



A Member of the St. Juan Diego Deanery
Sister Parish with Sacred Heart of Jesus



No weekday Masses this week.

Father Jeff is on retreat.

**Please pray that he will receive
some rest and refreshment .**



Saturday—April 27

3:30 pm Confessions (at SHJ)

4:30 pm Mass at Sacred Heart

*Intention: For the People of St. Joseph
and Sacred Heart Parishes*

Sunday—April 28

7:00 am Mass at St. Joseph

Intention: Joseph DiPietro, Anna Moyer

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart

*Intention: Marie & Joe Biglin,
Roger Payne*

10:30 am Mass at St. Joseph

*Intention: Mary Ellen Tesso,
Joseph Perito*

April 21, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday
World Day of Prayer for Vocations

St. Joseph Catholic Church
331 N. Thoman Street, Crestline, Ohio 44827
419-683-2015
www.stjosephcrestline.org

Greetings and happy Good Shepherd Sunday!

I would like us to reflect on this part of Pope Benedict's XVI's past Good Shepherd homily below:

"The Risen Jesus says: "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God" (Jn 20:17). It is a relationship that is already totally real but not yet totally revealed: it will be in the end when — if God pleases — we shall see his face without a veil (cf. v. 7). Dear Ordinands, this is where the Good Shepherd wishes to lead us! It is here that the priest is called to lead the faithful entrusted to his care: to true life, to life in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10). Let us therefore return to the Gospel and to the Parable of the Good Shepherd. "The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (Jn 10:11). Jesus insists on this essential trait of the Good Shepherd who is he himself: that of "laying down his life".

This is clearly the qualifying feature of the shepherd, just as Jesus interprets it in the first person, in accordance with the will of the Father who sent him. The biblical figure of shepherd-king mainly involves the task of governing, keeping united and guiding the People of God. The whole of this regal role is totally fulfilled in Jesus Christ in the sacrificial dimension, in the offering of life. In a word, it is brought about in the mystery of the Cross, that is, in the supreme act of humility and love.

The formulas of the Rite for the Ordination of Priests that we are celebrating give us this orientation. For example, among the questions that concern the "commitments of the chosen ones", the later, with a culminating and in a certain way concise character, says : "Are you resolved to consecrate your life to God for the salvation of his people, and to unite yourself more closely every day to Christ the High Priest, who offered himself for us to the Father as a perfect sacrifice?". The priest is in fact the one who is uniquely inserted into the mystery of Christ's Sacrifice through a personal union with him, in order to extend his saving mission. This union, which happens in the Sacrament of Orders, seeks to become closer every day through the generous response of the priest himself... WITH THE HELP OF GOD.'

And when the burden of the cross becomes heavier, know that this is the most precious time, for you and for the people entrusted to you: by renewing your "I am, with the help of God", you will be cooperating with Christ, the High Priest and Good Shepherd, in tending his sheep — even only one stray sheep, but for which there are great festivities in heaven!

Please pray for all Good Shepherds past and present who have served at St. Joe's and Sacred Heart and for those who are sons of each parish. And may we continue to pray for vocations!

Fr. Jeff

Weekly Offering

April 14, 2024
\$5,621.00

Sunday Envelopes

(49) \$2,293.00

Loose Checks

(10) \$770.00

Loose Currency

\$348.00

Votive lights

\$30.00

School Support

\$920.00

Parish Maintenance

\$900.00

Online Giving

\$40.00

Caritas

\$240.00

Easter

\$40.00

School Endowmt

\$40.00

Thank you

Please join us as we pray a Holy Hour on Tuesdays in St. Joseph Church at 11:00 a.m. Please come and pray the Rosary and other prayers for our beloved country. God bless us all and the USA.



LITURGICAL MINISTERS: April 28, 2024 Please check Ministry Pro for any updates.

