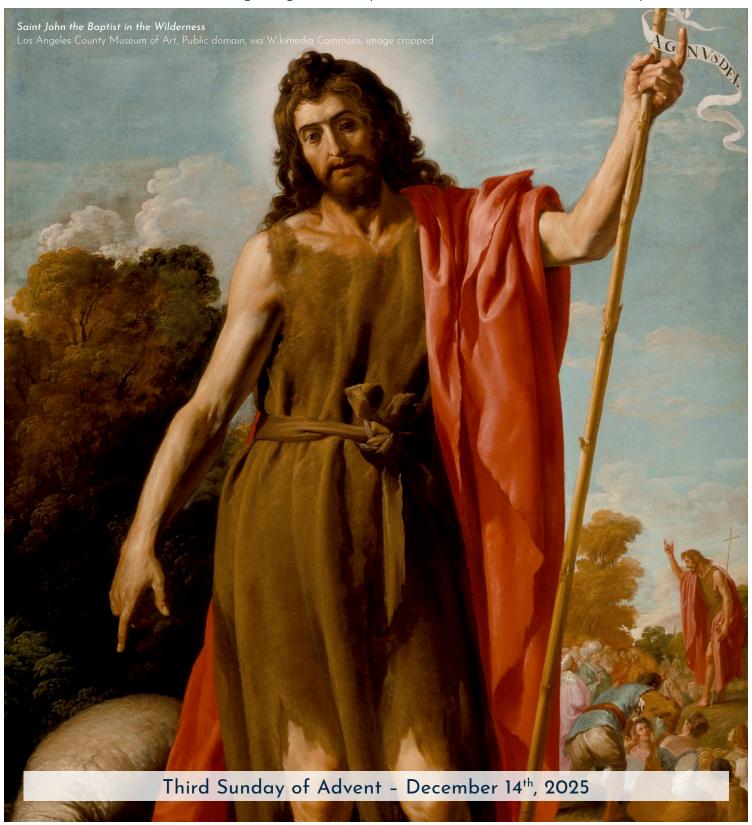


HOLY FACE OF JESUS

PARISH

We exist to offer the life-giving intimacy of Jesus to the hurried, lonely, and lost.



Gaudete Sunday

Welcome to Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday gets its name from the Entrance Antiphon from Mass:

Latin: **Gaudete** in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. Dominus enim prope est.

English: **Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

This Sunday is all about rejoicing in the Lord. One of the things that we notice this Sunday is that we wear rose (or pink) vestments at Mass. Which begs the question, "What does pink have to do with joy?" Besides the fact that Fr. Hoying looks funny in pink.

The answer goes back to creation. When the sun is about to arise in the morning, the sky, oftentimes, turns a bright pink color. The pink signifies that the sun is about ready to dawn; it prepares us for morning. Similarly the color pink in the Liturgy signifies that the Son of God is about ready to dawn upon us at Christmas. There is deep anticipation that the Lord is coming.

One of the ways that we will prepare for the dawning of the Son is decorating the church. Next week, after Sunday Masses, we'll be **decorating** the churches for Christmas. If you are able, please stick around to help. Thank you for everyone who helps to decorate the churches.

Also, you can help beautify the church buildings for Christmas by donating a **poinsettia** in honor of your loved ones. You can order flowers through our local

florists to be delivered with our Christmas flowers. Thank you so much for your generosity! I'm always so impressed by the beauty of our churches at Christmas time; it is really spectacular.

In preparation for Christmas, you can also allow our merciful Father to **beautify your soul**. We'll have our normal Confession times next week:

- Confessions are heard after every daily Mass
- Monday: 5-6pm at St. Joseph
- Tuesday: 5-6pm at St. John
- Wednesday: 5-6:30pm at Immaculate Conception
- Thursday: 5-6pm at St. Lawrence
- Saturday: 3:15-3:45pm at Immaculate Conception and 3:15-4:15pm at St. Joseph
- Sunday 7:15-7:45am at St. John and 7:45-8:15am at St. Lawrence

Also, mark you calendars for Monday, December 22 for our Day of Grace at St. Joseph. We are going to try something new for this Day of Grace. From 4-8pm, we'll have an additional, visiting priest present. This should help with large crowds. Also, if you are more comfortable going to someone other than Fr. Hoying and me, you'll have that option.

