



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

March 8, 2026
Third Sunday of Lent

5742 State Route 61 S.
 Shelby, Ohio 44875
 (419) 342-2256

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

Intentions

Tuesday

6:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart
Mass Intention: Rhonda and Jim Borgelt

Wednesday

8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart
Mass Intention: Richard Vogt

Thursday

5:30 pm - Confession at St. Joseph
6:30 pm - Mass at St. Joseph
Mass Intention: For the People of St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Parishes

Friday

8:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph
Mass Intention: For the Students, Parents and Staff of St. Joseph School

7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross
Both Parishes

Saturday

3:30pm - Confession at SHJ
4:30pm - Mass at Sacred Heart
Mass Intention: Deceased of Clarence Studer Family; Rodney Cole

Sunday

7:00 am - Mass at St. Joseph
Mass Intentions: Patrick Walker; Teresa Minor & Family

8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart
Mass Intention: Living & Deceased of Henry Weaver Family; Rosemary Sutter

10:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph
Mass Intention: Chuck Marek; Jim Horning

Dear Parishioners,

What a great turn out we had at our coffee and questions townhall meeting regarding the possible addition at Sacred Heart School! This time together allowed us to go over the details/plans for the much needed new addition at Sacred Heart School as well as address your questions.

You may ask yourself, how did we get here? The simple answer is that we keep evolving, and our enrollment is consistent/increasing. When I started at Sacred Heart School 23 years ago, our enrollment was 63 students in 4 year old preschool – 8th grade. For the 25/26 school year we have 109 students from 3 yr old preschool -8th grade. On average, our enrollment is high eighty – low hundreds, 3 year old preschool-8th grade! We are blessed at Sacred Heart School!

At Sacred Heart School, we keep evolving! We have evolved from all inclusion classrooms to having different math and reading teachers. We have evolved in offering or enhancing our art, music, computer, and STREAM classes and adding a 3 year old pre-school program. We have evolved in intervention services for our students that require speech, OT, PT, intervention and Title I reading services. Currently, these students receive their services in designated classrooms in the mobile unit.

We have also been blessed to also hire a fulltime Intervention Specialist. Our Intervention Specialist works with students who have been identified in having learning disabilities. We have also hired classroom aides. The aides assist all students. They also help the teachers with managing the classrooms.

The bottom line is that we as a school keep evolving and increasing our enrollment! However, our school building has not gotten bigger. Yes, we have made many improvements in the school. But the reality is that we are preparing our students for 21st century learning in a building that was designed for the needs of the students in the 1950s. Of course, we remain grateful for the facilities that we have, and we will continue to fulfill our mission of teaching children to know, love, and serve God. However, by building an addition and making improvements to our facilities, we will have designated spaces for current and future generations, to keep our school viable for years to come.

I am asking you to help the current and future generations of Sacred Heart School and Parish to allow us with the new addition to keep evolving! The Heart of Bethlehem Committee firmly believes with a new building addition and a renovation of our current school building, we will attract more families, teachers and parishioners. Sacred Heart School is a wonderful place to become a Saint. Let us take this opportunity to evolve and do our part in securing the legacy of Sacred Heart for our current and future generations!

In Christ, Lisa Myers, Principal

COLLECTION:

March 1, 2026
\$ 5,664.00

Reg. Offertory
\$ 4,794.00
Gen Maintenance
\$ 100.00
Church Maintenance
\$ 100.00
Misericordia
\$ 120.00
Fuel
\$ 50.00
Online
\$ 480.00
Easter Flowers
\$ 20.00



Thank you!

