

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

555 S. Main Street, Johnstown, Ohio 43031 • 740-967-7871 • [www.johnstownascension.org](http://www.johnstownascension.org)

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Molly & Bob Orsini | 614-446-5622

**Social Committee**  
Daryl Wernette | 217-721-0802

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**  
24-hour Hotline | 740-349-0989

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*Church of the Ascension is a Catholic community in Johnstown, Ohio that keeps Christ at the center of our hearts, families, homes and parish, so we can live the truth and share it with others*

*(John 14:6; 1 Peter 3:15).*

*With the help of sacred scripture, tradition, and the sacraments, we strive to know, love and serve God in this world, while encouraging others to do the same, so we may live eternally in heaven with Christ, the angels, and the saints*

*(Ephesians 2:4-8).*

Ascension of Christ, Gebhard Fugel (c. 1893)

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. • 11:00 a.m.

### HOLY DAYS

Vigil 6:30 p.m.  
8:00 a.m. • 7:00 p.m.

### ADORATION

Tuesday 5:00-6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.

### DAILY MASS

Monday 8:00 am  
Tuesday 6:30 pm  
Wednesday-Saturday 8:00 am

### CONFESSIONS

Tuesday 5:00-6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY AT CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION.  
TO REGISTER IN THE PARISH, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AT 740-967-7871.

 [facebook.com/johnstownascension](https://facebook.com/johnstownascension)

 [@johnstownascension](https://www.instagram.com/johnstownascension) on Instagram

 [youtube.com/johnstownascension](https://youtube.com/johnstownascension)

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

555 S. Main Street, Johnstown, OH 43031 • 740-967-7871 • [www.johnstownascension.org](http://www.johnstownascension.org)

AUGUST 25, 2024 • TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## Mass Intentions

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

- 8:00 a.m. Lukas H. Kim  
by the Kim Family  
8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions  
4:00 p.m. Mark Mann  
by Linda Hattery

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

- 8:30 a.m. Toni Burkart  
by John Burkart  
11:00 a.m. Parish Family

### MONDAY, AUGUST 26

- 8:00 a.m. Jeff Campitelli  
by the Thomas Family

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

- 5:00 p.m. Adoration & Confessions  
6:30 p.m. Wilbur DePue  
by Rosemary DePue

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

- 8:00 a.m. Mary Ann Olvera  
by Amanda Mahle

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

- 8:00 a.m. For the Intention of  
Donna Dellapina  
by Carol Koker

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

- 8:00 a.m. Bob & Elaine Stoverock  
by the Stoverock Family

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

- 8:00 a.m. Intentions and Needs of  
Beau Bateson  
by the Kim Family  
8:30 a.m. **Confessions Only/  
NO Adoration**  
4:00 p.m. Wally Bange  
by the Stoverock Family

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- 8:30 a.m. Carole Reardon  
by Bubby &  
Robbi Eichner  
11:00 a.m. Parish Family

## Shepherd's Column

### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Gospel this weekend will be challenging for us all to hear, and even more challenging for me and my brother priests around the world to preach about. The Lord reveals a fundamental truth about the mystery of salvation to the disciples, and many do not accept it. In fact, many not only challenge His teaching, but they walk away from Him entirely because of it. The challenging part of that Gospel pericope is this: Jesus didn't stop them.

It would be a mistake to say that Jesus did not care about these people, or their opinion. On the contrary, He cared so much that He walked with them and guided them and met them where they were at, to do His best to explain an extraordinarily challenging teaching to them. I would argue that He did everything within His power to convince them of the truth of His message. However, He refused to change the message to make them happy. When He was challenged on it, He doubled down. He reinforced the truth of what He was saying. He did not want them to leave, and I can imagine Him pleading with them to stay. However, Christ respected their freedom to choose for or against His teaching.

We should not imagine that anything is different about our Lord today. He does not make it easy to be His followers, and in fact, He often challenges us beyond our comfort level – perhaps even our current ability to understand. However, the Lord always speaks truth, and if we are open to His love and wisdom, I truly believe He will make this truth understandable to us in time.

