



SACRED HEART of JESUS
CATHOLIC CHURCH
❧ Bethlehem • Founded 1833 ❧

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Lent

5742 State Route 61 S.
 Shelby, Ohio 44875
 (419) 683-1697

A Sister Parish with St. Joseph, Crestline.
 Member of St. Juan Diego Deanery

Intentions

Tuesday

6:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart
Mass Intention: Carl & Rosemary Keller

Wednesday

8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart
Mass Intention: Rev. James Risacher

Thursday

NO Confession at St. Joseph
***5:30 pm - Mass at St. Joseph**
***Note Time Change**
Mass Intention: For all Fathers

Friday

8:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph
Mass Intention: For Pope Leo

7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross
Both Parishes

Saturday

3:30pm - Confession at SHJ
4:30pm - Mass at Sacred Heart
Mass Intention: Lawrence & Mary Alice Biglin, Harold "Yogi" Moore, Mark Wolford

Sunday

7:00 am - Mass at St. Joseph
Mass Intentions: Gladys Burkhart

8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart
Mass Intention: For the People of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Parishes

10:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph
Mass Intention: David Johnson

Dear Parishioners,

During Lent, one of the most powerful devotions in our Catholic tradition is the Stations of the Cross. As a parish family, we are invited not just to remember what Jesus endured, but to walk with Him. The Stations trace the final moments of Christ's earthly life—from His condemnation to His burial in the tomb.

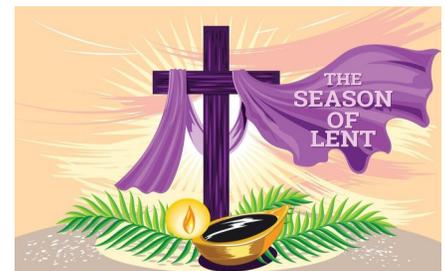
Traditionally there are fourteen stations, beginning with Jesus being condemned to death and ending with His body being laid in the tomb. In many churches, you will see these scenes displayed along the walls, inviting us to move physically from one to the next. Jesus did not save us from a distance. He carried the Cross. He stumbled. He met His mother. He was helped by Simon. He consoled the women of Jerusalem. He was nailed to the wood. He breathed His last. And He was laid in the tomb. The Stations allow us to slow down and enter into that love.

When we pray the Stations, we experience gratitude as recognize the cost of our salvation. For families, the Stations are a beautiful way to teach children that faith is not only about celebration, but also about sacrifice and perseverance. For adults, it is an opportunity to unite our personal crosses—worries, grief, illness, struggles—with Christ's saving Cross.

This Lent, I encourage you to join us for the Stations of the Cross at our various Friday services at both parishes. Because if we walk with Him to the Cross... we will also rise with Him in the Resurrection.

In Christ,
Fr. Jeff

*** Please take time to read my letter attached to the Heart of Bethlehem newsletter. Thank You!**



COLLECTION:

March 8, 2026
\$ 3,571.05

Reg. Offertory
\$ 2,555.05
Misericordia
\$ 85.00
Easter
\$ 50.00
Easter Flowers
\$ 20.00
Online
\$ 861.00



Thank you!
Heart of Bethlehem
\$ 125.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

