

**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

**JANUARY 18, 2026**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**IS 49:3. 5-6 1COR 1:1-3 JN 1:29-34**

*Word of the Lord - Page 183*

**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

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Word of the Lord—Page 183*

**SUNDAY** **JAN 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30 a.m.  
 Living & Deceased of our Parishes

**St. John The Baptist**, Miltonsburg 10:30 a.m.  
 +Carol Schumacher  
*by Clarence & Eileen Ackerman*

**MONDAY** **JAN 19<sup>TH</sup>**  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 5:30 p.m.  
 +Billie Jean Elliott *by Terry Elliott*

**TUESDAY** **JAN 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
**St. John The Baptist**, Miltonsburg 9:00 a.m.  
 Holy Hour 8:00 a.m.  
 +Becky Marshall *by Hartwell Family*

**WEDNESDAY** **JAN 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 6:30 p.m.  
 +Andy Vinskovich *by Knights of Columbus*

**THURSDAY** **JAN 22<sup>ND</sup>**  
**St. John The Baptist**, Miltonsburg 9:00 a.m.  
 Holy Hour 8:00 a.m.  
 +Stella Crum *by Ron & Cathy Gallagher*

**FRIDAY** (School Mass) **JAN 23<sup>RD</sup>**  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30 a.m.  
 +Martha Brown

**SATURDAY** **JAN 24<sup>TH</sup>**  
**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 8:30 a.m.  
 Joe Staffilino *by Rena Petrilla*

**St. Sylvester**, Woodsfield 5:00 p.m.  
 +John McGinnis *by Margie Partridge*

**SUNDAY** **JAN 25<sup>TH</sup>**  
**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

## O CIA

Every Thursday at 7:00p.m.

**Adult Catechesis Class,  
Documents of Vatican II**  
Last Class this Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

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

**Our Sunday Offering**  
 January 10 - January 11

### St. John The Baptist

Adult Collection	\$ 967.00
Loose Collection	\$ 40.00
Education Fund	\$ 65.00
Starter Set	\$ 1.00
CWC Dues	\$ 10.00
1st Offering	\$ 5.00
In Memory 2026	\$ 45.00
De Paul	\$ 25.00
Sol of Mary	\$ 25.00
Mass Request	\$ 10.00

### St. Sylvester

Adult Collection	\$ 2,663.00
Loose Collection	\$ 177.00
Education Fund	\$ 140.00
Candle Fund	\$ 29.00
CWC Dues	\$ 10.00
Christmas Offer	\$ 12.00
Sol of Mary	\$ 17.00
In Memory 2026	\$ 75.00
1st Offering	\$ 5.00
Cemetery Fund	\$ 30.00
Building Fund	\$ 50.00
Mass Request	\$ 460.00

**THANK YOU!!**  
*for your continued  
 support of our  
 Parishes & School*

**Shroud Encounter**  
 An Unforgettable Big Screen Experience

St Stephens Catholic Church  
 1036 Belford St.  
 Caldwell

Sunday, Feb 22  
 7:00 PM  
 Free Admission

Explore the Mystery of  
**The Shroud of Turin**  
 With International Expert Russ Breault

SHROUD ENCOUNTER  
 ShroudEncounter.com  
 Shroud of Turin Education Project, Inc.

**This Week**  
**Wednesday**  
 St. Sylvester Church  
**ADORATION**  
 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
 Rosary 6:00 p.m.  
 Mass 6:30 p.m.

*Roe v. Wade .....  
 Has denied Life of Millions.  
 We're fighting for Change.  
 Babies deserve Life.  
 We value Sanctity of Life.*



### 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"

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



## 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  
Donald & Lois Stephen  
Charles & Mary Hunkler  
Fr. Samuel Saprano  
Cyril Burkhardt  
Eunice Gallagher  
Joe Gallagher  
Billie Jean Elliott  
Harry & Lucille Elliott  
Danny Betts  
David Baker  
Lowell Baker  
William Bolon  
Michael Koval  
Norma H Koval  
Seiford & Yolanda Popkie  
Herman Burkhardt  
Hilda Burkhardt  
Ty A Burkhardt  
Madeline Mellinger  
Francis & Freeda Paulus  
Mary Paulus  
Hilda Paulus  
Robert M Miller Sr.  
Walter Knox  
Josephina Jack  
Paul Connor  
Barbara Connor  
Michael Burkhardt  
Bertha Burkhardt  
Rebecca Burkhardt  
Francis & Edith Block  
Virgil Block  
Joe & Deb Block  
Mary Ellen Barber  
Gladys (Babe) Burkhardt  
James Norris  
Judith Marie Weisend  
Donny Weisend  
Richard Weisend

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

Dear Parishioners,

January is an interesting month. For me, the post-Christmas “lull” presents an opportunity to get some planning done for the rapidly approaching Lenten and Easter seasons (the busiest time of year for us priests). It also gives me an opportunity to speak about a topic which I don’t like to “rail on” about, but does need to be mentioned every so often. I am speaking about the issue of abortion. The annual March for Life and anniversary of the devastating Roe vs. Wade Court decision (now thankfully overturned) brings to mind the greatest social sin of our nation, the implicit denial of the first essential right on which our nation was founded – the right to life. Life, together with liberty and the pursuit of happiness, are the rights of all, not the privilege of a few.