I encourage you, brothers and sisters, to never walk away from the Lord. When you run into teachings that are challenging, pray about them, and do not dismiss them. Seek resources and understanding. Know that the Lord walks with you in your discomfort and desires you to come to full understanding. He gave us a brain so that we could know His truth, not so we could blindly follow. We live in a wonderful time where knowledge and information are so accessible. I would like to challenge you, as I challenge myself, to never stop seeking the reason behind our faith.

May God richly bless you!

In Christ,

**Fr. PJ Brandimarti**

*Parish Administrator*

*Church of the Ascension, Johnstown*

### PLEASE NOTE:

Fr. Brandimarti's email address on the front cover is incorrect.

Instead, please use [pjbrandimarti@johnstownascension.org](mailto:pjbrandimarti@johnstownascension.org) until new covers are run. Sorry for any inconvenience.



<https://forms.office.com/r/kv2787cxx7>

Please take a moment to give us your thoughts on additional Adoration opportunities.

*Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, AUGUST 24-25, 2024*

	<i>SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.</i>	<i>SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.</i>	<i>SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.</i>
<b>ALTAR SERVERS:</b>	Jackson Wernette	Annie Muntz	Cole Fox
	Isaac Dorsten	Austin Eckstein	Ryan Neal
	Christian Dorsten	Veronica Botts	Alex Rush
<b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:</b>	Dennis Murnane – Host	Jeri Burgel – Chalice	Mark Hawkins – Host
		Mary Sheehan – Chalice	
		Michael Robbins – Host	
<b>LECTORS:</b>	Barbara VanHoose	Rodney Tornes	Kelly Bernthold
	Tom Nann – Angelus	Adele Robbins – Angelus	Chuck Bernthold
<b>GREETERS/USHERS:</b>	MaryAnn Shaffer	Mark Sheehan	Lora Dunfee
	Jan Orkis	Mary Sheehan	Mike Dunfee
<b>LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:</b>			Jeff Thomas

*Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 1, 2024*

	<i>SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.</i>	<i>SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.</i>	<i>SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.</i>
<b>ALTAR SERVERS:</b>	Jolene Bogner	Claire Barb	Gabi Cervantes
	Ethan Wnek	Joey Barb	Ryan Neal
	Jackson Wernette	Veronica Botts	CC Zirille
<b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:</b>	Gary Shively – Host	Tom Stanearth – Chalice	VOLUNTEER NEEDED – Host
		Billy Stanearth – Chalice	
		Rachel Barb – Host	
<b>LECTORS:</b>	Theresa Shively	Aaron Locker	Kelly Bernthold
	Dave Bogner – Angelus	Diana Lewis – Angelus	Chuck Bernthold – Angelus
<b>GREETERS/USHERS:</b>	Shelli Writesel	Robbi Eichner	Lora Dunfee
	Dennis Murnane	Bubby Eichner	Mike Dunfee
<b>LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:</b>			Misiunas Family

*Your Prayers are Requested*

Your prayers this week are asked for Danny Oxley, James Litzinger, Lyndsie Woosley Grubb, Rafferty Loughran, Jennifer Ankrom, Angela Taylor, baby Carmen, Sally Blubaugh, Ernie Burnam, Bob & Sylvia Freed, Rick Potter & Family, Justin King, Maxine Nann, Letha Patton, Wesley Potts, Susan Welch, Joyce Curran, Gabrielle & Shawn, Dana Caswell, Suzanne Kubin, Sharon Freitag, Di Habash, Joe Lindsay, Ivan Booth, Donna Dellapina, Cathy Mann, Peggy Hall, Terry Baesmann, John & Helen Tomich, Barbara Penhorwood, Margie Easterday, John & Neva Stover, Jared Writesel, Don Vocca, Karen Reitz, Jeff Ankrom, JoAnn Wright, Ron & Ann Mullins, Ron Gallo, and for those who have no one to pray for them.

**Are you or someone in your family on active duty in the military? Please let us know and we will add the names to our Prayer Requests.**

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are donated in honor of Lydia Lewis' birthday by Diana Lewis

## Your Gifts to God

WEEKLY NEED \$7,115.00

430 REGISTERED FAMILIES

*AUGUST 17/18, 2024*

Total Offering	\$	5,399.10
64 Envelopes	\$	3,834.00
Loose Cash	\$	592.10
Online	\$	973.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	230.00
SOLT	\$	10.00
Latin America	\$	\$30.00
Assumption	\$	601.80

Do you return a portion of your time/skills/possessions to God in a spirit of gratitude?  
Looking for an easier way to give?  
Scan the QR Code below.



