



SACRED HEART of JESUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

❧ Bethlehem • Founded 1833 ❧

April 12, 2026
Second Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday

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

Intentions

Tuesday

6:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: John Young

Wednesday

8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: Rosemary Sutter

Thursday

No Mass at St. Joseph

Friday

8:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intention: For those Facing Surgery

Saturday

3:30pm - Confession at SHJ

4:30pm - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: Lawrence & Mary Alice Biglin, Harold Moore, Mark Wolford

Sunday

7:00 am - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intentions: For the People of St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Parishes

8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: Terri Samples; John Metzger & Richard Vogt

10:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intention: Lisa & Lindsey Anatra; Charles Marek

Dear Parishioners,

Each year, on the Sunday following Easter, the Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday—a beautiful reminder that God’s mercy is greater than our sins, our failures, and even our doubts. This feast was entrusted to the Church through [St. Faustina Kowalska](#), who received visions of Jesus revealing His immense desire to pour out mercy upon the world. In one of these visions, Jesus spoke words that still echo powerfully today: “Jesus, I trust in You.”

That simple phrase captures the heart of Divine Mercy. In the Gospel for this Sunday, we encounter [St. Thomas the Apostle](#), who struggled to believe in the Resurrection. Rather than rejecting him, Jesus meets Thomas in his doubt and invites him to touch His wounds. This is mercy—not condemnation, but an invitation. The same is true for us. So often, we can feel unworthy of God’s love. We may carry guilt, regret, or a sense that we’ve gone too far. But Divine Mercy Sunday reminds us that there is no sin greater than God’s mercy. The doors of His heart remain open.

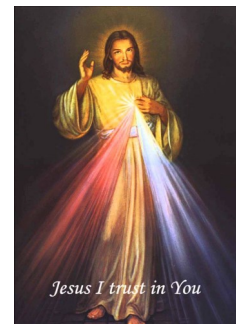
I invite you to spend time in prayer with me and other deanery parishes and priests! There will be a divine mercy prayer service at **St. Peter's parish in Mansfield at 3pm**. The service will include opportunities for reconciliation with multiple priests and the chanting of the chaplet. This service is a great way to reflect on God’s mercy in your life.

Let us not be afraid to come to Jesus as we are. After all, the message of Divine Mercy is not that we are perfect—but that we are loved.

Jesus, I trust in You.

In Christ,

Fr. Jeff



COLLECTION:

April 5, 2026
\$ 23,184.00

Reg. Offertory
\$ 5,795.00
Misericordia
\$ 88.00
Easter
\$16,345.00
Easter Flowers
\$ 90.00
Holy Land
\$ 10.00
Gen Maintenance
\$ 50.00
Church Maintenance
\$ 20.00
Online
\$ 786.00



Thank
you!

Heart of Bethlehem
\$ 125.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

School Mass
Wednesdays @ 8:30 am

Saturday, April 18

MUSIC MINISTER

Kevin Willis

SERVERS

Blaine Welch

Luke Davies

OFFERTORY

Barry & Joanne Claytor Family

EXTRAORDINARY

MINISTERS

Joanne Claytor, Laurie Metzger

Kelsey Keller

USHERS

Nick Gosser

Steve Gosser

LECTOR

JoAnn Krausman

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

Sunday, April 19

MUSIC MINISTER

Adult Choir

SERVERS

Audrey & Kennedy

Hoffman

OFFERTORY

Lance Biglin Family

EXTRAORDINARY

MINISTERS

Chuck Weaver, Stan Cain

Luke & Cheryl Rietschlin

USHERS

Lance Biglin & Greg Gwartz

LECTOR

Paula Goodman

COUNTERS

*Miriam Schroeder, Veronica Cain
Paula Goodman*

Bible Readings for the Week of April 12, 2026



Monday Acts 4:23-31, Ps 2:1-9, Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday Acts 4:32-37, Ps 93:1-2, 5, Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday Acts 5:17-26, Ps 34:2-9, Jn 3:16-21
Thursday Acts 5:27-33, Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20, Jn 3:31-36
Friday Acts 5:34-42, Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14, Jn 6:1-15
Saturday Acts 6:1-7, Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19, Jn 6:16-21
Sunday Acts 2:14, 22-33, Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11, 1Pt 1:17-21, Lk 24:13-35

BULLETIN SPONSORS OF THE WEEK:



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



Rick, Chad, & Casey Niese

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



Sunday, July 26th.

