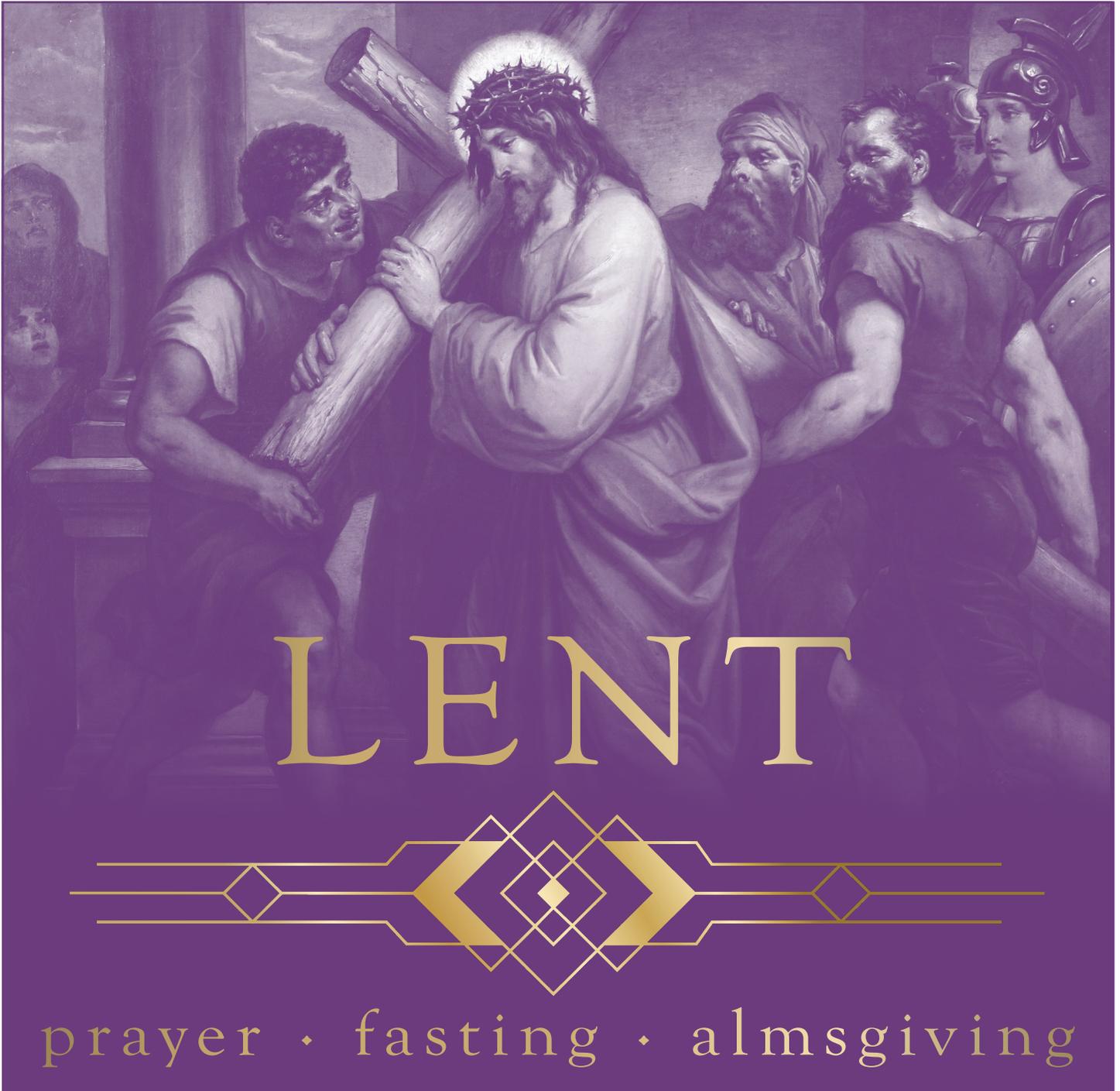


Saint John Neumann Catholic Church

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2026



**St. John Neumann exists to lead people to a
transformative encounter with Jesus Christ.**

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 4:00 pm • Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:00 pm • First Saturday of the Month: 9:00 am
Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 11:00 am • Tuesday & Thursday: 6:00 pm

9633 E. OH-37, SUNBURY, OHIO 43074 • WWW.SAINTJOHNSUNBURY.ORG • 740-965-1358

St. John Neumann



Lenten Events

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday in Lent, 6:30 pm in the church.

Join us as we pray the 14-step devotion commemorating Jesus' Passion and Death.

