

# St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Missionaries of the Precious Blood  
St. George Deanery



**Pastor REV. MATTHEW KELLER C.P.P.S.**  
Email [frmatt@glandorfstjohns.com](mailto:frmatt@glandorfstjohns.com)

**Deacon DON INKROTT**

## PARISH OFFICE BUSINESS HOURS

Monday—Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Closed for Lunch from 12:30pm—1:30pm  
Phone: 419-538-6928  
Sacramental Emergencies : 419-778-9339  
Fax: 419-538-6147

Website: [www.stjohnglandorf.org](http://www.stjohnglandorf.org)  
Email: [admin@glandorfstjohns.com](mailto:admin@glandorfstjohns.com)

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Address:  
109 N. Main Street  
PO Box 48  
Glandorf, OH 45848

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**Business Manager:** Ashley Duling  
Email: [bmanager@glandorfstjohns.com](mailto:bmanager@glandorfstjohns.com)

**Administrative Assistant:** Michelle Horstman  
Email: [admin@glandorfstjohns.com](mailto:admin@glandorfstjohns.com)

**Music:** Dan Ellerbrock

**Maintenance:** Joe Schroeder

**Janitors:** Mark Klausing (Church),  
Mark Kaufman (Parish Center)

**Cemetery Caretaker-Manager:** Jeff Gerding

**Preschool Administrator:** Lori Rump  
Email: [preschool@glandorfstjohns.com](mailto:preschool@glandorfstjohns.com)  
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**K-4th Religious Education:** Tammy Schmitz  
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**5th-8th Religious Education:** Mindy Recker  
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**High School Religious Education:** Ruth Gerding  
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Phone: 419-538-6897 Cell: 567-204-1275

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**Parish Council President:** Mike Karhoff  
**Finance Committee Chairperson:** Matt Bockrath  
**Altar Rosary Society President:** Kelsie Salisberry  
**Men's Society President:** Tony Schroeder



*I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.*

JOHN 6:51

## PARISHIONERS

- New Members
- Any status or address changes
- To keep informed, register for Bulletin and Parish Notifications by email or visit St. John's website

Call or email the Parish Office

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN OUR PARISH?

- If you are interested in becoming a Lector, Extraordinary Minister, Usher, Funeral Server, Choir, Spirit and Song Group and any other way.
- If Interested in becoming a member on our Finance Committee or Parish Council Committee. Please call the parish office for more information and to be put on the next ballot.

Call or email the Parish Office.

## 2 FROM THE DESK OF FR. MATT

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

“I am going to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2). These are typically words that we hear at a funeral or if we have a loved one that is dying, we might read these words at their bedside. My grandfather during his life talked openly about his death almost to the point where it would make some of his family members feel uncomfortable. But when the doctor told him that the treatments were no longer working, and he had a short time to live. My grandfather began to ask questions of faith and what is to come beyond this life. I remember in midst of this questioning of faith, when he was no longer conscious sitting at his bedside reading these words to him try and comfort him and give him peace before he died. Typically, when we hear our scriptures today, they are meant to give us comfort, in a difficult time.

Sometimes we need scripture to give us comfort, but this is not the point of the message that Jesus is trying to make with us in our scriptures today.

So, what is the point that Jesus is trying to make? The point that Jesus is trying to make is that he is the Son of God and that we can trust Jesus just like we can trust God. The only way that we can get to the Father is through him. This is the point and the disciples are having trouble understanding “Philip said to, ‘Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.’” (John 14:8). It is easy for us to be critical of the disciples for not understanding, but if we look at ourselves in the mirror sometimes, we also have trouble trying make sense out of what the Lord is trying to teach us. We can often view this not understanding as being a bad thing but this not understanding is not necessarily a bad thing. Our God is a mystery which means we do not fully understand. Which is challenge for to continue to learn more and more and to help us grow in understanding of our God but also to grow in our relationship with our God. It is not some much that we understand that is important but that we believe. Jesus is preparing place for us yes. Jesus is preparing place for us not so much like we might be preparing a room for guest. But Jesus is creating a place for us where we can be in relationship with our God. Jesus creates this space through the grace of the sacraments. This weekend our First Communion students are going to receive Christ’s Body and Blood in the Eucharist for the first time. They have been preparing for this moment for a long time and they are excited. Just as they have been preparing so has Jesus been preparing for them to have this encounter with God.

Our hearts and souls long to go to this space. For it is when we reach this place we are at peace. Our place is ready let the Lord take us to that place.