School Mass
Wednesdays @ 8:30 am

Saturday, March 21

MUSIC MINISTER

Kevin Willis

SERVERS

*Thea Jordan
Audrey Hoffman*

OFFERTORY

Olivia Hoffman Family

**EXTRAORDINARY
MINISTERS**

*Joann Claytor, Megan Ratliff
Rosanne Conley*

USHERS

*Shannon Finnegan
Jacob Gosser*

LECTOR

Jo Ann Krauseman

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

Sunday, March 22

MUSIC MINISTER

Kate DiLullo

SERVERS

*Eleanor Kuntz
Sophie Keller*

OFFERTORY

Tom & Diane Metzger Family

**EXTRAORDINARY
MINISTERS**

*Deacon Steve Vogt, John Bonen
Stan Cain*

USHERS

Zach Keller & Gary Biglin

LECTOR

Diane Metzger

COUNTERS

*Rhonda Gregson, Catherine Turner
Kristi Faith*

Bible Readings for the Week of March 15, 2026



Monday Is 65:17-21, Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b, Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday Ez 47:1-9, 12, Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9, Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday Is 49:8-15, Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18, Jn 5:17-30
Thursday 2Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16, Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29, Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22, Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Friday Wis 2:1a, 12-22, Ps 34:17-21, 23, Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday Jer 11:18-20, Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12, Jn 7:40-53
Sunday Ez 37:12-14, Ps 130:1-8, Rom 8:8-11, Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

BULLETIN SPONSORS OF THE WEEK:



MATT STUDER 3930 Orr Rd. Bloomville
419-544-6275 www.kssmetalroofs.com
kensstandingseamroofs@gmail.com



Rick, Chad, & Casey Niese

Office (419) 347-1204
Cell (419) 295-5901



February Sainly students of the month at Sacred Heart School! These students were selected for their positive choices in the classrooms.



**High School PSR
March 18, & 25.**



Any servers available to help Deacon Steve with Stations on Good Friday please contact the school 419-683-1697. Thank you!

Night of Healing

WORSHIP WORD HEALING



Diocese of Toledo
Ministry to Catholic Charismatic Renewal

| | | |
|---|---------|----------------|
| TUESDAY | MAR. 24 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm |
| <p>St. Bernard, New Washington Fr. Eric Mueller Fr. James Brown 422 W. Mansfield Street, New Washington, OH 44854</p> | | |
| TUESDAY | APR. 14 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm |
| <p>St. Jerome, Walbridge Fr. Scott Woods Fr. James Brown 300 Warner St., Walbridge, OH 43465</p> | | |
| TUESDAY | MAY 12 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm |
| <p>St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Fr. Mark Davis Fr. James Brown 4201 Heatherdowns Blvd., Toledo, OH 43614</p> | | |
| TUESDAY | JUNE 9 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm |
| <p>St Peter, Mansfield Fr. John Miller Fr. Kishore Kottana Fr. James Brown 104 W. 1st St., Mansfield, OH 44902</p> | | |

ADORATION WITNESS RECONCILIATION

Group healing and personal prayer teams
For more info call the Ministry to Catholic Charismatic Renewal 734-888-8197 or visit website: www.mccrholyspirit.org



The flowers on Mary's altar last weekend were in memory of Charles Studer from the Chuck and Darla Studer Family.



EASTER EGG HUNT

March 22 @ 9:30 am at Sacred Heart gym.

We will have 4 age groups: Newborn- 4yrs, 5-7yrs, 8-11yrs and 11-13yrs.

Children will collect the eggs that are scattered around the gym in their age group. Once all of the eggs are turned in, students will receive a treat.

Bring your own bag or basket for collecting. Bags will not be provided.

"The Ways and Means Committee of the Altar Rosary Society will be holding our annual **Palm Sunday Bake Sale** after masses on Saturday and Sunday **March 28th and 29th.**

Please bring your baked goods as you arrive for mass to the tables at the entrance of church.

All homemade baked goods are available for a free will donation, except the famous peanut butter, maple, and coconut eggs - which are \$3 each.

Thank you for supporting our parish."

Note: No Confessions at St. Joseph on March 19th. and Mass time changed to 5:30!

ORDINARY LIVES EXTRAORDINARY MISSION

WITH AUTHOR & SPEAKER JOHN R. WOOD



Thursday, March 19
5:30PM - Mass at St. Joseph Church, Crestline,
with a light meal to follow.
7:15PM - Speaker John R. Woods



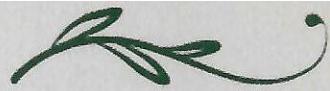
St. Joseph Crestline Convocation Center.
333 N. Thomas St., Crestline, Ohio 44827



