

**St. Sylvester, Woodsfield**  
founded 1866

**St. John The Baptist, Miltonsburg**  
founded 1841

*Parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Steubenville*

# **The Monroe County Catholic Churches**

[www.monroecountycatholic.org](http://www.monroecountycatholic.org)

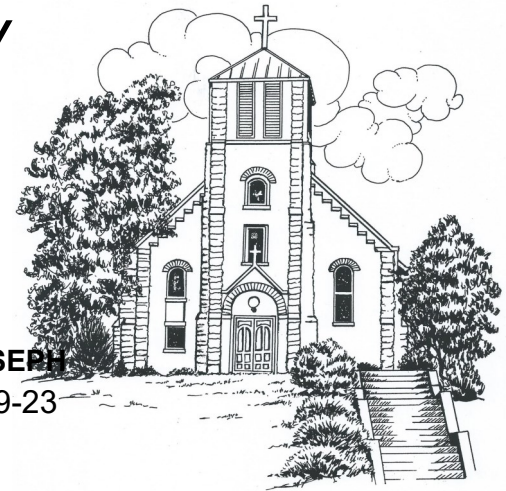
334 South Main Street  
Woodsfield, Ohio 43793-1027

**DECEMBER 28, 2025**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH  
SIR 3:2-6, 12-14 COL 3:12-21 MT 2:13-15, 19-23**

*Word of the Lord - Page 89*

**Fr. Nicholas Ward**  
**Administrator**



## **Parish Contacts**

New Parishioners are always welcome! Please contact the office.

**Fr. Nicholas Ward** (740) 457-7098

[nward@diosteub.org](mailto:nward@diosteub.org)

Jennifer Winkler (740) 472-0187

Office Hours Mon-Thurs. 9-2

## **Holy Matrimony, Baptism & Funeral**

Contact the parish office (740) 472-0187

## **Confessions**

St. Sylvester: Saturday 4:00pm to 4:45pm.

Sunday 7:45am to 8:15am.

St. John The Baptist: Sunday 9:45am to 10:15am

## **Pastoral Care of the Sick and Infirm**

Call Fr. Ward 1(740) 457-7098 Hospitals and Care facilities

**regularly do not notify** the parish unless specific request is made.

## **Catholic Woman's Club**

**St. Sylvester:** Diane Burkhart (740) 391-0391

**St. John the Baptist:** Eileen Ackerman (740) 757-2481 or

Eileen Miller (740) 472-0279

## **Knights of Columbus** *St. Joseph of Monroe County Council 5009*

Meet on First Wednesday of each month at St. Sylvester Church,  
following the 6:30 p.m. Mass

Grand Knight: Anthony Schumacher (740) 827-3626

## **Purgatorial Society & Prayer Chain**

To join & information contact: Jackie Kirkland at (740) 472-0338.

## **Catholic Youth Group**

Leader: Regina Knox

## **Diocesan Vocation Director**

Fr. Nicholas Ginnetti

740-432-7609

## **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):**

RCIA is an adult preparation for Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist.

Contact Church Office 740-472-0187

## **Parish School of Religion** (PSR aka. CCD)

The Parish Religion Classes children 1st—8th grade

St. Sylvester School & Public Schools

**St. Sylvester:** Jill Schumacher (740) 213-4665

**St. John the Baptist:** Eileen Ackerman (740) 757-2481 **Call to Register**

## **St. John The Baptist Hall**

Schedule to Rent Hall for Any Occasion

Contact Jennifer Winkler 740-472-0187 or 740-213-2430

## **St. Sylvester Central Elementary**

(PreK-8) 119 Wayne Street, Woodsfield, Ohio.

Mrs. Robyn Guiler: Principal (740) 472-0321 ~ Preschool (740) 472-0420

## **Catholic Cemeteries**

**St. Sylvester** Woodsfield: Tony Schumacher (740) 827-3626

**St. John the Baptist, & Immaculate Conception Ozark:**

Tony Schumacher (740) 827-3626

**St. Joseph & Chapel Hill,** Burkhart Station: Russell Betts (740) 567-3286

**St. Patrick's,** New Matamoras: Parish office: (740) 472-0187

## **DOS Office of Family & Social Concerns & Referral**

(i.e. Catholic Charities), 1-800-339-7890.