Happy Gaudete Sunday, Fr. Sean Wilson

Holy Face of Jesus Parish HOLYFACEPARISH.ORG

Immaculate Conception (IC): 116 N Mill Street, Botkins, OH 45306 St. John Fryburg (SJF): 11319 Van Buren Street, Fryburg, OH 45895 St. Joseph (SJ): 101 West Pearl Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 St. Lawrence (SL): 16053 Botkins Road, Botkins, OH 45306 Parish Office: 309 Perry Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 Office Hours: Mondays-Wednesdays & Fridays 8:30am-5:00pm;

Thursdays 10:30am-5:00pm

Phone: (419)-738-2115; Fax: (419)-738-4525;

Emergency Line: (937)-419-1137

Regular Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigils 4pm Immaculate Conception, 4:30pm St. Joseph Sunday 8am St. John, 8:30am St. Lawrence, 10am St. Joseph, 10:30am Immaculate Conception

Monday 8am Immaculate Conception

Tuesday 8am St. Joseph

Wednesday 8am St. Lawrence, 8am St. John

Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception, 8am St. Joseph Friday 8am Immaculate Conception, 8am St. Joseph Saturday 8am St. John (Anointing of the Sick during 1st

Saturday Masses)

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, December 13th

4:00 p.m. IC Alvin Berning - Anniversary 4:30 p.m. SJ L&D Robert Manger Family

Sunday, December 14th Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. SJF Ilene Limbert - Birthday

8:30 a.m. SL People of Holy Face of Jesus Parish

10:00 a.m. SJ Jeff Harrod 10:30 a.m. IC Scott Egbert

Monday, December 15th

8:00 a.m. IC Tim Cooper

Tuesday, December 16th

8:00 a.m. SJ Virgil Kohler - Birthday

Wednesday, December 17th

8:00 a.m. SJF L&D Ralph & Farrell Kohlrieser Family 8:00 a.m. SL L&D Joe & Jean Hageman Family

Thursday, December 18th

8:00 a.m. IC Vera Thaman - Birthday 8:00 a.m. SJ Donald Gerstner - Birthday

Friday, December 19th

8:00 a.m. IC Floyd & Lou Fullenkamp

8:00 a.m. SJ Marvin Fisher

Saturday, December 20th

8:00 a.m. SJF Tracy Dodds

4:00 p.m. IC Rita M. Roth

4:30 p.m. SJ L&D Ralph & Irene Meinerding

Family

Sunday, December 21st Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. SJF Jesse Doseck

8:30 a.m. SL People of Holy Face of Jesus Parish

10:00 a.m. SJ David & Kimi Brown - 40th Wedding

Anniversary

10:30 a.m. IC Alice Brown - Anniversary

IC - Immaculate Conception SJF - St. John

SJ - St. Joseph SL - St. Lawrence

Mass Readings

For the Week of December 14th, 2025

Sunday the 14th - Third Sunday of Advent

ls 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Monday the 15th

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday the 16th

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday the 17th

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Thursday the 18th

Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Friday the 19th

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Saturday the 20th

ls 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday the 21st - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are offered after every daily Mass,

Monday-Saturday, and:

Sunday 7:15-7:45am St. John

7:45-8:15am St. Lawrence

Monday 5-6pm St. Joseph Tuesday 5-6pm St. John

Wednesday 5-6:30pm Immaculate Conception

Thursday 5-6pm St. Lawrence

Saturday 3:15-3:45pm Immaculate Conception

3:15-4:15pm St. Joseph

Area Weekday Confessions

Tuesday

Holy Angels (Sidney) Confession 5-6pm

Wednesday

Holy Rosary (St. Marys) Conf. 11:30am, Mass 12:05pm Holy Angels (Sidney) Confession 12–1pm

Thursday

Sacred Heart (McCartyville) Confession 6-7pm

— 3 —

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, December 14th Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

7:15-7:45a SJF Sacrament of Reconciliation7:45-8:15a SL Sacrament of Reconciliation