Heart of Bethlehem
\$ 1,333.90

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

School Mass
Wednesdays @ 8:30 am

Saturday, March 14

Sunday, March 15

MUSIC MINISTER

Kevin Willis

SERVERS

Hunter Keller

Louie Rietschlin

OFFERTORY

Charlie Timmons Family

EXTRAORDINARY

MINISTERS

Laurie Metzger, Karen Keiser

Brenda Gosser

USHERS

Steve & Matthew

Gosser

LECTOR

Laurie Metzger

MUSIC MINISTER

Kevin & Becky

SERVERS

Blaise Metzger

John Paynter

OFFERTORY

Russ & Marti Keller

EXTRAORDINARY

MINISTERS

Marti Keller, Lisa Myers

Chuck Weaver, Jerry Schumacher

USHERS

Roger Niese & Dave Kromer

LECTOR

Chuck Keller

COUNTERS

*Miriam Schroeder, Crystal Metzger
Cindy Keller*

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

Bible Readings for the Week of March 8, 2026

Monday 2Kgs 5:1-15ab, Ps 42:2-3, 43:3-4, Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday Dn 3:25, 34-43, Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9, Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday Dt 4:1, 5-9, Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20, Mt 5:17-19
Thursday Jer 7:23-28, Ps 95:1-2, 6-9, Lk 11:14-23
Friday Hos 14:2-10, Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17, Mk 12:28-34
Saturday Hos 6:1-6, Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b, Lk 18:9-14
Sunday 1Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a, Ps 23:1-6, Eph 5:8-14, Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



BULLETIN SPONSORS OF THE WEEK:



**Paynter Family
Organic Farm**

- GOA Certified Organic -

"Farming with nature to preserve the future"

7950 Oldfield Road | Crestline, Ohio 44827

419-683-3961

50th Anniversary
Crawford Drainage Co.
SPECIALIST IN FARM DRAINAGE



3364 Hinesville Rd Shelby, Ohio 44875
(419) 564-4720 Email: ken@crawforddrainage.com
www.crawforddrainage.com



**Rev. Jerome Schetter, Pastor
St. Augustine Catholic Church,
Napoleon, Ohio**

**Died Sunday, February 22nd.
May He Rest in Peace**



Please remember him in your prayers. 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.

Today is Safe Haven Sunday

The Diocese of Toledo will observe its second annual Safe Haven Sunday on March 7–8, continuing our commitment to supporting individuals, marriages, and families in addressing the harmful effects of pornography. Inspired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral statement Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography, this initiative provides education, awareness, and practical resources to help foster safe and virtuous homes in today’s digital age. For more information and access to resources, visit: toledodiocese.org/safe-haven-sunday.



**High School PSR
March 11, 18, & 25.**



Little Lambs next playdate: March 14th.



Any servers available to help Deacon Steve with Stations on Good Friday please contact the school or parish office! Thank you!

St. Joseph Senior Citizen Luncheon

Our next luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17 at 12:15 PM. The menu will be: Shredded chicken sandwich, sweet potato puffs, baked apples and three bean salad. The cost is \$5.00 and we hope to see many of our faithful supporters there. And of course, a raffle treasure will be waiting for you! Please RSVP to the school office (419-683-1284) by Friday, March 13th.

St. Joseph, Plymouth Spaghetti Dinner 119 Sandusky Street, Plymouth

Spaghetti or Lasagna with meat sauce, cole slaw, bread stick and dessert

Sunday, March 15th., 9:00am-1:00pm

Dine-In or Carry Out Free Will Offerings Accepted

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

A time to raise awareness about the inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities* in the Church and all areas of community life. Pope Francis’ 2019 message at the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, stated: “We are called to recognize in every person with disabilities, even complex and serious disabilities, a unique contribution to the common good through their original life stories. ...and to recognize them as persons of equal dignity, as brothers and sisters in humanity.”

28th. Annual Open Arms Award

Nominate someone in your parish who is living with a significant disability (caused by a vision or hearing impairment, paralysis, chronic illness, intellectual disability, or mental illness) and despite any limitations, models Christian service to their parish community and beyond? Perhaps you know of a parishioner who is a caregiver and/or advocate for a person or persons living with disabilities. If you would like to nominate them for the Opens Arms Award please submit their name(s) and why you are nominating them for the 2026 Open Arms Awards. These awards will be presented by Bishop Daniel E. Thomas at the 4:00 pm Saturday Mass on June 6, 2026, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 6149 Hill Ave, Toledo OH when our Diocese celebrates the gifts that Catholics living with disability bring to our Church.

