

Parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Steubenville

The Monroe County Catholic Churches

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

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 Burkhardt (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
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 18TH
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 19TH
St. Sylvester, Woodsfield	5:30 p.m.
+Billie Jean Elliott by Terry Elliott	
TUESDAY	JAN 20TH
St. John The Baptist, Miltonsburg	9:00 a.m.
Holy Hour 8:00 a.m.	
+Becky Marshall by Hartwell Family	
WEDNESDAY	JAN 21ST
St. Sylvester, Woodsfield	6:30 p.m.
+Andy Vinskovich by Knights of Columbus	
THURSDAY	JAN 22ND
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 23RD
St. Sylvester, Woodsfield	8:30 a.m.
+Martha Brown	
SATURDAY	JAN 24TH
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 25TH
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	



OCIA

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

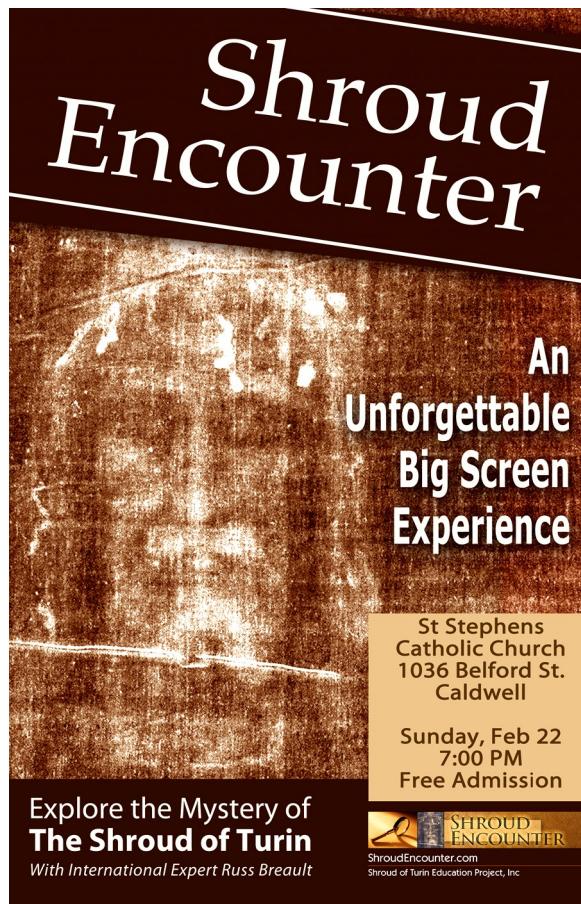
Adult Collection	\$	967.00
Loose Collection	\$	40.00
Education Fund	\$	65.00
Starter Set	\$	1.00
CWC Dues	\$	10.00
1st Offering	\$	5.00
In Memory 2026	\$	45.00
De Paul	\$	25.00
Sol of Mary	\$	25.00
Mass Request	\$	10.00

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

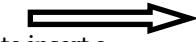
THANK YOU!!
for your continued
support of our
Parishes & School

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"

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 Burkhart
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 Burkhart
Hilda Burkhart
Ty A Burkhart
Madeline Mellinger
Francis & Freeda Paulus
Mary Paulus
Hilda Paulus
Robert M Miller Sr.
Walter Knox
Josephina Jack
Paul Connor
Barbara Connor
Michael Burkhart
Bertha Burkhart
Rebecca Burkhart
Francis & Edith Block
Virgil Block
Joe & Deb Block
Mary Ellen Barber
Gladys (Babe) Burkhart
James Norris
Judith Marie Weisend
Donny Weisend
Richard Weisend

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.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

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 Burkhardt
Angie LaFollette

SUNDAY KITCHEN**January 18th**

Louise Kress
Jill Schumacher
January 25th
Louise Kress
Catherine Paulus

Scripture Reading of the Week**Sunday****JANUARY 18TH
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

Monday**JANUARY 19TH
1SM 15:16-23
MK 2:18-22****Tuesday****JANUARY 20TH
1SM 16:1-13
MK 2:23-28****Wednesday****JANUARY 21ST
1SM 17:32-33M,37,40-51
MK 3:1-6****Thursday****JANUARY 22ND
1SM 18:6-9; 19:1-7
MK 3:7-12****Friday****JANUARY 23RD
1SM 24:3-21
MK 3:13-19****Saturday****JANUARY 24TH
2SM 1:1-4, 11-12,
19, 23-27
MK 3:20-21****Sunday****JANUARY 25TH
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

**DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE?**

He dipped in a river seven times?

ANSWER: Name an

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