TOPICS The Terror of Demons: The Virtues of St. Joseph

"I believe John is one of the great emerging Catholic voices of our time. John Wood has a passion that is contagious... make an effort to go and hear him speak!"
Matthew Kelly | TheDynamicCatholicInstitute





HOLY WEEK

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



APRIL
2

HOLY THURSDAY

7PM MASS AT ST. JOSEPH

APRIL
3

GOOD FRIDAY

3PM SERVICE AT ST. JOSEPH

7PM STATIONS AT SACRED HEART ONLY

APRIL
4

EASTER VIGIL

8:30PM MASS AT ST. JOSEPH

APRIL
5

EASTER SUNDAY

7AM MASS AT SACRED HEART

9AM MASS AT SACRED HEART

11AM MASS AT ST. JOSEPH



Greetings Sacred Heart Parishioners,

Thank you for taking the time to read this article, and thank you to those who will stay after Mass to watch the video about our proposed school addition. I am deeply grateful for the way our parish community supports Catholic education. Sacred Heart has a long tradition of forming young minds and hearts in faith, and I truly believe this addition is an important step for the future of our school.

Although we are blessed with many wonderful resources, there are several areas where our facilities could better serve our youngest students. I truly believe this is a NEED for our school for the following reasons:

1.)Preschool Classroom NEEDS

Our preschool classrooms currently lack bathroom facilities within the classroom. This creates several challenges:

- Each time a student needs to use the restroom, they must walk up two flights of stairs to reach the school bathrooms.
- When this happens, a teacher must escort the student upstairs, which can leave the remaining teachers or aides without assistance in the classroom. While we usually have enough staff to meet ratios, absences can make this situation more difficult.
- Young children need frequent bathroom breaks, so this situation occurs many times throughout the day.

Having bathrooms within the classroom would greatly improve independence for our students and eliminate concerns about staffing ratios during these moments. Unfortunately, there is currently no appropriate space in the basement classrooms to install them.

In addition, our preschool classrooms do not have an appropriate place for a sink for independent handwashing, sanitation, and cleaning up after activities.

2.)Kindergarten Classroom NEEDS

Our kindergarten classroom is separated from the preschool area only by a curtain. This presents several challenges:

- Noise from one classroom can easily disrupt the other, making it difficult for students to focus and learn.
- Kindergarten students must walk through the preschool classroom whenever they leave the room, whether to use the restroom or attend special classes. This causes frequent interruptions throughout the day for the preschool students.

3.)Safety NEEDS

Safety is another important consideration.

Our youngest students must walk up and down two flights of stairs multiple times each day. At ages three and four, children are still developing balance and coordination when navigating stairs.

Additionally, in the event of an emergency, evacuating young students quickly from a basement classroom with two flights of stairs could present challenges.

Currently, our basement space serves 35 Early Childhood students. With three classes sharing a divided room, the available space for learning centers, play areas, tables, and social-emotional development activities is limited.

4.)Mobile Unit UNAVOIDABLE Challenges

Another area of concern is the mobile unit that is used for classes throughout the day.

While it serves its purpose, it presents ongoing challenges:

- It can be difficult to keep animals and other critters from making homes around the structure.
- Unpleasant odors can sometimes enter the classroom.
- Students must walk back and forth to the building throughout the day,

which raises safety concerns if an unwelcome visitor arrives.

5.)Recess Safety NEEDS

A new addition would also allow our students to remain behind the main school building, reducing exposure to unexpected visitors or other safety concerns while transitioning between spaces or going out for recess.

=====

Looking Toward the Future

Is Sacred Heart a great parish and school? Absolutely.

But can Sacred Heart continue to grow and improve? I believe we can—and we should.

This proposed addition would allow us to provide safer, more effective learning spaces for our youngest students while strengthening the future of Catholic education in our parish.

Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and commitment to Sacred Heart School.

In Christ,
Fr. Jeff

The Heart of Bethlehem

NEWSLETTER

—March 2026—

Sacred Heart Parish & School,

Where are we now?