Sunday - 7:00 am

Lector: Nancy Cozad

Eucharistic Ministers: Steve Marek, Adam Link, Barbara DiPietro

Servers: Jake Rafferty, Morgan Frye

Gift Bearers: Cyril & Bonnie Cochran

Ushers: Don Alt, Jerry Studer

Sunday - 10:30 am

Lector: Rex Holt

Eucharistic Ministers: Lisa Zucker, Dave Sharrock, Tracy Dzugan

Servers: Sara Holt, Mayson Davis

Gift Bearers: Rex & Jenifer Holt Family

Ushers: Bernadette Karasko, Keith Ketcham

**Special Intention of Pope Francis—Month of April**

For the Role of Women: We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience

Readings for the week of April 22

Monday: Acts 11:1-18 /Pss 42:2-3, 43:3-4 /Jn 10:1-10
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26 /Ps 87:1-7 /Jn 10:22-30
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a /Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 /Jn 12:44-50
 Thursday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14 /Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 /Mk 16:15-20
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33 /Ps 2:6-11 /Jn 14:1-6
 Saturday: Acts 13:44-52 /Ps 98:1-4 /Jn 14:7-14
 Sunday: Acts 9:26-31 /Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 /1 Jn 3:18-24 /Jn 15:1-8



April 21, 2024, marks the 61st anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Last year, in response to the priest shortage in the Diocese of Toledo,

Bishop Daniel E. Thomas asked the faithful to pray and fast for an increase in vocations to the priesthood.

One Hail Mary each day

Families are encouraged to add this Hail Mary to their prayer before meals, regular daily prayers or family rosary, as a way of encouraging their children to seek God's call for their life.

Fasting or penance each Friday

The fasting or penance might be foregoing a meal, abstaining from meat, avoiding snacks between meals, or some other small sacrifice

On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, please recommit to these pray and fast for an increase in vocations to the diocesan priesthood.



Please join us as we pray the rosary every Sunday at 9:55 a.m. in church. Extra rosaries can be found in the narthex.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

A prayer for vocations to the priesthood:

God our Father,
 From eternity You appointed Your only begotten Son to be the High Priest of the human race.
 Pour forth, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit upon our families, that vocations to the priesthood may be multiplied.
 Lord Jesus, give us holy priests:
 To offer up the sacrifice of the Mass;
 To lead the little ones to You;
 To strengthen the faith of believers;
 To preach the Gospel to all peoples;
 To bring forgiveness to sinners;
 To feed souls the Bread of Life;
 To comfort the suffering & dying, and
 To spread Your Kingdom in our midst.
 Mary, Mother of our High Priest, pray for us and obtain for us an increase of holy priests.
 Amen

Visit worlddayofprayerforvocations.com for more resources.



**St. Joseph Parish congratulates
Adam and McKenzie Schrack
on the Baptism of their son,
Hayes William Schrack.**

Hayes will receive the Sacrament of Baptism by
Fr. Jeffery Smith after the 10:30 a.m. Mass today.

The rose on the side altar is in thanksgiving for Hayes.
We welcome Hayes to the Catholic Faith!



**Jesus Movement
TONIGHT - Sunday, April 21
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
(High School only)**

High School students meet at Resurrection Parish in Lexington.
There will be food! Join the fun!

Catholic Women's Club

The May meeting of The Catholic Women's Club of the Saint Juan Diego Deanery will **begin with Mass at St. Joseph Church, 331 N. Thoman Street, Crestline OH 44827 at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. Luncheon will follow in the St. Joseph Convocation Center at 12:30 p.m. If you are a new member or are interested in carpooling, please call Valerie Mapes, President at 419-564-3034 or Brenda Starr-Jude, May Chairperson at 419-610-8251 before noon on Thursday, May 2, 2024 to make your reservation.** This will be the last meeting for the 2023-2024 year. We look forward to seeing you.



The Diocese of Toledo is in compliance with the articles of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Every year, the Diocese dutifully submits the necessary documentation required by the USCCB for a diocese to be in compliance.

Every three years an on-site audit is conducted, when not only all necessary documentation is dutifully submitted, but in addition, Pastoral Center, parish and diocesan school employees are interviewed concerning practices and protocols related to creating and maintaining a safe environment for our children and youth.

The last 3-year audit was conducted in October of 2021. The next on-site audit will be conducted in September of 2024.

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 by 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.



Pre-School through 8th Grade

**Kindergarten through 8th Grade Students
FULL INCOME BASED TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

**Preschool Students
TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE A TOUR!

**ST. JOSEPH
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

333 N. THOMAN ST. ~ CRESTLINE, OH 44827
www.stjosephcrestline.org Facebook: St. Joseph Catholic School Crestline 2022-23
Contact Principal Sue Sanders: (419) 683-1284



**Free Easter Flowers
to Take Home**

Parishioners are welcome to take home any of the flowers that have been placed at the side entrances only. Thank you!