It is never too early to start thinking about warmer days and with those warmer days comes the annual Sacred Heart Festival! If you have a shift you would prefer please contact Bridget Milligan at 419-561-0690 to make your request before April 15th.

Thank you again Sacred Heart!!!

We are so close to our goal! We are still needing approximately \$400,000 to reach our \$2,045,651.53 goal!

We appreciate every generous soft pledge!

You may use the QR code provided to submit your soft pledge or return a paper copy to the office by mailing it in or putting it in the offertory basket!

3rd & 4th Grade Full-Time Teacher Opening Sacred Heart School – Shelby, Ohio 2026–2027 Academic Year

Sacred Heart School is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic full-time 3rd and 4th Grade Teacher for the 2026–2027 academic year. We invite qualified candidates to become part of our outstanding Catholic school community, rooted in faith, academic excellence, and service.

Sacred Heart School is part of a vibrant parish and educational ministry committed to nurturing the spiritual, academic, and personal growth of every student. This is an excellent opportunity to work alongside a supportive staff and engage with exceptional students in a faith-filled environment.

Qualifications:

- Valid and appropriate state teaching licensure
Successful completion of BCI and FBI background checks
Strong commitment to Catholic education and values
Passion for fostering student learning and development

Position Benefits:

- Competitive salary
Paid personal and sick leave
Comprehensive benefits package including health, dental, vision, and life insurance and retirement plan

Application Process:

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit a resume and salary expectations via email to Lmyers@shelbysacredheart.org.

Applications may also be delivered in person to: Sacred Heart School Office

Women’s Retreat/Spa Day for the Soul Saturday, April 18th. 8:15am - 1:00pm St. Mary School, 26 West Street, Shelby

Speaker: Emily Jaminet, Catholic author, speaker and podcaster. Mother of seven. \$30 per person brunch and lunch included. Go to tinyurl.com/MPHM26WOMEN to register. Scholarships are available. For more information contact Myrna Snider at: 614-563-2856

St. Joseph Senior Citizen Luncheon

Tuesday, April 21 at 12:15 pm - Convocation Center The cost is \$5.00, and we will be serving chicken salad on a croissant, carrots w/ ranch, grapes and a cookie. Please RSVP by April 17 by leaving a message on the school answering machine at 419-683-1284.

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



Please contact the parish office to sign up for the monthly vocations cross! Need May and beyond! Thank you!

Advertisement for The Melchizedek Project. Text includes: 'Is Jesus Christ calling me to become a priest?', 'Sundays at St Peter 2 to 3:30 PM April 26th to May 31st', and contact information for Hayden and Fr Kishore. Includes images of a group of men and a priest.



SACRED HEART 2026 FIRST COMMUNICANTS

BETHLEHEM – Second graders will receive the Eucharist for the first time this Sunday. Sacramental preparation classes have been led by Mrs. Myers, principal of Sacred Heart School., and Mrs. Peggy Pauley, 2nd grade PSR teacher.

Children ordinarily receive First Holy Communion in 2nd grade, according to the Diocese of Toledo. "Holy Communion is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic Church, and it allows the child to receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ that is fully present in the Eucharist."

The Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life,' notes the Catechism of the Catholic Church. "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself."

First Communicants are especially blessed to be receiving Christ for the first time this year.

"Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a 'Year of Saint Francis' to commemorate the 800th year of the saint's death", according to the Diocese of Toledo. "The Franciscan Jubilee Year, considered a gift for the entire Church and an occasion for authentic spiritual renewal, was inaugurated on Jan. 10."

Meet Our 2026 First Communicants!

Michaela Gosser's favorite food is popcorn, and her role model is Jesus. She is excited to receive Jesus' Body and Blood.



Bennett Finnegan's favorite food is chili dogs and his role model is Mrs. Martin. He is excited to have a party, and receive a special necklace from his parents.

Solanus Beeson's favorite food is chicken, and his role model is his dad. He is excited because he gets to receive the Body of Jesus.



Cole Garver's favorite food is mealoaf with ketchup, and his role models are his mom and brothers. He is excited to receive the Body of Christ like his brothers.

Gemma Metzger's favorite foods are mac and cheese and fruit, and her role models are her mom and dad. She is excited about receiving Jesus' Body and Blood.



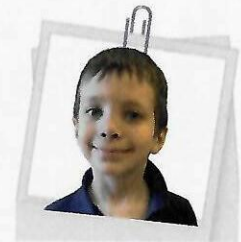
Oakland Gwartz's favorite foods are pizza and fries, and his role model is his mom. He is excited for First Communion because Jesus is strong.