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



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



The Heart of Bethlehem Newsletter

February 2026



SACRED HEART of JESUS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Bethlehem • Founded 1833

Sacred Heart Parish & School,

We sincerely appreciate you taking the time to complete our survey once more. We have carefully considered all the valuable feedback provided and have implemented changes to address as many of your concerns as possible.

What will happen to the current Parish Center?

At this time, our primary focus will remain exclusively on the school addition. The school addition is deemed necessary, and the parish center can be addressed at a later date.

How much will the addition cost?

Our budget for this addition is 2.9 million dollars. The Heart of Bethlehem diligently sought the most economical price to ensure ample space for Sacred Heart to continue its educational mission for many future generations. We are committed to maintaining low costs throughout the entirety of the project.

Will this addition accomplish all of Heart of Bethlehem goals?

YES! The new plan will relocate all students from the basement and mobile unit to the main floor of the campus. We will have a secure double-door entrance with an office space that will allow staff to work more efficiently and freely. Father will finally have an office within the school.

Enhancing and modernizing the restrooms will facilitate a more efficient daily schedule for the entire school. The preschool will be equipped with a private restroom within the classroom, which is anticipated to be a significant enhancement for our Preschool program.

Why Sacred Heart Schools NEED this addition?

Sacred Heart has been operating with limited space for several years. The mobile unit was initially intended as a temporary solution to address the lack of available space. This mobile unit is presently in continuous use throughout the day, which suggests a persistent need for additional room. Furthermore, the preschool and kindergarten classes currently share the basement facilities. The combined increase in noise levels is becoming problematic for the students. In addition to this, the frequent trips up and down the stairs for these young students to access the restroom facilities are proving to be quite challenging for both staff and students alike.

The workspaces provided for staff are quite compact, restricted, and not conducive to the increasing workload associated with operating a school. Sacred Heart has achieved its high ranking in education due to the exceptional efforts of its staff on behalf of the students. It is essential that they are provided with adequate space to continue their outstanding work.

Survey Results

1. Are you satisfied with the renovations that have been completed to enhance the Sacred Heart campus in the last 3 years?

YES- 120 NO- 1 Unaware-8

2. Do you support a campus expansion that would involve relocating Kindergarten and Preschool from the basement, removing the mobile unit, enhancing restroom facilities within the building to ensure ADA(Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance for all age groups and establishing a unified campus? (Option "A")

YES-125 NO-4

3. If you responded YES to question 2, do you support the relocation of the parish office into the school addition, provided it has secure and independent access separate from the school?

Yes-97 NO-29

Thank you Sacred Heart for your wonderful feedback!!

Mark Your Calendars for a Town Hall Meeting

We invite you to join us for coffee and a Q&A session on **February 28th at 9:30 AM** in Sacred Heart Hall!

The Heart of Bethlehem committee is excited to present the new school addition plans. Based on your feedback, we have adjusted these plans to address the concerns and needs of our school community. Please join the committee and the Sacred Heart family for a coffee bar as we plan for the future of Sacred Heart School.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

Soft Donation Pledges

We are continuing to gather data for our presentation of this project to the diocese.

For those who were previously unable to complete the donation section of the survey due to budget uncertainty, we can now confirm the project budget is \$2.9 million. We hope this information assists in your decision-making. Once you have determined your contribution, please submit a new survey using the QR code provided and include your donation details.



If you have not yet had the opportunity to complete the survey, we would greatly appreciate it if you could do so now. Thank you!

Contact us at:
heartofbethlehem@sacredheartshelby.org

Will this addition lead to a large increase in the number of students at Sacred Heart?

The plan is not to increase Sacred Hearts student numbers but to improve functionality and safety. This addition is designed to accommodate the average number of students Sacred Heart has educated over the last decade, approximately 100 students a year. Currently, 66% of Sacred Heart's student body consists of parishioners.

