CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

555 S. Main Street, Johnstown, Ohio 43031 740-967-7871 • www.johnstownascension.org

Father Stephen Smith, Pastor frsmith@johnstownascension.org

Father Jesse Chick, CFIC Parochial Vicar jchick@johnstownascension.org

Deacon Byron Phillips bphillips@johnstownascension.org

> WEEKEND MASSES Saturday 4:00 p.m. Sunday 8:30 a.m. • 11:00 a.m.

> > HOLY DAYS Vigil 6:30 p.m. 8:00 a.m. • 7:00 p.m.

ADORATION Tuesday 5:00-6:00 p.m. Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.

DAILY MASS Monday 8:00 a.m. Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.

> CONFESSIONS Tuesday 5:00-6:00 p.m. Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.

MISSION STATEMENT

Church of the Ascension is a Catholic community in Johnstown, Ohio that keeps Christ at the center of our hearts, families, homes and parish, so we can live the truth and share it with others (John 14:6; 1 Peter 3:15).

With the help of sacred scripture, tradition, and the sacraments, we strive to know, love and serve God in this world, while encouraging others to do the same, so we may live eternally in heaven with Christ, the angels, and the saints (Ephesians 2:4-8)

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY AT CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION. TO REGISTER IN THE PARISH, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AT 740-967-7871.

facebook.com/johnstownascension
 @johnstownascension on Instagram
 youtube.com/johnstownascension

CHRIST IS RISEN EASTER 2024

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CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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APRIL 21, 2024 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

8:00 a.m. For the Intention of Phil & Sue Scherer by a grateful friend
8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions
4:00 p.m. Les Zajac by Mike Haefs

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

8:30 a.m. Gordon Cromwell by Tom & Rhonda Thompson 11:00 a.m. Parish Family

MONDAY, APRIL 22

8:00 a.m. For the Intention of Fr. Stephen Smith by Carrie Suess

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

5:00 p.m. Adoration & Confessions 6:30 p.m. Wilbur DePue by Rosemary DePue

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 8:00 a.m. For the Intention of Ben Suess by Carrie Suess

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

8:00 a.m. For the Intention of Cam Suess by Carrie Suess

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

8:00 a.m. For the Intention of Fr. Jesse Chick by Carrie Suess

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

8:00 a.m. For the Intention of Seminarians by the Knox-Licking Vocations Club
4:00 p.m. Margaret Cunneen Keefe by Deacon Joe & Maureen Meyer

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

8:30 a.m. Gordon Cromwell by the Cromwell Family 11:00 a.m. Parish Family

Pastor's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, in the Gospel, we hear the all too familiar story of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Like most people today, chances are you do not know any shepherds. For the first Christians, who were familiar with shepherds, the Good Shepherd was a favorite image to associate with Christ. In fact, the earliest Christian art depicts Christ as the Good Shepherd, not the crucified Savior. Often he was portrayed as a beardless youth. Surprisingly, the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is still popular. In fact, early childhood education experts tell us that young children find the concept of a shepherd and his love for his sheep enchanting.

In the Old Testament, God was called a shepherd, and God's people the flock. For instance, in Psalm 23, the psalmist sings that the shepherd leads him to green pastures near refreshing waters. The shepherd guards him in right paths and protects him from evil. God says, "I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest... The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal." (Ezekiel 34:15-16)

According to the Gospels, Jesus referred to Himself as a shepherd. He said, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." A shepherd knows his sheep well. There is a personal relationship between Jesus and His followers. Jesus knows each of us by name. On the other hand, we respond to His voice and do not follow the voice of strangers who may lead us to harm. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Unlike a hired hand who flees to save his life, Jesus saved His flock from the wolf, even though it meant sacrificing His own life.

The parable Jesus told about the lost sheep is a story about Jesus' concern and care for us sinners. He is the loving shepherd who goes to great lengths to search for His lost sheep and when He finds it, carries it back on His shoulders rejoicing.

When Jesus gave Peter the responsibility of leading His Church, He again used shepherd imagery. He told Peter, "Feed my lambs... Tend my sheep... Feed my sheep."

