



The Intereom

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Reviving Tradition: Forty Hours Devotion Returns to St. Joseph Parish

By Reverend Anthony Coci, *Pastor*

Forty Hours Devotion is something many of you may recall from childhood. It is akin to a retreat for the parish, offering opportunities for special devotions, homilies, confessions, music, and periods of quiet adoration. Parishioners have approached me about reinstating it. After conducting research and discussing it with the Pastoral Council and Parish Staff, we have decided to reintroduce it this year. The dates are March 14-16, and our aim is to hold it in March in honor of St. Joseph. Additionally, this timing aligns well with the ongoing National Eucharistic Revival.

From our archives, I found a bulletin article dated December 3, 1961, which included “The Order of the Forty Hours Devotion” from Msgr. Gabel’s era. It was the parish’s custom to host the Forty Hours Devotion during the Advent season, commencing on a Sunday after the last Mass and concluding on Tuesday. Families of the parish were allocated an hour based on the letter of their last name (e.g., Families A-E were encouraged to come from 12:30pm-1:30pm), and throughout the week, school children participated, alongside the Rosary Altar Society, High School Junior Sodality, and the Holy Name Society.

The term “Forty Hours” originates from the tradition that Jesus’ body rested in the tomb for 40 hours from Good Friday to Easter Sunday. Additionally, forty holds significant biblical symbolism, referencing the 40 days and nights of rain during Noah’s time, the 40 years of Israel’s desert wanderings, and the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert being tempted. In the Bible, forty symbolizes testing, not for God to ascertain the disposition of our hearts, but for us to learn, grow, and mature as Christians.

The exact origins of the devotion are unknown, but it emerged organically in the hearts of the faithful through the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Many saints, such as St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria, St. Francis de Sales, St. Charles Borromeo, and St. Ignatius of Loyola, popularized this sacred practice during their lifetimes. Pope Clement VIII encouraged this pious practice in his letter “Graves et Diuturnae” (1592), urging Christians in Milan, Italy, to make reparations for the poor behavior of Christians and seek God’s protection against the Church’s enemies. In May 1853, St. John Neumann, while serving as the bishop of Philadelphia, introduced the first Forty Hours Devotion in the United States. In June 1919, the Diocese of Toledo hosted the first Diocesan Eucharistic Conference at our very own St. Joseph Parish.

Extra devotion to the Most Holy Sacrament has always been a hallmark of St. Joseph Catholic Church. One parishioner shared with me her fond memories of attending Forty Hours as a child; she participated for all three days—once with her family, once with her class during the school day, and finally on the last day with all her First Communion classmates for the closing ceremonies. She reminisced about the beautiful flowers, her dress, and the spiritual power of praying as a community of faith. However, for some reason, this devotion began to wane in the late 1960s/early 1970s. Then, in October 1993, some Tiffinites were inspired by the promptings of the Holy Spirit to resurrect these sacred practices. The parishioners of St. Joseph and St. Mary decided to host a day of adoration once a week, alternating between the two churches. After several months of this, a spark was ignited in the hearts of the faithful, and St. Mary dedicated Tuesdays to Eucharistic Adoration, while St. Joseph took Wednesdays. This tradition continues to this day, and last year, we celebrated 30 years of weekly Eucharistic Adoration! It is truly a gift to have so many opportunities to spend sacred time with Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

My prayer is that our Forty Hours Devotion (**March 14-16**) will help you deepen your love for Our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Consider it a mini-retreat away from the world to rest on the mountain with the Lord, as He did so many times in the Scriptures. Please review the itinerary, and even if you cannot commit to a full hour, any moment spent with the Lord will enrich your life even more deeply.

Forty Hours Devotion Schedule

Every St. Joseph parishioner is invited and encouraged to participate in the Forty Hours Devotions by making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament and/or attending the special devotions.

Thursday, March 14

Mass: 8:30 AM

Adoration: following Mass until 8:00 PM

Confessions: 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Stations of the Cross, Evening Prayer and Benediction: 7:00 PM

Friday, March 15

Mass: 6:30 AM

Adoration: following Mass until 6:30 PM

Sacred instrumental music: 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Confessions: 3:00 PM (the Hour of Mercy)

Evening Prayer and Benediction with special guest speaker, Fr. Matt Frisbee (time to be determined)

Saturday, March 16

Mass: 8:30 AM

Adoration: following Mass until 12:00 PM

Benediction: 12:00 PM



Lenten Confession Times

In addition to our usual Confession Times on Tuesdays from 5:00-5:25 PM and Saturdays from 3:30-4:15 PM, the following Confession times will be offered during Lent:

Thursday, March 14

9:30 - 10:30 AM

Friday, March 15

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Sunday, March 17

*Community Penance Service
3:00 PM at St. Mary Church*

Please Note:

There are no scheduled Confession times on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday.

