

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

334 South Main Street
Woodsfield, Ohio 43793-1027

DECEMBER 14, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

IS 35:1-6a, 10 JAS 5:7-10 MT 11:2-11

Word of the Lord - Page 71

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 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

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Word of the Lord—Page 71

SUNDAY

DEC 14TH

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 8:30 a.m.
+Paul Madison *by Don & Janet Zwick*

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

MONDAY

DEC 15TH

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield NO MASS

TUESDAY

DEC 16TH

St. John The Baptist, Miltonsburg 9:00 a.m.
Holy Hour 8:00 a.m.
+Ty Burkhardt *by Mary Wallace*

WEDNESDAY

DEC 17TH

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 6:30 p.m.
Knights of Columbus Members 5009

THURSDAY

DEC 18TH

St. John The Baptist, Miltonsburg 9:00 a.m.
Holy Hour 8:00 a.m.
+Stella Crum *by Ginny Hutler*

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 7:00 p.m.
School Christmas Program

FRIDAY

(School Mass)

DEC 19TH

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 8:30 a.m.
+Katy & Paul Madison *by Yonak Family*

West Wood Place, Woodsfield 10:00 a.m.
+Jack Brown

SATURDAY

DEC 20TH

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 7:00 a.m.
William Polsinelli *by Paul diorio*

St. Sylvester, Woodsfield 5:00 p.m.
+Bob Wallace *by Mary Wallace*

SUNDAY

DEC 21ST

Sylvester, Woodsfield 8:30 a.m.
Living & Deceased of our Parishes

St. John The Baptist, Miltonsburg 10:30 a.m.
+Ty Burkhardt *by Margie & Mary*

O CIA—ONLY CANCELED

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

St. Stephen's Church
Caldwell Ohio

PENANCE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 16th @ 7p.m.

THANK YOU!!

We would like to Thank all the help we
received for the insulation of the
St. John The Baptist New Organ

Andy Schumacher
Perry Schumacher
Carson Kuhn
Chad Kuhn
Chris Crum
Richard Kuhn
Mike Yonak
Danny Sims

Swiss Hills Construction Trade Class..

Carter Cole
Vincent Adkins
Wesley Cole
Gabe Eing

Our Sunday Offering

December 6 - December 7

St. John The Baptist

Adult Collection	\$ 941.00
Loose Collection	\$ 136.00
Education Fund	\$ 45.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 185.00
Candle Fund	\$ 251.00
Christmas Offer	\$ 10.00
CWC Dues	\$ 10.00
1st Offering	\$ 5.00
Immaculate Concep	\$ 30.00
Building Fund	\$ 105.00
Cemetery Fund	\$ 20.00

St. Sylvester

Adult Collection	\$ 2,036.00
Loose Collection	\$ 203.00
Education Fund	\$ 185.00
Candle Fund	\$ 70.00
Christmas Offer	\$ 20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 410.00
Immaculate Concept	\$ 70.00
Cemetery Fund	\$ 50.00
Building Fund	\$ 50.00

*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.

**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 \$10,663

In Loving Memory Of:

Emma Schumacher
Paul Ditto
Deb Schumacher
Francis (Fritz) Schumacher
Katy Madison
Paul Madison
Paul Madison Jr.
Charles & Mary Hunkler
Donald & Lois Stephen
Michael E. Koval
Norma H. Koval
Herman Burkhart
Hilda Burkhart
Madeline Mellinger
Billie Jean Elliott
Harry & Lucille Elliott
David Baker
Lowell Baker
William Bolon
Meri C Welsh
Raymond Baldwin
Alice & Ralph Buckalew
Grace Ann Joyce
Joe Fillippi
Ty A. Burkhart
Darrell & Charlotte Cline
Clara Rush
Virgil Rush
Francis & Edith Block
Virgil Block
Joe & Debbie Block
Gladys (babe) Burkhart
Jimmy Norris
Mary Ellen Barber Norris
Quinn Kahrig
Danny Betts
Edward Rensi
Vernon Butler
Cinderella Butler
Francis Stephen
Carol Moore
Imelda D. Scott
Francis Paulus
Freeda Paulus
Mary Paulus
Hilda Paulus
Michael Burkhart
Bertha Burkhart
Rebeca Burkhart
Robert Miller Sr.
Walter Knox
Josephina Jack
Lawrence Crock
Helen Burkhart
Francis Burkhart
Wes & Clare Hossman
Donald Miller
Larry Krone
Joy Taylor
Cindy Miller Stevens
Norbert Burkhart
Agnes Burkhart
Tina Burkhart Muffett
Francis Reischman
Hazel Reischman
Harold Robinson
Ellen Robinson
Cyril Burkhart
Eunice Gallagher
Joe Gallagher
Thelma Scott
Harmon Scott
Jimmy Scott
Richard Scott
Delores Quarles
Carol Lumbatis
Richard J. Sobocinski
Fr. Samuel Saprano

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

Dear Parishioners,

With Christmas rapidly approaching, we have come to the third Sunday of Advent called "Gaudete Sunday," the "Sunday of Rejoicing" or "Rose Sunday."

The holidays always bring for us a flurry of emotions. Children look forward to Christmas Day with rapturous glee and excitement. But there are also those among us for whom Christmas is a bittersweet time, recounting pain and loss, encountering loneliness and heartbreak. The many wounds and losses of life can haunt us aggressively in this time when we would much rather be joyful. Dare we hope to experience joy again in this world where we have known losses and pain and sadness? Let's not forget those for whom the holidays present a financial burden, and also those who have to work during the holidays against their will. Where's the joy for them?

