



**Fourth Sunday of Lent
(Laetare Sunday)
March 15, 2026**

Parish Mission

**ORDINARY LIVES
EXTRAORDINARY MISSION**

MARCH 17 & 18

Holy Family 7 pm



Dr. John R. Wood

***March 17th - The Extraordinary
Mission***

***March 18th - Life's 4 Most
Important Questions***

**EXTRAORDINARY
MISSION**

*Inspire
Desire
Fire*



2 ABOUT OUR PARISHES

PARISH STAFF

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS at the St. Nicholas Parish Center:

Monday 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Tuesday following 8:00 am Mass - 2:00 pm
Wednesday 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Thursday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Friday following 8:00 am Mass - 2:00 pm

Bulletin deadline: Tuesday at 2:00 pm

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

We are in need of several volunteers to help with the upcoming church pictorial directory. If you are able and/or interested in helping out with this project, please contact the office by email at parishoffice@stnicholasholyfamily.org or by calling 419-876-3481 sooner rather than later would be appreciated. Possible tasks are: helping set up appointments after Masses for two weekends, greeting our families during photography on photograph dates, as examples. Every little bit of help will make a difference.

2026 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Monday of Holy Week (March 30)

8:00 am Mass SN

Tuesday of Holy Week (March 31)

No 8:00 am Mass or Exposition
11:00 am Chrism Mass (Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, Toledo)

1 to 2 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We would like 1 to 2 volunteers from each church to help bring the holy oils back to each of our churches. If you are interested in assisting Fr. Scott with these bottles of oil, please contact the Parish Office at 419-876-3481.

Wednesday of Holy Week (April 1)

8:00 am Mass & Exposition until 6:40 pm Evening Prayer & Benediction HF

7:30 pm Tenebrae (Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, Toledo)

Holy Thursday (April 2)

7:00 pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper (SN)
7:00 pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper (HF)

Good Friday (April 3)

8:45 am Morning Prayer (SN)
12:00 pm Stations of the Cross with Liturgy of the Lord's Passion to follow (SN)
3:00 pm Stations of the Cross with Liturgy of the Lord's Passion to follow (HF)

Holy Saturday (April 4)

8:45 am Morning Prayer (SN)
8:30 pm Easter Vigil (SN)

Easter Sunday (April 5)

8:30 am Easter Sunday Mass (HF)
10:30 am Easter Sunday Mass (SN)

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS: The next class will be held on Sunday, **April 12** from 9:30- 11:15 am at the Holy Family Parish Hall (church basement). Please call or text Cheryl Hermiller at 419-969-4345 to register or ask questions.

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK COMPLIMENTS OF:



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Dear Parishioners,

We are blessed to be hosting Msgr. Kubacki this weekend to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for 38 of our 8th Grade students. Our Confirmandi have been preparing for this moment for quite some time, and I am proud of them and excited for them to be taking this next step in their journey of faith. Thanks to their sponsors, godparents, parents, and others who have helped them in their walk with the Lord. Thanks, especially, to Cherie Compton, our Coordinator of Religious Education and 8th Grade Catechist for most of this school year, as well as to Sarah Long, our current 8th Grade Catechist, and Linda Lammers, our 8th Grade small group leader, for preparing our students for this sacrament. As our Confirmandi complete their Christian Initiation this weekend, may this moment be one of deepening their intimacy with the Lord and an experience of the power of the Holy Spirit working in their lives.



It was a blessing last Sunday that we had the chance to celebrate a potluck lunch after the 10:30 am Mass. We had around 70 people join us for some good food and fellowship (see page 5 for pictures). Thanks so much to Kira Niese, our Youth and Family Minister, for organizing this event, and to Moriah Inkrott, our Youth and Young Adult Minister, for assisting with it. It was a great success, and I look forward to having more of these in the future.

I am excited that this week, we will welcome Dr. John Wood to our parishes for our upcoming Parish Mission. John is a great speaker, and I believe his talks will be very impactful. As I mentioned in my homily last weekend, please consider inviting people that you know, especially those who maybe have fallen away from practicing the faith. I pray very often for those who do not attend Mass much anymore and have fallen away from the faith, especially those of our parishes, and I have even offered Masses specifically for them recently. They are definitely missed when they are not here, and the Lord so desires to be close to them, especially in His sacraments. I do think, though, that this Parish Mission will be worthwhile for anyone who would like to attend (including those who attend Mass regularly), and so please consider coming for John's talks on Tuesday and Wednesday evening at Holy Family church at 7:00 pm.