Almsgiving Opportunities

- Loaves & Fishes Project

Hallow Lent Pray40

If you haven't already, join Hallow's Lent Pray40 prayer challenge. Available on our parish page in the Hallow app — with or without a subscription.

Fish Frys

Every Friday in Lent (last one March 27). Come anytime from 4:00–7:00 pm in the Faith and Family Center. Enjoy the NEW takeout flow and options!

St. John Neumann – Diocesan 40 Days of Adoration

Adoration will be held from 7:00 am–7:00 pm on the following dates, except during the times noted:

- Sun., Feb. 22 – Reposed 9:00 am–noon; 5:00–6:00 pm
- Sat., Mar. 7 – Reposed 9:00–9:30 am (First Saturday Mass); 4:00–5:00 pm (Vigil Mass)
- Wed., Mar. 11 – Reposed 11:00–11:30 am

All are welcome to spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.



Scan the QR code for all the events



Lenten Parish Mission Speaker Marco Casanova

Presented by Hallow

March 8 – 10, beginning at 6:30 pm in the church.

Marco Casanova is a Parish Lead at Hallow and a Catholic speaker, teacher, and pastoral leader living in Houston, Texas. He holds a Master of Divinity and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia and brings over seven years of experience in pastoral ministry, leadership formation, and public speaking.

Marco has contributed to seminary formation, ministry publications, episcopal advisory initiatives, and large-scale training events, and has collaborated with apostolates such as the Theology of the Body Institute, FOCUS, and Catholic Answers.

Lenten Reconciliation Service

March 11

6:30 – 7:30 pm in the church.

There will be several priests available to hear confessions.

40 Days for Life:

Prayer at Abortion Clinic

March 26

Give witness to this important cause.

Sign up, saintjohnsunbury.org/volunteer.





ST. JOHN NEUMANN'S

LENTEN FISH FRY

EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT
4:00 - 7:00 PM

Cash and Card
Accepted

NEW TAKEOUT MENU

Two-piece Fish Dinner, \$12.00
(Baked or fried)
French Fries and Coleslaw

One-piece Fish Dinner, \$10.00
(Baked or fried)
French Fries and Coleslaw

Whole Large Cheese Pizza, \$10.00

Available in the Hall of Saints.

New Takeout Traffic Pattern:

Takeout guests should enter the church lot at the 1st entrance on
Carter's Corner Rd and follow the loop in front of the church.

DINE-IN MENU

Two-piece Fish Dinner: Baked or Fried Fish + 2 Sides,
\$12.00

One-piece Fish Dinner: Baked or Fried Fish + 2 Sides,
\$10.00

Whole Large Cheese Pizza = \$10.00
Whole Large Vegetable Pizza = \$12.00

Dine-in options include:

Sides: Fries, Coleslaw, Applesauce, Baked Potato,
Sweet Potato

**Extra Side: \$1.00, Pop or Bottled Water: \$1.00,
Slice of pizza: \$2.00**

Dine-in Guests:

Please enter at the 2nd entrance on Carter's Corner Rd or from
Rt. 36/37, entering the FFC from the north. Handicap parking and
access are available along the Hall of Saints.

Yummy homemade desserts are needed for our Fish Fry Dessert Table! Please drop off cakes, pies, brownies, bars, or
cookies at the Faith & Family Center by 4:00 pm on any of the six Lenten Fish Fry Fridays.

Check out the menu on the website at saintjohnsunbury.org/fish-fry

LIFE GROUP RETREAT

A time set apart for prayer, community, reflection, and deepening our relationship with Jesus.

Saturday, March 7
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Open to all those participating in a Life Group.

To register, please visit the saintjohnsunbury.org website
or scan the QR code.





Family of Faith

Our desire is to help all members of the family to grow as disciples of Jesus.

High School Large Group Event: February 22: Pursuing Something Greater

High School Youth Ministry is hosting a talk by guest speaker Eve Rosemary, host of the Everyday Saint Podcast. Her talk, "Pursuing Something Greater: Seeking Authentic Love Through Chastity and Pure Relationships," will take place on February 22 from 6:00–8:00 pm. Dinner will be provided, and there will be time for a Q&A session following the talk.

High School Youth Ministry Lenten Service & Prayer Night

Join us on March 1st from 6:00–8:00 pm in the Faith & Family Center for an evening of faith, service, and prayer. Fr. Dury will share a reflection on the Three Pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. Together, we'll put our faith into action by making sandwiches for the Holy Family Soup Kitchen downtown. We'll close the night with a powerful time of Adoration and the opportunity for Confession.

Come grow in your faith this Lent — and bring a friend!