Knowing about shepherds sheds light on the image of Jesus as shepherd. The shepherd uses a staff with a hook on the end to guide the sheep and pull back the stray. Today, Jesus guides His flock through bishops, who are known as *pastors*, the Latin for shepherds. Bishops carry staffs called crosiers. The shepherd has a rod to fend off wild animals that might harm the flock. Jesus saved us from evil.

Jesus restores our souls. Shepherds feed their flocks. Jesus feeds us with the excellent bread of the Eucharist and brings us to living waters: Baptism and the Holy Spirit.

The image of shepherds is that they are kind, loving, patient, strong, and self-sacrificing. They are a good image for Jesus. And sheep, who can be rather foolish creatures, are a good symbol for us!

God bless,

Fr. Smith



Fr. Smith is using a new, easier online booking system to meet with parishioners. If you'd like to schedule a meeting with Fr. Smith, please scan the QR code or visit his calendar at https://calendly.com/frstephensmith.

| | SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M. | SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M. | SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M. |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ALTAR SERVERS: | Shelli Writesel | Paul Cuthbert | Ryan Neal |
| | Jolene Bogner | Clair Barb | CC Zirille |
| | Ethan Wnek | VOLUNTEER NEEDED | Alex Rush |
| EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: | Gary Shivley – Host | Mark Holland – Chalice | Linda Droege – Host |
| | | VOLUNTEER NEEDED – Chalice | |
| | | Rachel Barb – Host | |
| LECTORS: | Dave Bogner | Aaron Locker | Mike Rush |
| | Theresa Shively – Angelus | Rodney Thomas – Angelus | Peter Luhrman – Angelus |
| GREETERS/USHERS: | Dennis Murnane | Bubby Eichner | Zirille Family |
| | Mary Ann Shaffer | Robbi Eichner | |
| LIVESTREAM OPERATOR: | | | Jeff Thomas |

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 20-21 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter, APRIL 27-28. 2024

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| | SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M. | SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M. | SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M. |
| ALTAR SERVERS: | Isaac Dorsten | Veronica Botts | Bode Cherry |
| | Christian Dorsten | Austin Eckstein | Mathew Cherry |
| | Gary Shively | Joey Barb | Gabi Cervantes |
| EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS: | Tom Nann – Host | Billy Staneart – Chalice | Pat Urban – Host |
| | | Mary Sheehan – Chalice | |
| | | Rachel Barb – Host | |
| LECTORS: | Tom Nann | Diana Lewis | VOLUNTEER NEEDED |
| | Barbara VanHoose – Angelus | Carrie Suess – Angelus | Mike Rush – Angelus |
| GREETERS/USHERS: | Jan Orkis | Tommy Botts | VOLUNTEERS NEEDED |
| | Mary Ann Shaffer | Andrea Botts | |
| LIVESTREAM OPERATOR: | | | Misiunas Family |

Your Prayers are Requested

Your prayers this week are asked for Ernie Burnam, Bob & Sylvia Freed, Rick Potter & Family, Justin King, Virginia Ankrom, Maxine Nann, Letha Patton, Wesley Potts, Susan Welch, Joyce Curran, Gabrielle & Shawn, Dana Caswell, Suzanne Kubin, Sharon Freitag, Di Habash, Joe Lindsay, Ivan Booth, Donna Dellapina, Mark & Cathy Mann, Peggy Hall, Terry Baesmann, John & Helen Tomich, Barbara Penhorwood, Margie Easterday, John & Neva Stover, Jared Writesel, Don Vocca, Karen Reitz, Jeff Ankrom, JoAnn Wright, Bob Muench, Ron & Ann Mullins, Ron Gallo, and for those who have no one to pray for them.

Are you or someone in your family on active duty in the military? Please let us know and we will add the names to our Prayer Requests.