Most people know and accept this, as they know and implicitly accept that the infant in the womb is in fact a human being. But abortion doesn’t exist because of a dispute over human biology. Abortion exists because in a society with rights, there are also necessarily obligations, which is a truth often denied. People have the right to engage in reproductive behavior, but that right corresponds directly to the responsibility one must own for those same actions. Many people today deny this, however, with the belief that they can separate and alienate the “unitive” or “pleasurable” aspects from the “procreative” aspects of sexual intimacy without consequence. But the consequences of this thinking is deadly, in the lives of individuals and the whole of society.

This “contraceptive mindset,” is exactly what Pope Saint John Paul II warned about in his superbly worded encyclical letter *Evangelium Vitae*, “the Gospel of Life.” In it he says: “It is frequently asserted that contraception, if made safe and available to all, is the most effective remedy against abortion. The Catholic Church is then accused of actually promoting abortion, because she obstinately continues to teach the moral unlawfulness of contraception. When looked at carefully, this objection is clearly unfounded. It may be that many people use contraception with a view to excluding the subsequent temptation of abortion. But the negative values inherent in the “contraceptive mentality”-which is very different from responsible parenthood, lived in respect for the full truth of the conjugal act-are such that they in fact strengthen this temptation when an unwanted life is conceived. Indeed, the pro-abortion culture is especially strong precisely where the Church's teaching on contraception is rejected... contraception and abortion are often closely connected, as fruits of the same tree. It is true that in many cases contraception and even abortion are practiced under the pressure of real- life difficulties, which nonetheless can never exonerate from striving to observe God's law fully. Still, in very many other instances such practices are rooted in a hedonistic mentality unwilling to accept responsibility in matters of sexuality, and they imply a self-centered concept of freedom, which regards procreation as an obstacle to personal fulfillment.”

Personal fulfillment and personal responsibility are never at odds, and yet our society often treats these things as polar opposites. As complex social beings with rational souls, we ought to have aims and rules for ourselves which go beyond pleasure and personal aspirations. We have duties and responsibilities. We have a responsibility always toward the weak and the vulnerable: the sick, the elderly, the disabled, the poor, and the unborn. We also have a responsibility not to abuse the gift of human sexuality, which is such a powerful tool for good, while at the same time a potentially devastating weapon for our deprivation and destruction for those who are careless.

Certain principles must be held as absolute: the unitive and procreative elements of human sexual reproduction must not be separated by artificial contraception. The child in the womb is not an unwanted or unforeseen potential byproduct of sex, but is the natural and indeed intended result of sexual intercourse. And in order to assume a more responsible attitude toward human sexual reproduction, a greater purity of heart and enlightenment of the mind must be achieved so that, aided by grace and strengthened by virtue, the exercise of obedience, self-restraint, and moderation, we will be able to more freely choose the good and reject the bad.

May Christ, who entered into this world as an embryo in the womb of the Virgin Mary, teach us to revere and safeguard the miracle of human life against the perverse designs of the devil and his allies.

In Christ, Fr. Nick



**TUESDAY BINGO****January 20th**

Donna Robinson  
Brenda Fisher  
Phillip/Chelsea Masters  
Missy Dean  
Tim/Tiff Woodell  
Carey Bott

**January 27th**

Susie Cunion  
Brenda Fisher  
Tyler Knowlton  
Beckey Russell  
Marcus/Alli Schumacher

**SUNDAY BINGO****January 18th**

Missy Knowlton  
Robyn Guiler  
Marissa Cole  
Olivia Fisher  
Cody/Sam Miller  
Sam/Megan Ward

**January 25th**

Aaron/Kendra Hines  
Missy Dean  
Ace Guiler  
Tyler/Tiff Schumacher

**TUESDAY KITCHEN****January 20th**

Julie Selmon  
Marcia Shipp

**January 27th**

Diane Burkhart  
Angie LaFollette

**SUNDAY KITCHEN****January 18th**

Louise Kress  
Jill Schumacher

**January 25th**

Louise Kress  
Catherine Paulus

**LECTOR READERS**

January 17....Catherine Paulus

January 18....Becky Baldwin

January 24....Bill Frank

January 25....Bill Long

**Scripture Reading  
of the Week****Sunday****JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>  
SECOND SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

IS 49:3. 5-6

1COR 1:1-3

JN 1:29-34

**Monday****JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

1SM 15:16-23

MK 2:18-22

**Tuesday****JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

1SM 16:1-13

MK 2:23-28

**Wednesday****JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>**

1SM 17:32-33M,37,40-51

MK 3:1-6

**Thursday****JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>**

1SM 18:6-9; 19:1-7

MK 3:7-12

**Friday****JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>**

1SM 24:3-21

MK 3:13-19

**Saturday****JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>**

2SM 1:1-4, 11-12,

19, 23-27

MK 3:20-21

**Sunday****JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>****THIRD SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

IS 8:23-9:3

1COR 1:10-13, 17

MT 4:12-23

## A 9-Day Pilgrimage to NORTHERN FRANCE

with Fr. Nicholas Ward & Fr. Daniel Koehl

MAY 18-26, 2027

**ST. CHARLES**  
Catholic Pilgrimages

Register at [stcharlespilgrimages.com/ward-koehl](http://stcharlespilgrimages.com/ward-koehl)

**DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE?**

He dipped in a river seven times?

ANSWER: Naaman

**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 - 7:00 p.m. @ Generations