Renewing the Grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony

Our parish is renewing its efforts to help couples fully receive and live out the graces of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Many couples married civilly — but not in the Catholic Church — have recently begun the process of Convalidation, where they exchange vows before a priest or deacon and two witnesses. Through this simple yet profound step, they become sacramentally married in the Church.

If either spouse was previously married and the former spouse is still living, a Declaration of Nullity from the Diocesan Tribunal is required beforehand. For help navigating prior marriages, please contact Paul Stokell, our Adult Formation Director at pstokell@stjohnsunbury.org.

If you are civilly married and interested in Convalidation, reach out to John Pratt, our Marriage and Family Life Coordinator at jpratt@stjohnsunbury.org, to take the next steps.

FEBRUARY 2026 EVENTS

2/22/2026

- Baptism Preparation Class 10:15–11:15 am
- Baptisms 12:15 pm
- Confirmation Sponsor Day 3:00–5:00 pm
- High School Youth Ministry Event: Pursuing Something Greater 6:00 – 8:00 pm

2/24/2026

- Family of Faith Community Night (Grades 1-4) 6:00-7:30 pm

A FEW MARCH 2026 EVENTS

3/1/2026

- Middle School Youth Group 3:00–4:30 pm
- High School Youth Ministry Lenten Gathering 6:00–8:00 pm

3/7/2026

- Life Group Retreat 9:00–12:00 pm

3/8/2026

- ROOT A First Communion Prep Session 10:15 – 11:15 am
- Baptisms 12:15 pm
- Confirmation Class 3:00 – 4:30 pm
- Lenten Parish Mission 6:30 – 8:30 pm – High School Ministry CANCELLED

3/10/2026

- Lenten Parish Mission 6:30 – 8:30 pm – ROOT B CANCELLED

3/15/2026

- NOURISH A First Communion Prep Session 10:15 – 10:45 am - meet in the church
- Middle School Youth Group 3:00–4:30 pm
- High School Teen Life Groups 6:00–8:00 pm

Save the Date!

**St. John Neumann
Vacation Bible School**
July 19 – July 23, 2026
Participant Registration to open May 2026

Volunteers Needed:
Youth: 6th – 12th grade
Adults: Must be PGC Certified & Fingerprinted through Diocese

Volunteer Sign Up:
<https://vbspro.events/p/308a98>

RAINFOREST FALLS
Exploring the Nature of God

The 29th Annual
CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE
CALLED TO BE SAINTS
TAKE COURAGE

February 28, 2026

ON SALE

LARGE GROUP EVENT
High School Youth Ministry

Sunday/ 02.22
6:00-8:00 pm

High School Youth Ministry Guest Speaker Night

Join us for a talk by Eve Rosemary, host of the Everyday Saint Podcast:
"Pursuing Something Greater: Seeking Authentic Love Through Chastity and Pure Relationships."

Dinner provided | Q&A to follow

Nursery Help Needed

Are you passionate about faith and family? Do you enjoy working with children ages 6 months and older?

Our Nursery is seeking enthusiastic individuals to join our team and help with Mass times and special events as they take place. This is a paid position.

To be considered, candidates must be at least 18 years old and either have completed or be willing to complete the Protecting God's Children program and have a background check on file with the Columbus Diocese.

Nursery staff typically work 1-2 shifts of 2 hours each per month. Responsibilities include light cleaning and sanitization, lifting children, changing diapers, and assisting with toileting as needed. We play a crucial role in providing families with a much-needed hour of prayer each week.

If you have a heart for children and want to support this important ministry, please contact childcare@stjohnsunbury.org

SJN OUTREACH



FAMILY PROMISE WEEK: FEBRUARY 22-28

Our parish will host the Family Promise house from February 22-28. We will provide meals and groceries for the families staying there (Tuesday is pizza night). Meals should be delivered 5:00-5:45 pm.

Sign up to provide a meal or needed household items at the link below. **We are also collecting toilet paper, which can be dropped off in the Family Promise bin in the Hall of Saints.**



Sign up: saintjohnsunbury.org/volunteer or scan the QR code.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT



I just want to thank you, Mike McDonough, Neil Garver, Marliese Nist, Pat Grenell and everyone with Good Samaritan Ministry for your very generous donation of \$5,000 to the Run The Race Club. Your donation allowed us to feed the children, and supply much needed basics like socks, underwear, hygiene items and more. On top of all of that, we were able to provide field trips for the children to places they couldn't otherwise go (museums, plays, skating, etc.). You are enriching their lives and making a difference.