Even in the hardships of life however we can find peace and joy. This is achieved when we more closely unite ourselves together with God, who meets us on the cross of suffering. Jesus came to earth to share our sorrows as well as our joys. Jesus, our consoler, came among us into the darkness of the world in the midst of its pains and hardships, "sharing our sorrows, knowing our hunger" as the popular hymn (*Child of the Poor*) goes. Jesus comes to share our burdens to show us an example of what we also must do to transcend suffering. Jesus, who suffered among us, suffers for us. Like Jesus, even though we are in pain, helping others in their own suffering is one way we can alleviate our own.

We can find joy in sharing Christ's cross – and the crosses of others. Pope Benedict XVI in *The Joy of Giving to Others* stated: "Men and women of every age and social condition, happy to dedicate their existence to others, give us the answer with their lives! Was not [St.] Mother Teresa of Calcutta an unforgettable witness of true Gospel joy in our time? She lived in touch daily with wretchedness, human degradation and death. Her soul knew the trials of the dark night of faith, yet she gave everyone God's smile. In one of her writings, we read: "We wait impatiently for paradise, where God is, but it is in our power to be in paradise even here on earth and from this moment. Being happy with God means loving like him, helping like him, giving like him, serving like him"

When we help others in their pain, we can more easily be healed. This time of year, which provides an excellent opportunity for charitable giving and outreach, may be more than just an opportunity for a tax write-off, but an opportunity to encounter the healing power of Christ in our suffering brothers and sisters. Visiting a lonely shut-in, calling an old friend who lost a spouse, comforting the sick... there are so very many opportunities to visit our brethren with Christ's joy, and therefore plenty of opportunities to be gladdened by the experience of being Christ to others.

God bless you all,

In Christ, Fr. Nick

TUESDAY BINGO**December 16th**

Donna Robinson
Brenda Fisher
Phillip/Chelsea Masters
Missy Dean
Carey Bott
Holly Meredith
Jake/Krysten Schuerman

January 6th

Missy Knowlton
Randall Sefert
Eric/Kendra Billiter

SUNDAY BINGO**December 14th**

Missy Knowlton
Terry Schumacher
Marissa Cole
Nathan/Rachel Arden

January 4th

Robyn Guiler
Brooke Yontz

TUESDAY KITCHEN**December 16th**

Marcia Shipp
Julie Selmon

SUNDAY KITCHEN**December 14th**

Louise Kress
Becky Bott

LECTOR READERS

December 13.....Catherine Paulus

December 14.....Bill Long

December 20.....Bill Frank

December 21.....Jill Schumacher

**Scripture Reading
of the Week****Sunday****DECEMBER 14TH
THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

IS 35:1-6a, 10

JAS 5:7-10

MT 11:2-11

Monday**DECEMBER 15TH**

NM 24:2-7, 15-17a

MT 21:23-27

Tuesday**DECEMBER 16TH**

ZEP 3:1-2, 9-13

MT 21:28-32

Wednesday**DECEMBER 17TH**

GN 49:2, 8-10

MT 1:1-17

Thursday**DECEMBER 18TH**

JER 23:5-8

MT 1:18-25

Friday**DECEMBER 19TH**

JGS 13:2-7, 24-25a

LK 1:5-25

Saturday**DECEMBER 20TH**

IS 7:10-14

LK 1:26-38

Sunday**DECEMBER 21ST
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

IS 7:10-14

ROM 1:1-7

MT 1:18-24

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
IN MEMORY**

Arthur Miller	Susan Schumacher Thomas
Ruth Miller	Rosemary Schumacher
David Miller	Anna Hinderlong
Susan Thomas	Joe Brooks
Richard Schumacher	Mary Malanowski
Teresa Lucas	Buzz & Enola Riggs
Pandora Neuhart	Don & Bessie Ann Freeman
Vernon & Cinderella Butler	Gerald & Goldie Weiss
Gene & Mary Louise Wells	Raymond Baldwin
Clarence E. Stephen	Alice & Ralph Buckalew
Luzelda E. Stephen	Grace Ann Yoyce
Lonnie T. Stephen	George & Martha Kress
Kirkland & Mehler Family	Clarence & Helen Hoff
George Mehler	Fred, Clem, & George Jr. Kress
James & Marie Kirkland	Jane & Richard Radon
Kenny & Shirley Kuhn	Floyd Griffin
Mark Kuhn	Larry Okey
Don & Ruth Lafferre	Myrna Minder
Eva (Ellis) Riggenbach	Sally Hall
Brian Ellis	Leona Hoskinson
John Guiler	Joseph Pirl Sr.
Teresa (Guiler) Morrison	Richard Passio Sr.
Roman & Clara Schumacher	Hilda Burkhart
Deloris Knowlton	Madeline Mellinger
Francis L. Block	Edith Block
Virgil Block	Joe & Debbie Block
Donald Miller	Wes & Clara Hossman
Lois Stephen	Candy & Joy
Paul Ring	Helen Marie Ring

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
IN HONOR**

Andy Vinskovich
Barbara Stephen

**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, December 3rd. 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, December 10th - 5:30p.m. @ Generations

