



# SACRED HEART of JESUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

❖ Bethlehem • Founded 1833 ❖

**January 11, 2026**  
**Baptism of the Lord**



## *Intentions*

### Tuesday

#### **6:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart**

Mass Intention: Rodney Cole

### Wednesday

#### **8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart**

Mass Intention: Rev. James Risacher

### Thursday

#### **5:30 pm - Confession at St. Joseph**

#### **6:30 pm - Mass at St. Joseph**

Mass Intention: Paul & Mary Alt

### Friday

#### **8:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph**

Mass Intention: Rev. Stanley Szybka

### Saturday

#### **3:30pm - Confession at SHJ**

#### **4:30pm - Mass at Sacred Heart**

Mass Intention: Gary Gwirtz, Ron & Barb Finnegan, Jeff Belcik

### Sunday

#### **7:00 am - Mass at St. Joseph**

Mass Intentions: Rosemary Smarto, Eileen DeGreve

#### **8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart**

Mass Intention: Jeanne, Paul & Kathleen Gosser, Bob Niese

#### **10:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph**

Mass Intention: For the People of St. Joseph & Sacred Heart Parishes

## **Greetings Parishioners,**

As you may have heard during my Sunday homilies last weekend I had the privilege to attend the SEEK conference in Columbus. SEEK is a 5 day conference that helps young adults grow in their faith supported by reason. Our faith makes sense and if we study it we realize how smart it is to follow Christ as a Catholic.

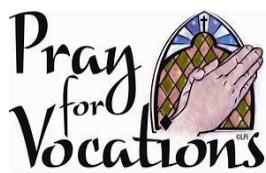
SEEK 2026 has drawn thousands and thousands of attendees across three U.S. cities this year, setting an attendance record and marking a 24% increase over last year. Attendees gathered through Jan. 5 in Columbus, Ohio; Denver, Colorado; and Fort Worth, Texas, for the SEEK 2026 conference organized by FOCUS. As of early Friday, Columbus drew the largest crowd with over 17,000 registered and it will be returning to Columbus next year! Maybe I can get a group together for next year after I learned the ins and outs this year on my solo journey.

The conference also is seeing record participation among Church leadership. Fifty-eight Catholic bishops attended SEEK this year, the most in the event's history. My past professor and probably the smartest man I have ever met... Bishop Earl Fernandes of the Diocese of Columbus gave such powerful and rational presentations at the conference. Bishop Earl played a key role in bringing SEEK to Ohio, and said the conference offers a visible sign of vitality in the Church — particularly among young adults in his diocese and beyond.

The wise and holy bishop said, "Sometimes the narrative is that the Church is old and that pews are empty," he said. "In the diocese of Columbus, the Catholic population has doubled in the past three and a half years, and it's getting younger. We have many young adults who are on fire with the faith, and there's a lot happening." The growth seen at SEEK, he added, reflects a deeper hunger among young people for meaning, community, and encounter with Christ.

I agree with bishop Earl in the case of our local parishes as well. As you know we have 10 kids joining our church this Easter! The question is: Will we support and welcome the youth or will we see them as strange foreigners who stole my favorite pew? I know we will support them!

**In Christ,  
Fr. Jeff**



**COLLECTION:**

Jan 4, 2026  
\$ 5,928.00

Reg. Offertory  
\$ 4,823.00

Christmas  
\$ 245.00  
Solemnity  
\$ 145.00  
Gen Maintenance  
\$ 395.00  
Church Maintenance  
\$ 30.00  
Misericordia  
\$ 290.00



Online 12/6-1/3  
\$2,757.00  
Heart of Bethlehem  
\$5,040.00

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS****School Mass****Saturday, Jan. 17****Sunday, Jan. 18****MUSIC MINISTER***Kevin Willis***SERVERS***Hunter Keller**Rudy Belcik***OFFERTORY***Seth & Jenny Hartings Family***EXTRAORDINARY****MINISTERS***Doug & Tammy Lucius**Kelsey Keller***USHERS***Nick Fike**Dave Kromer***LECTOR***Jo Ann Krauseman*

(Please check Ministry Scheduler Pro  
for the most up to date assignments)

**MUSIC MINISTER***Kevin & Becky***SERVERS***Charly & Declan**Milligan***OFFERTORY***Devin Cain Family***EXTRAORDINARY****MINISTERS***Dale Schroeder, Stan Cain**Riki Rietschlin, Deb Schumacher***USHERS***Rick Gosser & Jeff Vogt***LECTOR***Tara Finnegan***COUNTERS***Joyce Timmer, Linda Schroeder**Veronica Cain***Bible Readings for the Week of Jan. 11, 2026**