<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/givinglascensionjohnstown>

### REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE FOR THE 2024-2025 PYC YEAR

Please go to the parish website at [johnstowncension.org](http://johnstowncension.org) to register. You must be in at least 8th grade to be considered for Confirmation and have completed 7th grade PYC. If you have any questions about PYC, First Communion, or Confirmation, please email [kpertee@johnstowncension.org](mailto:kpertee@johnstowncension.org) or [mnelson@johnstowncension.org](mailto:mnelson@johnstowncension.org).

### CHRIST, COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Join us for fellowship on Friday mornings after Mass. We will have continuous conversations on various topics on Catholicism. Any questions, please contact Carrie Sues at 302-377-1755 or [carriesues@yahoo.com](mailto:carriesues@yahoo.com).

**RISE!**  
**PRAYER & WORSHIP**

**Sunday  
August 25th  
6:30 pm**

**Back-to-School  
CONCERT**

CHURCH OF THE  
*Ascension*

### ANNUAL SWAPPERS DAY AND BAKE SALE

**Friday, August 30th 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and  
Saturday, August 31st 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

We need your donated items in order to make this Yard Sale as successful as in the past. Please donate any items that are clean, in good condition, and working order. We are also in need of volunteers to help sort, price, set up, check out, and clean up. Great opportunity for high schoolers who need volunteer hours. Look for a flyer for date and time details. Contact Mary Sheehan at 614-256-5096 with questions.

Once again, the **WOA Annual Labor Day Bake Sale** will be held in conjunction with the Social Committee's Yard Sale. Thanks to you, this Bake Sale has always been very successful in the past!

We need cookies, muffins, quick breads, cupcakes, candy...anything not frosted and easy to transport. No whole pies or cakes. Full-sized or mini-loaves of any kind of breads are always big hits!

Please package all donations to eliminate frequent handling. You may package any way you want and we will price the packages accordingly.

Please label the packages and note when nuts have been used. Gluten-free items were offered last year and were a big hit.

Items can be dropped off in the kitchen, beginning Thursday, August 29.

### 2024-2025 OCIA INTRODUCTORY MEETING

**Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m.**

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) will kick off this year on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in Rooms 7 and 8 at the church. Light snacks and water will be provided. If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church, are interested in serving as a sponsor, or are just interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith, we hope you will join us. All are welcome. For more information, please contact OCIA Directors Mike and Maureen Keebaugh (Mike at 614-323-6715 or [mjk18@att.net](mailto:mjk18@att.net); Maureen at 614-323-7293 or [mkeebaugh@att.net](mailto:mkeebaugh@att.net)).

## Youth Group News

### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP WILL START BACK UP ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8!

This takes place after the 11:00 a.m. Mass from 12:00-2:00 p.m. and is open to all those in Grades 8-12. Come socialize, eat lunch and deepen your faith! Questions? Contact Mary at [mnelson@johnstownascension.org](mailto:mnelson@johnstownascension.org)

### SNACKS NEEDED

Youth Group is in need of snacks and drinks to get us started for the year! Next time you are at the store, please consider picking up something and donating it! We always go through chips, candy, cookies and drinks quickly! One of our biggest costs to the program is food, so donations are always welcome!

### HELP NEEDED

Youth Group also needs people to sign up and provide lunch! Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BA8A628AAFFC52-47092442-youth> or email Mary to sign up.

### CHARITY GOLF OUTING: TRIBUTE TO DCN. MICKEY HAWKINS (ATTACHMENT)

This year's Golf Outing on September 22, 2024, at the Bent Tree Golf Club, is a tribute to Deacon Hawkins's unwavering dedication and service. It serves as an opportunity for us to come together, celebrate his life, and continue his mission of supporting individuals in need of employment opportunities. The event promises to be a day filled with camaraderie, friendly competition, and most importantly, a chance to raise funds that will directly benefit the **Stewardship Employment Ministry**. Whether you are an avid golfer or simply wish to show your support, your participation is greatly valued and appreciated. Shotgun start is at 1:00 p.m.

### MINISTERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL MASSES

Please consider giving an hour of your time to be ministers to the Lord at Mass. We are in desperate need for all Mass times, especially the 4:00 p.m. Mass. We need Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers (5th Grade-Adult) and Greeters. Training provided. Contact Fr. Brandimarti at [pjbrandimarti@johnstownascension.org](mailto:pjbrandimarti@johnstownascension.org).

### ST. PEREGRINE CANCER CARE COMMITTEE TRAINING

The Cancer Care Committee at the Maria Stein Shrine is looking for more volunteers who would be interested in joining the committee. The committee takes on the responsibility of spiritually investing into those fighting cancer. They walk with the patients or caregivers in their journey, providing them with some extra support as they can. If you are interested or know of someone who may have the interest, the Shrine will be holding a seven-week training series at 7:00 p.m., every Thursday from September 5 to October 17. A commissioning to follow would be on October 20th. Please contact Caleb Gaier, if you have any interest or questions, by calling 419-925-4532 or send an email to [c.gaier@mariasteinshrine.org](mailto:c.gaier@mariasteinshrine.org).



# EMERGENCY BLOOD SHORTAGE



American Red Cross

Blood Program Leader

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage. Overall, the Red Cross national blood supply has fallen by more than 25% since July 1, 2024. Blood product distributions to hospitals are outpacing the number of blood donations coming in, which is rapidly drawing down the blood supply. The Red Cross is working with hospitals around the clock to meet the blood needs of patients – but can't do it alone. We need your help!







Our next **RED CROSS Blood Drive** will take place on **Monday, September 16 from 12:00-6:00 p.m.** Fall into donating! Give blood September 16 for a \$15.00 e-gift card: [www.rcblood.org/fall](http://www.rcblood.org/fall). Just as a reminder, the American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission.

Activities for Children

Christ is the Head of the Church

Instead of demanding our own way, we should all yield to Christ's authority and to one another.

Name the pictures, then write the first letter of each name in the blank to spell the missing word.

1 	2 
3 	4 
5 	6 

\_\_\_\_\_ to one another  
out of reverence for Christ.



Jesus and His church are in a close relationship with one another.

Fill in the missing letter in each column, spelling the name of a body part. Read the sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, His \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of which He is the \_\_\_\_\_

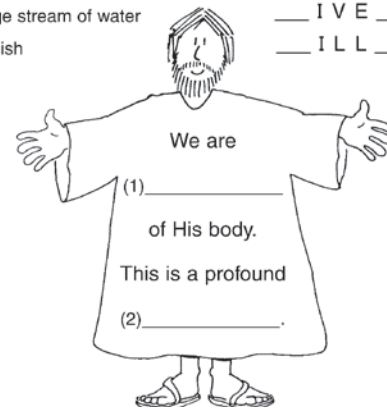
\_\_\_\_\_



The unity of Christ and the church is wonderful beyond human understanding.


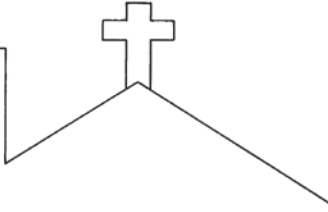
Supply the first and last letters to make words that match the clues. Then write the letters from the vertical columns in the blanks.

- |                             |           |   |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---|
|                             | ①         | ② |
| polite title for a woman    | — A D A — |   |
| adversary or foe            | — N E M — |   |
| led Israelites out of Egypt | — O S E — |   |
| wild animal                 | — E A S — |   |
| socially superior           | — L I T — |   |
| large stream of water       | — I V E — |   |
| foolish                     | — I L L — |   |



The relationship is compared to a marriage. Jesus is the groom and the church is His bride.

Solve the math equations. Write the words in order according to their answers, 1 through 16.

			
just $25 \div 5 =$	church $8 + 2 =$	love $4 - 2 =$	loved $2 \times 4 =$
gave $2 \times 6 =$	Husbands $28 - 27 =$	Christ $21 \div 3 =$	for $3 \times 5 =$
the $3 \times 3 =$	her $8 + 8 =$	wives $2 \times 2 =$	up $21 - 7 =$
your $12 \div 4 =$	Himself $6 + 7 =$	and $8 + 3 =$	as $18 - 12 =$