Gianna Hartings' favorite foods are ramen and fruit, and her role models are her mom and dad. She is excited to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.



Klark Spearman's favorite foods are pizza and fries, and his mom is his role model. He is excited to receive the Body of Christ.

Theodore Kuntz's favorite food is pizza with anchovies, and his role model is his dad. He is excited to receive the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ.



Charlie Timmons' favorite foods are pizza and hamburgers, and his role model is Sky. He is excited because he really likes praising God and Jesus.



Heart of Bethlehem Meeting

March 18th, 2026

Present: Father Jeff, Seth Rietschlin, Lisa Myers, Cody Gosser, Adam Paynter, Kelsey Keller, Molly Belcik, Rebekah Weber, Tom Metzger, Joann Palmer, Stefanie Kuntz, Lil Niese

Absent: Sean Beeson, Monica Finney, Maycee Rietschlin

Met at the school in the 5th and 6th grade classroom. Meeting started at 7:30 pm. Father Opened with Prayer.

Seth Read the minutes from the February 17th meeting, 2026 meeting. Kelsey moved to approve the minutes, Stefanie seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

Old Business

Discussion started with Kelsey posing the question how are we answering the question “What it would take to get a temporary solution to get the preschool upstairs and what would it take to increase capacity?”. Lengthy discussion. Seth stated the existing classrooms at 846 square feet by state fire code maximum occupancy is 42 but that is not practical for any teaching application. 25-30 is expected for “traditional” learning and closer to 20 maximum for younger students. Several ideas were discussed and every solution caused another issue. Lil said she had some parishioners come to her and said the pre-school rooms need to be bigger. Lisa said after 14 students in pre-school they need an additional aid. The consensus was that there is no perfect temporary solution to get the pre-school out of the basement. Tom suggested that some of the other committees maybe brainstorm on a practical solution and we maintain focus on our original goal. As for the Capacity it was agreed that we could offer an expanded version of the addition with larger rooms. Seth said Maycee would write up a blurb for the bulletin describing that if we financially exceed our goal for the original addition, we could put the extra funds towards extra square footage. Tom stated it would be the easiest and most practical solution to simply extend the new rooms. It was agreed that we would keep the same layout and number of rooms.

New Business

Joanne had updates on amounts of soft pledges. It was stressed that the donor information and amounts will be confidential. As of now there have been a total of 61 soft pledges returned totaling \$828,900. Approximately 5-600 letters were sent out to parishioners, school families and alumni. Roughly only 25% of the pledges have been returned and the due

date is not until 3-29-2026. Father is going to announce at weekend masses that all the soft pledges submitted are confidential. Father asked what some of the fundraising ideas were that he could include in his letter to the diocese. Stefanie suggested auctioning off an ATV. Other ideas were spaghetti dinner (possibly annually), pairing with restaurants to get %sales on certain days and donating grain through local co-ops. Adam suggested that when we get to that point we could ask the parish for suggestions. Maycee built a spread sheet with all donor's names and addresses so it can be used throughout the process and for other programs as well. Rebekah typed up the alumni as well. Lil asked about possibly adding handicap parkin at west side of school/ gym- Cody is going to look into it. The internet at the school was brought up and asked if it is working ok. Rebekah said typically it works ok in the basement. Molly mentioned that in public schools they are starting to use less electronic learning and going back to paper and pencil- the kids learn better. Rebekah asked if we could add the addition drawing and other information to the QR code. Seth said he would ask Maycee and if it could be done she will do it. Next meeting was scheduled for April 15th at 7:30 pm. Cody moved to adjourn the meeting and Tom seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

APRIL Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Every April, Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month.



The Effects of ABUSE

When a child is abused, the effects are grave and can last a lifetime. Some of the most common effects of abuse include:

- Loss of faith and trust in God.
- Post-traumatic stress disorder, psychological distress, and other indirect signs of trauma, such as anxiety, trouble sleeping, chronic stomach pain, and headaches.
- A greater risk of developing behavioral problems, substance abuse, and suicide.

The sense of violation goes deep into a person's psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt, and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place.

Steps to Prevent ABUSE

Communicate with Your Children

It is extremely important to communicate openly with your children. Let them know that they can talk to you about anything that bothers them. This will help you identify warning signs and grooming behaviors perpetrated by offenders before they escalate to abuse.

Educate Yourself and Your Children on Abuse

Learning how to identify, prevent, and report abuse is key. Parents and guardians should empower their children to protect themselves from harm and to report abuse. Ask your diocesan safe environment coordinator or parish delegate about opportunities for safe environment training.