Your Gifts to God

WEEKLY NEED \$7,115.00 430 REGISTERED FAMILIES

APRIL 13/14, 2024

| \$ 7,291.00 |
|---|
| \$ 5,366.00 |
| \$ 502.00 |
| \$ 1,423.00 |
| \$ 2,242.95 |
| \$ 115.00 |
| \$ 5.00 |
| \$ 5.00 |
| \$ 5.00 |
| \$ 5.00 |
| \$ 30.00 |
| + \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ |

Do you return a portion of your time/ skills/possessions to God in a spirit of gratitude? Looking for an easier way to give? Scan the QR code to open a link to the Church of the Ascension ParishSOFT Giving. Simply hold your phone's camera over the square and touch the link that appears at the top of your camera screen, or visit https://giving.parishsoft.com/ app/giving/ascensionjohnstown.



COME JOIN US FOR VBS 2024: SCUBA!

VBS will take place June 10-14 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. and is for kids entering Kindergarten to 5th grade. Please sign up by going to www. johnstownascension.org/register. It will be a fun week full of games, music, friendship, and of course, awesome Bible stories.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you are in 6th grade to adult and would like to volunteer, please contact Kelly Pertee at kpertee@johnstownascension. org. Anyone 18 and over must have a background check on file with the Diocese and Protecting God's Children.

FAREWELL BREAKFAST FOR FR. JESSE CHICK

We will be hosting a parish breakfast and fundraiser for the Social Committee and Scout Troop 25 on May 12 between the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Masses.

This will also be a wonderful opportunity to send off our Parochial Vicar, Fr. Jesse Chick, as he will be leaving Ascension the following weekend.

Please plan to come out and support the Social Committee, Troop 25 and offer blessings to Fr. Jesse as he begins this new journey in his ministry.

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024 • SPEAKER: FATHER STEVEN BESEAU

Join us Friday, May 3 at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a Luncheon featuring a talk by Fr. Steven Beseau, President/Rector of the Josephinum, on the Status of the Josephinum. The May Luncheon is sponsored by Jim Flaherty. If you are interested in sponsoring a Luncheon, contact Pat Foley at foleyp513@gmail.com. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Fr. Beseau's presentation. No reservations are necessary. \$12.00 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! Our final Luncheon before the summer break is Friday, June 7, 2024, and will feature Patrick Madrid, who will give a talk entitled, "Ten Recent Discoveries That Point to the Existence of God." Mark your calendar now, so you don't miss it!

MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET

We, along with others in our community, have joined in assisting with the Medical Loan Closet of Johnstown. The purpose of the Medical Loan Closet is to loan out medical equipment to those in need, such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, hospital beds, toilet risers, and even breast pumps for new moms. The Closet is located at **151 Woodgate Drive**, in the rear basement of the doctor's office, which is located behind the BP/Dutchess Station. The Closet is open each Wednesday from 4:00-6:00 p.m. We also accept donations. You will find us on Facebook as *"Medical Loan Closet of Johnstown, Ohio."* If you have any questions, please contact us in the church office.

TOTUS TUUS

Our Lady of Peace, 20 E. Dominion Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio.

Totus Tuus is a summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic Faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. The weeklong Parish Summer Catechetical Program not only teaches the Catholic Faith, but also ignites the hearts of the young people who participate.

Grades 1-6: Monday, June 17-Friday, June 21 (9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)

Grades 7-12: Sunday, June 16-Thursday, June 20 (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

Registration fee is \$45.00 per camper, with a \$100.00 family cap.

Registration is now LIVE at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church – Totus Tuus – Columbus, OH (olp-parish.org).

For more information, email arosselli@olp-parish.org.

MINISTERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL MASSES

Please consider giving an hour of your time to be ministers to the Lord at Mass. We are in desperate need for all Mass times, especially the 4:00 p.m. Mass. We need Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers (5th Grade-Adult) and Greeters. Training provided. Contact Fr. Smith at frsmith@johnstownascension.org The FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR this weekend are in memory of Earl & Alice Shively by Gary & Theresa Shively.



SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus, Council 4324, is holding their Annual Scholarship Essay Contest again this year.

Topic: How can the Church evangelize in the digital age?

Who can enter? Any graduating High School Senior who is a member of the Church of the Ascension

What could I win? One winner will be awarded a \$1,000.00 Scholarship, presented upon completion of the first grading period at the college they are attending. Must present grade card with average of C or better.

When is my entry due? All entries must be submitted by May 1, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. How do I enter? Entry forms and flyers are in the Gathering Space. Entries may be emailed to: kofc@johnstownascension.org

Subject: K of C Council 4324 Scholarship Contest

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEED YOU!