- |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |

## GOING FURTHER

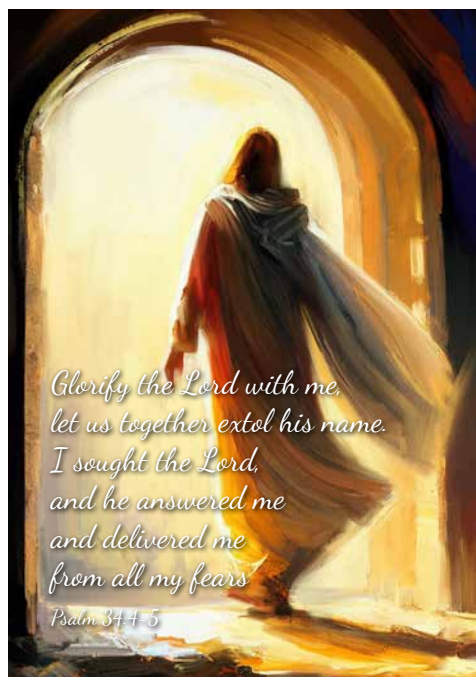
Reflection on John 6:60-69

There is both some painful questioning (*How can anyone take this seriously? Does this shake your faith? Do you want to leave me, too? But where else would we go?*), and some deep affirming (*As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord! You have the words of eternal life. I have come to believe you are God's Holy One!*) in our Scripture readings this weekend. I would suggest that the paradox is that both are necessary for a lively faith.

I know that my life has been a journey of discovery, in the truth of Graham Green's observation that "if we really believe in something, we have no choice but to go further." Going further and deeper into the discovery of what I believe, affirm, value is a lifelong project, as the depths of God's call will have different implications for the many seasons of our lives. I have found that it is often through wrestling with the hard questions in life that I can affirm what is good and true and beautiful.

One of the dangers in this faith journey is falling into the trap of seeing God as an object of my thoughts, when the truth is that I am a reality in the mind of God. This truth frees me to be in right relationship, with God and with others, knowing that growing in God means submitting to, deferring to, being subject to one another in love.

– Fr. Jay



## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### Sunday, August 25, 2024

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b  
 Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21  
 Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32  
 Jn 6:60-69

### Monday, August 26, 2024

Weekday  
 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12  
 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5  
 Mt 23:13-22

### Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Saint Monica  
 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17  
 Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13  
 Mt 23:23-26

### Wednesday, August 28, 2024

Saint Augustine,  
 Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18  
 Ps 128:1-2, 4-5  
 Mt 23:27-32

### Thursday, August 29, 2024

Passion of Saint John the Baptist  
 1 Cor 1:1-9  
 Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7  
 Mk 6:17-29

### Friday, August 30, 2024

Weekday  
 1 Cor 1:17-25  
 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11  
 Mt 25:1-13

### Saturday, August 31, 2024

Weekday  
 1 Cor 1:26-31  
 Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21  
 Mt 25:14-30

Access Daily Readings from  
 the New American Bible,  
 Revised Edition (NABRE) online at  
<https://bible.usccb.org>

## MARTYRDOM OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Saint of the Day: August 29

Patron Saint of: First Communicants and pilgrims

The drunken oath of a king with a shallow sense of honor, a seductive dance and the hateful heart of a queen combined to bring about the martyrdom of John the Baptist. The greatest of prophets suffered the fate of so many Old Testament prophets before him: rejection and martyrdom. The "voice crying in the desert" did not hesitate to accuse the guilty, did not hesitate to speak the truth. But why? What possesses a man that he would give up his very life?

This great religious reformer was sent by God to prepare the people for the Messiah. His vocation was one of selfless giving. The only power that he claimed was the Spirit of Yahweh. "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11).

Scripture tells us that many people followed John looking to him for hope, perhaps in anticipation of some great messianic power. John never allowed himself the false honor of receiving these people for his own glory. He knew his calling was one of preparation. When the time came, he led his disciples to Jesus: "The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God.' The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus" (John 1:35-37).

It is John the Baptist who has pointed the way to Christ. John's life and death were a giving over of self for God and other people. His heart was centered on God and the call that he heard from the Spirit of God speaking to his heart. Confident of God's grace, he had the courage to speak words of condemnation, repentance, and salvation.

Read the full article: "Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/martyrdom-of-saint-john-the-baptist/> (Accessed July 29, 2024).

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