## ~WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE~

**MONDAY, MAY 8**

7:35am Rosary

**8:00am Communion Service-Don Inkrott****TUESDAY, MAY 9**

8:25am Rosary

**8:45am Ann Bockrath, John Brown, Grace Suever(AN)****WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 St. John of Avila, St. Damien de Veuster**

7:15-7:45am Confessions

7:35am Rosary

**8:00am L/D Norbert and Francie Ellerbrock Family, Bob Nartker**

6:30-7:30pm Adoration

7:00pm-7:30pm Confessions

**THURSDAY, MAY 11**

8:25 am Rosary

**8:45am Paul Schulte****FRIDAY, MAY 12 Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, St. Pancras**

7:15am-7:45am Confession

7:35am Rosary

**8:00am L/D Arnold Borgelt Family, Elaine Ellerbrock**

12:00pm Rosary

**SATURDAY, MAY 13 Our Lady of Fatima**

7:35am Rosary

**8:00am Kristine Tripp, Marily Schroeder**

8:30am Confessions

4:00pm Confessions

**4:30pm- Eileen Schroeder,**

L/D Richard &amp; Dorothy Ellerbrock Family,

Denny Unverferth, Alvin &amp; Gertrude Schmitz,

Mass in Thanksgiving for Gib and Shirley Kleman

50th Wedding Anniversary,

L/D Norma Ellerbrock Family, Tom Kaufman,

Edna Riepenhoff

5:30pm Baptism—Deacon Don

**SUNDAY, MAY 14 Sixth Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day**

7:35am Rosary

**8:00am Betty Birkemeyer, L/D Albert & Elizabeth Roof Family,**

L/D Mildred &amp; Tom Nienberg Family, Agnes Sager,

Doris Birkemeier

**10:30am Jackie Klear-Massey, Elmer Tobe,**

L/D Ken Ellerbrock Family

**WEEKDAY SERVERS**

Mon	<b>8:00am</b>	No Mass
Tues	<b>8:45am</b>	Students
Wed	<b>8:00am</b>	Gene & Rose Warnecke
Thur	<b>8:45am</b>	Students
Fri	<b>8:00am</b>	Elton Schroeder, Roger Schroeder
Sat	<b>8:00am</b>	Alania Duling, Nolan Duling, Royce Ellerbrock

**Next Sunday, May 14****SUNDAY SERVERS**

<b>Sat</b>	<b>4:30pm</b>	Sam Warnecke, Brandon Warnecke, Makenna Siefker
<b>Sun</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Dylan Siefker, Owen Schumaker, Aubrey Leopold
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	Trevor Maag, Grant Leopold, Lauren Kimmet

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

<b>Sat</b>	<b>4:30pm</b>	Steve Brown	Reagan Miller
		Sharon Brown	Morgan Miller
<b>Sun</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Tom Schmitz/Deb Burwell	Diane Nienberg
		Gretchen Schmitz	Doug Karhoff
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	Tara Gerding	Chris Birkemeier
		Rose Ellerbrock	Sharon Nussbaum

**SUNDAY GIFT BEARERS**

<b>Sat</b>	<b>4:30pm</b>	Gib & Shirley Kleman Grandkids
<b>Sun</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Cliff & Janet Schroeder
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	Keith & Beth Hempfling

**MAY USHERS**

<b>Sat</b>	<b>4:30pm</b>	Don & Ginnie Riepenhoff
<b>Sun</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Tom Morman, Tony Maag
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	Louis & Mary Ellen Halker

**COUNTERS FOR SUNDAY: 5****ROSARY NEXT SUNDAY:** Edna & Diane Nienberg**MAY FUNERAL ROSARY LEADERS:** Deb & Joe Schroeder,

Michelle Horstman, Alice Diemer, Mary Rose Ellerbrock, Jerry &amp; Rachel Recker

**SACRAMENTS****Baptism**

Instruction is necessary when this is your first child. To arrange a baptism or register for the parental baptism class, please contact the Parish Office.

**PARENTAL BAPTISM CLASS (by Deacon Don) Parish Center**

Room 15 9:00am -10:30am

Upcoming classes: May 21, 2023, September 10, 2023

**Marriage**

Please contact the Parish Office six months in advance to start planning your wedding. A marriage preparation class is required.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASS 1-DAY CLASS**

organized by Dr. Craig and Wendy Imm in the Parish Center Cafeteria Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 8:00am

**Reconciliation (Confession)**

Wednesday 7:15am -7:45am, 7:00—7:30pm

Friday 7:15am—7:45am

Saturday 4:00pm—4:15pm

**Anointing of the Sick**

Please call the Parish Office if you need a Priest for Anointing of the Sick or Last Rites. If a Sacramental Emergency call 419-778-9339.