Holy Week Mass Schedule

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 23, 4:30 PM

Sunday, March 24, 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

The blessing, distribution of palms, solemn procession, and narration of the Lord's Passion will be at all Masses.

Chrism Mass

Tuesday, March 26, 11:00 AM

at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, Toledo

All the priests and deacons of the Diocese, along with three bearers of the Holy Oils from each parish gather together at this festive Mass in which the Sacred Chrism, the Oil of Catechumens, and the Oil of the Sick will be blessed. They will then be brought back for our presentation on Holy Thursday.

Please note: There will be no 5:30 PM Mass or Confessions on March 26.

Tenebrae

Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 PM

at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, Toledo

This service serves as an introduction to the Sacred Triduum. The word "tenebrae" means darkness, in reference to the darkness held in the heart of the Church during these days. The liturgy consists of psalms, antiphons, and readings, much of which is taken from the Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thursday of the Lord's Supper

Thursday, March 28, 7:00 PM

The reception of the Holy Oils, Mass of the Lord's Supper, the washing of feet, and the transfer of the Most Blessed Sacrament to the Transept Chapel with private devotions until Midnight.

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Friday, March 29

12:00 - Noon

Private Devotions

12:15 PM

Stations of the Cross

1:00 PM

Celebration of the Lord's Passion with Liturgy of the Word and Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion

At St. Joseph Church, we are privileged to have a relic of the True Cross on which Christ actually died. This sacred relic will be used during the Veneration of the Cross.

Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday)

Saturday, March 30, 8:30 PM

Consisting of four parts: The blessing of the fire and preparation of the Paschal Candle (Lucernarium), the Liturgy of the Word, Baptismal Liturgy, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Please note: There will be no 4:30 PM Mass on March 30.

Easter

Sunday, March 31, 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

Commemorating the joy of our Lord's Resurrection, with the renewal of our Baptismal promises and sprinkling rite.

Welcome New Parishioners!

Aaron Bates

William (Bill) & Rita Bernard

Jean Brickner

Shane & Katie Welter

Caitlyn Zoeller and Family

Recent Sacraments at St. Joseph Church

Baptism

Eli Joseph Anderson. Baptized November 19, 2023. Son of Eric & Jessica (Cox) Anderson.

Rose Alexandra Davenport. Baptized November 19, 2023. Daughter of Alexander & Cassandra (Recker) Davenport.

Merrick Odis Ginnever. Baptized November 26, 2023. Son of Benjamin & Arminda (Davis) Ginnever.

Cooper James Webb. Baptized December 9, 2023. Son of Jacob & Rebecca (Gase) Webb.



Malia Jade Mansor. Baptized December 10, 2023. Daughter of Dylan Mansor & Jordan Tyree.

Zophia Domenica Wertz. Baptized December 22, 2023. Daughter of Jeremiah & Shanae (Allen) Wertz.

Stella Grey Yoe. Baptized January 7, 2024. Daughter of Jared & Breanne (Cooper) Yoe.

Harrison Cole Webb. Baptized January 7, 2024. Son of Tyler & Krysten (Moore) Webb.

Jayden Thomas Cooper. Baptized January 28, 2024. Son of Maricarmen (Zagal) & the late Damien Cooper.

Hazel Rose Meyers-Barrell. Baptized February 25, 2024. Daughter of Andrea Meyers and Brandon Barrell.

Axel Adolph Meyers-Barrell. Baptized February 25, 2024. Son of Andrea Meyers and Brandon Barrell.

Henry Joseph Davis. Baptized February 25, 2024. Son of Christopher & Elizabeth (Brodman) Davis.

Timothy Jacob Brodman. Baptized February 25, 2024. Son of Jacob & Katherine (Rumsey) Brodman.

First Communion

Jayden Thomas Cooper. January 28, 2024.



Weddings

November 18, 2023. Derrick Marshfield Ridder & Emily Anne Daniel

January 20, 2024. Alex David Daniel & Bailee Morgan Daughenbaugh

Funerals

Richard H. Hayes, 80. Died November 9, 2023.

Lucille F. Rice, 92. Died November 10, 2023.

Thomas B. Rider, 66. Died November 10, 2023.

