

SACRED HEART of JESUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

❧ Bethlehem • Founded 1833 ❧

April 27, 2025

Divine Mercy Sunday
First Holy Communion



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

A Sister Parish with St. Joseph, Crestline.

Tuesday

6:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart
Mass Intention: Rodney Cole; Deceased of the Clarence Studer Family

Wednesday

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

Thursday

5:30 pm - Confession at St. Joseph
6:30 pm - Mass at St. Joseph
Mass Intention: Carl Giordano

Friday

8:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph
Mass Intention: First Communicants of St. Joseph Parish

7:30 pm - First Friday Adoration
Sacred Heart

Saturday

3:30 pm - Confession at SHJ
4:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart
Mass Intention: Lawrence & Mary Alice Biglin; Yogi & Mark

Sunday

7:00 am - Mass at St. Joseph
Mass Intentions: Wayne Kauffman & Family

8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart
Mass Intention: Dorothy Blum; Bob Niese

10:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph
Mass Intention: Marie Vuich

Dear Parishioners,

Please continue to pray for the soul of Pope Francis! He certainly had the heart of a shepherd and loved the people of God immensely! We have great hope in God's mercy especially this weekend as we celebrate the divine mercy of Jesus. We also have GREAT hope in the resurrection of the body as we continue to celebrate the Easter season. Having this in mind we remember the words of St. Paul as he said, "We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep." (1 Thess 4:13-14)

Yet in death we still mourn ... but we mourn with hope as Bishop Thomas announced this week. "Together with all the priests, deacons, consecrated religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Toledo, and united with all Catholics and people of goodwill throughout the world, with deep sadness we mourn the death of Pope Francis, after 12 years as our universal shepherd, the 265th successor to Saint Peter. We trust in the promise of Easter and saving power flowing from the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and we beg the Lord to receive him into the company of Blessed Mary, Saint George and Saint Francis of Assisi his patrons, and all the Saints, as we pray:

***O God, immortal shepherd of souls,
look on your people's prayers
and grant that your servant Pope Francis,
who presided over your Church in charity,
may, with the flock entrusted to his care,
receive from your mercy
the reward of a faithful steward.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen!
Requiescat in Pace!
Rest in peace.***

Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Risen Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon him. May he rest in peace."

**In Christ,
Fr. Jeff**



COLLECTION:

April 20 2025
\$ 21,089.45

Reg. Offertory
\$ 5,306.45

Easter Flowers
\$ 70.00
Easter
\$15,527.00
Holy Land
\$ 61.00
Catholic Home Missions
\$ 25.00
Gen. Maintenance
\$ 50.00
Church Maintenance
\$ 50.00

Thank you!

Online
\$ 776.00
Heart of Bethlehem
\$ 110.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Wednesday, April 30
School Mass

Saturday, May 3rd

MUSIC MINISTER

Kevin Willis

SERVERS

*Blaine Welch
Finnian Metzger*

OFFERTORY

Jake & Jessica Rietschlin Family

EXTRAORDINARY

MINISTERS

*Greg Keller, Laurie Metzger
Brenda Gosser*

USHERS

*Dave Kromer
Nick Fike*

LECTOR

Sarah Metzger

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

Sunday, May 4th

MUSIC MINISTER

N/A

SERVERS

*Charly & Declan
Milligan*

OFFERTORY

Cody & Taylor Gosser Family

EXTRAORDINARY

MINISTERS

*John Bonen, Rikki Rietschlin
Samantha Schroeder*

USHERS

Roger Niese & Mark Gwartz

LECTOR

Lauren Vogt

COUNTERS

*Rita Floro, Sheila Vogt
Olivia Hoffman*

Bible Readings for the Week of April 27, 2025

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 1Cor 15:1-8, Ps 19:2-5, Jn 14:6-14
Sunday Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41, Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13, Rv 5:11-14, Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14



BULLETIN SPONSORS OF THE WEEK:

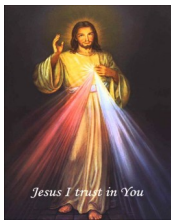
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Divine Mercy Sunday Jesus, I Trust in You

Between 1930 and 1938 Christ appeared to Sr. Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope John Paul II declared that the Second Sunday of Easter would be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

Designer Purse BINGO & Brunch Saturday, May 3. Tickets \$45 each.