10:00 a.m. SJ OCIA Dismissal12:00 p.m. IC Baptism Prep Class

4:30 p.m. SL Holy Hour with Evening Prayer

Monday, December 15th

6:30 a.m. SJF Holy Hour & Morning Prayer 8:40 a.m. IC Sacrament of Reconciliation

10:00 a.m. IC Rosary

1:00 p.m. SJ Connect Group

4:30 p.m. IC CGS Monday Session

5-6 p.m. SJ Sacrament of Reconciliation

5:00 p.m. Wapak Spiritual Movement @ First English

6:30 p.m. SJ Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. IC Finance Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m. SJ Two Hearts Prayer Cenacle

6:30 p.m. SJ When Two Become One

7:00 p.m. IC That Woman Is You

Tuesday, December 16th

6:30 a.m. SJF Holy Hour & Morning Prayer

8:40 a.m. SJ Sacrament of Reconciliation

8:40 a.m. SJ Holy Face Devotion/Prayers

9:30 a.m. IC CGS Tuesday Session

10:00 a.m. IC Rosary

1:00 p.m. IC Pray & Play

5-6 p.m. SJF Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 17th

6:30 a.m. SJF Holy Hour & Morning Prayer

8:40 a.m. SJF/SL Sacrament of Reconciliation

10:00 a.m. IC Rosary

2:45 p.m. IC CGS Wednesday Session

4:00 p.m. IC Men's Rosary

5-6:30pm IC Sacrament of Reconciliation

5:00 p.m. Wapak Spiritual Movement @ First English

6:30 p.m. IC Christmas Decoration Prep

Thursday, December 18th Office opens at 10:30am

6:30 a.m. SJF Holy Hour & Morning Prayer

8:40 a.m. IC/SJ Sacrament of Reconciliation

9a-7p IC All Day Adoration in the Church

10:00 a.m. IC Rosary

10a-6:30p SJ Blood Drive

Thursday, December 18th (cont.)

4:30 p.m. IC CGS Thursday Session

4:30 p.m. Wapak Loaves & Fishes @ First English

5-6 p.m. SL Sacrament of Reconciliation

6:00 p.m. SJ Stephen Minister Training 7:00 p.m. SJ Catholic 101 Class

7:00 p.m. SJ CRHP Committee Meeting

Friday, December 19th

6:30 a.m. SJF Holy Hour & Morning Prayer 8:40 a.m. IC/SJ Sacrament of Reconciliation

10:00 a.m. IC Rosary

Saturday, December 20th

6:30 a.m. SJF Holy Hour & Morning Prayer 8:40 a.m. SJF Sacrament of Reconciliation 10:30 a.m. SJ McCullough/Bass Wedding 3:15-3:45p IC Sacrament of Reconciliation

3:15-4:15p SJ Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday, December 21st

7:15-7:45a SJF Sacrament of Reconciliation

7:45-8:15a SL Sacrament of Reconciliation

--- Church Decorating After All Masses

--- Coffee & Donuts After All Masses

10:00 a.m. SJ 40th Wedding Anniversary Blessing

- David & Kimi Brown

10:00 a.m. SJ OCIA Dismissal

11:00 a.m. SJ Baptism of Otto James Fahncke

and Dean Anthony Steinke

4:30 p.m. SL Holy Hour with Evening Prayer

Adoration Chapels

Holiday Closure: The Adoration Chapels will close on December 18th at 11:59pm for the Christmas Holiday and reopen on January 4th at noon.

Holiday and reopen on January 4th at noon._

Regular Schedule: St. Joseph Adoration Chapel opens at noon on Sunday and closes at midnight on Thursday. Immaculate Conception Adoration Chapel opens at noon on Sunday and closes at 9pm on Friday. All are welcome to stop in and visit our Lord in our adoration chapels. Open Hours: Immaculate Conception has an immediate opening on Fridays from 9-10am. Please call the office (419)-738-2115 if you are interested in spending this hour with our Lord! Want to sign up for an hour? Call the office (419-738-2115) or visit holyfaceparish.org/eucharisticadoration/ for more info and an online form!