May the Lord bless with His grace our Parish Mission this week, and may the Holy Spirit set on fire the hearts of our newly confirmed.

In Christ,
Fr. Scott



PRAYERS FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS
rosary intention this week is: for more holy vocations to the priesthood for the Diocese of Toledo.



Sister Grace's birthday is coming up on March 23. If you would like to send her a card or letter, her address is below. Please keep her in your prayers!
Sister Grace of Christ the King, OCD
920 E. Alhambra Road
Alhambra, CA 91801



HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH: For disarmament and peace
Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS for the week of March 2-8, 2026			
St. Nicholas:		Holy Family:	
Regular:	\$5,189.75	Regular:	\$14,185.75
Utility:	\$120.00	Utility:	\$45.00
Easter Flowers:	\$297.00	Easter Flowers:	\$155.00
Total:	\$5,606.75	Total:	\$14,385.75

Thank you for your generous support of our parishes!



2026 ACA GOALS:

SN: \$15,335.89
HF \$15,296.67



It is time for the yearly Spring Cleaning of God's house that each of us are all responsible for. **ST NICHOLAS** is looking for several men, women & youth & their parent/s to help clean. **ST. NICHOLAS** church cleaning will take place on "**Monday, March 16th**" starting at 1:00 pm until done. Please bring rags & a bucket. Parents, this is a great opportunity to do a project as a family. ****Many hands, make light work, and you do not need to commit to the full day****

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTOGRAPHS: To schedule your photography appointment, please go to www.ucdir.com, click on "Photography Session Sign-up," enter "oh2934" for the Church Code, and "photos2" for the Church Password. If your photograph needs to be taken at the opposite church, please put the letter (A) if you belong to SN and (B) if you belong to HF after your name when signing in on photograph day. If you have any questions, please call the office at 419-876-3481.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE for April 11th through July 5th, 2026: Please update your unavailability in MSP or call the Parish Office '**prior to Monday, March 23rd**'. This new ministry schedule will include the following Masses:
May 25: Memorial Day 9:00 am Mass at SN
June 7: 8:30 am Mass at HF to include Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession.

Liturgy Schedule

- Monday, March 16 - Lenten Weekday**
- Tuesday, March 17 - Lenten Weekday, Saint Patrick, Bishop**
8:00 am Mass SN (L&D Ralph & Martha Hohenbrink, †Albert Hohenbrink)
Exposition until 4:00 pm Evening Prayer & Benediction SN
- Wednesday, March 18 - Lenten Weekday, Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**
8:00 am Mass HF (Priest's Intention)
Exposition until **5:00 pm** Evening Prayer & Benediction HF
- Thursday, March 19 - SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, SOLEMNITY**
5:15-6:15 pm Confessions HF
6:30 pm Mass HF (L&D Karl & Marilyn Inkrott Family)
- Friday, March 20 - Lenten Weekday**
8:00 am Mass SN (†Bridget Niese)
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross HF
- Saturday, March 21 - Lenten Weekday; FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**
2:30-3:30 pm Confessions SN
4:00 pm Mass SN (Sister Grace (Living) †Harold & Rita Niese, †Sharon Niese, †Clarence & Thelma Westrick, †Honey & Lou Ann Niese)
7:00 pm Mass HF (People of the Parish)
- Sunday, March 22 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**
8:30 am Mass HF (People of the Parish)
10:30 am Mass SN (†Joe & Janet Lehman)