North

**Updated
School
Addition
Plans**



East

Front of School - South

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Crestline

Rev. Jeff Smith, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

Born in Mayorga, Spain, in 1538, St. Turibius studied law at the University of Salamanca. Known for his prudence and integrity as a judge, St. Turibius was nominated by King Philip II to be archbishop of Peru. After witnessing the need of the faithful in Lima, St. Turibius agreed and was ordained. He spent his office reforming the Peruvian diocese of corruption, founded schools, seminaries, and hospitals, and worked to protect the rights of the natives.

Lent is about love

Lent can feel discouraging. After all, we give up things we like and focus on suffering. Yet, in Holy Week, for which Lent is the preparation, we see God's response to us in our sins. He meets us in our mess. He returns our rejection with freely offered love, our selfishness with radical self-gift, and our suffering with unfathomable mercy. We give up things for Lent because Love gave Himself up for us.

"[Our Lord] is thinking about you and not only about you but about every hair of your head: this is an article of faith and you must not have the slightest doubt about it... you have no cause to doubt that he is looking upon you with love..." — St. Francis de Sales, *Selected Letters*

Create space for grace

Lent is not just a season of temporary sacrifice, but a call to lasting conversion. Consider choosing disciplines that reshape daily habits and create space for grace. Here are five meaningful ways to begin redirecting your path:

Practice trust. *"Which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life?"* (Matthew 6:27). Concern is human, but persistent worry bears little fruit. When anxiety rises, turn it into prayer, "Jesus, I trust You, I place this moment and its outcome in Your hands." Trust grows through repetition.

Refocus your heart. Lasting fulfillment does not come from appearance or possessions, but from knowing God and resting in His love. Keep a daily record of blessings received. Review it often.

Create quiet. St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God is the friend of silence." Silence begins by turning off what

competes for attention. Place screens in another room. Silence notifications. Turn to God in the silence.

Give rather than acquire. Learn to distinguish between wants and needs. Limiting spending to what is truly necessary challenges the habit of

"Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving."

St. Augustine

seeking comfort or status in possessions. When we forgo nonessential purchases and redirect those resources to others, we cultivate detachment, strengthen generosity, and put our security in God.

Choose mercy. Resentment binds the heart; forgiveness frees it. On the Cross, Christ chose mercy. This Lent, choose the same path toward healing and peace.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics practice prayer, penance, and almsgiving during Lent?

Prayer, penance, and almsgiving are grounded in the prophets' call to genuine conversion. Joel urges the people to return to God with their whole hearts, not merely with outward gestures. Isaiah makes clear that the fast God desires feeds the hungry and shelters the poor, linking worship with justice. Jesus deepens this teaching in

Matthew 6. He assumes His followers will pray, fast, and give alms, but warns against practicing them for recognition.

When done in secret, these disciplines purify motives, reshape desire, and free us from attachment to possessions and approval. Properly embraced, they train the heart to seek lasting treasure in God rather than passing reward.

The right time is now

When is the right time to proclaim the Gospel, live the faith with greater intention, and renew our commitment to God's plan? During a January Angelus address, Pope Leo said, "God is at work at all times; every moment is 'God's time'." The call to discipleship is not reserved for a future time when life feels more settled. It is meant for us today.

God works in uncertain moments. The Gospels show that Jesus did not wait for favorable conditions. Matthew records that His public ministry began after John the Baptist's arrest, a moment marked by instability and threat. Rather than withdraw, Jesus proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). What seemed like a setback became the starting point of His mission. If we postpone

necessary change until circumstances improve, we may never act. Every moment, even a difficult one, can become the moment of conversion because God is always at work.

God draws close. Jesus also chose an unexpected location. He began not in Jerusalem, the religious center, but in Galilee, a region known for cultural and religious diversity. His mission made clear that God's grace is not confined to a single place or people. As Pope Leo explained, the Gospel reveals a God who draws near to all. No environment is beyond His presence. In our own lives, this means that God's invitation unfolds in ordinary settings. He calls us to deeper friendship, lasting conversion, and faithful witness wherever we are.

from **S**cripture

Matthew 26:14-27:66, God turns suffering into glory

In this passage, we read Matthew's account of the Passion, which begins with Judas agreeing to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and continues through the preparations for the Last Supper. At that meal, Jesus institutes the Eucharist, giving His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity to His disciples. The contrast is striking. While Judas pursues his own self-interest, Jesus gives Himself in total self-offering.

