

OUR LADY OF MERCY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Mailing Address

5001 Lowell Hill Road
Lowell, Ohio 45744
740-896-2207

olm.churchlowell@gmail.com

Website: olmlowell.com

Find us on Facebook: [olmchurch.lowell](https://www.facebook.com/olmchurch.lowell)

Office Hours: Wed. & Thur. 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Social Hall and Rental: 740-896-2207

A Parish of the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Steubenville

Fr. David Gaydosik, Pastor

Cell: 740-391-1093

Fr. Walter E. Heinz, Retired/In Residence

Fr. Dale Tornes, Retired

Mrs. Kristin Offenberger, Secretary

Ms. Heather Peters, PSR Coordinator

Mrs. Martha Flieman, Prayer Chain

**Confessions: Saturdays -
3 PM to 4 PM**

**Rosary: Before each
weekend Mass**

December 17, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Baptisms: Parents are to schedule the baptism of their child at least 2 weeks in advance of the desired date arrangements.

Confirmation: To be confirmed you must attend either the Parish School of Religion, Catholic School, or the RCIA.

Marriages: Couples intending to be married at OLM must contact Fr. David at least 6 months in advance of the intended wedding date.

Sponsor at Baptism or Confirmation: Must be at least 16 years old; be an active Catholic who has been confirmed, and lead a life that is in harmony with the faith.

Visitation of Sick or Homebound: Please call Father Gaydosik at 740-391-1093, or the Parish Office at 740-896-2207, when someone is hospitalized, homebound, sick.

St. John Central Elementary School - (740) 896-2697: Mrs. Karen Pottmeyer, **Principal.** The Central Catholic Grade School is a combination of the parishes of: St. John the Baptist, Churchtown; Our Lady of Mercy, Lowell, St. Ambrose, Little Hocking; and St. Bernard, Beverly.



Mass Schedule and Intentions

Sat. Dec. 16	OLM Deanna Lang (Raymond Lang) St. John Rosemary Ellis (Charlotte Lang & Family)	4:00 PM 6:00 PM
Sun. Dec. 17	OLM Ken Stehly (Mike & Denise Stehly) St. John DECD Members of Ralph & Pauline Zoller Family (Larry & Janet Schaad) St. John Blaine Arnold (Glen & Marcia Pawloski)	9:30 AM 7:30 AM 11:00 AM
Mon. Dec. 18	OLM No Mass St. John Susan Brooker (Howard Brooker)	No Mass 8:00 AM
Tues. Dec. 19	OLM Bernie & Linda Huck (Nancy Huck) Penance Service at OLM	5:00 PM 7:00 PM
Wend. Dec. 20	OLM No Mass St. John Dale Schwendeman (Family)	No Mass 8:20 AM
Thurs. Dec. 21	OLM Clarence Skinner (Charlotte Lang & Family) St. John No Mass	5:00 PM No Mass
Fri. Dec. 22	OLM No Mass St. John Eunice Walter (Charlotte Lang Family)	No Mass 8:00 AM
Sat. Dec. 23	OLM L & D Members of Lawrence Schaad Family (Evan & Heather Schaad) St. John Norbert Lang (Charlotte Lang Family)	4:00 PM 6:00 PM
Sun. Dec. 24	OLM Cheryl Brooker (Brian Brooker) St. John Judy Britton (Dave & Veronica Bosner) St. John Herb Mason (Bob & Peggy Byers)	9:30 AM 7:30 AM 11:00 AM
Sun. Dec. 24 (Vigil)	OLM Cecil Offenberger (The Grandchildren) St. John Edith Brooker (Charlotte Lang Family) OLM Earl & Francis Thieman (Connie Schwendeman) St. John Norbert Kern (Marilyn Kern & Family)	4:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM
Mon. Dec. 25 (Christmas)	OLM Robert & Lucy Long (Ken & Jan Long) St. John Vincent & Allene Huck (Family)	9:00 AM 8:00 AM

God Bless those who support our Parishes!

OLM: \$1,910.00 (65); Offertory \$509.03; Immaculate Conception (35) \$455.00; Religious Retirement (9) \$228.00; Christmas Flowers (10) \$205.00; Church Improvement (1) \$20.00; Votive Candles \$42.14

OLM 50/50 Winner: Bruce Schaad– Congratulations!

