

SAINT POPE JOHN XXIII



Our Lady of Mount Carmel campus
381 Robbins Avenue, Niles, OH 44446
telephone: 330-652-5825 • facsimile: 330-544-1872

Saint Stephen campus
129 West Park Avenue, Niles, Ohio 44446

email: parish611@youngstowndiocese.org • website: www.saintpopejohnxxiiiniles.com

Office hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30am – 4:00pm

VERY REVEREND JOHN-MICHAEL LAVELLE
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
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MR. MICHAEL HANSHAW - PERMANENT DEACON
MEG DANILUK & STEPHEN GARCHAR - PARISH MUSICIANS
CHRISSE LANHAM & PAM SOWERS - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

PARISH MISSION

We are a faith community of baptized Roman Catholics who feel called to build our lives in the image of Christ through Word, Sacrament and Christian service. Together we draw the people of Niles, Ohio and the surrounding areas to a closer relationship with God and each other. We serve in humility and love imitating his Holiness, Pope John XXIII.

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025 (OLMC)

Weekday

8:30am – Godmother by Marianne

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025 (SS)

Weekday

8:30am – Mary Ann Ring by husband, Joe

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025 (OLMC)

Weekday

8:30am – Stephen and Rose Caruso by family
9:00-10:00am – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025 (SS)

Weekday

8:30am – Billy Lynch by Dad
9:00-10:00am – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Weekday

8:30am – at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in McDonald

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025 (OLMC)

Vigil, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:00-3:45pm – Confessions (**OLMC**)

4:00pm – Angie and Joe Martin by Carol and Jack

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30-8:55am – Confessions (**SS**)

9:00am – Ed and Betty Entler by John and Vicki Garland
(**SS**)

11:30am – Macali family by Paul Kovach family (**OLMC**)

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR . . .

THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER

The feast of the Chair of Saint Peter has nothing to do with a piece of furniture. The “chair” symbolizes the authority of Saint Peter and his successors who have served the Church of Jesus Christ as the Bishop of Rome (the Pope). As a matter of fact, in Rome’s Saint Peter’s Basilica, there is a chair, enshrined in the sumptuous Altar of the Chair of Saint Peter by the great architect Bernini, but it is a symbol representing the 2,000-year-old papacy and unity the Pope continues to bring to Catholics around the world. Without such unity the Church would splinter into numerous sects and divisions.

So, every year on Feb. 22, the Church celebrates the continuing role of the Pope, the Vicar of Christ, beginning with Saint Peter. The use of the term chair in the feast day comes from the Latin term cathedra, meaning the seat of government. But how did such a feast day ever get started? We need to go back to the time of Jesus for the answer.

Following the Resurrection, Jesus confirms Peter’s primacy over the other apostles as well as authority over His Church. He gives Peter the keys to the kingdom, telling him to “Feed my lambs.... Feed my sheep” (see Jn 21:15-17). This authority, this responsibility given to Peter, is meant to be passed on to each of his successors. Jesus did not intend for the Church to end with Peter.

Saint Peter takes on the role assigned by Christ beginning in the Upper Room. Pope Benedict XVI writes in his book “Holiness is Always in Season” (Ignatius Press, 2011): “So what was the ‘Chair’ of Saint Peter? Chosen by Christ as the ‘rock’ on which to build the Church (cf. Mt 16:18), he began his ministry in Jerusalem, after the Ascension of the Lord and Pentecost. The Church’s first ‘seat’ was the Upper Room, and it is likely that a special place was reserved for Simon Peter in that room where Mary, Mother of Jesus, also prayed with the disciples” (p. 65).

Even before Pentecost, Peter orchestrated the selection of Matthias to replace Judas, which was the first apostolic succession (see Acts 1:15-26). Peter preached on that day of Pentecost and was so inspirational that 3,000 people were baptized after listening to him (Acts 2:41). He was the first apostle to be given the grace to perform a miracle; curing the lame man at “the Beautiful gate” (Acts 3:1-10). King Herod Agrippa had Peter arrested and shackled in prison between two guards, but an “angel of the Lord” saved him (Acts 12:1-10). Peter’s decisive speech at the Council of Jerusalem in A.D. 50 resolved the debate there (Acts 15:6-12). That he was singled out for a special role among all the apostles is undisputable.

On this feast day, the universal Church acknowledges that Saint Peter was the first pope and that his mission continues through the Holy Father today. Simply stated, that mission is to care for the people of God; to carry on the customs, rituals, teachings and truths of Jesus; and to uphold the unity of His Church. Moreover, the Church proclaims that the authority given to Saint Peter by Our Lord has been handed down to Peter’s successors for the past 2,000 years.

As we observe this celebration of Saint Peter and the Papacy, let us also continue to pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis. May God’s healing hand bring comfort to him during his current illness.

NILES COMMUNITY SERVICES is collecting canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.) during the month of March. Please give to one of the ushers at church at the beginning of Mass or put in the clear bins in the entrance of the church.