Gail E. Shreiner, 77. Died November 17, 2023.

Joseph F. Irving, Jr., 56. Died November 30, 2023.

Beau M. Schultz, 3 days. Died December 9, 2023.

Virginia M. Weaver, 79. Died December 25, 2023.

Agnes F. Peiffer, 89. Died January 9, 2024.

George J. Houck, 84. Died February 2, 2024.

Christine Gassner, 61. Died February 19, 2024.

Robert (Bob) C. Clouse, 76. Died February 21, 2024.

The Rite of Sending Forth



The Rite of Sending Forth is one of the Rites of RCIA. It offers the local community the opportunity to express its approval of the Catechumens and Candidates. The Catechumens are enrolled and then they are all sent forth to celebrate the Rite of Election with the Bishop.

(Back row) Bill Obringer, Austin Perry, **Jared Yoe**, Ty Cooper, **Nik Garvin**, Andy Kuhn, Alex Daniel, **David Hepp**, Cheryl Chaffee, Dennis Wilhelm, Rose Wilhelm and Father Anthony.

(Front row) Betty Obringer, **Kyli Lause**, Ashley Garvin, **Bailee Daniel**, **Nicole Swavel**, **Caleb Hinton**, Andrew Brodman, Kara Brodman and Deacon Dave.



Understanding the Depth of the Eucharist in Catholic Faith

By Deacon David Mileski, St. Joseph Permanent Deacon

Since June of 2022, we have been in the midst of The National Eucharistic Revival. It is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to the great mystery of the Eucharist by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. During the Diocesan and Parish years of the revival, many Catholics have begun or returned to the practice of Eucharistic Adoration. Many have examined their own understanding of the “Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist”. Many others fast and pray that the Lord may revive his Church.

We often refer to the Eucharist as the Source and Summit of our faith. Why? What is so different from communion celebrated by our Protestant brothers and sisters? We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God. We believe that the bible is the inspired word of God. So, what’s different? Most Christians see communion as a **symbol** reminding them of Christ at the Last Supper. They understand it as a means to bring together all present into the church.

The Catholic Church teaches that Jesus Christ is truly present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Eucharist; but veiled behind the appearance of bread and wine. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 1088, states: “Christ is always present in his Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations. He is present in the Sacrifice of the Mass not only in the person of his minister, ‘the same now offering, through the ministry of priests, who formerly offered himself on the cross,’ but especially in the Eucharistic species.”

With just a few months remaining in this Parish Year of the Eucharistic Revival, we may ask ourselves: “What can I do to improve my understanding of the Eucharist? How might I increase reverence toward Christ in the Eucharist? How can I better listen to the Lord and respond to whatever he is calling me to do while being in His Presence?”

St. Joseph Parish Spotlight

Meet Tommy Flechtner, our new Maintenance Manager!



Hello, my name is Tommy Flechtner and I was born and raised in Tiffin. I come from a large family of seven; my parents are Nancy and the late Donald. My wife, Anna, and I have two children, Cora and Owen. I went to school at Hopewell-London and took classes at Sentinel Career Center for Building Trades. In the past, I worked for Tom Daniel’s Construction, and a few years later for Tom Wise Builders. I then worked for myself, doing carpentry and remodeling. I’m excited for this opportunity to work for St. Joseph Catholic Church!



Spring is just around the corner! If you like to work outside and show your landscaping abilities, please consider joining the Parish Landscape Committee. We need people to weed, prune, plant, mulch, and water. This is a great opportunity for students to earn service hours and to show your stewardship.

Please call the Parish Office at 419-447-5848, if you are interested.

Diocese of Toledo Scholarship Fund

There is a new, fantastic opportunity to provide a scholarship to Calvert Catholic Schools through a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. As Ohioans, we are eligible to donate up to \$750.00 (or \$1,500.00 for those who are married filing jointly) to a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) that in turn will provide a tax credit to the donor based on one’s tax liability. While you cannot claim more than your total tax liability, as long as you owe at least \$750.00 (or \$1,500.00) on your Ohio taxes, you can donate up to the full amount and receive an equivalent amount as a credit on your State of Ohio tax return.

The Diocese of Toledo Scholarship Fund was created as the official SGO for our diocesan Catholic schools. See the QR code below or go to www.dotsgo.org. By clicking “Donate” you can choose to donate on-line or mail a check. You can then select our school or the greatest need to designate how your donation should be applied. School families will then submit applications to receive a scholarship from the SGO, where the families with the most need are considered first. Please know that 100% of the donations received will be awarded in the form of scholarships, and any donation designated in a school’s name will go to directly to benefit students of that school!