Identify and Report Warning Signs of Child Abusers

Grooming behaviors are the actions abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. Offenders can be patient and may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts, while others allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, such as wrestling and tickling. Abusers also often try to isolate their victims from family or friends and encourage their victims to keep secrets from their parents or other caring adults.

Holding Offenders ACCOUNTABLE

To help hold offenders accountable, report all suspected abuse to local public authorities. You can also contact your local diocesan victim assistance coordinator to make a report and seek outreach for the abused.

In accordance with diocesan policy, when a single act of sexual abuse is admitted or established, the offender is to be removed permanently from ministry.



"The abuse itself causes a deep wound that may last a lifetime, but often the scandal in the Church is because the door was closed and the victims were not welcomed and accompanied by authentic pastors."

—Pope Leo XIV, Jan. 10, 2026



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Every April, Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month. While dioceses work year-round to prevent abuse, during this month a special emphasis is placed on the importance of learning how to protect the vulnerable from this evil.

Together, for the next nine days, let's pray that the vulnerable are protected from abuse, and that survivors of abuse may be accompanied on their paths to healing.

Novena

for Protection and Healing from Abuse

Intercessions

- Day 1:** May the most vulnerable be protected from all types of abuse and exploitation.
- Day 2:** May those who have been sexually abused receive comfort and healing.
- Day 3:** May those who work with children and young people be vigilant in protecting them from harm.
- Day 4:** May those who provide help for the abused act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministries.
- Day 5:** May all families strive to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people.

Day 6: May all those who have committed abuse acknowledge the harm they have done, repent, and accept justice that ultimately comes from God.

Day 7: May those who have been abused receive the courage to tell their story, and may they be believed and supported.

Day 8: May Church leaders, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, promote justice and healing for survivors of abuse.

Day 9: May our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, fulfill his role as good shepherd and protect the most vulnerable in his flock.

Prayers

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be, Prayer for Healing

Prayer for Healing

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by his blood on the cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters
who have been gravely harmed,
and the cries of those who love them.

Soothe their restless hearts with
hope, steady their shaken
spirits with faith.
Grant them justice for their cause,
enlightened by your truth.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.
Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



PARISH CONTACTS

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RETIRED

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JOANN PALM

BUSINESS MANAGER

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419-342-2256 (NLW)

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

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ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

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JO55ST@YAHOO.COM



April: Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Diocese of Toledo remains committed to ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people. If you have any knowledge of abuse that has been committed by a cleric, or any personnel of the Catholic Church, you are urged to report the abuse to your local police department, Children Services, and the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (419) 214-4880 or by mail at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

Year of St. Francis Pilgrimage Sites

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Year of St. Francis to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the saint's death. During this time of grace, which extends through January 2027, the faithful have the opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence.

Bishop Thomas has designated three Franciscan Pilgrimage Sites in the Diocese of Toledo for the faithful to visit in prayer:

- The Portiuncula on the Motherhouse grounds of the Sylvania Franciscans
- The Motherhouse Eucharistic Chapel on the grounds of the Tiffin Franciscans
- The Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey

For more information about the Year of St. Francis and details for Franciscan Pilgrimage Sites: toledodiocese.org/franciscan

In Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi Pilgrimage to Italy

We have the unique opportunity to spend time in Assisi during this Jubilee. The Mansfield area Catholic churches invite you to join us on the upcoming pilgrimage to Italy, which includes three nights in Assisi, with visits to the Basilicas of St. Francis, St. Clare, and St. Mary of the Angels. We will visit the final resting site of St. Francis, St. Clare, and St. Carlo Acutis. We will also see the San Domiano cross from which Christ spoke to St. Francis in 1206, commanding him to "rebuild my Church". For additional information about the pilgrimage you may contact Kathy Wilkinson at 419-989-8513 or by email to kmadams58@gmail.com or go to catholicfaithjourneys.com.

**F.I.S.H. food pantry most needed items:
Can salmon, cr. celery soup, reg. tea bags, instant
mashed potatoes and saltine crackers.**

Thank you for your generous continued support!

Additional Easter Flower Donations Received:

James & Eileen Gwartz, in memory of: Gary Gwartz:

Albert & Mary Rieman; Howard & Marth Gwartz

Ric & Kathy Biglin, In memory of: Bernard and Mary Helen Weaver

Marilyn Vogt; In memory of the Horning & Vogt Families