Liturgical Ministries Schedule

Lectors

OLM: 12/23 (4 PM) Heather Peters
OLM: 12/24 (9:30 AM) Dan Flieman
OLM: 12/24 (4 PM) Susan Huck
OLM: 12/24 (6 PM) Linda Miller
OLM: 12/25 (9 AM) Volunteer needed

Eucharistic Ministers

OLM: 12/23 (4 PM) Sharon Pottmeyer
OLM: 12/17 (9:30 AM) Stephen Huffman
OLM: 12/24 (4 PM) Tim Wittekind
OLM: 12/24 (6 PM) Jennifer Morris
OLM: 12/25 (9 AM) Volunteer needed

Altar Servers

OLM: 12/23 (4 PM) Tim & Emma Snyder
OLM: 12/24 (9:30 AM) Ross, Kate, & Ashton Schultheis
OLM: 12/24 (4 PM) Caleb, Declan, & Joel Schaad
OLM: 12/24 (6 PM) Margret, Clara, and Emma Morris
OLM: 12/25 (9 AM) Volunteers needed

USHERS (Month of December)

SAT: Tim Huck, Volunteer needed
SUN: Richard Tornes, Kim Schwendeman

2023 Diocesan Parish Share Campaign "The Eucharist is a Fire that Inflames Us!"
 ~ St. John Chrysostom

The 2023 Diocesan Parish Share Campaign concludes December 31, 2023.

OLM CWC

All women of the parish are members of the Catholic Woman's Club.

DECEMBER COMMITTEE

*Heather Peters	Linda Strahler
Tana Huck	Kalyn Seese
Mary Hess	Toni Gober

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the ladies that devoted their time and talents to the noodle, chicken pie, and cake making. The sales of these items was a huge success. The next CWC meeting is scheduled for February 06, 2024.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES



The Communal Penance Services for confessions in our area this Advent Season are as follows:

Monday, December 18, 12:30 PM,

St. John School/Churchtown

Monday, December 18, 7 PM,

St. John/Churchtown

Tuesday, December 19, 7 PM,

Our Lady of Mercy/Lowell

Thursday, December 21, 7 PM,

St. Bernard/ Beverly

Advent includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.



PREPARE A CLEAN HEART FOR THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD!

SUPPORT ENVELOPES

Support envelopes are available for pick up in the back of the church. Please check and make sure everything is correct. If corrections are needed, please notify the Parish Office at 740-896-2207 immediately. The parish office would also like to ask you to update your contact information, including cell phone numbers. If there are any address corrections or updates you may place a note in the collection basket or call the office. Thank you.

HOST: We have available at Our Lady of Mercy and St. John, a limited supply of Low-Gluten (made in accordance with Canon Law) for those with Gluten Issues. If you are in need of a Low Gluten Host, please see the priest before the Mass you attend, to arrange for this option.

LOVE WITH JOYFUL HEARTS

When St. Paul tells us to “rejoice always” (1 Thessalonians 5:16), it might seem that he is asking the impossible. How can we *always* feel joyful? Isn't this too much to ask, even today, on Gaudete (or “Rejoice”) Sunday? Not according to St. Thomas Aquinas! He taught that “joy is caused by love” (*Summa Theologiae* II-II, q. 28). As we experience God's love for us, we grow in love for him—and this exchange of love is what produces joy in us. St. Paul also knew that God's love was the secret to joy, which is why he follows up his exhortation to “rejoice always” with specific steps that we can take to experience his love more deeply: First, *pray without ceasing* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). When we open our heart to God throughout the day, he fills it with his very self. The experience of his unconditional love and unending mercy ignites our love in return. Second, *in all circumstances give thanks* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Gratitude also deepens our love for God, especially when we reflect on who he is and what he has done for us. And in this Advent season, whatever our circumstances, we can thank God for sending his Son to earth to become one of us. Finally, *do not quench the Spirit* (1 Thessalonians 5:19). In his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul tells us that “the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (5:5). If we want more joy in our lives, we can ask the Spirit to stir up the love of God in our hearts. And when he does, we can express it by praising him—which will, in turn, increase our joy. Joy is not just for Gaudete Sunday; it's for every day. So each day, follow Paul's advice: turn to the Lord in prayer, thank him for all he has done for you, and ask him to fill you with more of his Spirit. Then praise him—and let your spirit soar!