The projects completed since 2022 prioritized **critically needed infrastructure and upgrades to our existing school building**. We are excited to now focus on our most ambitious project yet: **a four-classroom addition that will expand and connect the school and gym into a safer, more secure campus for all our students**. The new classrooms will allow our preschool and kindergarten students to move out of the basement into classrooms designed to meet their unique needs, create dedicated spaces for Special Education services, and optimize our current administrative spaces. The proposed campus expansion will **build on the legacy of the past while ensuring a quality Catholic education remains available to future generations**.

Why Soft Pledges are Important

"Soft pledges" are important because they give the people at the parish and Diocesan level clarity before making major commitments. They are not legally binding promises—but they are serious indicators of intent and generosity.

They Measure Real Readiness—Excitement is wonderful—but soft pledges show whether enthusiasm translates into actual financial support. They reveal whether the parish is truly ready to fund the project. Soft pledges empower the parish to confidently request a Capital Campaign from a financially vigilant Diocese. Soft pledges turn hope into measurable reality. They help answer the crucial question:

"Can we truly afford this—and can we do it responsibly?"

They Protect the Parish—Before finalizing a written letter to the bishop, Father Jeff needs reasonable assurance the project is financially attainable. Soft pledges help avoid overextending the parish, creating false hope for the people of Sacred Heart, and wasting the bishop's valuable time.

They Strengthen Leadership Confidence—When soft pledges demonstrate strong support, it allows Fr. Jeff to move forward confidently, including writing to the bishop with credible evidence that the parish can responsibly fund the project.

They Clarify the Scope—If pledges come in lower than hoped, plans can and must be adjusted.

They Encourage Shared Ownership—Soft pledges invite parishioners to move from "observer" to "partner." They create investment—not just financially, but spiritually and emotionally—in the future of the parish.

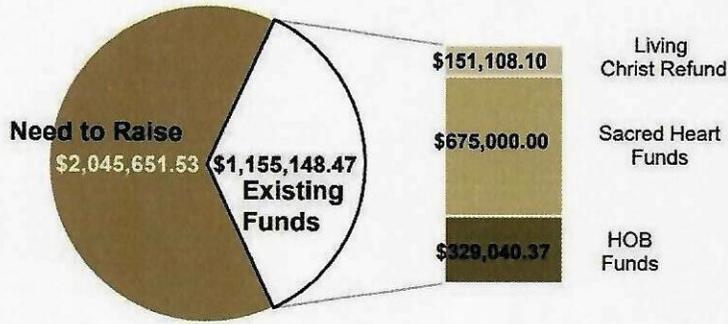
Ways to Submit your Soft Pledge

Be on the look out for a mailing coming to your home. Hard copies can be mailed back or dropped in the collection basket. To submit electronically you can visit Sacred Heart website or scan the QR code. Please only submit one per family. It must also have your name on it to count as a verified soft pledge.