<b>Monday</b>	1Sm 1:1-8, Ps 116:12-19, Mk 1:14-20
<b>Tuesday</b>	1Sm 1:9-20, (PS) 1Sm 2:1, 4-8d, Mk 1:21-28
<b>Wednesday</b>	1Sm 3:1-10, 19-20, Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10, Mk 1:29-39
<b>Thursday</b>	1Sm 4:1-11, Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25, Mk 1:40-45
<b>Friday</b>	1Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a, Ps 89:16-19, Mk 2:1-12
<b>Saturday</b>	1Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1, Ps 21:2-7, Mk 2:13-17
<b>Sunday</b>	Is 49:3, 5-6, Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10, 1Cor 1:1-3, Jn 1:29-34

**BULLETIN SPONSORS OF THE WEEK:**

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## Ordinary Time

Besides the times of the year that have their own distinctive character, there remains in the yearly cycle thirty-three or thirty four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as ordinary time. This year it begins on Monday, January 12 and continues through Tuesday, February 17 the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. It will resume when the Easter season ends on Monday, May 25, the day following Pentecost.



Reverend Stanley S. Szybka, a Senior Status Priest of the Diocese of Toledo, died on Friday, January 2, 2026. He grew up as a member of St. Joseph, Crestline and attended school there as well. He was ordained into the priesthood June 7, 1980. Visitation and Funeral Mass were held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at St. Joseph Parish in Marblehead where his brother, Fr. Joseph Szybka, was the principal celebrant and homilist. Interment followed at St. Joseph Cemetery in Crestline.

## January Meeting Reminders



- Parish Council, CANCELLED
- School Advisory, Jan. 20
- Finance Council, Jan. 27



December Saintly Students: Practicing Patience.



***Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.***

The **Sorrowful Mother Shrine** is seeking a reliable and motivated Full-Time Maintenance Person, as well as a Part-Time Maintenance Person, to assist with the care and upkeep of our peaceful and prayerful grounds and facilities. Interested candidates may refer to our website, [www.sorrowfulmothershrine.org](http://www.sorrowfulmothershrine.org), for position responsibilities, qualifications, and compensation.

## Euchre Tournament

February 1st. & March 1st.

Please join us for the Sacred Heart PTO Euchre Tournaments February 1 and March 1 \$20 per team Doors open @ 12:30 P.M. Play begins @ 1:00 P.M. 50/50 drawings, food and drinks for sale. Sacred Heart Parish Hall 5754 State Route 61 South Shelby, Ohio 44875 Pre-registration required. Please sign up before **1/26 and 2/23**. Call or text Kelsey Keller at 419-565-1241 to sign up your team.

Thank you for supporting Sacred Heart PTO!

**2026**

**Hope & Healing Masses**

**February 7 | May 2 | October 3**

**11:00am in the Upper Basilica**

*The Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated within Mass.*

*Following Mass, all are invited to receive an individual blessing with the Relic of the True Cross.*

*Lunch, hosted by the Knights of Columbus, will be available in the Shrine Cafeteria following Mass.*

Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation  
315 Clay St., Carey, Ohio 43316

## Help with Tuition at Sacred Heart School!

Ohioans can receive a dollar for dollar tax credit up to \$750 per person for donations to the Diocese of Toledo Scholarship Fund. Please designate Sacred Heart, Shelby as the recipient. Forms are in the back of church. Learn more at [www.dotsgo.org](http://www.dotsgo.org).

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

January 2026

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Genevieve of Paris

Born in 422, in Nanterre, France, St. Genevieve consecrated herself to God when she was fifteen. She became known for her charity and gift of prophecy. She predicted Paris would be spared from attack by the Huns and led the people in fasting and prayer. Paris was spared. When King Childeric and his son Clovis I conquered Paris, Genevieve convinced Childeric to release his captives. She became a trusted advisor to Clovis, who converted to Christianity.

### The Jesus Prayer

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus, reminding the faithful of the power and reverence due to His Name: *"At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth"* (Phil 2:10). A fitting prayer for this month is the Jesus Prayer, long cherished in Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Simple yet profound, this prayer can be repeated throughout the day. Prayed attentively, it deepens love and reverence for Christ, invokes His saving grace, and helps cultivate a steady spirit of prayer, humility, and interior peace.

