CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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

Father Stephen Smith, Pastor

frsmith@johnstownascension.org

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Deacon Byron Phillips bphillips@johnstownascension.org Secretary

Kathy Bartolomucci | 614-325-0188 office@johnstownascension.org kbartolomucci@johnstownascension.org

Music Director Valerie Tanner | 740-222-4381 vtanner@johnstownascension.org

Parish Youth Catechesis (PYC) Kelly Pertee | 740-817-1628 kpertee@johnstownascension.org

Youth Minister Mary Nelson | 419-261-3872 mnelson@johnstownascension.org

Cemetery Coordinator Jim Stafford | 614-402-3706

Baptism Preparation Class Molly & Bob Orsini | 614-446-5622

Social Committee Rodney Tornes | 740-817-0137

St. Vincent de Paul Society 24-hour Hotline | 740-349-0989

Home School Contact Christie Thomas | 614-937-9066 christie311@proton.me

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).

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 am Tuesday 6:30 pm Wednesday-Saturday 8:00 am Ascension of Christ, Gebhard Fugel (c. 1893)

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

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

f facebook.com/johnstownascension 👩 @johnstownascension on Instagram 💿 youtube.com/johnstownascension

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JANUARY 28, 2024 • FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

8:00 a.m. For the intention of the Hawbaker Family by the Thomas Family
8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions
4:00 p.m. Nola Chevaliar by Joe & Jan Orkis

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

8:30 a.m. Parish Family 11:00 a.m. Diane Rush by the Rush Family

MONDAY, JANUARY 29 8:00 a.m. For those who are suffering

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

5:00 p.m. Adoration & Confessions 6:30 p.m. For those who are downtrodden

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31 8:00 a.m. For those who have lost loved ones

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

8:00 a.m. For those who are suffering from depression

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 8:00 a.m. For unborn babies

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:00 a.m. For Vocations8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions4:00 p.m. Patrick Roddy by Kathy Oglevee

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

8:30 a.m. Parish Family 11:00 a.m. Msgr. Stephen Hawkins by Mark & Joanne Hawkins

RCIA Class topic for Wednesday, January 31, 2024 – *The Sacrament of Holy Orders*

Pastor's Corner

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend, we celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. It is hard to believe that the first month of 2024 is nearing an end. This weekend in the Gospel, we hear Jesus rebuke and expel an unclean spirit on the sabbath. This caused concern for those around him for two reasons, namely that he was capable of expelling an unclean spirit and that he did so on the sabbath, when no work was to be done.

Jesus' first miracle is, significantly, an exorcism, a sign that in his presence the power of evil is reduced to impotency. God's rule is at hand. In antiquity, sickness was ascribed from evil spirits. Many of Jesus' miracles are recounted in terms of exorcism.

A common feature in miracle stories is to describe the gravity of the sufferer's affliction; this is intimated here by the defiant cries of the demoniac: "What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?"

Jesus is, in effect, recognized as the Messiah, anointed with God's Spirit and possessing power over evil spirits. "I know who you are:" To know one's adversary's name was to give one a magical power over him; the demon names Jesus twice: "Jesus of Nazareth," then "God's Holy One," i.e., a charismatic prophet like Elisha. Here, as elsewhere in Mark, Jesus' true identity is a secret kept from the crowds, but known to the Christian reader and attested by the demons.

To rebuke in this context, is to exorcise. Jesus uses his divine authority to cast the demon aside and bring salvation to the once-condemned man. Doing so on the sabbath establishes Jesus' rule over the sabbath. The Messiah, the Divine Son of God, is the ruler over the sabbath and it is clear that a new law is being established.

To trust in God's desire to bring healing and mercy is to recognize God's love for each of us. Perhaps this week, we can consider how God has brought healing and mercy to us in our own lives and seek to offer healing and mercy to others who may be in need of the love of God.