PLEASE SUBMIT BEFORE MARCH 29, 2026

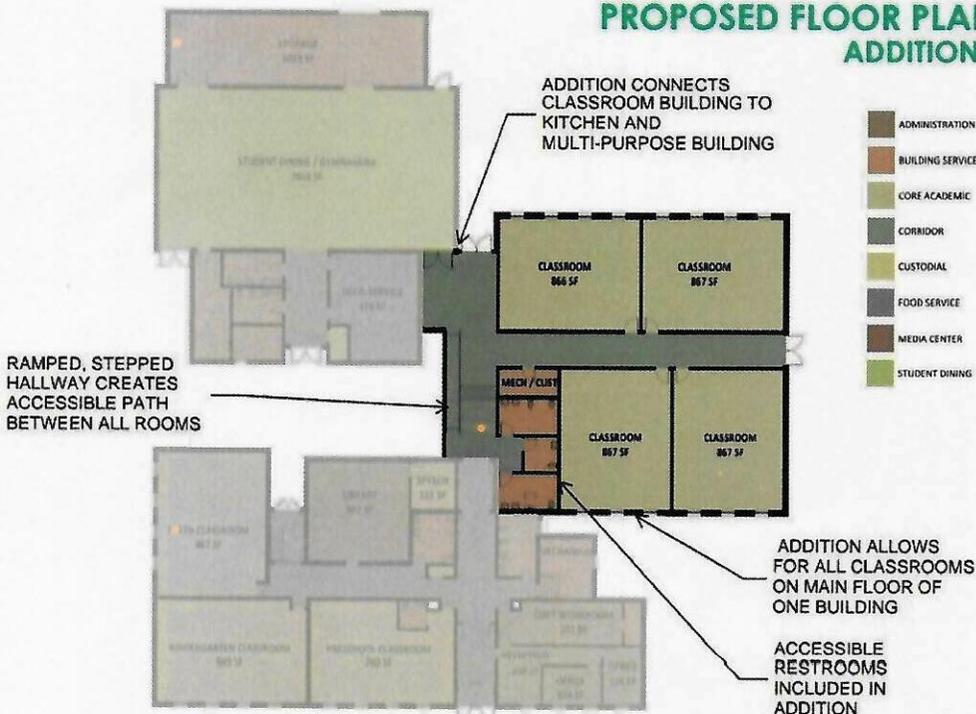
Project Funding: \$3,201,000



Probable Cost - Budget

New Construction - \$2,200,000
 Modification Allowance - \$400,000
 Soft Cost - \$310,000
 Total \$2,910,000
 Add 10% Dioceses's Contingency
 Total = \$3,201,000

PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN ADDITIONS



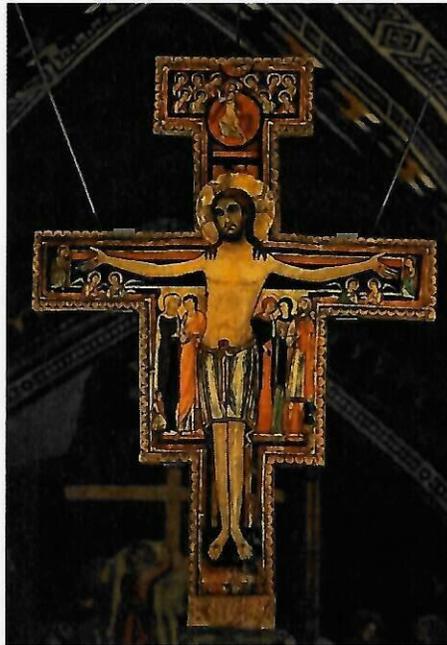
Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



“Go and Repair My House: The Year of Saint Francis of Assisi”

The year was 1206. A young Francis knelt before the Crucifix in the Church of San Damiano outside of Assisi, Italy, which was falling into ruins. Francis heard the voice of Christ Jesus speak to him from the cross: “Francis, go and repair my house, which is falling into ruin.” Understandably, Francis took this exhortation to mean that he should physically rebuild the crumbling church, but later came to understand that instead it was a call to mission to revitalize the Catholic Church!



In his first Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te*, published on October 4, 2025, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV wrote: “Eight centuries ago, Saint Francis prompted an evangelical renewal in the Christians and society of his time. Wealthy and self-confident, the young Francis was taken aback and converted by his direct contact with the poor and outcast of society. The story of his life continues to appeal to the minds and hearts of believers, and many non-believers as well. It ‘changed history.’ And in January of this year, Pope Leo established that a special Year of Saint Francis be proclaimed, “in which every faithful Christian, following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, shall become a model of holiness of life and a constant witness of peace.” To that end, I write to encourage you intentionally to engage this special year dedicated to Francis, and to consider more deeply his life and legacy.