"The things that we love tell us what we are." St. Thomas Aquinas

## Turning our hearts back to God

Converting our hearts back to God begins with an honest pause – not a dramatic moment, but a decision to look at our lives as they really are. What shapes our days? What gets our best energy, our first thoughts, our deepest trust? Whatever holds that place is, in practice, what we put first.

Putting God first starts with intention. We make room for Him by removing what crowds Him out. A few minutes of prayer before reaching for a phone. A short passage of Scripture read slowly instead of rushed. These small choices retrain the heart. They remind us to whom we belong.

Repentance is part of the return, but it is not about shame. It is about direction. To repent means to turn. We admit where we've drifted and choose a better path. God does not demand perfection before welcoming us back. He asks for honesty and willingness.

Trust follows close behind. Many of us profess trust in God but still rely

on our own control. Putting Him first means surrendering outcomes we cannot manage anyway. It means praying not only for help, but for guidance, even when the answer may change our plans.

Faith moves us to action. When we

"Do not let the past disturb you. Just leave everything in the Sacred Heart and begin again with joy." St. Teresa of Calcutta

align our choices with God's teachings, our hearts follow. Faith leads to action. Forgiving when necessary. Serving when it is inconvenient. Giving when it feels risky. These actions reshape our priorities.

Community matters. Worship, shared prayer, and accountability keep our hearts oriented toward God when we are tempted to drift.

Turning back to God is rarely instantaneous. It is daily, deliberate, and deeply personal. Each step taken toward Him strengthens the heart's true center.

Why Do  
Catholics  
Do That?

Why do Catholics bless  
themselves with holy  
water?

Blessing ourselves with holy water when entering a Catholic church recalls the ritual washings of the Old Testament, through which the Jews purified themselves before approaching God in the Temple. St. John the Baptist built on this tradition by using water as a sign of repentance and conversion.

Today, this gesture reminds us of our Baptism and renews our commitment to live the Faith. As a sacramental, holy water disposes us to receive God's grace, strengthens us against temptation, and, with proper repentance, helps remit venial sins.

# New Year, new habits build change that lasts

Starting and maintaining New Year's resolutions can be difficult for the same reason cultivating virtue is difficult: both require forming new habits. Perseverance rarely comes from sheer willpower alone. Practical strategies, supported by grace, make growth more sustainable.

**Begin with achievable goals.** Set yourself up for early success by practicing self-denial in small, manageable ways. Learning to say no in minor matters builds the discipline needed to resist greater temptations later.

**Replace, rather than simply remove.** It is often easier to abandon an unhealthy habit when it is substituted with a better one. Just as swapping potato chips for pretzels can make dietary

changes more attainable, uprooting vice is aided by cultivating the opposing virtue. Greed is weakened by generosity.

**Seek accountability.** A trusted friend, exercise partner, or prayer companion can provide encouragement and consistency for change. Knowing someone is watching makes it more difficult to give up when motivation fades.

**Above all, rely on grace.** God invites us to call upon Him, especially in moments of weakness, often marked by anger or anxiety, fatigue, hunger, or sadness. In those moments, turn to the Holy Spirit for strength and consolation, trusting the Lord's promise: *"The Lord will fight for you; you have only to keep still"* (Exodus 14:14).

## from Scripture

### Matthew 4:12-23, Discipleship is the greatest adventure

This Gospel passage recounts the call of the first disciples. They may not have known Jesus personally at first, but they knew about Him through John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). Hearing the invitation to know Jesus better and follow Him closely, the men dropped what they were doing "at once" and left everything behind.

Under Christ's leadership, the disciples went on to do amazing deeds. They worked miracles, brought the Gospel to distant lands, won countless souls for Heaven, and suffered many

hardships, even martyrdom. The secret of their success was their relationship with Christ as their God, Savior, Teacher, and Friend who promised to be with them always (Matthew 28:20).

All of us are called to be saints – friends of God. Jesus Christ invites each of us, in particular, to know and follow Him. While few of us are called to leave everything behind, we can still offer everything we have to God's service. We can still give our "Yes." Pursuing authentic holiness isn't boring but a great adventure!

## Q & A

### Why is the feast of the Epiphany important?

The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated this year on January 4, is important because it celebrates the public revelation of Jesus Christ as Savior of the whole world. The word epiphany means "manifestation" or "revealing."

Originally, the feast commemorated the visit of the Magi, wise men from the East, who followed the star to Bethlehem. In honoring the Magi, the Church proclaims that salvation is universal and that Gentiles are fully included in God's plan.