## **Diocesan Child Protection and Reporting of Abuse**

Victim Assistance Team: email: [victimassistance43952@gmail.com](mailto:victimassistance43952@gmail.com)

Phone: 740-278-3455

## **Emergency Contact** "When Fr. Ward is out of town"

Assumption Church, Barnesville, Ohio, Fr. David Cornett

Rectory Office: (740) 425-2181 Cell: (740) 381-4415 or St. Stephen Church,

Caldwell, Ohio, Fr. Tom Nelson ~ Rectory Office: (740) 732-4129

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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**SUNDAY** **DEC 28<sup>TH</sup>**  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30 a.m.  
 +Deb Schumacher *by Perry Schumacher*

**St. John The Baptist**, Miltonsburg 10:30 a.m.  
 Living & Deceased of our Parishes

**MONDAY** **DEC 29<sup>TH</sup>**  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield NO MASS

**TUESDAY** **DEC 30<sup>TH</sup>**  
**St. John The Baptist**, Miltonsburg 9:00 a.m.  
 Holy Hour 8:00 a.m.  
 +Ty Burkhardt *by Aunt Chris & Norma*

**WEDNESDAY** **DEC 31<sup>ST</sup>**  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 12:00 noon  
 Feast of St. Sylvester  
 +David Gossett *by Fr. Nick Ward*

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield  
 Mary The Mother of God 5:30 p.m.  
 Adoration 4:00 p.m.  
 Living & Deceased of our Parishes

**THURSDAY** **JAN 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
**St. John The Baptist**, Miltonsburg 12:00 noon  
 +Lois Stephen *by Georgina Gallagher*

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 3:00 p.m.  
 +Judith Weisend *by Catherine Paulus*

**FRIDAY** **JAN 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30 a.m.  
 +Betty Gdovin

**SATURDAY** **JAN 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30 a.m.  
 Deacon Gary Paul & Theresa Beam

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 5:00 p.m.  
 +Liz Schumacher *by Tom & Becky Stephen*

**SUNDAY** **JAN 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30 a.m.  
 Living & Deceased of our Parishes

**St. John The Baptist**, Miltonsburg 10:30 a.m.  
 +Irene Okel & Mary Rossman *by Carol Miller*

**School Cancellation or  
Delayed for Snow Days  
Morning Mass  
to be rescheduled  
12 noon @ St. Sylvester Church**



**OCLA**  
 Every Thursday at 7:00p.m.  
**Adult Catechesis Class,  
Documents of Vatican II**  
 Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Both locations at  
**St. Sylvester Church Basement**

*New Year's Prayer*

Surely your goodness and love will  
 follow me all the days of my life,  
 and I will dwell in the house  
 of the LORD forever.

Psalm 23:6

Forgiveness and Hope After Abortion Did fear and shame lead you or someone you know to have an abortion? Or you felt as if you had no other choice? Are you seeking comfort from welcoming, non-judgmental people to help you through your sadness and guilt? We invite you to make a confidential call to Project Rachel Ministry where you can connect with others who understand and can help. You're not alone anymore. Peace starts here at Project Rachel Ministry. Call 740-275-7038 or visit [www.diosteub.org/project-rachel](http://www.diosteub.org/project-rachel)

***This Week***  
**Wednesday**  
 St. Sylvester Church  
 NO ALL DAY  
ADORATION

***In Loving Memory of:***

For the Bulletin....  
 Anyone that wants to insert a deceased family or friend on the memory list for the entire year of 2026 beginning in January.  
 \$15 each - donation  
 Mark memo as: "In memory of 2026"

**Our Sunday Offering**  
 December 20 - December 21

### **St. John The Baptist**

Adult Collection	\$ 3,720.00
Loose Collection	\$ 120.00
Education Fund	\$ 100.00
Candle Fund	\$ 104.00
DPSC	\$ 250.00
Starter Set	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 80.00
Religious Retire	\$ 240.00
Christmas Offer	\$ 255.00
Sol of Mary	\$ 20.00
Mass Request	\$ 40.00
Immaculate Concep	\$ 65.00
Building Fund	\$ 60.00
Cemetery Fund	\$ 170.00

### **St. Sylvester**

Adult Collection	\$ 2,657.00
Loose Collection	\$ 124.00
Education Fund	\$ 210.00
Christmas Offer	\$ 70.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 80.00
1st Offering	\$ 5.00
Religious Retire	\$ 80.00
Immaculate Concept	\$ 235.00
Cemetery Fund	\$ 50.00
Building Fund	\$ 11,078.75
Mass Request	\$ 100.00

*Thank You for your  
continued support of  
our Parishes &  
School*

## **2025 DPSC Share Campaign**

Your sacrificial gifts enable the dioceses to educate our seminarians, future priests, care for retired priests, oversee education of our youth through Catholic Schools, religious programs and youth ministry, assist poor and other local efforts, Please keep this in mind as you graciously consider your contribution. You can also donate online @ Give.DioSteub.Org