Convocation Center doors open at 9:00 am with BINGO starting at 10:00 am. All proceeds benefit St. Joseph School. Call Joann at the St. Joseph Parish Office for tickets at 419-683-2015.

Toledo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Day of Renewal Wednesday, May 14th Our Lady of Consolation, Carey OH

Presenter Ed Van Buskirk will speak on the topic "Live a Wonderful Life". Registration starts at 8:15 am with the presentation beginning at 9:15 am. Cost is \$35 per person which includes Continental breakfast and lunch. If interested, there are registration forms in the back of church. Call Rita Borgelt at 419-796-9168 or email her at hborgelt@bright.net if you have any questions. Registration closes on **April 30, 2025.**

Grieving With Great Hope



Friday, May 16 (7-9pm) & Saturday, May 17 (10-4pm)
4106 St. Rt. 269, Bellevue, OH 44811
419-483-3435 sorrowfulmothershrine.org

CampHOPE

Summer day camp to support a grieving child located in Perrysville, Ohio. For more information: thebereavementcenter@hospicewr.org or call 216-486-6838.

**Looking for 2 to 3 strong backs to help a parishioner pack-up a moving truck on the morning of May 10th. Approx 2-3 hrs. beginning at 10:45. Please call the parish office if you can help!
Thank you!**



MAY THE SOULS of
the FAITHFUL DEPARTED,
THROUGH the MERCY
of GOD, REST IN PEACE.



1936 - 2025

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Catholic Home Missions

Please support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current and former territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities for their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Find more information at: www.usccb.org/home-missions.



May Birthdays

Alice Metzger	1	Paul Gosser	15
Pamela Miller	1	Joseph Timmer	16
Cindy Keller	2	Nancy Keller	28
Kathy Paynter	12	JoAnn Sutter	29

May Meeting Dates

Pastoral Council:	May 13
School Advisory:	May 20
Finance Council:	May 27



* Please notify your group moderator if your term is up or if you will be unavailable to serve 2025-2026. Thank you!

One Minute Meditations

St. Augustine of Canterbury

St. Augustine was an Italian Benedictine monk who, with forty other monks, was sent to re-evangelize England. The Celtic population had already accepted Christ, but the incoming Anglo-Saxons hadn't. St. Augustine and his companions arrived at Ebbsfleet in 597, and were, thankfully, welcomed by King Ethelbert of Kent, who gave them permission to preach the Gospel. He also later converted. St. Augustine and his companions successfully converted southern England. He is called the "Apostle of England."

Happy Pentecost!

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the Blessed Mother and the Apostles in the Upper Room, in a display of divine glory. The Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church, just as He inspired the first Apostles to go preach to the ends of the earth. How might He be guiding you? (We celebrate Pentecost on June 8, this year.)

"Be the one"

"Be with Jesus. ... I always write that sentence, 'I looked for one to comfort Me, but I found no one.' Then I write, 'Be the one.' So now you be that one. Try to be the one to share with Him, to comfort Him, to console Him. So let us ask Our Lady to help us understand."

Mother Teresa

"Be not afraid"

What God wants most for each of us is to be happy with Him in Heaven. He uses the world to shape us and give us qualities that will help us get there untainted by sin. *"Indeed, like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand ..."* (Jeremiah 18:6). Sometimes that means allowing us to undergo trials that cleanse and strengthen us.

Don't judge a gift by its ugly wrapping paper. Some virtues can only be acquired through hardship. Avoiding discomfort will cause you to miss out on experiences God wants you to have. While they may be uncomfortable, God would remove them at once if they weren't good for your soul.

"Pray, hope and don't worry."

This famous advice from St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) is both comforting and practical. Many of tomorrow's troubles exist only in our minds. Live your trust in God by refusing to think about what might

happen and instead deal with what is happening right now. Refuse to worry. *"Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span?"* (Matthew 6:27).

"Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

Accept aid. When overwhelmed, we may overlook the help God is already providing, mistakenly believing we must face challenges alone. This mindset can lead to pride — the temptation to act without God.

Instead, stay open to help from others, seek guidance in Scripture and Church teachings, and remain rooted in prayer and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Once your storm passes, you'll be prepared to support others through theirs.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have different images of the Blessed Mother?

In the well-known Marian apparitions approved by the Church — Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima, and Kibeho — the Blessed Virgin Mary's appearance seems to adapt to the local culture of those to whom she appears, while her central message remains consistent: a call to prayer, repentance and renewed devotion to the Faith.

For example, the miraculous image

of Our Lady of Guadalupe features symbolic elements that the Aztec people would have understood, communicating the Gospel message in a way that resonated within their cultural context. This adaptation of Mary's appearance underscores her closeness to the communities she visits, reflecting the profound truth of her spiritual motherhood of all Christians.

The Ascension brings us closer to Jesus

The Ascension might have felt like a moment of separation to Jesus' disciples, but in reality, it brought them closer to Him in a deeper spiritual connection. Through His Ascension, Jesus became spiritually present everywhere, continually interceding on our behalf. He is always thinking of us, presenting our needs to the Father. When we pray, we are never alone—Jesus Himself is praying with us and for us.

Prayer "power-up." Prayer doesn't have to feel good to be good prayer. It can be a real struggle to pray throughout the day, to stay focused on God, and not get distracted. That's when we can lean on Jesus' perfect prayer to the Father. We

can join our prayers to His, and know they are pleasing to God.

Offer it up. Whether it involves suffering, fulfilling a necessary duty, or performing an act of charity, when we unite these actions with Jesus' self-offering on the Cross, they gain profound spiritual significance and immeasurable value for souls — especially our own.

Mass intentions. During Holy Communion or right after Mass, take a moment to present your concerns, and your desires to God, dedicating them to the service and glory of His love. Remember, God is never outdone in generosity!

from Scripture

John 14:23-29, "I am with you always."

This Gospel reading comes from Jesus' farewell discourse at the Last Supper. As He prepared to face His Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus sought to strengthen His disciples, a close-knit group who had followed Him for three years. In this poignant moment, He reassured them of His continued presence, even after His departure. Before ascending to Heaven, Jesus promised, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus' message was clear: although His followers would no longer see Him physically, He would remain invisibly but powerfully present. If they kept His word, both He and the Father would

dwell within them through grace. Furthermore, He promised to send the Holy Spirit as a guide and comforter, granting them the gift of His peace and the assurance of His return.

It is natural to feel that being faithful would be easier if we could see and hear Jesus directly. Yet, He remains present in His Church—in her worship, prayer, sacraments, and acts of charity.

Above all, Jesus is profoundly present in the Eucharist, where His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity are truly present (CCC, #1374). We do not need to look back in time; we encounter Jesus at every Mass.

were exiled from Rome to the island of Terracina and were beheaded.

May 29 – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (1st Century). Today marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and his triumphant entry into Heaven. *Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.*

May 29 – Pope St. Paul VI (1978). Born in 1897, near Brescia, Italy, Giovanni Battista Montini spent most of his priesthood working for the Vatican. He was elected pope in 1963 and concluded the Second Vatican Council, went on many apostolic missions, and wrote several significant encyclicals. He died in 1978.

Q & A How can I make a consecration to Mary?

The Marian Consecration, or *Total Consecration to Mary*, is a devotion dating back to the 1700s, introduced by St. Louis de Montfort. It involves entrusting one's life to Jesus through the Blessed Mother. This practice has been highly praised by many saints and popes, including Pope St. John Paul II.

Marian consecration does not involve worshiping Mary or treating her as divine. Instead, it acknowledges that Mary, as Christ's mother, always leads us to her Son. Mary serves as a bridge, guiding us closer to Jesus by the safest and most direct route.