COMMUNITY SUPPERS for the month of February will be held on Thursdays from 4:30-6:00pm at New Hope United Methodist Church, 21 Fairview Avenue, Niles, Ohio.



Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick of our parish community and for all who are in need especially: *Katrina Marie, Merela Carrido, Steve McDonnell, Dennis Liebert, Debbie Bindas, Joyce Cunningham, Joseph Russo, Beverly Jones, Karen Battin-Vitale, Dorothy Bianco, Alida Lendvay, Mary Beth Havasi, Janet Kandrach, Sue Kopetsky, John Wilson, Kathy DeCristofaro, Mitzi Malvasi, Lou Lukz, Jennifer Cable, Michelle Howard, Jo Medovich, Kevin Grafton, Mary Catherine Freel, Kara Stanford, Arlene Wilson, Mary Miller, Bob Leonard, Mike Kozak, Bob Adler, Sandy LaMonica, Carri R., Pat Hines, Debbie Kovell, Lois DiFrancesco, Jeff Burke, Jack DiTunno, Tammy C., Faith Harnack, Paul Lapolla, Jim Orsine, Connie Hake, Michael Edward Thompson, Pat Spisak, Martha Williams, Marie Perfette, Denise Burke, Sue Mollis, Chuck and Bonnie Jorza, Connie Brandt, Rachel Tarr, Steve and Dee Cvengros, Rita Mae Dodasovich, Al Conti, Rosalie McGinnis, Gavin Lengle, Peg McGinnis, Todd Beedy, John Daubner, Father Murphy, Peter Ford, Hudson Joseph, Nanette Ball, Rick Cool, Clair Darby Camp, Bridget Darby Flores, Eli Flores, Paul Saban, Sr., Debbie Schimley, Lois Hockenberry, Bobbi Wilson, Gloria Nitsky, Lola L., Loretta Agresta, Tom Scarnecchia, Kamden Zickefoose, Timothy Childress, Jim and Josephine Villecco, Marie Vross, Larry Batovsky, Sr., Carrie Trybus, Tamie Ezzo, and all those who suffer any illness, especially those who have no one to pray for them.*

WINTER WEATHER

With the on-set of the winter weather, just a reminder, when the Niles City Schools are closed or on a 2 hour delay due to the weather conditions, the weekday morning Mass is cancelled, and the intention will be rescheduled.

MASS Intentions

All Mass Intentions have been scheduled that were returned with the form and stipend. There are weekday dates available and a few weekend dates for Masses for 2025. If you are interested in booking Masses, please stop by the parish office between 8:30am – 4:00pm Monday through Thursday. If you are unable to do so, you may contact the parish office at 330-652-5825. The Mass will be scheduled once the office receives the information & stipend. Thank you.

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2025 – SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2024 TAX STATEMENTS

We have concluded the final posting of the numerous envelopes that were received. As such, 2024 tax statements are now available. To obtain a statement, *please call* the office and it will be ready in two days. Statements will not be done while you wait. Thank you for your patience!

Mass Count for February 15-16, 2025

4:00pm – 164 (OLMC)

9:00am – 162 (SS)

11:30am – 134 (OLMC)

Total 460 people out of 1,161 registered parishioners
(We are in the process of updating our active records)



LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 1, 2025

4:00PM Mass (OLMC)

Readers: Cathy Lukasko, Trish Scarmuzzi

Servers: Kelly Lukasko

EM's: Anna Mae Cuchna, Bernie Profato, Alec Lukasko, Debbie Barber

Ushers: Jim Davis, Joseph Zuzolo, Dennis Youll, Maurice Candio, Barbara Frank, Anna Zysk

Sunday, March 2, 2025

9:00AM Mass (SS)

Sacristan: Tom Fricker

Reader: Mike Sylvester

Extraordinary Minister of the Bread: Sherrie Sylvester

Extraordinary Minister of the Cup: Jacquie Whetstone
John Cullivan

Altar Server: Steve Garcar

Greeter: Mary Ann McMahon, John Daubner

11:30AM Mass (OLMC)

Readers: Laura Vennitti, Anka Krakora

Servers: Santino Ciminero, Dante DeGennaro,
John Marco DeGennaro

EM's: Jamie Aulet, Ben DeGennaro, Anna Marie Beagle,
Yvonne Toto

Ushers: Michael Lastic, Ray Muche, Anthony DeMaiolo, Jr.,
Ed Bugos, George Kaniclides, Harry Salapata,
Michael Krakora, Don Andres

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CHURCH CLEANING will be on Friday, February 28th at 9:00am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel campus. If you have a few hours, please stop by the church to help!



Charles J. Soda
Father Frank Zanni
Annamaria Ferraiolo



Religious Education

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

Parish School of Religion February and March Calendar:

Sunday, February 23, 10:10-11:25am, Grades K-8

Saturday, March 1, PSR Family Session –

Mardi Gras and Lent, 10:00am-12:00pm

Sunday, March 2, 10:10-11:25am, Grades K-8

Sunday, March 9, 10:10-11:25am, Grades K-8

Sunday, March 16, 10:10-11:25am, Grades K-8

Sunday, March 23, 10:10-11:25am, Grades K-8

Saturday, March 29, Confirmation (Grade 8) –

Saint Columba Cathedral at 11:00am

Sunday, March 30, PSR Session, 10:10-11:25am, Grades K-8

All classes are held in the Social Hall.



