

# OUR LADY OF MERCY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



## Mailing Address

5001 Lowell Hill Road

Lowell, Ohio 45744

740-896-2207

[olm.churchlowell@gmail.com](mailto:olm.churchlowell@gmail.com)

Website: [olmlowell.com](http://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**

**Parish Council:** Council  
Meetings will be announced.

**Men's Club:** Meetings will be announced.

**Catholic Women's Club:** Meetings will be  
held the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30  
PM in the parish social hall.

**Knights of Columbus:** Meet on the 1st and  
3rd Mondays of the month at 7:30 PM at the  
K of C Hall, Churchtown.

## December 31, 2023

### THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

**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

|                                     |   |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun. Dec. 31</b>                 | <b>OLM Kelton &amp; Helen Flieman (Dan &amp; Elanda Flieman)</b><br>St. John Leora Arnold ( Bill & Alberta Wesel)<br>St. John Tony Tornes (Donna Tornes Family) | <b>9:30 AM</b><br>7:30 AM<br>11:00 AM |
| <b>Sun. Dec. 31</b>                 | <b>OLM Dorothy Huck (Nancy Huck)</b><br>St. John Mary Huck (Regis Huck Family)  | <b>4:00 PM</b><br>6:00 PM             |
| <b>Mon. Jan. 01<br/>(Solemnity)</b> | <b>OLM Darren Cheeseman (Tom &amp; Martha Flieman)</b><br>St. John Paul Schwendeman (Family)  | <b>:00 AM</b><br>8:00 AM              |
| <b>Tues. Jan. 02</b>                | <b>OLM Charles Higgins Jr. (Frank &amp; Stacy Leeper)</b><br>St. John No Mass   | <b>5:00 PM</b><br>No Mass             |
| <b>Wed. Jan. 03</b>                 | <b>OLM No Mass</b><br>St. John Patricia Gaydosik (Bill & Roberta Dent) <i>School Mass</i>   | <b>No Mass</b><br>8:20 AM             |
| <b>Thurs. Jan. 04</b>               | <b>OLM Shirley Morris (Unknown)</b><br>St. John No Mass   | <b>5:00 PM</b><br>No Mass             |
| <b>Fri. Jan. 05</b>                 | <b>OLM No Mass</b><br>St. John Judy Britton (Ted & Trina Miller) <i>Adoration 5PM</i>   | <b>No Mass</b><br>6:00 PM             |
| <b>Sat. Jan. 06</b>                 | <b>OLM Ken Stehly (1 yr. Anniv.) (Mike &amp; Denise Stehly)</b><br>St. John Clayton Harra (Sabrina Harra)   | <b>4:00 PM</b><br>6:00 PM             |
| <b>Sun. Jan. 07</b>                 | <b>OLM Tess Huck (Charlie Tornes)</b><br>St. John Mary Canterbury (Gertrude Bradley)<br>St. John Justine Tornes (Mary Brooker Family)                           | <b>9:30 AM</b><br>7:30 AM<br>11:00 AM |

### God Bless those who support our Parishes!

**OLM:** \$1,762.00 (62); Offertory \$382.01; Christmas Offering \$1,527.00 (53); Offering \$481.00; Legacy Fund \$10.00 (1); St. John \$5.00 (1); Improvement Fund \$23.00 (2)

**OLM 50/50 Winner: Jim Gorrell– Congratulations!**

### Liturgical Ministries Schedule

#### Lectors

**OLM:** 01/01 (9 AM) **Volunteer needed**  
**OLM:** 01/06 (4 PM) Ed Schilling  
**OLM:** 01/07 (9:30 AM) Dan Flieman

#### Altar Servers

**OLM:** 01/01 (9 AM) **Volunteer needed**  
**OLM:** 01/06 (4 PM) Kasey Lang, Jackson Long  
**OLM:** 01/07 (9:30 AM) Ross, Kate, & Ashton Schultheis

#### Eucharistic Ministers

**OLM:** 01/01 (9 AM) **Volunteer needed**  
**OLM:** 01/06 (4 PM) Sue Huck  
**OLM:** 01/07 (9:30 AM) Sherry Wittekind

#### Ushers (Month of January)

**SAT:** Dan Schwendeman, Melvin Schwendeman  
**SUN:** Jerry Hess, **Volunteer needed**

***Remember us, O God;***  
***from age to age be our comforter.***  
***You have given us the wonder of time,***  
***blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.***  
***Bless your people at the turning of the year***  
***and fill the months ahead with the bright hope***  
***that is ours in the coming of Christ.***  
***You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever.***



## 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     |

### **CWC MEETING**

The next CWC meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 02, 2024 at 6:30 PM in the parish hall. Please plan to attend.