Be Still Advent Challenge

Join our Advent Prayer Challenge, Be Still, on Hallow through our community page: https://hallow.com/communities/3045/



Christmas Flowers

Help make our churches beautiful this Christmas season with poinsettias! Flowers can be ordered directly from any of the florists listed. Orders should be placed by December 18th, but for best selection, please place your orders early. Thank you! Finishing Touches: (937)-693-3386; Jenny's Designs: (937)-693-4190; Haehn Florist: (419)-738-8485; Village Green: (419)-738-2424

Church Decorating

All four of our churches will decorate for Christmas after Masses on Sunday, December 21st. If you are able to stick around and help out, it would be much appreciated! Immaculate Conception will also be gathering Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30pm in the Immaculate Conception basement to begin preparing trees and other decorations. We appreciate any and all help you can offer on the 17th and the 21st. Thank you!

Christmas Jubilee Angel Trees

All gifts for the Christmas Jubilee Angel Trees are due back by Sunday, December 14th after Mass. Thank you for your generosity!

Religious Retirement Fund - Collection This Weekend

They gave their lives in service - now they need your help. For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation - it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious this weekend.

Days of Grace & Christmas Mass



Days of Grace

(Confessions & Adoration 9am-9pm)

Monday, December 22nd

@ St. Joseph (visiting priest will help hear confessions on 12/22 from 4–8pm)

Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24th:

3:30pm at St. Lawrence 4:30pm at St. Joseph 5:30pm at Immaculate Conception 10:00pm at Immaculate Conception 11:00pm at St. Joseph

Thursday, December 25th:

8:00am at St. John 9:00am at Immaculate Conception 10:00am at St. Joseph

St. John 175th Anniversary

It's not too late to order 175^{th} Anniversary merch. Scan the ΩR code to shop.





this week's

MINISTRY **SPOTLIGHT**

Christmas Flowers

PLACE ORDERS BY DECEMBER 18TH

Want to help beautify our churches for Christmas? We are hoping to have a few more flowers for our sanctuaries this year and would be so appreciative of your donation. Details are on page 5. Thank you in advance!

Closing of the Jubilee Year with Archbishop Casey

All are invited to join Archbishop Casey as he celebrates Mass for the Closing of the Jubilee Year on Sunday, Dec. 28, 10am at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. At the request of the Holy Father, a collection for the poor will be taken.

12/1 Buildings & Grounds Meeting Bullet Points

- SJF Windows: Three windows need to be completed yet. Storm windows are scheduled for completion in the Spring of 2026.
- SL Windows: Four have been returned, and two more have been taken. Scheduled completion is Spring of 2026.
- SJ Faith Center Restoration: Drywall is up, painting has started, masonry work is completed, and we are currently on schedule.
- SL Church front doors to be replaced. This will be scheduled for 2026. They have been repaired to get us through winter.

Holy Face of Jesus Parish Merch - Online Store!

Now available: an online store with Holy Face of Jesus Parish merch! Scan this QR code or check it out at thechurch.shop/shop/holy-face-of-jesus-parish/.





Advent



Prepare Your Heart for Emmanuel

Prayer & Worship

- Advent Holy Hours with Evening Prayer: Sundays of Advent from 4:30–5:30pm at St. Lawrence
- Holy Hour & Morning Prayer: each Monday–Saturday 6:30–7:30am at St. John (held year-round... not just during Advent!) Please note: the Holy Hour & Morning Prayer on Christmas Eve will be pushed back to 8–9am, and there will not be a Holy Hour Christmas day and December 26th.

Extra Confession Opportunities

• Monday, December 22nd - Day of Grace: 9am–9pm @ St. Joseph (a visiting priest will be helping hear confessions from 4–8pm this day)

Faith Formation Resources

- Hallow: Join the Advent Prayer Challenge, Be Still, on the Hallow app!
- **Dynamic Catholic:** Have your Best Advent Ever with a daily email from Dynamic Catholic! Sign up at dynamiccatholic.com/advent.