In Gethsemane, the contrast deepens. As Jesus endures profound anguish, He asks His closest companions to remain with Him in prayer. They fall asleep. Soon after, Judas arrives with an armed

crowd and identifies Jesus with a kiss. Jesus is then bound, falsely accused, mocked, and beaten. By the next day, He is scourged, condemned, crucified, and laid in the tomb.

Through these events, Matthew highlights Jesus' trust in the Father and His commitment to the Father's will. The Passion is not a sign of divine abandonment. It reveals the depth of God's mercy. In Christ's willing sacrifice, suffering becomes the means of redemption, grace is poured out, and death itself is conquered. Holy Week shows that God can transform even the darkest hour into the path to glory.

Q & A Does repeated failure change how God loves me?

It can be discouraging to struggle with the same sins repeatedly. The pattern may feel discouraging. Yet discouragement should never become despair. The central truth of the Christian life is that when repentance is sincere and there is a real desire to improve, God always receives us. As Pope Francis said, "He does not tire in forgiving. We are the ones who tire in asking for forgiveness." His mercy does not diminish with repetition.

At times, God may permit ongoing struggles to deepen our humility. Repeated weakness can protect us from spiritual pride, which blinds us to our faults and keeps us from seeking grace. Humility, however, recognizes imperfection without losing trust. A humble person is not shocked by failure but returns to God with greater dependence.

If you feel anxious about Confession, whether for a new sin or a familiar one, remember the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son. He waits, watches, and runs to meet his child. This is how God receives us. In every sincere confession, we encounter not frustration, but mercy renewed.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
 Success Publishing & Media, LLC
 Publishers of *Growing in Faith™* and *Partners in Faith™*
 (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.infaithpublishing.com>
 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

Feasts & Celebrations

March 1 – St. David of Wales (c. 601). St. David is the patron saint of Wales. He was born into Welsh nobility, but instead chose to become a priest. He was later consecrated a bishop. He is best known for founding an ascetic monastery, and ridding the area of the Pelagian heresy, which states that we must earn our salvation. He was known for his inspiring preaching, penitential life, and kindness to the poor.

March 4 – St. Casimir of Poland (1483). Born to King Casimir IV of Poland, St. Casimir became known for his piety and integrity at a young age. When

the prince was older and his father sent him to conquer Hungary, Casimir assessed the odds against winning the war and turned back out of concern for his troops. He resolved never to be involved in war again. He died of illness when he was twenty-five.

March 19 – St. Joseph, Husband of Mary (1st Century). Jesus' earthly father and husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

March 29 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (1st Century). On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when He was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

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

JPALM@STJOSEPHCRESTLINE.ORG
HOURS: M & T 9AM TO 3PM-SACRED HEART
TH & FRI 8AM TO 3PM-ST JOSEPH

**MRS. BECKY KROMER
PARISH SECRETARY**

419-342-2256 (SHELBY)

BKROMER@SACREDHEARTBETHLEHEM.ORG
OFFICE HOURS: W & TH 9AM TO 3PM

**MRS. LISA MYERS
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

419-342-2797 (SHELBY)

419-683-1697 (CRESTLINE)

LMYERS@SHELBY SACREDHEART.ORG

**MRS. JESSICA RIETSCHLIN
SCHOOL SECRETARY**

419 342-2797 (SHELBY)

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:
Hamburger helper, mandarin oranges, strawberry
jelly and pasta side dishes.***

Thank you for your generous continued support!

Do You Want to Fast this Lent? (In the words of Pope Francis)

***Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.***



***Thank you to the PTO at
Sacred Heart School, for
making each student a
pocket rosary!***



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.

Extra opportunities for Confession during Lent:

Wednesday, March 11

6:30 pm at Holy Trinity Activity Center Gym, Bucyrus
Penance Service

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