It's that time of year when the Knights of Columbus offer many charitable contributions, including our Keep Christ in Christmas program, Tree for Life, and more. Want to make a difference in the world and build friendships with like-minded men in the parish? Join us! Go to kofc.org/join and use 4324 when asked for your preferred local council. For more information, please contact Grand Knight Jeff Thomas at 614-580-6772 or jeffmthomas@protonmail.com.

FAMILY FULLY ALIVE:

The Knights of Columbus encourage each family to strengthen the Domestic Church by inviting God into our homes in the coming year. The Family Fully Alive program provides guidance on ways to establish and strengthen your Domestic Church in the form of themes, Scripture verses and activities. This is not simply a booklet and you are on your own, but a continuous program that will take feedback, offer support, and grow with our parishioners throughout the year and beyond.

To begin this program with your family, please pick up a booklet in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions, please contact Gus Smithhisler at 614-530-0160. And watch for additional opportunities and programs in coming months.

MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE

We have many open dates for Mass Intentions on our calendar. Please contact us in the office at 740-967-7871, office@johnstownascension.org, or drop a note in the collection with the intention and your name. The Mass Stipend is \$10.00. We will do our best to accommodate any special date requests.

TORNADO RELIEF

If you were directly affected by the tornado on March 14, we have received some funds to help with repairs. Please let Fr. Smith or Kathy B. know if you need assistance.

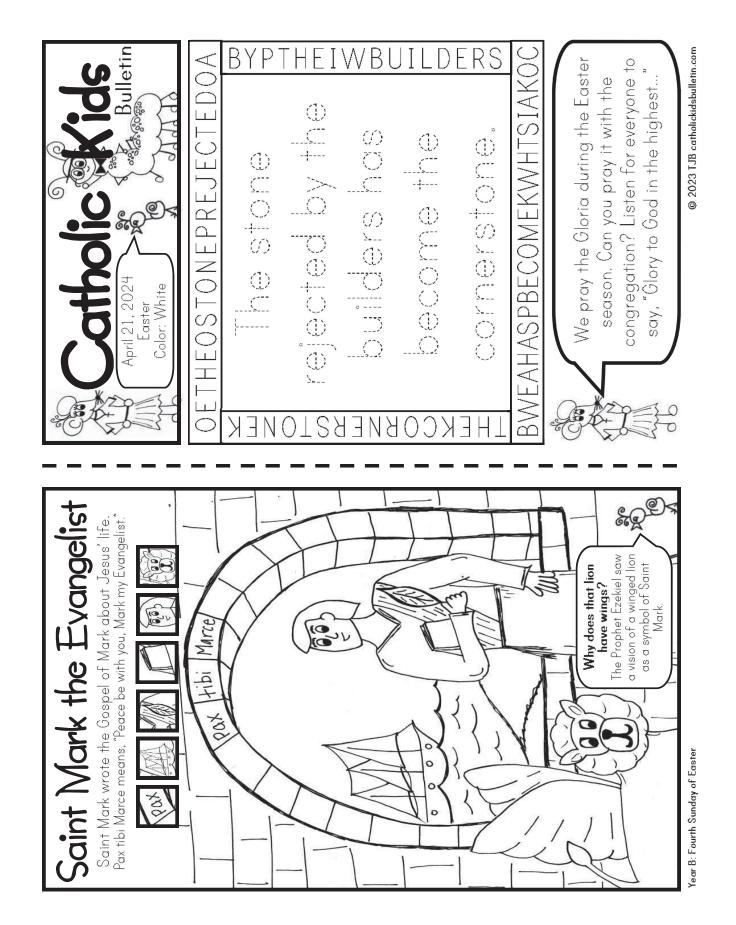
JOB OPPORTUNITY AT THE JOSEPHINUM

The Pontifical College Josephinum seminary seeks a full-time Database Administrator for the Advancement Department. This position is responsible for maintaining accurate database records as well as providing support to the Advancement Office through the generation of lists, reports, and mailings. responsibilities Secondary include communications and event support. Applicants must have knowledge of fundraising fundamentals and Microsoft Word/Excel, as well as experience using a customer relationship managing database, preferably Raiser's Edge by Blackbaud. Visit pcj.edu/jobopportunity for a detailed description of this position and how to apply.