~The Word Among Us

POPE FRANCIS

Prayer Intentions for December

For Persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**11: 2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89: 2-5, 27-29
Rom 16: 25-27 Lk 1: 26-38**

A VOCATION VIEW

Rejoice; never cease praying. Let us never cease praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

(1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24)

STEUBENVILLE SEMINARIANS

The following men are in formation for ordination to the sacred Priesthood for service in the Diocese of Steubenville. Please remember them in your prayers.

Studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum
(7625 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235-1499)

**John Paul Gan and Jonathan Ruscoe, Riley Morris,
Aaron Pabin, and Caleb Baker**

Studying at the Sacred Heart Major Seminary
(2701 Chicago Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48206)

**Peter Stetson, Christopher McGurn, and
Sam Ivkovich**

Diocese of Steubenville Office of Vocations
Fr. Nicholas V. Ginnetti , Vocation Director
Vocation links: Twitter @ [dsvocations](#)
Facebook: www.facebook.com/dsvocations or
Diocesan Vocation Website: <http://steubenvillevocations.com>



Please think of our Seminarians this holiday season. Cards may be sent to addresses listed above.

PRE-CANNA

For those planning a wedding any time within the next year, a pre-Cana has been scheduled at St. Mary Basilica, in Marietta, on Saturday, March 09, 2024. Pre-Cana is a class and consultation requirement for those planning to enter the sacrament of marriage in the Diocese of Steubenville. To register, contact St. Mary's Basilica's office at 740-373-3643.

" Love that leads to marriage is a gift from God and a great act of faith toward other human beings."

~ St. John Paul II

ST. JOHN'S CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

Bingo Group Work Schedule

Dec. 17 Team #7 Kelli Schaad 740-525-2601
Team #8 Russ Lang 740-336-0800

Dec. 24 No BINGO

STEUBENVILLE CHRISTMAS GIFT

The Dioceses is offering a 10% discount on "Building a Eucharistic Marriage" a webinar that teaches couples seven habits to enrich your marriage though Christ the Eucharist. Please, visit www.eucharisticmarriage.org and enter the code STEUBENVILLEDIOCESE2023.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is up and located at the back of the church. Gifts, wrapped and with the tag attached, need to be **returned this weekend, Dec 17th**. Any monetary gifts or gift cards can be returned to the decorated box beside the tree. Checks can be made out to St. Vincent De Paul Society. These gifts are used throughout the year by those who reach out for help. Please contact Sherry Wittekind at 740-885-9439 if you have any questions.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Below are some addresses you might like to add to your Christmas card list. Fr. Walter Heinz, 5700 Bayshore Road, Lot 244, Palmetto, FL 34221; Fr. Dale Tornes, 279 Muskingum Drive Apt. 302, Marietta, OH 45750; Fr. Tim Shannon, 7 Alfred St. Wheeling, WV 26003; Fr. Bradley Greer, 425 N. Fourth Street, Steubenville, OH 43952; Fr. Victor Cinson Jr., P.O. Box 275 Minerva, OH 44657; Fr. Tim Huffman, 425 N. Fourth Street, Steubenville, OH 43952.

The family of Mildred Schwendeman have requested a Christmas card shower. Your Christmas greetings may be sent to Mildred Schwendeman, 1027 Lakeview Dr., Beverly, OH 45715.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Celebrate the holidays with a Christmas concert with a musician from New Martinsville, Sean Maxwell, an organist and harpsichordist. Free to the public, with donations appreciated, on Dec. 17 starting at 4 PM at the First Congregational Church, Front St., Marietta.

December 11, 2023



The Diocese of Columbus
197 E Gay St,
Columbus, OH 43215

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus



The Diocese of Steubenville
422 Washington Street
Steubenville, OH 43952

Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley
Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville

Bishops Issue Joint Statement on Dioceses Potential Merger

Bishop Paul J. Bradley, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville, and Bishop Earl K. Fernandes of the Diocese of Columbus, along with their staffs, have begun very preliminary discussions regarding the potential merger of the dioceses.

The Apostolic Nunciature has asked the dioceses to work together to consider how different dimensions of the dioceses, including the temporal aspects of life, might be affected by such a proposal.

While no decision has been made, due diligence is needed so an educated and responsible decision can be discerned in a timely manner. Ultimately the decision is up to the Holy Father.

The work has begun, and as the work continues, updates will be provided.

Bishops Bradley and Fernandes ask the clergy and the laity to pray that the unified work may be fruitful.

+ *Earl K. Fernandes*

Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

+ *Paul J. Bradley*

Paul J. Bradley
*Apostolic Administrator of the
Diocese of Steubenville*