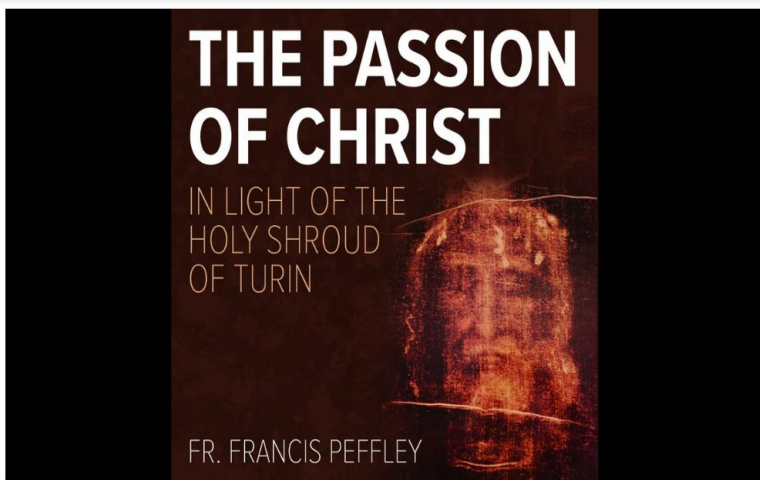
Mass Servers (March 21 & 22)
4:00 pm Amelia Nartker, Brantley Lammers, Jordan Schroeder
7:00 pm Colton, Levi & Keaton Hermiller
8:30 am Sam & Eli Otto, Chase Koenig
10:30 am Keegan Kahle, Grayson Verhoff, Kiera Ruhe

Parish Events
Tues., Mar. 17: 7:00 pm Parish Mission (HF Church)
Wed., Mar. 18: 7:00 pm Parish Mission (HF Church)
Sat., Mar. 21: 6:15-7:30 am TMIY (SNPC)
Sun., Mar. 22: 7:00-8:15 pm SHE meeting (SNPC)

PUTNAM COUNTY YOUNG ADULTS:

We are still meeting every Monday evening to read through the book of Hebrews. We meet at the REC which is across from Holy Family Church off SR 109. Fellowship starts at 6:30 pm with our study beginning at 7 pm and will end around 8 pm.

On Sunday, March 15th around 12 pm, we will be having our monthly Young Adult Social. A time of food and fellowship. Contact Moriah Inkrott at 419-957-6744 for the details!



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An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

POTLUCK RECAP:

This past week, we held our first potluck after St Nicholas 10:30 am Mass. We had a great time, with wonderful food and fellowship. There were around 70 people in attendance. If you did not join us, please consider participating in the next one. Potlucks are a beautiful opportunity to deepen our relationships in our community and family in Christ. To gather around a table is the way in which we fellowship as a family, both with Jesus and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We will be hosting Izzy Utendorf at Holy Family on April 26th where she will give her testimony/story on from 5-5:45pm. To follow, we will then have a time of praise & worship from 5:45-6pm. The night will end with a dinner that will be provided from those who are attending Damascus Summer Camp 2026. Dinner will be open for a donation cost that will go towards helping fund students going to Damascus Summer Camp! Dinner and fellowship will be 6-7pm! We will also have a small bake sale going on after both 8:30 and 10:30 am Masses on April 26th for those who cannot make it to the dinner that night but want to donate towards fundraising for DSC!



Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



“Go and Repair My House: The Year of Saint Francis of Assisi”

The year was 1206. A young Francis knelt before the Crucifix in the Church of San Damiano outside of Assisi, Italy, which was falling into ruins. Francis heard the voice of Christ Jesus speak to him from the cross: “Francis, go and repair my house, which is falling into ruin.” Understandably, Francis took this exhortation to mean that he should physically rebuild the crumbling church, but later came to understand that instead it was a call to mission to revitalize the Catholic Church!



In his first Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te*, published on October 4, 2025, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV wrote: “Eight centuries ago, Saint Francis prompted an evangelical renewal in the Christians and

society of his time. Wealthy and self-confident, the young Francis was taken aback and converted by his direct contact with the poor and outcast of society. The story of his life continues to appeal to the minds and hearts of believers, and many non-believers as well. It ‘changed history.’ And in January of this year, Pope Leo established that a special Year of Saint Francis be proclaimed, “in which every faithful Christian, following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, shall become a model of holiness of life and a constant witness of peace.” To that end, I write to encourage you intentionally to engage this special year dedicated to Francis, and to consider more deeply his life and legacy.