Your 2023 tax refund can quickly offset your gift amount if you make your donation before filing your taxes by April 15th! If you are married filing jointly, kindly submit two separate donations. Be sure to consult your tax advisor on your specific situation and remember to claim the credit when you file your taxes.

If you have any general questions about how this works, please call Jake Johnson, the Director of Catholic School Mission at the Diocese of Toledo, who is coordinating this project at jjohnson@tolediodiocese.org or 419-214-4946.

We hope you take advantage of this opportunity to provide additional scholarships to our students!

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Diocese of Toledo Scholarship Fund (DOTSF)?

The Diocese of Toledo Scholarship Fund (DOTSF) is a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) registered with the State of Ohio’s Attorney General’s Office. DOTSF is a registered non-profit 501(c)3 organization that collects funds to assist students in grades K-12 to attend non-public schools within the Diocese of Toledo.

Is the Diocese of Toledo Scholarship Fund part of the Diocese of Toledo?

The DOTSF is a separate 501(c)3 organization under the auspices of the Diocese of Toledo. This organization is not the same as One Faith, Many Blessings fund, the Annual Catholic Appeal, the Living Christ Diocesan Capital Campaign, or other parish endowments or scholarship funds; however, these funds directly benefit students in the Catholic schools within the Diocese of Toledo.

How much is awarded per scholarship?

Families may be awarded up to the full amount of the school’s tuition.

To see all Frequently Asked Questions, scan the QR Code to the right.

[Link to the Diocese of Toledo Scholarship Fund](#)

[Link to More Frequently Asked Questions](#)



Congratulations to our Calvert Seneca Athletes!

Throughout the Winter season, the Calvert Senecas have demonstrated their athletic prowess. The Girls Basketball team secured the District title by defeating Arcadia and advancing to the Regionals, while the Boys Basketball team triumphed over Gibsonburg in the Sectional title game to move on to the District Semifinals.

The Cheer team achieved success as State Runner-Ups in both the Gameday and Traditional categories.

Individually, Lukas Stultz finished 7th in the Triple Jump at the 2024 Ohio Indoor State Track & Field Championships Meet. Cameron Bagent placed third at the Boy's Wrestling Sectionals, earning him a spot in the District Championships.

Alaina Sherman placed 6th at Girl's Wrestling Pre-Regionals, and Allison Ott finished as the runner-up. Ott will compete at the upcoming Regionals in Marysville for a chance to qualify for the state tournament.

Congratulations to all of our Seneca athletes!



2024 St. Joseph Festival Plans for Its 72nd Year!

Join us for the action-packed 72nd Annual St. Joseph Festival on July 13-14! If you're interested in sponsoring our event, we have options available including Booth Sponsorship (minimum \$100 donation) or contributing as a Super Raffle Prize donor. It's a great way to promote your business too! For more details, contact Kris Wise, Parish Manager, at 419-447-5848 ext. 3.

We also need volunteers for various roles such as pre-sale ticket sellers, booth chairmen, workers, and set-up and tear-down crews. Fill out and turn in the form below or sign up on our website, www.tiffinstjoseph.org/festival. **Volunteer by May 1 and get a FREE t-shirt.**



Stay updated on festival details through our Facebook page, @tiffinstjoseph, Church bulletin, and website. Join us for a fantastic event!

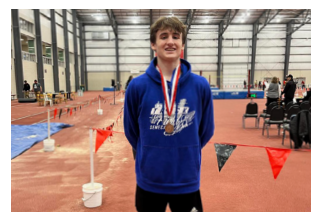
Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

I preferred to be contacted by: Phone Email

- Areas you wish to volunteer:
- BINGO
 - Booth Chairman
 - Booth Worker
 - Chicken Dinners/Cafeteria
 - Lunch Stand
 - Main Raffle
 - Pre-Sale Tickets
 - Set-Up & Tear Down Crews
 - Super Raffle

T-Shirt Size: _____





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Non-Profit Organization
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Return Service Requested

Rectory Update

We are moving into the final phase of the rectory updates and are collecting bids for our office area from carpenters and electricians. If you (or someone you know) are interested and able to assist with this project, please contact Kris Wise, Parish Manager, with questions and for more details. She may be reached at 419-447-5848 extension 3. Project estimates are due by March 15. Thank you for your support as we continue to pass on our faith to the next generation!

