLT	\$ 50.00
Good Friday	\$ 420.00

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.

The *FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR* this weekend are in memory of Mary Gongaware by Diana Lewis.

### SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY

### April 13/14, 2024 • Equipping the Family: Having Critical Conversations

The constant flood of influence that comes through the internet and social media in all of its various forms, along with social pressures from peers make it difficult for children to live virtuous and holy lives. In the digital age, it's not a matter of if your child will see something inappropriate online. It's only a matter of when. And regrettably, internet pornography is teaching our children how and what to think about sex and marriage. Next weekend, April 13/14, 2024, the diocese will be celebrating Safe Haven Sunday. This weekend of awareness will provide free resources to give you confidence for how to talk to your children about internet dangers, as well as their personal online and offline choices. Please join us with your prayers and presence as we prepare for this unique event. To learn more, please visit https:// columbuscatholic.org/safe-haven-sunday.

### CITY-WIDE MASS AND PRAISE ADORATION

There will be a City-wide Mass and Praise Adoration on April 13, 10:00 a.m. to Noon at St. Catharine Parish (500 S. Gould Road, Columbus 43209) Fr. Patrick Toner is the Celebrant and Dr. Steve Kebe will be doing a teaching before the Praise Adoration. There will be Confession available and Healing Prayer Teams. This event is sponsored by the Columbus Catholic Renewal.

### 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.



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.

### 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.-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.

### 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.

### 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.

### **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.

### 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.

### THE WOMEN OF ASCENSION

The Women of Ascension meet on the second Wednesday of each month, which will be this Wednesday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. in Blessed Imelda and Blessed Carolos Acutis Classrooms. All women of the Parish are welcome to attend and share their ideas and input.

### LICKING COUNTY VOCATIONS CLUB

Licking County Vocations Club will be meeting on Tuesday, April 9 at St. Leonard in Heath. Lunch begins at noon followed by our guest speaker – Fr. Jacob Stinnett from St. Brendan. The cost of the lunch is a bargain at \$5.00. The money we receive from the lunch helps with projects, cards, encouragement, support of our seminarians, priests and religious life. Come and see what we are all about and listen to Fr. Stinnett's vocation journey. Questions? Call Susie at 740-404-9853 or Deb at 740-334-3147. Hope to see you on April 9.

### SAVE THE DATE

Our Ascension Festival will take place on Sunday, June 2, 2024, beginning with an outside Mass in our parish pavilion at 10:00 a.m. Food, games, live band.



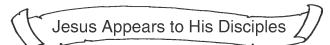
### **BLOOD DRIVE**

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.

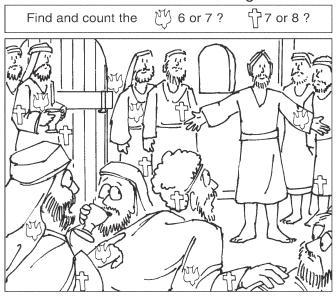
Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, April 15, from 12:00 Noon-6:00 p.m. Spring into action: Come give blood for a \$10.00 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice. PLUS, automatically be entered for a chance to win a \$7,000.00 gift card; there will be two lucky winners! Terms apply.

Visit www.rcblood.org/spring.

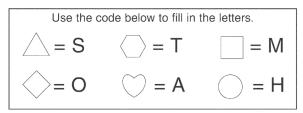
### Activities for Children



On the 1st Easter evening, the disciples were together with the doors locked. Suddenly, Jesus came and stood among them!



One disciple was not there.



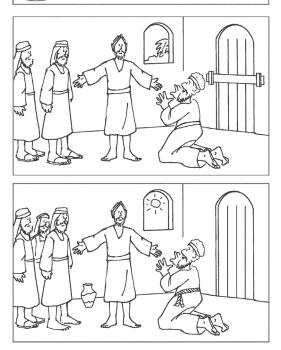
His name was



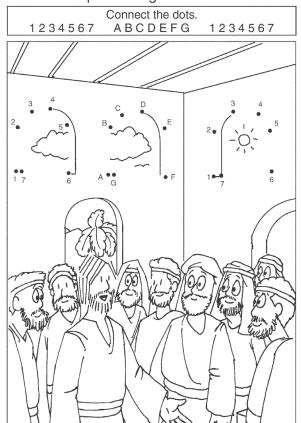


Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!"