God bless, Fr. Smith

IT'S ALMOST FISH FRY TIME

Please remove old items from the refrigerator and freezer in the kitchen to make room for needed supplies for the FISH FRY crew. Anything remaining after February 1 must be labeled for a specific group and dated or it will be discarded. Thank you!

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.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time JANUARY 27-28, 2024

	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.
ALTAR SERVERS:	Volunteer Needed	Veronica Botts	Volunteer Needed
	Ethan Wnek	Luke Orsini	Bode Cherry
	Shelli Writesel	Ben Orsini	Mathew Cherry
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:	Dennis Murnane – Host	Jerri Burgel – Chalice	Danielle Wetzel – Host
		Volunteer Needed – Chalice	
		Volunteer Needed – Host	
LECTORS:	Tom Nann	Adele Robbins	Peter Luhrman
	Dennis Murnane – Angelus	Rodney Tornes – Angelus	Sally Blubaugh – Angelus
GREETERS/USHERS:	Jan Orkis	Tommy Botts	Lora Dunfee
	MaryAnn Shaffer	Andrea Botts	Mike Dunfee
LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:			Jim Stafford

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time FEBRUARY 4-5, 2024

	SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.	SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.	SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.
ALTAR SERVERS:	Ethan Wnek	Brendan Sheehan	Cole Fox
	Christian Dorsten	Clair Barb	Bode Cherry
	Mike Keebaugh	Joey Barb	Mathew Cherry
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:	Mike Haefs – Host	Mary Sheehan – Chalice	Karla Fox Somar – Host
		Rachel Barb – Chalice	Carrie Suess
		Billy Staneart – Host	
LECTORS:	Aaron Locker	Nadia Staneart	
	Tom Nann – Angelus	Ali Staneart – Angelus	Sally Blubaugh – Angelus
GREETERS/USHERS:	Shelli Writesel	Tom Staneart	Troop 25
	Jan Orkis	Alli Staneart	Troop 25
LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:			Misiunas Family



NEW! ONLINE BOOKING

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.

Your Gifts to God

WEEKLY NEED \$7,115.00 430 REGISTERED FAMILIES

JANUARY 20/21, 2024

Total Offering	\$ 6,022.00
59 Envelopes	\$ 4,450.00
Loose Cash	\$ 371.00
Online	\$ 1,201.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 200.00
Propagation of Faith	\$ 78.00

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.



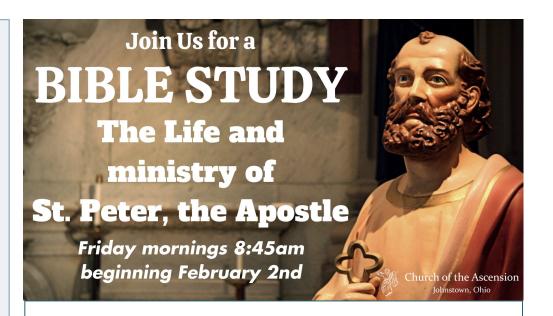
If you would like a *STATEMENT* **OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2023**, please email the church office at office@ johnstownascension.org, drop a note in the collection basket, or call the parish office at 740-967-7871. Please let us know if you would like to receive it via email or snail mail.



Knights of Columbus* Ascension Council 4324, Johnstown, OH

SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS

The Knights of Columbus invite you to join them in their mission to Support Our Seminarians. Knights will be collecting donations in the Gathering Space on February 3/4, May 4/5, August 3/4 and November 2/3, 2024. The money raised supports our seminarians and promotes vocations.



ST. PETER BIBLE STUDY

The character of St. Peter is both inspiring and confounding to many of us. How could a stubborn and impulsive fisherman become the "rock" upon which Jesus would build his Church? Bringing together biblical accounts, historical evidence, Church teaching, classical art, and personal insights, Dr. Tim Gray gives a fresh perspective on Simon Peter that is immediately informative and relevant to our lives. After all, if Jesus could bring out the very best in someone like Peter, then there is hope for the rest of us. This Bible Study happens every Friday morning, beginning at 8:45 a.m. and runs through Friday, April 12, except for Good Friday on March 29.

