

SAINT POPE JOHN XXIII



Our Lady of Mount Carmel campus
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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
FATHER BALA PRASAD MARNENI - PAROCHIAL VICAR
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, APRIL 28, 2025 (OLMC)

Easter Weekday

8:30am – Bonnie McConnell by Chuck and Mary Nader

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025 (SS)

Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

8:30am – Gavine Ross by family

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025 (OLMC)

Easter Weekday

8:30am – Mickey and Tony Tripodi by family

9:00-10:00am – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025 (SS)

Easter Weekday

8:30am – Stephen Paul Medovich

by Josephine Medovich and family

9:00-10:00am – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025

Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

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

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025 (OLMC)

Vigil, Third Sunday of Easter

3:00-3:45pm – Confessions (OLMC)

4:00pm – Mary and George Bufwack
by Williams and Bufwack families

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

8:30-8:55am – Confessions (SS)

9:00am – For our First Communicants
and their families (SS)

11:30am – For our First Communicants
and their families (OLMC)

FROM OUR PAROCHIAL VICAR:

My Personal Devotion to Divine Mercy

My journey with the Divine Mercy devotion began in 2004, when I first heard about it from my Australian friends. One particular family from Australia had a deep devotion to Divine Mercy and encouraged me to help spread this powerful message of God's love and mercy in my own country. Inspired by their request, I began printing and distributing the Divine Mercy Chaplet in my native language, Telugu. These chaplets were shared across various parishes in our diocese in India. With the help and support of my fellow priests, the devotion quickly gained momentum. Within just one year, we had introduced the Divine Mercy devotion to 18 parishes in my home diocese. It was a truly moving sight to witness people across these communities praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet with such fervor and faith.

Around this time, I was approached by a tribal village within my parish. The people there though economically poor and practicing a traditional tribal religion, expressed a heartfelt desire to become Catholic. However, they felt they first needed a place of worship—a chapel where they could gather in prayer and learn more about the Catholic faith. With great faith and hope, a generous family in the village donated a piece of land for this purpose. My Australian friends once again stepped in to support the construction of the chapel. I oversaw the entire project from the ground up, and when it was completed, we named it the Divine Mercy Chapel.

In March 2005, on the eve of the chapel's consecration, I had the profound honor of baptizing 256 people from three tribal villages. I visited each family personally, blessing their homes and consecrating them to the Divine Mercy of Jesus, installing a picture of Divine Mercy in each of their houses. Today, this community stands as a shining testament to faith and transformation. They are active, joyful Catholics who participate regularly in liturgy, raise their children in the faith, and live as proud members of the Church. As a divine confirmation of their devotion, a miraculous event took place in the chapel. One evening, two young boys were decorating the altar when they witnessed a beautiful phenomenon: tiny lights, like sparkling stars, emerged from the altar and rose upward before disappearing into the air. This vision was seen by many in the village and was taken as a powerful sign of God's presence and blessing—an affirmation of His mercy poured out on this newly formed community. In response to this miracle, the villagers organized a night of Eucharistic Adoration, praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet with great reverence and gratitude. This journey has deepened my own devotion to the Divine Mercy. I have witnessed firsthand how the mercy of Jesus can transform hearts, unite communities, and manifest through signs that remind us of God's love. I remain ever grateful for the role I was able to play in this mission, and I continue to trust in the message: Jesus, I trust in You. Reverend Bala P. Marneni



SAINT STEPHEN CAMPUS ETERNAL FLAME INTENTIONS- WEEK OF APRIL 27- MAY 3, 2025

Ella Luhaney by Joanne Luhaney
Mary C. Stanchar by daughters

Franciscus

O God, faithful rewarder of souls,
grant that your departed servant
Pope Francis,
whom you made successor of Peter
and shepherd of your Church, may happily
enjoy forever in your presence in heaven
the mysteries of your grace and compassion
which he faithfully ministered on earth.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.*

Born: December 17, 1936
Entered the Society of Jesus: March 11, 1958
Ordained a Priest: December 13, 1969
Consecrated a Bishop: June 27, 1992
Created a Cardinal: February 21, 2001
Elected Supreme Pontiff: March 13, 2013
Entered Eternal Life: April 21, 2025



From Bishop Bonnar:

“The news of Pope Francis’ death is a cause of great sadness for the whole Church and certainly for me personally as a bishop chosen by him nearly five years ago. The Holy Father in word and deed brought a pastoral vision to the Church centered in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He reintroduced to us the vocabulary of Jesus that includes such realities as joy, love, hope, mercy, encounter, accompaniment, listening, and compassion. In this Easter Octave we behold the great mystery of our faith that climaxes in the resurrection. May Pope Francis see the face of God today.”

APRIL 26-27, 2025 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



It's understandable that the apostles were frightened after Jesus' crucifixion. An angry mob had just demanded His execution. As His followers, could they not be next? But Jesus came to comfort them amid their fear, doubts, and suffering. The locked door they hid behind could not keep Jesus from tending to their needs. Twice He says, "Peace be with you." Then He breathes the life-giving breath of the Holy Spirit on them, saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit." In their need, Christ not only brings the comfort of His presence, but He also brings the strength of the Holy Spirit. His disciples are transformed from feeling like abandoned followers, quaking behind locked doors, to empowered preachers to whom Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Locked doors are no match for Jesus. What are our locked doors? Fear of intimacy with God, and what that intimacy will require of us? An overscheduled life, full of much activity but not much meaning? Spiritual boredom or the lack of energy or desire to go deep with God? No matter what our "locked doors" are, Jesus can walk right through them, bringing His peace and strength to sustain us. Jesus gave us His Church so that we can feel His presence. Let us build up this wonderful gift by supporting the Annual Diocesan Appeal, which brings the light of Christ to our brothers and sisters. The Annual Diocesan Appeal for Saint Pope John XXIII Parish is \$84,100.00. To date, \$45,668.00 has been pledged from our parish with 184 donors pledging. We still need the support of all of our parishioners to make our goal.