**St. Sylvester Goal: \$29,390**  
**St. John The Baptist Goal: \$17,806**

**Goal Received \$20,759**  
**Goal Received \$10,773**

***In Loving Memory Of:***

Emma Schumacher  
Paul Ditto  
Deb Schumacher  
Francis (Fritz) Schumacher  
Katy Madison  
Paul Madison  
Paul Madison Jr.  
Shirley Pfalzgraf  
Lois Stephen  
Cyril Burkhart  
Eunice Gallagher  
Joe Gallagher

***Eternal rest grant unto  
them, O Lord.***

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you have all been enjoying your Christmas. Of course, the Christmas season is not over yet: The octave, or 8-day celebration of Christmas itself, doesn't end until the New Year. The Christmas season doesn't end until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. So, we still have a bit of Christmas to go. Which is fine: As our guests leave, the radio stations stop playing secular Christmas music, the pressure to get gifts subsides, we can focus a bit more perhaps on the spiritual "reason for the season," the mystery of the incarnation, what that says about who God is, and what that means for us who are invited to adore the Lord at His coming.

God has entered into our human family. That is essentially the meaning of the long Christmas Eve reading we have from the genealogy of St. Matthew's Gospel. None of those people listed were perfect: Judah sold his brother into slavery. Rahab was a prostitute. Solomon was an idolator. Don't get me started on Ahaz.

Yet this is the family God chooses to enter into. A family, a tribe, a humanity that is wounded and sinful, that needs a redeemer.

God somehow makes it right, though. St. Matthew says that Jesus was born 42 generations after Abraham: the number 7 (symbolizing fulfillment and perfection) doubled, and then each of those doublings tripled (14x3). God's timing is not only doubly good: it is doubly good, and then triple that. We can take the given number of generations in a literal sense, that this was the actual number of generations from Abraham to Jesus. Or, we can choose to see this as the Evangelist's way of telling us something more important: Jesus came at the perfect time to heal an imperfect family, the human family, from their own wretchedness (Perhaps this is best, because St. Luke counts more than 50 generations from Jesus to Abraham in his genealogy).

The human family, like the holy family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, is called to be a holy family as well. We are all called to holiness. This cannot be achieved without Jesus. Until Jesus entered human history, all was hopeless. All will be hopeless for us as well unless we let Jesus into our lives, our families.

Jesus entered into a broken human family and healed it, giving it meaning, a purpose, and a destiny: If man can live with God in his heart on earth, he may yet be able to live with Him forever in heaven.

Each of us come from families with wounds and hurts. Our ancestors were not perfect. We are not perfect. But the one who makes all things new invites us to see how he, by his coming into the world, is able to transform and heal all things. Let us invite Jesus, then, to heal the brokenness that he was sent by His Father to heal, the brokenness and evils which exist in our lives. Let us bring this brokenness before him, the generational curse of sin, laying it by his manger bed. Let us bring to him our sins, our brokenness, and allow Him to make whole what was broken. Let us ask for his healing mercy, his forgiveness which is powerful to save.

Help us baby Jesus, to heal and forgive and have hope for the good things to come in Heaven.

God bless you,

In Christ, Fr. Nick

**TUESDAY BINGO****January 6th**

Missy Knowlton  
Randall Sefert  
Eric/Kendra Billiter

**January 13th**

Missy Knowlton  
Mary Atkinson  
Courtney Collmar  
Jake/Krysten Schuerman  
Jenna Rosnick  
Missy Dean  
Saheed/Piatt

**SUNDAY BINGO****January 4th**

Robyn Guiler  
Brooke Yontz

**January 11th**

Missy Knowlton  
Terry Schumacher  
Jess McKelvey

**TUESDAY KITCHEN****January 6th**

Julie Selmon  
Becky Baldwin

**January 13th**

St. John Baptist  
CWC

**SUNDAY KITCHEN****January 4th**

Louise Kress  
Robyn Guiler

**January 11th**

Louise Kress  
Becky Bott

**LECTOR READERS**

December 27.....Steve Burkhart  
December 28.....Becky Baldwin  
December 31.....Catherine Paulus  
January 1.....Bill Long  
January 3.....Tammy Jones  
January 4.....Jill Schumacher