God bless you,
Rachel Muha



Dear Members:
On behalf of the Chillicothe VA Medical Center, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation of one pallet of Kachava protein powder. This donation was received on December 12, 2025. It is through the efforts of community partners like you that we can continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity of working with you again in the future. Thank you for your continued support and advocacy.
Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Mortimer, FACPE
Executive Medical Center Director





PARADE FLOAT BUILDERS NEEDED



Help design, build, paint, and assemble a parade float celebrating **St. John Neumann's 50th Anniversary** for the Sunbury July 4th Parade. We are also seeking to borrow a flatbed trailer to transport the float.

Anyone with ideas, skills, or interest is invited to attend an informational meeting on Monday, February 23, at 7:00 pm in the Scholastica/Benedict Room (lower Faith & Family Center).



For more information, contact Stephanie Martin, martins110958@gmail.com or text 614-361-5025.



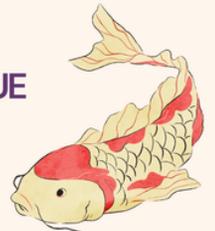
LENTEN FISHES & LOAVES PROJECT

FEB 21/22, 2026

This Lent, we are supporting Family Promise, Pregnancy Resources of Delaware County and St. Vincent de Paul families, helping two clients from each organization.

HOW IT WORKS:

- "FISH" WILL BE CONTINUED TO BE DISTRIBUTED THE WEEKEND OF 21/22 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.
- SCRIP GIFT CARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE MARCH 7 & 8.
- DONATED GIFT CARDS ARE DUE THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 29.



Thank you for helping us share Christ's love with families in need this Lenten season.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE



St. John Neumann

March 26

This March, our parish will participate in the 40 Days for Life campaign at the Planned Parenthood Surgical Abortion Clinic (3255 E. Main St., Columbus, OH 43213). We have committed to covering Thursday, March 26th, from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. We invite at least two volunteers for each hour-long shift, with four slots available per hour.



MARCH 26
7:00 am - 5:00 pm

saintjohnsunbury.org/volunteer



Join us in this coordinated national effort promoting continuous prayer and fasting outside abortion clinics in over 500 cities worldwide, supported locally by Greater Columbus Right to Life.



St. JOHN NEUMANN Catholic Church

Fellowship LUNCH

Join us for food and fellowship after the 11:00 am Mass!

• FEBRUARY 23

All are welcome to enjoy a free lunch in the Faith and Family Center following the 11:00 am Mass. We look forward to seeing you there!



THE FAITH AND FAMILY CENTER



ST. JOHN NEUMANN
Catholic Church



Honoring Life, Preparing in Faith Catholic Funeral Planning Seminar

*"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me,
even if he dies, will live." — John 11:25*

Join us to discover the options available to you and your loved ones for final arrangements to start the conversation and potentially begin the process.

Location: St. John Neumann Catholic Church Faith & Family Center
9633 East State Route 37, Sunbury, OH 43074

When: Choose a session (Light refreshments will be provided at each)

- ❖ Monday, March 2, 2026 | 11:30 am
- ❖ Tuesday, March 3, 2026 | 6:30 pm

Presenters:

- ❖ Allyson Miller, Advanced Planning Specialist, Snyder Funeral Homes
- ❖ Lynne Stelmach, St. John Neumann Parish Liturgical Coordinator
- ❖ Tyler Brown, Funeral Director, Sunbury DeVore Chapel, Snyder Funeral Homes

Topics to include:

- ❖ Benefits of pre-planning and pre-funding vs. waiting until time of need
- ❖ Types of Catholic funeral liturgies and making selections (readings, music, etc.)
- ❖ What happens once you or your loved one passes

RSVP Encouraged:

To ensure we have sufficient materials and refreshments for all attendees, kindly RSVP by calling the Parish Office at 740-965-1358 or email Lynne at lstelmach@stjohnsunbury.org.

Little Liturgical Lessons

Here Comes Everybody!

By Paul Stokell, Adult Formation Director

“...every Lent is an opportunity for all of us to rediscover the grace of our own Baptism.”

If you have questions about how the Mass is celebrated (in this parish or elsewhere), or about any of the other Sacraments, send them to pstokell@stjohnsunbury.org!

In Catholic parishes across the Diocese of Columbus, across the country and practically around the entire world, the First Sunday of Lent has major importance. Those who have been preparing for Baptism – the Catechumens – have spent several months learning about Catholic faith and practice, their communities and those learning alongside them. They have been accompanied by their Godparents (Baptismal Sponsors), taught by their Catechists and supported by parish volunteers.

The time has come to add to their intellectual formation the intense spiritual preparation of Lent, leading to the Baptismal Font at the Easter Vigil on the evening of April 4.

