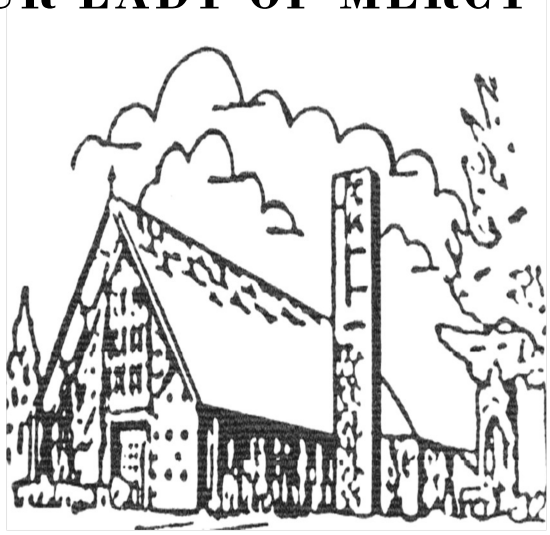
# OUR LADY OF MERCY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH




**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


**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**

**Fr. Dale Tornes, Retired**

Mrs. Kristin Offenberger, Secretary

Mr. Eric Fliehman, PSR Coordinator

Mrs. Martha Fliehman, Prayer Chain

Pastoral Musicians:
Evan and Heather Schaad

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

**Rosary**: Before each-
**Weekend Mass**

**Parish Council Members**:
Richard Tornes, Michael Stehly, Brian Brooker, Evan Schaad, Stephen Huffman, Alex Bauerbach

# February 22, 2026

# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**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 OCIA.

**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. Sunday

**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. Rebecca Hilverding, 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

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sat. Feb. 21** | **OLM** | **Linda Huck (OLM CWC)** | | **4:00 PM** |
| | St. John | David Pottmeyer (Eric &Marilyn Pottmeyer) | | 6:00 PM |
| **Sun. Feb. 22** | **OLM** | **Darren Cheesman (Madee Brewer)** | | **9:30 AM** |
| | St. John | Tim Beaver (Bob & Peggy Byers) | | 7:30 AM |
| | St. John | Tony Tornes (Donna Tornes Family) | | 11:00 AM |
| **Mon. Feb. 23** | **OLM** | **No Mass** | | **No Mass** |
| | St. John | Jerry Heiss (Bill & Alberta Wesel) | | 8:00 AM |
| **Tue. Feb. 24** | **OLM** | **George Gauther (David & Joanie Yeomans)** | | **5:00PM** |
| | St. John | No Mass | | No Mass |
| **Wed. Feb. 25** | **OLM** | **No Mass** | | **No Mass** |
| | St. John | Helen Miller (Mary Brooker Family) | **School Mass** | 8:30 AM |
| **Thurs. Feb. 26** (w Stations to follow) | **OLM** | **Mark Tackett (Jason & Jennifer Morris)** | | **5:00 PM** |
| | St. John | No Mass | | No Mass |
| **Fri. Feb. 27** (w Stations to follow) | **OLM** | **No Mass** | | **No Mass** |
| | St. John | Kenny Britton (Parish) | | 6:00 PM |
| **Sat. Feb. 28** | **OLM** | **Tess Huck (Kay Offenberger)** | | **4:00 PM** |
| | St. John | Robert Heiss (Stan Lang Family) | | 6:00 PM |
| **Sun. March 01** | **OLM** | **Suzanne Walters (Evan &Heather Schaad)** | | **9:30 AM** |
| | St. John | Norma Thieman (Ted Brooker Family) | | 7:30 AM |

**God Bless those who support our Parishes!**

**OLM:**$2,278.00 (67); Offertory $586.00; Diocese Retired Priest $600.00; Initial Offering $10.00 (1); Latin American Churches $5.00 (1); World Mission $5.00 (1) Church Improvement $40.00 (4)

**OLM 50/50 Winner: - Congratulations!**

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**Liturgical Ministries Schedule**