After several encounters with the Lord who came alive and spoke from that Cross of San Damiano, Saint Francis wrote this “Prayer before the Crucifix,” a prayer which has become a favorite of mine:

*Most High glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
Give me right faith, sure hope and
perfect charity.
Fill me with understanding and
knowledge
that I may fulfill your command.*

For some folks, the name of Saint Francis conjures up images of garden statues of the saint preaching to the birds, or a sweet cartoonish character surrounded with Disneyesque animals! For some he is reduced to a pacifist, an ecologist or environmentalist. Often folks miss the radical Gospel poverty he embraced and his lifelong commitment to the poor. Some might recall that it was Saint Francis who gave us the first (living) Christmas creche, or that it was he who

gave us the words we so often pray with the Stations of the Cross: “We adore you O Christ and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.” We all need to see how central the Cross was to his spirituality and to recall that he received toward the end of his life the stigmata, the mystical wounds of Christ evident on his body. Many are simply unaware that the profound humility of Saint Francis was manifested in his judging himself as the worst of sinners. This Lent, there is much to ponder about this extraordinary Saint, and however deep your knowledge and familiarity with him, I invite you to spend time in prayer, reading and doing some “digging” to discover the full range of the multifaceted virtues and example of such a beloved saint, whose love was born from the Cross.

Even as we commemorate the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis, we marvel at the extraordinary number of faithful making pilgrimage to Assisi to pray before his relics, exposed for veneration for the first time since his death. And even now, as we remember the Francis who traveled to Egypt to meet with the Muslim Sultan during the fifth Crusade to encourage peace, we ourselves beg the Lord for peace in this, our time of war.



Saint Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy, Caravaggio c. 1595

Among the most powerful artistic testimonies to the transforming love of God at work in the life of Saint Francis is the celebrated work “Saint Francis of Assisi in Ecstasy,” painted around 1595 by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio. This oil on canvas masterpiece by the Italian Baroque master depicts the moment Francis receives the stigmata — the miraculous impression of the five wounds of Christ upon his hands, feet, and side. Caravaggio renders the scene not with triumphant spectacle, but with intimate tenderness: Francis reclines in a near-swoon, cradled gently by an angel, bathed in the luminous light that breaks through surrounding darkness. The stigmata represent the summit of Francis’s union with the crucified and risen Lord. He who had knelt before the San Damiano Cross in prayer had so given himself to God that his very body bore the marks of Christ’s Passion. Caravaggio’s masterwork invites every believer to contemplate the depth of love to which each of us is called — a love that transforms, that costs, and that ultimately becomes a witness of glory. Our love is born from the Love of the Crucified and Risen Jesus.

In the spirit of this holy year, and in communion with the universal Church, I am pleased to announce that during this time of grace, extending through January 10, 2027, the faithful are granted the opportunity of a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions. As Francis embraced both the Crucified Christ and all of creation with open arms, so too are we called to embrace our brothers and sisters, our world, and our God with renewed zeal, mercy, and love.

I am deeply grateful to the Sylvania Franciscan Sisters, the Tiffin Franciscan Sisters, and the Conventual Franciscan Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation for graciously opening their campuses to the faithful of our Diocese. Through their generous hospitality, Catholics throughout the Diocese of Toledo are able to participate in this Jubilee Year by making a pilgrimage to the following Franciscan Pilgrimage Sites:

Portiuncula

On the Motherhouse grounds of the Sylvania Franciscan Sisters
620 Convent Blvd, Sylvania, OH 43560
Open Every Day from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Motherhouse Eucharistic Chapel

On the grounds of the Tiffin Franciscan Sisters
200 St. Francis Avenue, Tiffin, OH 44883
Chapel: Open Wednesday & Sunday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM | Mass at 11:00 AM,
Grounds: Open Every Day, 9:00 AM to Dusk

Grounds: Open Every Day, 9:00 AM to Dusk

The Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation

The Conventual Franciscan Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation
315 Clay St, Carey, OH 43316
Open 24/7

For more information on the pilgrimage, on obtaining the “Passport,” and more on how to participate, go to toledodiocese.org/francis.

Please join me in the hope and prayer that this Jubilee Year may draw us ever more deeply into the mystery of God’s love, revealed in the face of His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the person of Saint Francis who so radically imitated the Lord! May Saint Francis of Assisi, who so completely surrendered himself to that love, intercede for us and lead us along the path of peace, joy, and holiness. As Francis himself prayed before the San Damiano Cross, so let us pray with renewed hearts — asking God to enlighten the darkness of our own lives, to strengthen our faith, hope and charity, and to set us aflame with love for Him and for one another. As Francis heard the Lord’s exhortation from the Cross, so may we too become models of holiness of life and constant witnesses of peace, architects of an evangelical renewal, building up the Church through lives enriched by a deeper encounter this year with Saint Francis. Saint Francis, intercede for us!

+ Daniel E. Thomas

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
February 27, 2026



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