On the Cross, Jesus gave His mother to humanity, saying, "Behold your mother" (John 19:26-27). St. John Paul II saw this as an invitation to deeper intimacy with Christ by drawing closer to the one closest to Him on earth.

Many who practice the consecration experience a deeper, more transformative prayer life, drawing closer to both Mary and Jesus. (*Note: Catholic websites like EWTN and the National Shrine of St. Louis de Montfort provide free downloadable versions and instructions.*)

Feasts & Celebrations

May 3 – Sts. Philip and James (First Century). St. Philip was born in Bethsaida and followed John the Baptist before he followed Christ. After the Ascension, St. Philip preached in Asia Minor, where he was martyred. St. James, the son of Alphaeus, was also one of the twelve Apostles.

May 12 – Sais Nereus and Achilleus (d.c.100). Little is known about the early lives of Saints Nereus and Achilleus. They were Roman soldiers of the Praetorian Guard but converted to Christianity. They resigned the army, refusing to serve the Emperor. They

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SACRED HEART 2025 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 Francis declared 2025 to be a Holy Year, a jubilee for the Church,” according to the Diocese of Toledo. “The theme of the Jubilee Year 2025, ‘Pilgrims of Hope,’ is uniquely captured in the prayers, readings, and options of the Mass for the Holy Year. They stress the themes of pilgrimage and hope. Incorporated into Christ, the faithful are a Body of believers, filled with hope. They look forward to the Lord’s coming in the present and at the end of the ages, an expectation which gives them an eternal vision and moves them to make pilgrimage to God and neighbor.”

Meet Our 2025 First Communicants

Simon Ratliff’s favorite food is pizza; his Dad is his role model. He is excited about receiving the Body and Blood.



Conall Drain’s favorite food is corn dogs; his Dad is his role model. He is excited about receiving the Body of Jesus.



Oliver Rietschlin’s favorite food is pizza; his father is his role model. He is excited to receive his third sacrament.



Matthew Floro’s favorite food is tacos; his Mommy is his role model. He is excited to be able to receive Jesus.



Nathan Vogt’s favorite food is mashed potatoes; his role model is Blessed Carlo Acutis. He is excited that he’ll get to receive Jesus at least once a week from now on.



John Paynter’s favorite food is steak; his Mom is his role model. He is excited to get closer to the Church.



Anderson Gwartz’ favorite food is pizza; his Dad is his role model. First Communion is exciting because he loves Jesus that much.



PARISH CONTACTS

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RETIRED**

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BUSINESS MANAGER**

419-683-2015

419-342-2256

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TH & FRI 8AM TO 3PM-ST JOSEPH

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**JONAH STUDER
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

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JO55ST@YAHOO.COM



Additional Easter Flower Donations:

Adam & Stacy Floro, Dale & Linda Schroeder,
Janet Broach: (Roger Broach, Boots & Marty
Metzger) Thank you!



Enrolling 2025-2026

We are currently accepting enrollment for 25/26 school year from 3 yr. old preschool through eighth grade. Sacred Heart School is a fully accredited school with the State of Ohio. We offer a nurturing classroom environment where students are able to grow into the person God is calling them to be. We offer multiple scholarships. Mrs. Myers would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you all of the benefits of attending Sacred Heart School. She can be reached at: 419-342-2797 or 419-683-1697 or Lmyers@shelbysacredheart.org.



Graduation Mass

Sunday, May 18th. at 8:30 am

All high school and college graduates are invited to our Graduation Mass. Graduates will have reserved pew(s) with our 8th grade graduates.



132 year tradition!

It's here!!! Time to put together the 2025 festival work list! If you have a special request or will not be here on July 27th for the festival, please let us know by **May 1st**. You can drop us a note in the collection basket or text us at (419) 566-3525 Erin Finnegan or (419) 567-303-8038 Taylor Gosser.

If you are interested in being a patron sponsor or have an item to donate to the Mega Raffle please call the parish office. Your name will appear as advertising on the back of the tickets.

Thank you for your support!



ON THE SECOND SATURDAY IN MAY:



Place a bag of
nonperishable food
next to your mailbox.



Your letter
carrier will
handle the
rest!