Questions? Please contact Carrie Suess at carriesuess@yahoo.com.



AS BY A NEW PENTECOST

Journey to a New and Vibrant Encounter with the Holy Spirit TUESDAYS AT 7PM BEGINNING 1/30 | MURPHY HALL

RSVP at stfrancisparish.net/Register

AS BYA NEW PENTECOST

5 due to Parish Mission).

Presented by St. Francis' Fruit of the Vine Ministry, this is an eight-week journey to a new and vibrant encounter with the Holy Spirit. Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., beginning January 30 in Murphy Hall. (Exception date: March

Winter Weather Policy

Level 1 Emergency - daily mass/office and activities are open.

Level 2 Emergency - daily mass cancelled. Offices closed and events cancelled. Confessions, Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses will continue as scheduled.

Level 3 Emergency - Offices closed, all events (including daily/Sunday masses) cancelled. In this case, a general dispensation will be granted to all registered parishioners, which will lift you of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.

Updates will be sent via FlockNote and posted to social media.

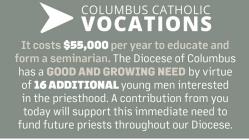


A GOOD AND GROWING NEED

The Diocese of Columbus has a *GOOD AND GROWING NEED* by virtue of 16 ADDITIONAL young men interested in the priesthood. The Diocese is dedicated to limiting the financial burden of costs for a seminary education, so our seminarians can focus on their call to the priesthood.

Join us in this mission to support future priests throughout our Diocese by giving to a second collection at the end of February or donating now at https://www.columbuscatholicgiving. org/seminarian-support-fund!

#vocations #seminarians #goodandgrowingneed #priests #ColumbusCatholic







SUPER BOWL WEEKEND SUB SALE

Women of Ascension are having a Sub Sandwich Sale. Choose from Turkey and Cheese or Italian on a large bakery sub roll made fresh for you. Orders will be taken through February 4 after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Orders can be dropped in the box outside the church office or after Masses February 3 or 4. Subs are \$8.00 each or \$7.00 each, if you order four or more. Use the order form in the bulletin today. Pickup after the Masses on February 10 and 11 in time for the big game. See insert for details.

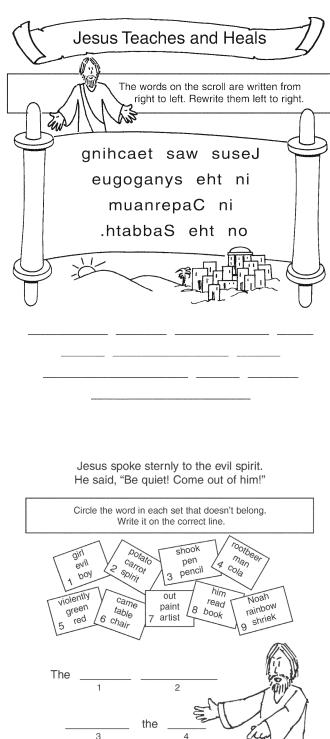
Your Prayers are Requested

We have revamped our Prayer List. We left parishioners names who still need our prayers and have removed names that were special requests. We will be adding any new requests, but removing them after three months unless they ask to continue to be listed.

Your prayers this week are asked for Maxine Nann, Letha Patton, John Yeagle, the Keasey Family, Wesley Potts, Susan Welch, Joyce Curran, Gabrielle & Shawn, Dana Caswell, Suzanne Kubin, Sharon Freitag, Di Habash, Gordon Cromwell, Joe Lindsay, Ivan Booth, Donna Dellapina, Mark & Cathy Mann, Peggy Hall, Terry Baesmann, John 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, Helen Tomich, 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.