After several encounters with the Lord who came alive and spoke from that Cross of San Damiano, Saint Francis wrote this “Prayer before the Crucifix,” a prayer which has become a favorite of mine:

*Most High glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
Give me right faith, sure hope and
perfect charity.*

*Fill me with understanding and
knowledge
that I may fulfill your command.*

For some folks, the name of Saint Francis conjures up images of garden statues of the saint preaching to the birds, or a sweet cartoonish character surrounded with Disneyesque animals! For some he is reduced to a pacifist, an ecologist or environmentalist. Often folks miss the radical Gospel poverty he embraced and his lifelong commitment to the poor. Some might recall that it was Saint Francis who gave us the first (living) Christmas creche, or that it was he who

gave us the words we so often pray with the Stations of the Cross: “We adore you O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.” We all need to see how central the Cross was to his spirituality and to recall that he received toward the end of his life the stigmata, the mystical wounds of Christ evident on his body. Many are simply unaware that the profound humility of Saint Francis was manifested in his judging himself as the worst of sinners. This Lent, there is much to ponder about this extraordinary Saint, and however deep your knowledge and familiarity with him, I invite you to spend time in prayer, reading and doing some “digging” to discover the full range of the multifaceted virtues and example of such a beloved saint, whose love was born from the Cross.

Even as we commemorate the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis, we marvel at the extraordinary number of faithful making pilgrimage to Assisi to pray before his relics, exposed for veneration for the first time since his death. And even now, as we remember the Francis who traveled to Egypt to meet with the Muslim Sultan during the fifth Crusade to encourage peace, we ourselves beg the Lord for peace in this, our time of war.



Saint Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy, Caravaggio c. 1595

Among the most powerful artistic testimonies to the transforming love of God at work in the life of Saint Francis is the celebrated work “Saint Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy,” painted around 1595 by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio. This oil on canvas masterpiece by the Italian Baroque master depicts the moment Francis receives the stigmata — the miraculous impression of the five wounds of Christ upon his hands, feet, and side. Caravaggio renders the scene not with triumphant spectacle, but with intimate tenderness: Francis reclines in a near-swoon, cradled gently by an angel, bathed in the luminous light that breaks through surrounding darkness. The stigmata represent the summit of Francis’s union with the crucified and risen Lord. He who had knelt before the San Damiano Cross in prayer had so given himself to God that his very body bore the marks of Christ’s Passion. Caravaggio’s masterwork invites every believer to contemplate the depth of love to which each of us is called — a love that transforms, that costs, and that ultimately becomes a witness of glory. Our love is born from the Love of the Crucified and Risen Jesus.

In the spirit of this holy year, and in communion with the universal Church, I am pleased to announce that during this time of grace, extending through January 10, 2027, the faithful are granted the opportunity of a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions. As Francis embraced both the Crucified Christ and all of creation with open arms, so too are we called to embrace our brothers and sisters, our world, and our God with renewed zeal, mercy, and love.

I am deeply grateful to the Sylvania Franciscan Sisters, the Tiffin Franciscan Sisters, and the Conventual Franciscan Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation for graciously opening their campuses to the faithful of our Diocese. Through their generous hospitality, Catholics throughout the Diocese of Toledo are able to participate in this Jubilee Year by making a pilgrimage to the following Franciscan Pilgrimage Sites:

Portiuncula

On the Motherhouse grounds of the Sylvania Franciscan Sisters
620 Convent Blvd, Sylvania, OH 43560
Open Every Day from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Motherhouse Eucharistic Chapel

On the grounds of the Tiffin Franciscan Sisters
200 St. Francis Avenue, Tiffin, OH 44883
Chapel: Open Wednesday & Sunday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM | Mass at 11:00 AM,

Grounds: Open Every Day, 9:00 AM to Dusk

The Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation

The Conventual Franciscan Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation
315 Clay St, Carey, OH 43316
Open 24/7

For more information on the pilgrimage, on obtaining the “Passport,” and more on how to participate, go to toledodiocese.org/francis.