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Wednesday 6:30pm—7:30pm 1st Saturday 5:30pm - 8:00am

1st Friday 1:00pm—4:00pm with Benediction

**Holy Orders and Religious Life**

Contact the vocation office at the Toledo Diocese at 419-244-6711 or e-mail [psmith@toledodiocese.org](mailto:psmith@toledodiocese.org) or contact the vocation office at the Missionaries of the Precious Blood 937-228-9263 or e-mail [vocation@cpps-preciousblood.org](mailto:vocation@cpps-preciousblood.org).

# 4 PRAYER AND STEWARDSHIP

## STEWARDSHIP April 30, 2023

### Offering

Loose	\$ 944.00
Adult Envelope	\$ 7,644.25
Children	\$ 147.06
Maintenance	\$ 370.00
Catholic Mission Appeal	\$ 377.28
Online Giving	\$ 2,290.00
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$ 11,772.59</b>

Thank you to all of you who have been continuing to make your Weekly/monthly contributions to your St. John's parish family and for sharing your treasure, time, & talent with your St. John's parish family!

### Give Online Today!

Visit our website to get the E-Giving Form to fill out and return to the Parish Office. It is located in the left side above the Menu options. [www.stjohnlandorf.org](http://www.stjohnlandorf.org)

**Heartbeat** needs Girls 2T and 3T summer clothes and pajamas and Size 1 Huggies or Pampers.

**Ottawa Food Pantry** needs the following items crackers (any type), Peanut Butter, Boxed Potatoes, Salad dressings, boxed dinners, Box Pancake mix, canned potatoes, mayonnaise, can pasta, cream corn, dry beans, noodles, fresh style green beans, snacks (chips, nuts, cookies), toilet paper



## 2023 DIOCESAN ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

*This Is The Day!* Through our contributions, we can assure the continued existence of many important programs that help tens of thousands in our diocese each year, including supporting the education of our seminarians, caring for the sick and needy, and providing faith formation for our youth. We ask you once again for your help. Please respond generously. For more information, visit [acatoledo.org](http://acatoledo.org). Thank you!

**Our goal this year is \$46,479.00.**

**We currently pledged \$32,937.54 70.87% of goal .**

### OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Please remember in your Masses and prayers the soul of our faithful departed . Our sincere sympathy is extended to their families, relatives, friends & neighbors of ....

**PATRICIA DECKER**

### WEDDING BANN

**BANN II- Taylor Heffner** of St. Gerard Catholic Church, daughter of Jeremy and Angie Heffner & **Riley Karhoff** of this parish, son of Mike and Becky Karhoff

The Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month.

**May: For Church movement and groups**  
We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

### Our Heavenly Mother

Immaculate Mary , your praises we sing. You reign now in heaven with Jesus our King. O God, who have been pleased to gladden the world By the Resurrection of you Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Grant, we pray, that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary, We may receive the joys of everlasting life.

### Pray For Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Apollonia Verhoff 5/9/95	Mark R Ellerbrock 5/12/17
Carl A Romer 5/10/97	Henrietta M Heckman 5/13/93
Amber Debra Foppe 5/11/98	Joseph W Hageman 5/13/08
Alphonse W Ellerbrock 5/11/99	Gerald J Brinkman 5/14/05
Sylvester J Birkemeier 5/11/04	Irene M Yaufman 5/15/07
Robert A Schroeder 5/11/06	Nancy J Schmitz 5/15/14

### THANK YOU

**THANK YOU** to the Glandorf Men's Society for their generous donation to cover the cost of a couple of new flags, poles, stands and eagle toppers to replace the well used and broken ones used by both the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

**THANK YOU** to Elton Schroeder, Cliff Schroeder and Mike Karhoff for training our 5th—8th grade servers, so they can assist or serve Father Matt or Deacon Don at the altar before, during and after Mass.



# THANK YOU



Hi Everyone,

I just wanted to say **THANK YOU**, for all the donations towards the Food Pantry here at St. Joan of Arc Parish, in Toledo (my internship parish). It is greatly appreciated. Thank you to the whole parish, but especially to the CCD program and the Outreach Group.

If I remember correctly it took **SEVEN** vehicles to bring all the food donations up here to St. Joan of Arc's in Toledo. Thank you also for the gift of money towards the parish food pantry; for the money will help fill in the gaps on certain foods that are not donated.