**Lectors**

**02/28 (4 PM)** Tony Offenberger
**03/01 (9:30 AM)** Alex Bauerbach

**Eucharistic Ministers**

**02/28 (4 PM)** Kristin Offenberger
**03/01 (9:30 AM)** Marlene Greene

**Altar Servers**

**OLM: 02/28 (4 PM)** Tim Snyder, Jackson Long
**OLM: 03/01 (9:30 AM)** Kate & Ashton Schultheis, Grace & Faith Johnson

**USHERS (Month of February)**
**SAT:** Dale Gilham, **Volunteer needed**
**SUN:** Robert A. Huck, Mike Stehly

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**LENT GUIDELINES**

During the Lenten season, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord thru prayer, reading the Scripture, and practicing certain self-control through fasting and abstinence. During Lent, there is to be no meat on Fridays for all Catholics starting at age 14; and practicing Catholics between the ages of 18 to 59 should have only one full, meatless meal. Some food can be taken sparingly at the other regular meal times if necessary, but they should combined to less than a full meal. Liquids are allowed at any time, but no solid food should be consumed between meals. Those that are excused from fasting and abstinence outside the age limits include; the physically or mentally ill, individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes, and women who are pregnant or nursing. In all cases, use common sense, no one should jeopardize their health by fasting.

**OLM CWC**

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

**FEBRUARY COMMITTEE**

Nancy Schultheis (Chair)
Paige Omspach
Cathy Lawrence
Mollie Huffman
Sandy Spindler
Jody Huck
Sarah Hunter

**2026 LENTEN FISH FRY**

The Our Lady of Mercy Church Fish Fries are scheduled with the fry leaders as follows:

**February 27–** Kim Schwendeman - 740-525-2769
**March 13 –** Tony Offenberger - 740-525-4823
**March 27 –** Mark Rutter - 740-706-1254

Adults $13.00 Children 12 & under $6.00
Drive- thru meals $13.00- No need to call ahead.

Help is needed for each fish fry from prep time to clean up. If you would like to help, please contact the Fry Boss listed above. Everyone that attends church here, whether registered or not, is encouraged to volunteer.

**BAKE SALE**

If any parishioner would like to donate baked good items for the upcoming Fish Fries, it would be greatly appreciated. All proceeds will go to OLM Parish School of Religion (PSR). Please contact Bri Fliehman at 740-236-2444 for more information or questions.

**MEN'S DAY OF RENEWAL**

The 2026 Diocesan Men's Day of Renewal will be held from 8 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, March 7th, at St. Stephen Catholic Church, Caldwell. This Lenten retreat will focus on the lifelong call to conversion, our discovery of Jesus Christ., His Church, and the ongoing transformation of our hearts. The day will feature personal testimonies from Fr. Bradley Greer and Fr. Tim Shannon, who will offer practical guidance for spiritual growth and for living and sharing the Faith in our families, parishes, workplaces, and communities. Cost is $ 25 and to register on-line with a $3 online surcharge visit athenscatholic.org/Steubenville-mens-day, lunch will be provided.

**WOMEN'S DAY OF RENEWAL**

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is hosting a Lenten Day of Spirituality on Saturday, March 21st at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Marietta. Registration begins at 8:30 AM with Mass and sessions led by Sister Edie Strong from 9 AM to 3 PM. For further details or to register, please contact Heather Peters at 740-350-6972 by Sunday, March 15th.

## NO MORE THAN WE CAN HANDLE

Of course Jesus was hungry! Who wouldn't be, after forty days of fasting? Surely his stomach ached and his head throbbed. It's true that he is the Son of God who needs nothing. But he was also a real human being with real needs. And so this Divine Son . . . got hungry. Matthew wants to make sure we understand this truth. Jesus decided to become a man and face trials in a human body like our own. In his hunger, he confronted the temptation to provide for himself instead of trusting God—a test our first parents had failed. *Is God truly good? Will he provide for me?* In Eden, the serpent had asked, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees?" (Genesis 3:1). Now, Jesus heard a similar enticement: "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread" (Matthew 4:3). *It seemed logical: Would God really want you to be famished? Isn't there a better way to bring in the kingdom?* But Jesus held fast to the word of God: "It is written: 'One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God' " (Matthew 4:4). He was recalling the Exodus, when God provided manna for his hungry people so that they could learn to rely on him. In the wilderness, Jesus defeated the devil by trusting his Father and aligning himself with his will. At the same time, he showed us how to battle our own temptations. We all face testing. Our Lenten fasting is difficult, our best-laid plans go awry, someone we love falls ill. In our "wilderness," we are tempted to doubt the goodness of God's plan. In our "hunger," we wonder if he will provide. But Jesus promises that we will not be tested beyond our ability (1 Corinthians 10:13). And he is with us to give us strength. Cling to the Lord today—he knows what it is to be hungry.