Activities for Children



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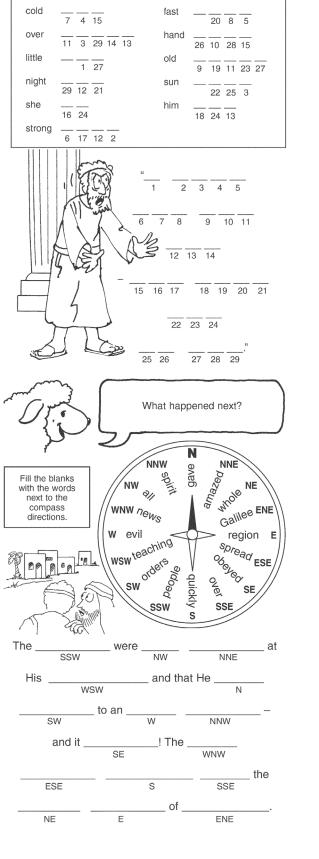
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A man who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out,

"What do You want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us?"

To finish what the man said, write the word that is the opposite of

each one given in this box. Then transfer the letters to the lines below.

WHAT IS THIS?

Reflection on Mark 1:21-28

"All were amazed and asked one another, 'What is this?'" Through many years of ministry, countless relationships, extensive travel, and everyday experiences, I have been surprised and amazed at what God is up to, over and over again.

To be astonished by the teachings and works of Jesus, the Holy One of God, is a blessing that requires us to look at the world in a certain way. This is the essence of faith. Faith is a way of seeing, a lens through which to view the world, the universe, and my place in it, as held in God's hands, and not random and meaningless. The glance of faith affirms that grace upholds everything, and that there is a certain reason to expect and wait for the greatness to come, that there is a direction and purpose to it all. Though not seen in its fullness now, faith's sight shows us that it is all going somewhere marvelous, that God is faithful to His promises.

When we walk by faith, and not by sight, we open ourselves to amazement, to God's amazing grace. And the question, "What is this?" is not asked out of confusion or because we are perplexed, but rises up from pure joy, utter wonder, and unending gratitude. ~ Fr. Jay

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. Psalm 95:6,8



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Dt 18:15-20 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 1 Cor 7:32-35 Mk 1:21-28

Monday, January 29, 2024 Weekday 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 Weekday 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30–19:3 Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Saint John Bosco, Priest 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 MK 6:1-6 **Thursday, February 1, 2024** Weekday 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 1 Chrn 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd Mk 6:7-13

Friday, February 2, 2024

The Presentation of the Lord Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22-32

Saturday, February 3, 2024

Weekday 1 Kgs 3:4-13 Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 Mk 6:30-34

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

SAINT ANSGAR

Saint of the Day: February 3 Patron Saint of: Denmark

The "apostle of the north" (Scandinavia) had enough frustrations to become a saint – and he did. He became a Benedictine at Corbie, France, where he had been educated. Three years later, when the king of Denmark became a convert, Ansgar went to that country for three years of missionary work, without noticeable success. Sweden asked for Christian missionaries, and he went there, suffering capture by pirates and other hardships on the way. Fewer than two years later, he was recalled, to become abbot of New Corbie (Corvey) and bishop of Hamburg. After 13 years work in Hamburg, Ansgar saw it burned to the ground by invading Northmen; Sweden and Denmark returned to paganism.

He directed new apostolic activities in the North, traveling to Denmark and being instrumental in the conversion of another king. By the strange device of casting lots, the king of Sweden allowed the Christian missionaries to return.

Ansgar's biographers remark that he was an extraordinary preacher, a humble and ascetical priest. He was devoted to the poor and the sick, imitating the Lord in washing their feet and waiting on them at table. He died peacefully at Bremen, Germany.

Sweden became pagan again after his death, and remained so until the coming of missionaries two centuries later.

History records what people do, rather than what they are. Yet the courage and perseverance of men and women like Ansgar can only come from a solid base of union with the original courageous and persevering Missionary. Ansgar's life is another reminder that God writes straight with crooked lines. Christ takes care of the effects of the apostolate in His own way; He is first concerned about the purity of the apostles themselves.