It was inspiring to see the response from St. John's, to where the parishioners here at St. Joan of Arc, were amazed by your kindness and generosity, in helping them to feed on average 200 families each week. So, thank you again for organizing and donating, so to help fulfill one of the Corporal Works of Mercy; by helping to feed the hungry. St. John the Baptist Parish and all of you are amazing!

God Bless!

*Eric T. Kaufman*  
Sem. Eric Kaufman

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## Elementary and Jr High School Corner



*Congratulations ON YOUR First Communion. MAY YOU FEEL THE WARMTH AND COMFORT OF THE LORD'S love WITH YOU EVERY DAY!*

Blessing of Religious Articles on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 8:00am Mass

### MAY CROWNING 2023



Throughout history, Catholics have long honored the Blessed Virgin Mary during the month of May. To symbolize her significance in the Church and in our lives, the "May Crowning" is set up to display her queenship as the mother of Jesus.

## High School Corner

### BACCALAUREATE MASS AND LUNCHEON

The Glandorf senior baccalaureate mass and luncheon will be on Sunday, May 21st. After 10:30 mass all seniors and their parents are invited to St. John's Hall for lunch. **Last call for Seniors to sign up for Baccalaureate Mass \*\* Use the QR code or link to RSVP by May 5, 2023 \*\***



<https://forms.gle/m6t9ksJe4b1s6Trw6>

### 2023-2024 CCD REGISTRATION

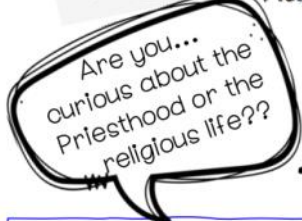
Parents of Freshman through Juniors should have received a Flocknote on Monday regarding signing up for HS CCD for next Fall. Below is the link/QR code to do so. Please sign up by May 15, 2023 <https://form.jotform.com/231084008377151>



Your invited!



With the Priests!



If you feel God may be calling you to the priesthood, or you simply haven't ruled it out, Fr. Matt would like to invite you to join him for pizza and pop to talk about it! Fr. Steve Dos Santos will be there as well. He is the Vocations Director for the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

**Who:** Young men In Junior high, high school and college  
Parents are welcome also!

**When:** Saturday, May 13, after the 4:30 Mass

**Where:** St. John's Rectory

If you are planning to attend, please **RSVP** to the rectory at 419.538.6928 by **Wednesday, May 10.**

## TMİY (THAT MAN IS YOU)



Thank you to all those that joined us for TMİY "THE LIGHT OF MEN", YEAR 10. Fall Sessions will start back up in September, watch the bulletin for details.

All men are welcome. We invite you to join us whether its for 1 week or every week!!! Help us build strong catholic men in all of our parish!

Login to your online access to review or catch-up on any of the previous years. Share them with friends and family!

For more information, contact Mike Karhoff @ [mbkarhoff@bright.net](mailto:mbkarhoff@bright.net) or 419-796-0763.

## RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Monday, May 8, 6:00-7:30pm in the Cafeteria. **Snack by Kathy Schmiedebusch**

**Topic: Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy: Recognizing Your Gifts**

These sessions are open to all interested persons – those wishing to become a Catholic and for Catholics who wish to up-date themselves. If you are interested, please call the rectory 419-538-6928 to sign up.

## ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN DAY

The Putnam County Council on Aging will hold their annual Senior Citizen Day Celebration on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at the Kalida K of C Hall. Lunch will be served at noon with entertainment by the Country Gentlemen to follow. Please call 419-523-4121 for tickets. Ticket price is \$10.00. Please RSVP by May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## PARISH CENTER ACTIVITIES

Every Second Sunday of the Month

May 14th



### COFFEE AND DONUTS AND GRAND-OF CLUB

located in Room 15 after 8:00am and 10:30am Masses by Lori and Mark Klausing.



### LENDING LIBRARY

located in Room 15 after 8:00am and 10:30am Masses



### PARISH MUSEUM

Visitation Hours

from 9:00am—12:00pm

Located in Hallway. For visitors outside of the scheduled time, please contact Michael Leach 419-538-6948. St. John's Historical Society



Newsletters are available in the back of Church.

## ALL ARE WELCOME!

Ohio Right To Life Chief Executive Officer, National Speaker, Published Author, & "Say Yes To Life" Radio Personality,

### PETER RANGE

WILL BE GIVING A KEYNOTE LECTURE IN LIMA!