Youth & Young Adult

Youth Ministry

Weekly Scripture

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

- Matthew 11:4-5 (from the Gospel for Sunday, December 14th)

Weekly Saint Quote

"Advent is then a period of intense training that directs us decisively to the One who has already come, who will come and who continuously comes."

- St. John Paul II

In Need of Life Teen & Edge Core Team Members

We are in need of core team members for our high school program, Life Teen, and our junior high program, Edge. Call Angie if you're interested in helping out!

Upcoming CYO Games

Immaculate Conception/St. Lawrence Team: 12/14: 3:30pm @ St. Henry vs. St. Henry #2; 12/21: 4pm @ Ft. Recovery Elem. vs Mary Help, St. Paul, Ft. Recovery St. John/St. Joseph Team: 12/14: 2:30pm @ Marion vs. Marion



Young Adult Ministry

Anchored is for young adults (ages 18–35) looking to connect with others who share their faith & values. Follow them on Instagram & Facebook to stay up-to-date on events.

Next Event: Singo

The next Anchored event is Friday, January 23rd - Singo! Follow Anchored Young Adult Group on social media to stay in the loop!

Follow and Pray with Archbishop Casey

Archbishop Casey has launched his own social media accounts! Follow him at:

- Instagram: @archbishopcasey
- Facebook: facebook.com/archbishopcasey

By following Archbishop Casey, you can pray with him throughout Advent as he has begun posting daily prayer reflections since Sunday, Nov. 30.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in our scrip program. Through your orders, the parish profit came to \$723.22. Special thank you to Sandy Kinstle for all her hard work in organizing this program for our parish.





Want to join or come back to the Church? Already Catholic but want to learn more? Join us for Catholic 101!

Classes are held each Thursday until the end of Lent 7–8:30pm in the St. Joseph Hall. Class topics for the next couple of weeks are listed below!

12/18: Intro to Sacraments (no class 12/25 and 1/1) 1/8: Baptism & Confirmation

For more information on Becoming Catholic opportunities, contact Angie Soules: 419-738-2115 or angies@holyfaceparish.org.

Christ Renews His Parish Men's Retreat: January 17-18

The next Christ Renews His Parish Men's Retreat will be held Saturday, January 17th-Sunday, January 18th, 2026 at the St. Joseph Hall (101 West Pearl Street, Wapakoneta). This retreat is open to any man 21+ who is interested in making a deeper connection to their faith and our parish community. Paper sign-ups are available at each of our churches, or you can register online at bit.ly/crhp2026 or by scanning this code. Encourage a friend, brother, uncle, father...any man your life to attend!



Help in a Time of Grief: Miscarriage Kit

Our parish wants to ensure that those going through the pain of miscarriage have what they need to navigate the loss and journey through the grief. Miscarriage kits are available to help you honor your child. They are located at Immaculate Conception in the former rectory and are available 24/7. From the parking lot, there is a patio west of the church. Enter the door off of the patio which leads to a little breezeway. You will find the kits in a cabinet in that breezeway. If you are in an emergency situation with an immediate need, please call the emergency line and one of our priests will bring you a kit: 937-419-1137.



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. Could you, or someone you know, benefit from a listening ear? Contact Pam Coon (419)-302-0119, Eric Elsass (419)-234-3029, or scan the QR code for more info about Stephen Ministry.



Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

Esther Ballweg, Bob Bassitt, Janet Bassitt, Mary Berg, Becky Bogden, Penny Borchers, Sue Brake, Suzanne Brossart, Rose Brown, Ruth Brown, Nancy Burrell, Tom Cooper, Darla Finkenbine, Mary Fischer, Agnes Fisher, Sherri Gross, Ben Harshbarger, Dave Hassenauer, Ashley Holthaus, Jeremiah Holthaus, Geri Howard, Charles Huber, Deacon Nick Jurosic, Mike Kentner, Gertrude Kondracki, Amy Kraft, Camille Kramer, Connie Mangen, Nancy Merrill, Elaine Metzger, Dolores Meyer, Rita Monnin, Tony Monnin, Peyton Morgan, Sally Naseman, Wanda Nuss, Virginia Poeppelman, Ken Poplar, Mary Ann Rabette, Donna Reed, Brian Rodhe, Gene Rosenbeck, Sandy Rosengarten, Evelyn Schneider, Joe Schnippel, Mary Schulte, Connie Steinke, Erma Steinke, Janine Steinke, Carmen Tedesco, Paul Tucker, Richard Verbyke, Rita Wagner, Vic Wagner, Priscilla Wilt, and Kaelyn Zwiebel