**~The Word Among Us**

## POPE INTENTIONS

***Prayer Intentions for* February**

**For Children with Incurable Diseases**

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**25: Gn 12: 1-4a Ps 33: 4-5, 18-20, 22**

**Tm 1: 8b-10 Mt 17: 1-9**

## A VOCATION VIEW

We do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Who will proclaim that word to us? Pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

(Matthew 4: 1-11)

## 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, OH 43235)

**Maximilian Kolbe Gan, Jonathan Ruscoe, Riley Morris, John Paul Gan, William Gugala, and Aaron Pabin**

*Studying at the Saint Vincent Seminary*

(300 Fraser Purchase Rd., Latrobe, PA 15650)

**Christopher McGurn and Sam Ivkovich**

*Keep in your prayers*:

**Deacon Peter Stetson, Deacon Ryan Budd, and Caleb Baker**

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://steubenville vocations.com.

## SQUARE DANCE

Washington County Farm Bureau is hosting a Square Dance on Saturday, February 28th, from 7 PM to 10 PM, at OLM Parish Hall. Cost is by donation only with all proceeds go to the American Red Cross to benefit Washington County.

## LOWELL AREA ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES

**Tuesday– February 24th, at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church with Fr. Dave Gaydosik; Supper at 6 PM, Service at 7 PM**

Tuesday- March 03rd, Highland Ridge Church; Supper at 6 PM, Service at 7 PM

Tuesday– March 10th, at the St. John Church, Lowell; Supper at 6 PM, Service at 7 PM

Tuesday- March 17th, Lowell United Methodist Church Supper at 6 PM, Service at 7 PM

Tuesday- March 24rd, Highland Ridge Church; Supper at 6 PM, Service at 7 PM

## STJ CWC BREAKFAST

STJ CWC is serving breakfast on Sunday, February 22nd at the K of C #4617 Hall, Churchtown from 8 AM to 10 AM . There will be a country store and bake sale available as well. Dine-in or Drive-thru available. Adult meal of sausage gravy/biscuit, bacon, eggs, hash browns, and a drink the cost is $10.A child meal includes pancakes, bacon, eggs, and a drink the cost $5. All are welcome to attend.

## MARY'S HOUSE BAG & BASKET BINGO

Mary's House Bag and Basket Bingo on Sunday, February 22nd, at St. Bernard Church Social Hall, Beverly. Doors open at 1 PM. Bingo is at 2 PM. 20 Games for $25.00. Tickets sold at door only. There will also be a 50/50 drawing, raffle, and a concession stand.

## LOWELL SCHOOL PTO BAG BINGO

Lowell Elementary School PTO is hosting it's annual Spring Bag Bingo, on Saturday, March 7th at 1 PM. Please contact Bri Fliehman if you would like early bird tickets for $20. Limited tickets will be offered at the door.

## 2026 Diocesan Parish Share Campaign

***"Sharing the Peace of Christ"***

**Our Lady of Mercy Goal: $22,178.95**

You may have received a letter from Bishop Lohse asking you to consider your contribution to this year's Diocesan/ Parish Campaign (DPSC). Your gifts to the DPSC brings to life all our diocesan ministries and services that go beyond what any parish can provide on its own, care for retired priests; including seminarian formation; assistance for those most in need through Catholic Charities; administrative support for Catholic schools; promotion of the sanctity of life; training for catechists; youth ministry activities; Catholic news and evangelization (especially through the Steubenville Register); and much more. The DPSC also provides essential support to our parishes as all funds raised above the parish goal are retuned to the parish. These fund help parishes live out the mission of the Church by providing for a wide varies of needs, such as construction or renovation projects, youth ministry programs, evangelization initiatives, and outreach programs for the poor. Please prayerfully consider how you can participate.