"A Fierce Advocate For The Pre-Born"

JOIN US ON MAY 11, 2023, 7 TO 8 PM  
ST. ROSE PARISH HALL, 523 N. WEST ST., LIMA

Hosted by the St. Martin de Porres Council #17654 Knights of Columbus, Lima, Ohio

## MOTHER'S DAY CHICKEN BBQ

sponsored by Putnam County Cancer Golf Outing Committee in memory of Jean Hermiller will be catered by Dale Niese on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 till sold out at the corner of SR 224 & 65 in front of Well Grounded Cafe. All carry out meals are \$10.00. Proceeds from the dinner & golf outing on Aug 5<sup>th</sup> @ Pike Run will stay in our County & benefit the Putnam County Cancer Assistance Program (CAP)

Father Matt presents

7TH -11TH GRADE

PARENT MEETING

TUESDAY,  
MAY 16, 2023  
7:00PM-8:00PM  
In Parish Center Cafeteria

**Topics Include:**

- What kinds of activities you would like your teens to participate in?
- Discuss some ideas for youth ministry at St. John's?

Come and share your ideas!

## BIBLE STUDY



Coming this fall to our parish! A monthly bible study for all women of the parish ages 12-100. It is called *Beloved- Opening Your heart* by Lisa Brenninkmeyer of Walking with Purpose. This series of bible studies are designed to help you to encounter Christ personally through the pages of the Bible.

God's love for us is relentless and He calls us to a life of purpose. As we lean into Him, we'll learn that nothing in our lives is wasted. When we discover who we are in Christ, it makes all the difference in the world. More information to come! Contact Stacey & Sophia Bennett 567-376-0125 for more information.

## ALTAR ROSARY UPDATE

- Thank you to Kelsie Salisbury (President), Kelly Inkrott (Secretary), Emily Heckman (Commissioner) for your time and talent as an officer of St. John's Altar Rosary.
- Thank you to Betsy Maag (President), Heather Haselman (VICE PRESIDENT), Gwen Klear (Treasurer), Jackie Schroeder (Commissioner), Beth Trombley (Volunteer member) for leading our St. John's Altar Rosary this year!



## Bishop Robert Barron's DVD presentations on "THE MASS"

THURSDAYS MAY 11, 18, 25, 2023  
ST. JOHN'S PARISH CENTER, 9:30-11:00AM

Walk through the Liturgy with Bishop Barron and be transformed through insights on this most privileged and intimate encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. See how the Mass brings us out of the fallen world and into the heavenly realm, how it resonates with a call from God and a response from his people, the Church, and most importantly, how we are intimately joined with the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus through the Holy Eucharist. "THE MASS" will help you understand how to fully, consciously, and actively participate in the source and summit of the Christian life.

Please Join Us as we grow deeper in our appreciation for the MASS!

### Y.E.S.—Youth Elect Service Project Donations needed

The 2023 Y.E.S. project is hosted by St. Joseph's in Fort Jennings June 1-3 and involves high school youth and adults helping those in need with painting, cleaning, and landscaping, or many other tasks that are just too difficult for our area residents to do. The ultimate goal is to spread the love of Christ and His message of Hope to those who need it most. Most of our work consists of helping private homeowners without family members nearby or unable to maintain or improve their homes. Worksites are all over the county and supplies are needed to help. All work done is at no cost to those being helped. The youth and adults are asked to contribute a fee to cover the cost of a t-shirt, food and supplies. We are asking residents, businesses and organizations to contribute as you can. If you would like to make a donation of supplies, we can always use cleaning supplies, small tools, water, soda or snacks. A monetary donation is appreciated as well to help cover the cost of mulch or larger supplies. Please contact Michelle Horstman 419-538-6928 or e-mail at [admin@glandorfstjohns.com](mailto:admin@glandorfstjohns.com). Checks may be payable to St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Y.E.S. and sent to PO Box 68, Ft. Jennings, OH 45844. Thank you for your support of our youth groups and this project that teaches being of service to others long term benefits for our parish communities! The rewards are eternal!

### Y.E.S.—Youth Elect Service Project—June 1-3

The 2023 Y.E.S. project will be held at Fort Jennings High School this year beginning Thursday, June 1 at 5:30 p.m. Students grade 8 through graduating seniors are encouraged to join us for this weekend service retreat. This will give you opportunities to make new friends from throughout the St. George Deanery and have some great fun, grow in faith and be the hands and feet of Christ in your community! This 3-day rewarding experience will close with 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, June 3 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Registration forms are available by contacting Michelle Horstman or located in the vestibules in the back of church, and are due by May 20! Bring your friends because the opportunities are endless and the reward is eternal!