Circle 6 things that are different in the 2nd picture.



Later Jesus appeared to Thomas and the others. He told Thomas, "Stop doubting and believe!"



### DOUBTS

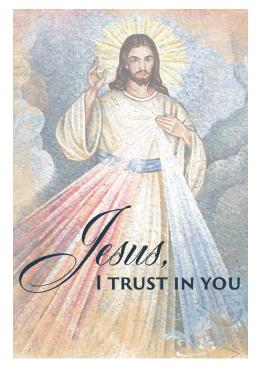
Reflection on John 20:19-31

With the Apostle Thomas, there is both vulnerability and capability, both suspicion and consent, both doubt and faith. He is at first suspicious of the report of the Risen Jesus, wishing to not get "caught up" in what might be fake news. But when confronted in person with the presence of the Risen Lord, he does not push that suspicion to the edge of the ridiculous, but affirms the truth of what he has now arrived at.

It is not a sign of weakness to question one's faith. On the contrary, accepting doubt as a natural part of what it means to be human, one's questioning is a sign of an engaging and curious mind and heart. Through this journey of doubting and questioning, we move ever deeper into our relationship with God. Doubts and questions are an opportunity for spiritual growth.

This is spiritual integration. Rather than judge one side as unworthy of being a disciple (the experiences of doubt we all have), and accept faith as the absence of all questioning (which it clearly is not), Thomas represents the real and authentic journey we all make as we move ever more deeply into the recognition that God, in the Risen Christ, is present in every human experience, and that, as Richard Rohr says, "Everything belongs!"

~ Fr. Jay



### WEEKIYSCOIDTUD

### Sunday, April 7, 2024

Divine Mercy Sunday Acts 4:32-35 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 1 Jn 5:1-6 Jn 20:19-31

### Monday, April 8, 2024

The Annunciation of the Lord Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38

### Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Easter Weekday Acts 4:32-37 Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 Easter Weekday Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Jn 3:16-21

### WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

A HIDEN DEN POR

**Thursday, April 11, 2024** Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr Acts 5:27-33 Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 Jn 3:31-36

**Friday, April 12, 2024** *Easter Weekday* Acts 5:34-42 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Jn 6:1-15

**Saturday, April 13, 2024** *Easter Weekday* Acts 6:1-7 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 Jn 6:16-21

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

### SAINT STANISLAUS

Saint of the Day: April 11 Patron Saint of: Poland

Anyone who reads the history of Eastern Europe cannot help but chance on the name of Stanislaus, the saintly but tragic bishop of Kraków, patron of Poland. He is remembered with Saints Thomas More and Thomas Becket for vigorous opposition to the evils of an unjust government.

Born in Szczepanow near Kraków on July 26, 1030, he was ordained a priest after being educated in the cathedral schools of Gniezno, then capital of Poland, and at Paris. He was appointed preacher and archdeacon to the bishop of Kraków, where his eloquence and example brought about real conversion in many of his penitents, both clergy and laity. He became bishop of Kraków in 1072.

During an expedition against the Grand Duchy of Kiev, Stanislaus became involved in the political situation of Poland. Known for his outspokenness, he aimed his attacks at the evils of the peasantry and the king, especially the unjust wars and immoral acts of King Boleslaus II.

The king first excused himself, then made a show of penance, then relapsed into his old ways. Stanislaus continued his open opposition in spite of charges of treason and threats of death, finally excommunicating the king. Enraged, the latter ordered soldiers to kill the bishop. When they refused, the king killed Stanislaus with his own hands. Forced to flee to Hungary, Boleslaus supposedly spent the rest of his life as a penitent in the Benedictine abbey in Osiak.

Saints John the Baptist, Thomas Becket, Thomas More, and Stanislaus are a few of the prophets who dared to denounce corruption in high places. They followed in the footsteps of Jesus Himself, who pointed out the moral corruption in the religious leadership of His day. It is a risky business.

Read the full article: "Saint Stanislaus" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-stanislaus/. (Accessed March 25, 2024).