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY A SUCCESS!

Special thanks to everyone who helped make Safe Haven Sunday possible! Thank you also to the parish community for your openness to the topic of pornography awareness and internet safety. Safe Haven Sunday provided us with the opportunity to give focused time and resources to address the harmfulness of pornography and other online threats to marriage and family life. Even though Safe Haven Sunday is over for this year, our efforts to support you in making your homes safe havens will continue. We invite you to stay informed at www. covenanteyes.com/safe-haven-sunday and learn more about how to protect and guide your family in the internet age.

Activities for Children



GOOD SHEPHERD

Reflection on John 10:11-18

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, Jesus says, "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd." These words call to mind the Church's mission of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, which St. John Paul II states "is part of the church's evangelizing mission (Redemptoris Missio, 56).

While Jesus calls for a unity, a oneness for His flock, the aims of these dialogues with other Christians and people of other faiths (or of no faith) usually fall within three objectives:

- 1. To help people of different religions to live together in peace and harmony, a task which is ever more urgent in a world becoming increasingly multicultural, multireligious, and secular;
- To work together in the service of humankind, knowing that the problems which our world and communities face are so great there is need for the efforts of all, together, to reach out to those who are in need; and
- To share spiritual values, a mutual witness to beliefs, and an exploration of the riches of our respective traditions, helping all to deepen their religious commitments, respond with greater sincerity to God's call, and walk together toward the truth.

~ Fr. Jay

THE STONE REJECTED BY THE BUILDERS HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE. PSALM 118:22

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE Sunday, April 21, 2024 Thursday, Ap

Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 4:8-12 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 1 Jn 3:1-2 Jn 10:11-18

Monday, April 22, 2024 *Easter Weekday* Acts 11:1-18 Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 *Easter Weekday* Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 *Easter Weekday* Acts 12:24–13:5a Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 Jn 12:44-50

Thursday, April 25, 2024 Saint Mark, Evangelist 1 Pt 5:5b-14 Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17

Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 Mk 16:15-20

Friday, April 26, 2024 *Easter Weekday* Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab Jn 14:1-6

Saturday, April 27, 2024 *Easter Weekday* Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Jn 14:7-14

> Access Daily Readings from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) online at https://bible.usccb.org

SAINT FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN

Saint of the Day: April 24 Patron Saint of: Lawyers

If a poor man needed some clothing, Fidelis would often give the man the clothes right off his back. Complete generosity to others characterized this saint's life.

Born in 1577, Mark Rey became a lawyer who constantly upheld the causes of the poor and oppressed people. Nicknamed "the poor man's lawyer," Rey soon grew disgusted with the corruption and injustice he saw among his colleagues. He left his law career to become a priest. Fidelis was his religious name.

As a follower of Saint Francis of Assisi, Fidelis continued his devotion to the weak and needy. During a severe epidemic in a city where he was guardian of a friary, Fidelis cared for and cured many sick soldiers.

He was appointed head of a group of Capuchins sent to preach against the Calvinists and Zwinglians in Switzerland. Almost certain violence threatened. Those who observed the mission felt that success was more attributable to the prayer of Fidelis during the night than to his sermons and instructions.

He was accused of opposing the peasants' national aspirations for independence from Austria. While he was preaching at Seewis a gun was fired at him, but he escaped unharmed. A Protestant offered to shelter Fidelis, but he declined, saying his life was in God's hands. On the road back, he was set upon by a group of armed men and killed.

Fidelis was canonized in 1746. Fifteen years later he was recognized as a martyr.

Fidelis' constant prayer was that he be kept completely faithful to God and not give in to any lukewarmness or apathy. He was often heard to exclaim, "Woe to me if I should prove myself but a halfhearted soldier in the service of my thorncrowned Captain." His prayer against apathy, and his concern for the poor and weak make him a saint whose example is valuable today.

Read the full article: "Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-fidelis-of-sigmaringen/ (Accessed April 8, 2024).