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

(February 15-16, 2025)

Sunday collection:	\$	9,735.00
Monthly Dues:	\$	325.00
Parish Projects:	\$	90.00
St. Vincent de Paul (SS)	\$	220.00
Church Overseas:	\$	1.00
Catholic Echo:	\$	10.00
Initial Offering:	\$	5.00
Saint Vincent de Paul (OLMC):	\$	20.00
Father's Day:	\$	1.00
Cemetery Fund:	\$	32.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Scholarships

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The Thomas Murphy Interfaith Scholarship Dinner will be held on Sunday, April 27th at Ciminero's Banquet Centre. Any high school Senior of our parish interested in applying, please contact the parish office at 330-652-5825 to get an application. Applications need to be returned to the parish office by Tuesday, March 25th. Winners will be announced at the dinner. Any questions, please contact Rosella at 330-980-9367.

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2025 – SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Eagle of the Cross award is given annually to outstanding juniors and seniors in high school within the Diocese of Youngstown who show particular zeal in the improvement of their own parish ministry programs, high school ministry teams, or youth work regarding the faith within the Diocese.

Nominees must be Catholic, and must exemplify the qualities of moral integrity, prayer, good works, and Catholic-Christian leadership. This award is the highest honor presented to the youth by the Diocese of Youngstown. Up to 3 awards per county for parish involvement, and up to 2 awards per diocesan Catholic high school are awarded each year.

Nominations for Eagle of the Cross 2025 are now being accepted until **Friday, February 28 at 3:00 pm**. *This is when nominations must be received at the diocesan offices by. Please plan accordingly if you plan to mail your nomination(s), as nominations received after the due date will not be accepted.* Forms and packets are available in the parish office. Please be sure to review the entire packet before nominating, as some instructions have been revised since 2024. Winners will be announced around the end of March and the ceremony with Bishop David J. Bonnar will take place on Monday, April 28, 2025 at 6:00pm at Saint Columba Cathedral. Please visit the website periodically for more information as it is posted to stay up-to-date throughout the nomination and acceptance process.

PALMS FOR BURNING

As we prepare for the coming celebration of Ash Wednesday on March 5th, we are in need of your old palm. Please bring your palms from last year's celebration of Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion to Mass next week so we may burn them to create the ashes with which we will be signed at the beginning of our Lenten journey. There will be receptacles at the entrances in which you may place your old palms. Thank you.



FISH DINNERS: Please save the following dates for the Fish dinners on Fridays: **March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th April 4th and 11th** from 4:00-7:00pm in the Social Hall. If you are available to volunteer, please call the parish office.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY DINING HALL SERVING DAYS:

February 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th at 2355 Niles Road SE, Warren from 11:30am-1:00pm. Up-to-date Dining info at 330-369-1030.

Need Assistance? Please call the Saint Vincent de Paul Admin office at 234-223-2933 if you have any questions about SVDP programs and services or need help finding other resources in the community.

ASH WEDNESDAY & STATIONS OF THE CROSS



On Wednesday, March 5th we begin our Lenten Journey with **Ash Wednesday**. There will be Three Masses at 8:30am and 12:10pm at the Mount Carmel Campus and Mass will be at 6:00pm at the Saint Stephen Campus. We will also begin celebrating **Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 7th at Saint Stephen Campus will hold Stations at 3:00pm. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Campus will have Stations at 7:00pm.** As with previous years, the reflection for the Stations of the Cross will be **Mary's Way of the Cross**, meditating on the thoughts and feelings in Mary's heart as her Son was crucified and put to death.

"The Light is ON for You" An Evening of Reconciliation

On Wednesday, March 19, 2025, our parish and parishes throughout the Diocese of Youngstown will offer an **"Evening of Reconciliation."** During this time the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available as a sign for all to embrace and live God's mercy and love more completely. As Pope Francis says, *"the joy of God is the joy of forgiveness."* Plan to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of your Lenten journey on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at Saint Stephen Campus at 6:00pm.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: "But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without expecting anything back..." - LUKE 6:35

Easier said than done, right? But, if we are to imitate Christ, most of us need to practice mercy and compassion more frequently. Start with the little daily annoyances that we experience, the unkind word or hateful glance we receive. Instead of plotting revenge on that person, try saying a quick prayer for that person. Praying for our enemies doesn't change them, it changes us. Mercy and compassion will keep us on the path to holiness.

VOCATION THOUGHT: "Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you". (Luke 6:27)

Priests, religious brothers and sisters, and married couples are each called to live out a vocation rooted in love and forgiveness. Is God calling you to witness to His mercy and compassion through a religious vocation? Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Chad Johnson at 330-744-8451 or cjohnson@youngstowndiocese.org.

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