Please join me in the hope and prayer that this Jubilee Year may draw us ever more deeply into the mystery of God’s love, revealed in the face of His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the person of Saint Francis who so radically imitated the Lord! May Saint Francis of Assisi, who so completely surrendered himself to that love, intercede for us and lead us along the path of peace, joy, and holiness. As Francis himself prayed before the San Damiano Cross, so let us pray with renewed hearts — asking God to enlighten the darkness of our own lives, to strengthen our faith, hope and charity, and to set us aflame with love for Him and for one another. As Francis heard the Lord’s exhortation from the Cross, so may we too become models of holiness of life and constant witnesses of peace, architects of an evangelical renewal, building up the Church through lives enriched by a deeper encounter this year with Saint Francis. Saint Francis, intercede for us!

+ Daniel E. Thomas

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
February 27, 2026

PARISH CONTACTS

**FR. JEFFERY SMITH ,
PASTOR**

419-683-2015

JSMITH@TOLEDODIOCESE.ORG

DEACON STEVEN VOGT

419-564-6331

SRVOGT@NCOOL.NET

**DEACON STEPHEN KELLER
RETIRED**

419-347-6940

**JOANN PALM
BUSINESS MANAGER**

419-683-2015

419-342-2256 (NLW)

JPALM@STJOSEPHCRESTLINE.ORG

HOURS: M & T 9AM TO 3PM-SACRED HEART
TH & FRI 8AM TO 3PM-ST JOSEPH

**MRS. BECKY KROMER
PARISH SECRETARY**

419-683-1697

BKROMER@SACREDHEARTBETHLEHEM.ORG

OFFICE HOURS: W & TH 9AM TO 3PM

**MRS. LISA MYERS
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

419-342-2797 (SHELBY) (NLW)

419-683-1697 (CRESTLINE)

LMYERS@SHELBY SACREDHEART.ORG

**MRS. JESSICA RIETSCHLIN
SCHOOL SECRETARY**

419 342-2797 (SHELBY) (NLW)

419 683-1697 (CRESTLINE)

JRIETSCHLIN@SHELBY SACREDHEART.ORG

**JONAH STUDER
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

419-543-0119

JO55ST@YAHOO.COM

**F.I.S.H. food pantry most needed items:
Cream of celery soup, reg. coffee, strawberry
jelly and pasta side dishes.**

Thank you for your generous continued support!

Extra opportunities for Confession during Lent:

Thursday, March 19

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm at St. Francis Xavier, Willard

Wednesday, March 25 - "The Light Is On"

9:00 am - 11:00 am at Holy Trinity Activity Center Gym,
Bucyrus

Noon - 1:00 pm at Holy Trinity Activity Center Gym, Bucyrus

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm at St. Bernard, New Washington

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm at St. Joseph, Plymouth

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm at St. Joseph, Galion

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm at St. Joseph, Galion

Sunday, March 29

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Resurrection Parish, Lexington

3 priests

Monday, March 30

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at St. Peter, Mansfield - 3 priests

Tuesday, March 31

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at St. Mary of the Snows, Mansfield

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral Chrism Mass: Tuesday, March 31 @ 11:00am



Bishop Daniel Thomas will celebrate the Chrism Mass on Tuesday of Holy Week. The Oli of the Sick and Oil of Catechumens are blessed and the Sacred Chrism is consecrated. The priests of the Diocese renew their priestly promises. This year representatives from St. Joseph will bring the newly blessed oils back to our churches. All are invited to attend.

The Ladies of Sacred Heart Church are inviting all widows to join them in the school gymnasium on **Sunday, April 26th. at 1:00pm** for a time of prayer, sharing, light snacks and games. While rooted in the Catholic faith, all widows are welcome. Please feel free to invite a friend.

For more information: contact Lillian Niese at: rrlniese@hotmail.com or 419-631-1603 or Kathy Cole at: kathym.cole@icloud.com or 419-565-8060

Receive Graceful Living Magazine at Home

Graceful Living, the Diocese of Toledo's magazine, celebrates the inspiring people and places of the Diocese and is published twice a year, in Winter and Summer. More than 40,000 copies are mailed to homes across NW Ohio, and anyone can sign up to receive future issues at home. To subscribe, email glmagazine@toledodocese.org with your full name and address. A digital version is also available at toledodocese.org/GracefulLiving.