"In difficult moments, I will fix my gaze upon the silent heart of Jesus, stretched upon the cross..." St. Faustina

St. John Anniversary - Church Cleaning & Anniversary Mass

Thank you to everyone who helped clean St. John before the Anniversary Mass! And thank you to all who came out for the Mass with Archbishop Casey. St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!





Join a Conversation Around Life, Faith, and Meaning

Alpha is a series of group conversations that explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly environment. It's a place to connect with people, where you can say anything you like or nothing at all. Everyone's welcome!

- · Connect with new people
- Watch an episode on a question of faith
- Share your thoughts & hear from others

You're invited to try Alpha! Mondays – Beginning February 2 At the St. Joseph Hall Dinner is at 6:30pm

To register or for more info: holyfaceparish.org/alpha

Consider Lay Missionary Ministry

There are dozens of Catholic lay missionary programs seeking volunteers ages 17-75 for short or long term to serve in the U.S.A. or overseas. For more information, contact the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Mission Office director, Dr. Mike Gable, at mgable@catholicaoc.org. You can check out: https://catholicvolunteernetwork.org/begin/.

Food for All

Nutritious, affordable food is not readily available to every person in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Hunger exists in our communities. Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio travels to where hunger is located in Adams, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Highland Counties. Interested in reducing hunger and food insecurity, volunteering at a mobile pantry or learning more about hunger in our area? Call April Hoak, Food for All coordinator at 513.672.3720 or email ahoak@ccswoh.org.

Mass Attendance (by church & total)

Time/Church	Nov. 29-30	Nov. 22-23	Nov. 15-16
4:00pm IC	215	295	362
4:30pm SJ	267	263	273
8:00am SJF	137	143	191
8:30am SL	181	214	205
10:00am SJ	419	441	446
10:30am IC	345	243	265
Total	1,564	1,599	1,742

Seating Capacities IC: 366; SJF: 197; SJ: 538; SL: 189

<u>Averages from Previous Years</u> 2021: 1,435; 2022: 1,492; 2023: 1,538

Parish Collection

Weekend of November 29-30:

Weekly Goal: \$25,815.00 Week Total: \$21,656.74 58 \$100+ Env. \$8,430.00 **19** \$60-99 Env. \$1,290.00 99 \$30-59 Env. \$4,250.00 101 \$20-29 Env. \$2,152.00 27 \$1-19 Env. \$256.00 Loose \$2,320.00 Online \$2,958.74

Scammers

Please be aware that scammers have been known to impersonate our priests with a text/email that says something like: "Hi, please return my text when you get it. I have a favor to ask." "Are you available?" Their text/email will probably even be signed with the name of one of our priests. If you engage with the scammer, they will likely ask for iTunes gift cards. Our priests will never send messages like this. If you're ever questioning a message, please call the parish office before responding. Ignore the message (or report it as a "phishing message") and say a prayer for the scammer.

Pastoral Council

IC: Todd Dietz, Chris Brown, & Linda Christman SJF: Tony Heuker, Ashley Headapohl, & Linda LaMarr SJ: Jeff Greve, Jenn Schlosser, & Steve Webb SL: Scott Elchert, Jeanie Bergman, & Alan Borchers

Sponsor of the Week



Contact Us

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Grace Weatherhead Communications
Coordinator & Assistant to the Pastor
GraceW@HolyFaceParish.org
Lori Wilson Coordinator of Outreach
LoriW@HolyFaceParish.org

Prayer Lines: SLIC - Brenda Fullenkamp (937)-638-8636; SJ - (419)-738-2115; SJF - Diana Butcher (419)-738-8653 or Rita Wagner (419)-738-7353 Emergency Line: (937)-419-1137 (calls only); Office Phone: (419)-738-2115



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