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS  
IN MEMORY OF**

Arthur Miller  
Ruth Miller  
David Miller  
Susan Thomas  
Richard Schumacher  
Teresa Lucas  
Pandora Neuhart  
Vernon & Cinderella Butler  
Gene & Mary Louise Wells  
Clarence E. Stephen  
Luzelda E. Stephen  
Lonnie T. Stephen  
Kirkland & Mehler Family  
George Mehler  
James & Marie Kirkland  
Kenny & Shirley Kuhn  
Mark Kuhn  
Don & Ruth Lafferre  
Eva (Ellis) Riggensbach  
Brian Ellis  
John Guiler  
Teresa (Guiler) Morrison  
Roman & Clara Schumacher  
Deloris Knowlton  
Francis L. Block  
Virgil Block  
Donald Miller  
Lois Stephen  
Paul Ring  
Francis (Fritz) Schumacher  
Fred & Betty Neuhart  
Ralph & Maxine Keevert  
Walter J. Knox  
Robert Miller Sr.  
Albert & Clara Garfold  
Glenn Dierkes  
Tom Dierkes  
Ed Rensi  
Segundo Baguio  
Mildred Baguio  
Cyril Gallagher

Susan Schumacher Thomas  
Rosemary Schumacher  
Anna Hinderlong  
Joe Brooks  
Mary Malanowski  
Buzz & Enola Riggs  
Don & Bessie Ann Freeman  
Gerald & Goldie Weiss  
Raymond Baldwin  
Alice & Ralph Buckalew  
Grace Ann Joyce  
George & Martha Kress  
Clarence & Helen Hoff  
Fred, Clem, & George Jr. Kress  
Jane & Richard Radon  
Floyd Griffin  
Larry Okey  
Myrna Minder  
Sally Hall  
Leona Hoskinson  
Joseph Pirl Sr.  
Richard Passio Sr.  
Hilda Burkhart  
Madeline Mellinger  
Edith Block  
Joe & Debbie Block  
Wes & Clara Hossman  
Candy & Joy  
Teresa Baguio  
Francis, Edith & Virgil Block  
Donald & Lois Stephen  
Charles & Mary Hunkler  
Theresa Garfold  
Kenny & Ruthann Knox  
Dorothy Stungis  
Dorothy Dierkes  
John Dierkes  
Stephen E. Hooper  
Joe Gallagher  
Billie Jean Elliott  
Eunice Gallagher

Katy & Paul Madison  
Kathy Hannahs  
Louis & Estelle Schumacher Family  
Jim Partridge  
Jimmy Partridge  
Ruth Hall  
Clara Hall  
Kathy Hannahs  
George Demchak  
Ernest & Colleen Kachel  
Meri C. Welsh  
Michael & Judy Garten  
Robert T. Miller SR.  
Mary Rosmon  
Irene Okel  
Delmas & Irene Finnicum  
Delmas Jr. Finnicum  
Billy Gary Finnicum  
Clara & Lawrence, Velma, Tom,  
Jan, George, Fred, Carolyn Miller  
Walter Knox  
Mary & Arba Lucas  
Josephina Jack  
Ray & Inez Kemp

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS  
IN HONOR:**

Andy Vinskovich  
Barbara Stephen  
Helen Marie Ring  
Clarence Clouse Family  
Robert Miller Family

**Scripture Reading  
of the Week**

**Sunday**  
**DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>**  
**THE HOLY FAMILY OF**  
**JESUS, MARY**  
**AND JOSEPH**

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14  
COL 3:12-21  
MT 2:13-15, 19-23

**Monday**  
**DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>**

1JN 2:3-11  
MT 2:22-35

**Tuesday**  
**DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>**

1JN 2:12-17  
LK 2:36-40

**Wednesday**  
**DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>**

1JN 2:18-21  
JN 1:1-18

**Thursday**  
**JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

NM 6:22-27  
GAL 4:4-7  
LK 2:16-21

**Friday**  
**JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>**

1JN 2:22-28  
JN 1:19-28

**Saturday**  
**JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>**

1JN 2:29-3:6  
JN 1:29-34

**Sunday**  
**JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**THE EPIPHANY**  
**OF THE LORD**

IS 60:1-6  
EPH 3:2-3 5-6  
MT 2:1-12



**St. Joseph of Monroe County,**  
**Council 5009 of the Knights of Columbus**  
**Anthony Schumacher, Grand Knight**

**Leading by Example**—Our council seeks to develop a culture of charity, unity, and fraternity in faithful service to the Church and community.  
New members are welcome to join us!

**Next Meetings**- \*Knight's of Columbus Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 7th. Adoration at 6:00 p.m. Rosary at 6:15 p.m.  
Mass at 6:30 p.m. Meeting to follow in the Church Basement.

\*Catholic Women's Club Meeting is Wednesday, January 14th - 5:30p.m. @ Generations