### **OLM PSR CLASSES**

Because of the Holiday Season, there will be No PSR Classes this weekend. PSR Classes will resume Sunday, January 7 after Mass.

### **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.

### **2023 CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS**

If you need a copy of your church contributions for 2023, please notify Kristin at the Parish Office and we will be happy to mail them to you. Or if you would like to pick up your copy, please call ahead to (740) 896-2207 so they will be ready for you. Thank you.

### **CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATIONS**

Thank you to the men and women that dedicate their time to make our church a beautiful place to rejoice the birth of Emmanuel this Christmas Season.



**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.

## **Family - A small-scale version of the Church and the sacrament of God's love.**

“Amazed.” That’s how Mary and Joseph reacted when Simeon said that their son would be “a light for revelation” and “glory for . . . Israel” (Luke 2:32). They knew that Jesus was special, but seeing a prayerful, a holy man treat him with such awe and reverence left them speechless. Who was this child whom God had given them? This is a perfect image for today’s feast of the Holy Family. For all that Mary and Joseph had already experienced, Jesus was still a mystery to them. And he would continue to be a mystery. They would be “astonished” when they found him, at twelve years old, debating with the scribes in the Temple (Luke 2:48). Surely Mary was surprised when Jesus seemed to rebuke her for trying to see him (8:19-21). And imagine her shock when she saw him crucified! So how did Mary and Joseph respond to the great mystery of their child? With prayerful, open hearts. Luke says that Mary, undoubtedly along with her husband, reflected “in her heart” every time a new challenge arose (2:19). They knew they didn’t have all the answers. They needed to be open to God’s plan for Jesus rather than respond quickly and rashly based on their own ideas. What a model for us! Whether we are relating to our parents, our spouse, or our children, we should always approach them with a sense of awe and humility. Because they are “wonderfully made” by God himself, they deserve to be treated with respect and honor (Psalm 139:14). May we never try to impose our plans on them. May we instead be open to God’s work in them and love them as he loves them. Amazed. Prayerful. Humble. Imagine how much peace could flow in families this coming year if we all followed the Holy Family’s example!

~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**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

**20: Is 60: 1-6 Ps 72: 1-2,7-8, 10-13**

**Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2: 1-12**

**A VOCATION VIEW**

Yours may not be **THE HOLY FAMILY**, but you are still a holy family. Share an expression of gratitude for the gift of your family today. Pray for wholeness and holiness for all members of the family of God.

(Colossians 3:12 - 21)

**STEBENVILLE 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](http://www.facebook.com/dsvocations) or  
Diocesan Vocation Website: <http://steubenvillevocations.com>



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
GIVING TREE**

Thank you for your generosity, support, and participation of the St. Vincent De Paul Giving Tree program.

“Charity is certainly greater than any rule. Moreover, all rules must lead to charity.”

-St. Vincent de Paul

**ST. JOHN’S CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS**

**Bingo Group Work Schedule**

**Dec. 31 No BINGO (Happy New Year)**

**Jan. 07 Team #1 Jeff Brooker 749-3538  
& Team #2 Jessica Henke 896-3705**

**K OF C NEWS**

**K of C Annual Free Throw** competition is to be held Sunday, January 21 at the K of C Hall, Churchtown. Sign-up will begin at noon, shooting starts at 1:00 PM. Boys and girls ages 9-14 as of January 1, 2024, can participate. Parent or guardian must be present for sign in. You do not have to be a K of C Member to sign your child up to participate. Entry is FREE. Contact Taylor Pottmeyer @ 412-215-6470 with any questions.

**K of C Scholarship** Knights of Columbus Council #4617, Churchtown is accepting Scholarship Applications. Any senior who is gradating this year may apply for the Knights of Columbus Council Scholarship. One boy and one girl will be selected from the area. The scholarship recipients will receive a \$500.00 check. The application must be submitted by March 15, 2024. More information and the application link can be found on their Facebook Page: "Knights of Columbus 4617 - Churchtown, OH.". Or you may apply at the link: <https://forms.gle/9dEuaKinPD8oSx27>. Any questions contact, Taylor Pottmeyer at 412-215-6470. Good luck to all applicants!

Do not be misled by the words: “*Holy Family.*” For we are too often misled by those words into thinking that the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph was a “perfect family” who were given a free pass from the harsh realities of life. Nothing could be further from the truth. Joseph and Mary and Jesus definitely did not live a sheltered and trouble-free life. What made this family “holy” is the fact that their home was open toward heaven. Their most important relationship, which enabled them to move forward through the difficulties of life with grace, was with God.