NILES COMMUNITY SERVICES is collecting assorted condiments during the month of May. 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 May will be held on Thursdays from 4:45-5:30pm at Niles First Christian Church, 33 North Arlington Avenue, Niles, Ohio.

MASS Intentions

There are weekday dates available and a few weekend dates for Masses for 2025 at Saint Stephen Church. 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.



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 Kandrac, Sue Kopetsky, John Wilson, Kathy DeCristofaro, Mitzi Malvasi, Lou Lukz, Jennifer Cable, Michelle Howard, Jo Medovich, Kevin Grafton, Mary Catherine Freely, 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., Tom Scarnecchia, Timothy Childress, Jim and Josephine Villecco, Marie Vross, Larry Batovsky, Sr., Carrie Trybus, Tamie Ezzo, Slanina family, Donald Augustine and all those who suffer any illness, especially those who have no one to pray for them.*

SAINT STEPHEN CEMETERY has asked that all Fall, Christmas and any old items be removed by May 1st. Any that remain after that date will be discarded. New spring arrangements will not be removed. The new season will begin Memorial Day.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

Parish School of Religion April Calendar:

Sunday, April 27, First Eucharist Practice, 10:00am at Saint Stephen Church

Sunday, April 27, First Eucharist Practice, 12:30pm at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

Mass Count for April 17, 2025

7:00pm – 190 (OLMC)

Mass Count for April 18, 2025

3:00pm – 145 (OLMC)

Mass Count for April 19-20, 2025

8:00pm – 210 (OLMC)

9:00am – 256 (SS)

10:30am – 395 (OLMC)

Total 861 people out of 1,114 registered parishioners
(We are in the process of updating our active records)

APRIL 26-27, 2025 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

(April 12-13, 2025)

Sunday collection:	\$	11,709.00
Monthly Dues:	\$	110.00
Parish Projects:	\$	309.00
St. Vincent de Paul (OLMC)	\$	50.00
Easter Flowers:	\$	235.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	252.00
Good Friday:	\$	192.00
Easter:	\$	936.00
Mothers' Day:	\$	470.00

(April 19-20, 2025)

Sunday collection:	\$	6,786.00
Monthly Dues:	\$	274.00
Parish Projects:	\$	96.00
St. Vincent de Paul (OLMC)	\$	12.00
St. Vincent de Paul (SS)	\$	25.00
Easter Flowers:	\$	20.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	1,223.00
Good Friday:	\$	1,154.00
Easter:	\$	16,810.00
Mothers' Day:	\$	345.00
Fathers' Day:	\$	1.00
Seminarian Collection:	\$	2.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Congratulations and welcome to Brandy Luster who received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil! Pictured from left to right: Father Marneni, Brandy and Brandy's sponsor, Tom Sidor.

MOTHERS' DAY MASSES

All Mothers' Day envelopes will be gathered together and prayed for at each Mass on Mothers' Day weekend. Through the intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may God watch over all our mothers, those here on earth and those in Heaven. Please make sure to return your Mothers' Day envelopes on or before May 8th.



LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 3, 2025

8:00PM Mass (OLMC)

Readers: Cheryl Garbus, Kathi Ciminero
Servers: Kelly Lukasko
EM's: Alec Lukasko, Dianne Pappada, Pam Sowers, Bernie Profato
Ushers: Jim Davis, Joseph Zuzolo, Dennis Youll, Maurice Candio, Barbara Frank, Anna Zysk

Sunday, May 4, 2025

9:00AM Mass (SS)

Sacristan: John Daubner
Reader: Charlie Burgess
Extraordinary Minister of the Bread: Lisa Burgess
Extraordinary Minister of the Cup: Angela Marzullo, Mary Kay Nicholas

Altar Server: John Wilson
Greeter: Rosella McCloskey, Sophia Gearhart

11:30AM Mass (OLMC)

Readers: Beth Aurilio, Marijane Parry
Servers: Luca Aurilio, Dante DeGennaro, John Marco DeGennaro
EM's: Nancy DeGood, Lorie Prokup, Joe Rossi, Mike Klaben
Ushers: Michael Lastic, Ray Muche, Anthony DeMaiolo, Jr., Ed Bugos, George Kaniclides, Harry Salapata, Michael Krakora, Don Andres, Sam Ragozine



Mr. Nicholas Clark
Mr. Terry Latessa



Catholic Charities will hold its annual **First Step for Change** campaign from Mother's Day through Father's Day, honoring the faith, humility and love it takes to raise a child, and recognizing that many parents lack adequate financial resources for their children. Funds raised through this campaign assist low-income expectant parents and families with food, formula, clothing, diapers, and other items essential to a child's health, safety and well-being. Each family will receive a First Step packet after Mass next weekend. They will be attached to the bulletin. Take the **First Step Packet** home, learn about the program, prayerfully consider a gift, and return your envelopes to our parish by June 30th. All money collected by our parish will help to meet the needs of our own community! Thank you for joining us in supporting this pro-life campaign.

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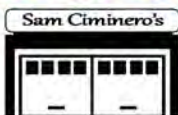
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