Traditionally, Epiphany also encompasses two other key moments of revelation: Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan and His first miracle at the wedding at Cana. At His Baptism, the Father's voice and the descent of the Holy Spirit reveal Jesus as God's Son. At Cana, Jesus manifests His divine power publicly for the first time. Together, these events reveal who Jesus truly is.

Epiphany calls us to respond as the Magi did: to seek Christ, to worship Him, and to offer Him our lives. It reminds us that faith is not meant to be hidden, but proclaimed.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.** When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, but also acknowledge Jesus as true God and true Man. Mary's title highlights God's humility, in that God chose to come to us through Mary, as a vulnerable newborn. This year, it is a holy day of obligation.

**January 5 – St. John Neumann (1860).** The first American bishop to be canonized was born in the present-day Czech Republic in 1811. St. John traveled to New York as a missionary before becoming bishop of Philadelphia. He built up the Catholic school system and established diocesan

schools. He also built more than 89 churches, several hospitals and orphanages.

**January 11 – The Baptism of the Lord (1st Century).** Jesus began His public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was to be baptized to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). This was also when God reveals Jesus as His "beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17).

**January 13 – St. Hilary of Poitiers (367).** St. Hilary converted to Christianity as a young man and was elected bishop around 350. St. Hilary spent most of his office battling the Arian heresy, which denied the Divinity of Christ. He was exiled to Phrygia. He spent his four-year exile writing and teaching against Arianism until the emperor begged him to return home.

### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote

faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

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**F.I.S.H. food pantry most needed items: coffee  
both decaf & reg, salmon, pineapple & mandarin  
oranges. New location: 115 W. Main St., Shelby.**

**Thank you for your generous continued support!**

## **Ohio Firsts: Marvin Memorial Library Displays Shelby Steel Tube Company Exhibit**

Marvin Memorial Library is kicking off its America 250 celebrations with the new historical exhibit, *"Ohio Firsts: Shelby Steel Tube Company,"*.

Created by the Shelby Cycle Historical Society and funded through a Trillium Local Activity Grant from the America 250–Ohio Commission, this 15-foot-wide interpretive panel exhibit will be displayed on the main floor of the library, throughout the month of January.

This exhibit is part of a traveling, self-guided tour across Ohio, featuring interpretive panels with QR codes linking to websites that tell the story of the seamless tube industry from 1890–1909—including its bold beginnings, rapid expansion, devastating 1908 fire, and the extraordinary community effort that rebuilt the factory and secured Shelby's place in industrial history.

Join us at the library each month as we celebrate American independence and Ohio's contributions to our nation. Throughout the year, we will host our America250–Ohio program series, highlighting the unique impact Ohio and Ohioans have made on the United States over the past 250 years.

**For more information about our programs and events, please visit our website at [www.marvinlibrary.org](http://www.marvinlibrary.org) or stop by the library for a program guide.**

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### **Join Fr. Eric Mueller, of the Diocese of Toledo, for a Marian pilgrimage of a lifetime! Feb. 10-16, 2026.**

Visit Tepeyac Hill, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and view the miraculous tilma of St. Juan Diego, venerate the relics of Bl. Miguel Pro and Bl. Sebastian de Aparicio, and visit the famed Mexican heritage sites of Mexico City, Teotihuacan, & Puebla. Fr. Mueller will offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass daily at many of these holy sites. \$2,569.00 per person (Land Only price - airfare from Detroit will be added once available) Visit our website above or call or text Maggie at 419-290-8782 for info.

### **Join Fr. Chris Mileski on a Pilgrimage to France!**

Embark on an experience of a lifetime as we journey through Northern France visiting places that are tied to the Eucharist, attending daily Mass, and experiencing the Rescue Project **March 2-13, 2026**. For more details email Kari at [kowens@stmaryshelby.org](mailto:kowens@stmaryshelby.org) or visit [catholicfaithjourneys.com/france2026/](http://catholicfaithjourneys.com/france2026/)

### **Join Fr. Randy Giesige on a inspiring Pilgrimage to Poland!**

We will walk in the footsteps of St. John Paul II, St. Faustina Kowalska and St. Maximilian Kolbe. We will visit may beautiful churches, the Auschwitz Concentration Camp and the Wieliczka Salt Mine. The dates of the trip are **May 4 - May 15, 2026**. If interested please contact Fr. Randy by phone at 419-863-9555 or via email at [rpgiesige@gmail.com](mailto:rpgiesige@gmail.com).