Upcoming Area Events:

**St. Peter Music Series Presents: Sarah Hart
Catholic Music Composer & Performer
TODAY—Sunday, April 21 3:00 p.m.**

St Peter Church, Mansfield, Ohio
Free admission, open to the public

**Last chance to see the free stage performance of Maximilian:
Saint of Auschwitz . All performances are at 7:00 p.m.. Learn
more: toledodiocese.org/maximilian**

**Sunday, April 21 - Carey—Our Lady of Consolation School Gym
Monday, April 22 - Lima—Central Catholic School Gym**

**Toledo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
Day of Renewal—"My Peace I Give You"
Wednesday, May 8 Starts at 8:15 a.m.**

Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, Carey, Ohio
\$35 per person. Registration closes April 21. Call the parish office for a registration form.

**Persuasive Pro-Life—Apologetic Conference for Students
Presenter: Trent Horn from Catholic Answers
This is a state-wide pro-life student conference.**

Saturday, May 18 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
St. Thomas More Newman Center at The Ohio State University
64 W Lane Ave, Columbus, Ohio
\$20 per person - Register at www.ohiolife.org

Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



A witness of self-sacrificing love

It was only when I made a pilgrimage to Poland while living and working in Rome that his life and death so deeply struck me! That was the occasion when I had the graced opportunity to visit and pray before the cell in which Polish Franciscan priest and martyr, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, died after starvation and lethal injection, having offered himself in exchange for a husband and father who had been condemned to death by the Nazis at Auschwitz. His was the ultimate witness of self-sacrificing love, fulfilling the words of Jesus: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (Jn 15:13).

How vividly I recall kneeling in the darkness of that cell at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and State Museum in Oswiecim in Poland, weighed down by the gravity of the atrocities against humanity that transpired there. Auschwitz, “a name that carries the burden of suffering, genocide and unimaginable cruelty, stands as a stark reminder of the darkest moments in human history” (Briscoe). The heroic self-sacrifice of that Franciscan Friar, Maximilian Kolbe, stands in stark contrast to the evil perpetrated by the Nazis and serves as a reminder that, in Christ Jesus, light triumphs over darkness,



that good triumphs over evil.

What struck me most kneeling at that cell was the massive Paschal candle placed there in 1979 by a fellow Pole, Pope St. John Paul II. How poignant that the very candle which symbolizes Easter, the Light of Christ risen from the dead, remains as a powerful symbol even in such a horrifically dark place!

In this Easter Season, with the reality of the horrors of war and violence transpiring before our

very eyes throughout our world in these days, and mindful of the recent publication of the Declaration of the Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith entitled “*Dignitas Infinita*” on Human Dignity, it is more than poignant that I am able to invite you to attend “*Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz*,” a powerful multimedia one-man live drama on the life of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, the Martyr of Charity (1894-1941). Saint Luke Productions will be presenting the live drama here in our diocese from Wednesday April 17th thru Monday April 22nd. You can find more information about the performances, dates, times and locations at our Diocese of Toledo website here: toledodiocese.org/maximilian. My hope is that Maximilian’s witness may inspire, educate and

be a source of deep reflection for all who participate, just as Venerable Father Augustus Tolton's witness was when in 2021 Saint Luke Productions presented "Tolton: From Slave to Priest" throughout our diocese.

In *Maximilian*, audiences encounter firsthand the courageous life and self-sacrificing love of Father Maximilian Kolbe. Born and raised in Poland, the son of poor, devout Catholics, he experienced many interior trials as a young man, but the Blessed Virgin Mary sustained him by appearing to him in a vision. She offered him a crown of purity or a crown of martyrdom. He chose both! This experience instilled in him a deep and abiding love for Our Lady. Having entered the Franciscan Order in 1907, he was especially drawn to explore the Blessed Mother's role in the history of salvation. He saw her as God's agent in confounding the darkness, which was gathering in opposition to the Church. He promoted consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, establishing centers dedicated to her in Poland and in Japan. Arrested by the Gestapo for his tireless work against the Nazi forces, he was sent to the infamous death camp of Auschwitz, where he stepped forward and offered his life for another prisoner, a married man who was condemned to death by starvation. Maximilian died at 47 years of age and his body was cremated along with the eight other prisoners whose lives were taken by the Nazis in retaliation for the escape of another prisoner. The man for whom Maximilian gave his life, Franciszek Gajowniczek, was present in Saint Peter's Square when the Franciscan Friar was canonized a Saint!