### Y.E.S. Youth Elect Service Project Team Leaders Needed

Do you like to spend time helping those in need? We'd love for you to join our adult team leaders for the Y.E.S. weekend June 1-3 starting at Fort Jennings High School and working throughout the St. George Deanery! Adult team leaders and assistant leaders need to be current college freshmen, up to retirees! Registration forms are located in the vestibules in the back of church. Nothing is more rewarding than sharing your time and faith with the Young Church of today! For questions or to sign up as a team leader please contact Michelle Horstman at 419-538-6928. Please answer His call today because the opportunities are endless and the reward is eternal!



## Revival's in the Air AN EXCITING JOURNEY AHEAD

Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

### TO GET UPDATES

Go to [eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org) or [eucharisticcongress.org](http://eucharisticcongress.org) and sign up for updates.

"The only remedy I know to combat the Spiritual indifference of our times is to surround it with fire, the fire of the Eucharist"

St. Peter Julian Eymard

# 6 A NOTE FROM SEM. ERIC KAUFMAN

+ Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto

(April/May 2023)

Hi Everyone,

Prayers for all of you. Thank you for your prayers for me. Thank you also for your support of the Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal. A huge portion of this yearly fundraiser goes towards the vocations office and helps pay for the education of the future priests of the diocese. Some people have asked that if we just did the Living Christ campaign for the diocese, why is there the ACA then this year? Well, there is an easy way to look at it. The Living Christ campaign can be compared to buying a house or a car or completing a big project on one of them. It is something you do not usually buy often. While the ACA is for the yearly operating budget and can be looked at like paying your monthly water bill or putting gas in your car. It helps to cover those costs that reoccur each month/year. So, thank you again for supporting both campaigns.

In just a few weeks, I will have five years completed on my seven-year path to the priesthood. Friday, May 12th, will be my last day at St. Joan of Arc. The internship experience has been fantastic! I have learned so much this year from Monsignor Borger and the parishioners. It is incredible how fast time has gone by. I am so thankful to God for this time on internship to witness what life is like in the parish and add knowledge and skills to my toolbox for the future. I will never forget the parishioners here at St. Joan of Arc and their kindness, love, and strong faith.

Back in March, my friend Mark (soon to be Fr. Mark) and I took a trip out west to New Mexico. It was a fantastic trip. New Mexico has quite the history; from Native Americans, the Spanish, Mexicans, to Americans – all have left a lasting legacy. It is also home to various interests: Catholicism, the military/nuclear bombs, and cowboys to aliens. We started our travels only forty miles from the U.S. southern border at White Sands National Park. This national park's sand dunes are unique; they are made of gypsum. It will always be memorable because being there during Lent, as we walked the trails through the sand, with the mountains in the distance, our experiences matched perfectly with the Office of Readings because it was on Moses and the Israelites traveling in the desert.

From White Sands, we went north to Santa Fe and experienced the rich history and catholic heritage of that city and area. The biggest highlight of the trip was visiting the Loretto Chapel, home of the miraculous staircase – built by St. Joseph (please look up this amazing story). Another great stop was El Santuario de Chimayó. It is a shrine just north of Santa Fe known for its holy soil. Healings and miracles have been attributed to this holy soil, similar to the holy water in Lourdes, France.

In March, we interns returned to the seminary for a workshop week. It was a week of reflection on how the time in the parish was going and learning from different presenters on topics like encouraging vocations, transgenderism, pregnancy centers, abortions/abortion drugs and laws, caring for the deaf and those dealing with addiction, self-care for ourselves as priests, prison ministry, experiences from being a pastor for multiple parishes, and more.

Lastly, summer is almost here, and it will be a summer of different experiences for me. To start, two of the other seminarians on internship and I will be doing homeless ministry in Dayton for a few weeks, then we will spend a week with Catholic Charities here in the Diocese. We will then have some free time before we head off to experience (what is called) the “5th gospel”, meaning a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This pilgrimage will be through the seminary. Finally, the last assignment for the summer will be a five-day conference on church leadership and management at Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA. Then in August, it is back to seminary for my last two school years. For I will soon be knocking on the door to the diaconate (May 2024) and then priesthood (May 2025). I am so looking forward to it. I can't wait!

God Bless!

Sem. Eric Kaufman



White Sands National Park, The Miraculous Staircase, & El Santuario de Chimayó (Shrine with Holy Soil)

*the mustard seed*

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