How providential it is that at this moment, right here in the Diocese of Toledo, we have someone with a family connection to Saint Maximilian Kolbe! Sylvania Franciscan Sister Ireneaus Samsel, OSF, shared in a recent interview that her father, Francis Samsel personally knew St. Maximilian Kolbe, who had been his superior when Samsel was a seminarian at the Conventual Monastery in Niepokalanow, Poland. Because Samsel was American, Kolbe had advised he depart Poland prior

to the German invasion. Sister Ireneaus learned firsthand from her father the profound impact Kolbe had on his community.

Actor Leonardo Defilippis, who plays Kolbe, in reflecting on the play, recently commented: "This is about what's happening today, even though it was World War II. You'll see the build up of what Hitler was trying to do and you'll see the same parallels in our situation in the world. And you'll see the different things that are going to battle and take away the freedoms of people" (Blade art). As we host *Maximilian: Saint of Auschwitz*, who cannot pause to reflect on the unjust aggression we have seen of the attacks of Russia against Ukraine, of Hamas against Israel, who cannot question the grave effects of the response of Israel against the Palestinians, and who cannot worry and wonder as we have witnessed the attack of Iran against Israel? As we unite our prayers for peace and raise our voices for the respect of every human person in the face of the atrocities of violence and war at this moment in human history, the words of Maximilian Kolbe haunt us even now: "Hatred is not a creative force; only love is a creative power."

This April, we are blessed to learn more about and be inspired by the example and witness of this Franciscan friar and modern-day martyr. His life and death should resonate deeply with all of us in these days, when the evils of hatred, violence and the effects of war in our world are ever before our eyes. It is my sincere hope and prayer that attendance at this performance will serve as a catalyst to advance our efforts to promote the dignity of every person, to encourage understanding and working for peace, to root out hatred and violence, and to promote harmony born of self-sacrificial love. Through the intercession of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, may our Catholic faith be strengthened and may we all grow in human and Christian virtue.



Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
April 15, 2024

PARISH CONTACTS

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Janice Link 419-543-2298
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Funeral Dinner Coordinators

Sean & Laura Beeson 419-569-5354
Natural Family Planning Contacts

Parish Office hours Monday—Friday, 8—12 noon

School Office hours 8:00am—3:00pm

Please email with any concerns.

When traveling masstimes.org
will help you find a Sunday Mass to attend

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesday by 12 noon, the week prior to the desired date. To submit items for the bulletin, please email Lisa Simmons at lsimmons@stjosephcrestline.org



Congratulation to our First Holy Communicants!

Sunday, April 14, 2024, we had four young ladies receive their First Holy Communion at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Seeing them all dressed up and having the honor of receiving the very Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for their first time is a very special day for everyone!

The young ladies were (L-R):

Brynlee Price, PSR, daughter of Chelsea Price and Brandon Price, Granddaughter of Bruce & Stacey Howell

Hadlee Robinette, PSR, daughter of Hastings & Rachael Robinette

Addison Floro, PSR daughter of Adam & Stacey Floro, Sacred Heart parishioners

Adaline Burton, St. Joseph School student, daughter of James & Andrea Burton

This was an especially meaningful day for Adaline as her older siblings, Adam and Alexandria, were servers for this very special Mass.

These young ladies have been preparing for this “event” all school year but truly, for years as they have been taught through observation while at Mass or by tagging along with family when they went to Confession. They have been exposed to these teachings as they have approached the altar with their arms crossed on their chest and been blessed by the priest while others received their communion, and now they have joined all of us to start the life of receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus too.

We are grateful for the whole First Communion team that prepared the children for this Sacrament. St. Joseph Principal, Sue Sanders; PSR 2nd grade teacher, Peggy Pauley; PSR Director of Religious Education, Keri-Ann Kalavity; and of course, Father Jeffery Smith.

Please say an extra prayer and congratulate each of them . May God bless each of them as they have received their First Holy Communion, and the angels rejoice!