At a Mass in these parishes, the Catechumens are recognized by the community at the *Rite of Sending*, where they publicly commit to this next step on their path to the Sacraments. They are sent out by the community to attend the Rite of Election, where they will join others from across the Diocese who wish for Baptism and meet Bishop Fernandes in an annual ritual dating back to the early centuries of the Church. After hearing the readings from the Mass for that week, and after some questioning by the Bishop himself, those present will no longer be Catechumens, but declared *Elect*—the “chosen” of the local Bishop—to be baptized, Confirmed, and fed with the Eucharist for the very first time.

The Church gives this moment such prominence because it reveals an essential about the Christian life: faith is not a private project, but a communal act. The Catechumens have already spent months discerning the stirrings of grace, learning the teachings of Christ, and practicing the rhythms of prayer. Yet, the First Sunday of Lent marks a decisive shift. What began as inquiry now becomes commitment. What was once curiosity becomes a public declaration of intention. The *Rite of Sending* and the *Rite of Election* together form a bridge between the long season of preparation and the final stretch toward the Sacraments of Initiation.

The Rite of Sending in the parish is profoundly local. It is the community’s opportunity to testify that these men, women, and children have been walking faithfully with Christ and are ready for the next step. The parish, which has prayed for them, taught them, and welcomed them, now entrusts them to their Bishop. This moment underscores the truth that the parish is not merely a place where sacraments are received; it is a spiritual home where disciples are made. The Catechumens stand before the assembly not as strangers but as emerging members of the Body of Christ, surrounded by those who will soon call them brothers and sisters in the fullest sacramental sense.

The *Rite of Election*, celebrated with the Bishop, widens the lens. The Catechumens discover that they are part of something far larger than their own parish. They join hundreds from across the Diocese—people of different ages, backgrounds, and stories—who have all heard the same call of Christ. The Bishop, as the chief shepherd of the Diocese, receives them personally. His questioning is not a test, but a pastoral affirmation: *Are these individuals truly ready? Have they been faithful to the Gospel as they understand it? Do they desire to enter fully into the life of the Church?* When he declares them “Elect,” he is not merely giving a title; he is recognizing the work of God already unfolding in their lives.

This moment also reminds the rest of the Church of our own identity. Every baptized Christian was once chosen, called, and welcomed. The Elect stand before us as living signs of the renewal that Lent invites. Their journey toward the Easter Vigil mirrors the journey every Christian undertakes during these forty days: turning away from sin, deepening prayer, and preparing to renew the promises of Baptism. Their presence challenges us to remember that conversion is not a one-time event but a lifelong process.

As the Elect enter the period of Purification and Enlightenment—the Church’s name for those final weeks before Baptism—they will participate in the Three Scrutinies, meditate more deeply on the Word of God, and prepare their hearts for the sacraments that will make them new creations in Christ. Meanwhile, the parish accompanies them through prayer, encouragement, and example. The community becomes a collective spiritual sponsor, helping them approach the waters of Baptism with confidence and joy.

When the Easter Vigil arrives, the Elect will step into the Font and emerge as members of the Church, sealed with the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Eucharist. But the seeds of that night are planted *now*, on the First Sunday of Lent, when the Church gathers to recognize God’s call and to send forth those who have heard it. This annual ritual is not simply a tradition; it is a reminder that God continues to call people to Himself, that the Church continues to grow, and that every Lent is an opportunity for all of us to rediscover the grace of our own Baptism.

Read more Little Liturgical Lessons like this:
<https://saintjohnsunbury.org/little-liturgical-lessons>

SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 22

Family Promise Week

Loaves and Fishes Tag Distribution

8:30 am Confessions

9:00 am Mass (Alma Zibrum †)

10:15 am Baptism Preparation Class-Padre Pio

10:30 am Confessions

11:00 am Mass (Conni Lawrence †)

12:15 pm Baptisms

1:00 pm OCI-Diocesan Rite of Election @ St. Catherine Church, Columbus

3:00 pm Confirmation Sponsor Day

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Mass (People of the Parish)

6:00 - High School Large Group Event: Pursuing Something Greater

Monday, February 23

10:30 am Rosary

11:00 am Mass (Leah Wilson †)

11:30 am Fellowship Luncheon

6:00 pm Society of SVdP Meeting

7:00 pm 50th Anniversary Planning Meeting

Tuesday, February 24

5:00 pm Confessions

5:30 pm Rosary

6:00 pm Mass (Jim Akers †)

Family of Faith Community Night - Attend Mass - Church

6:30 pm Family of Faith Community Night - FFC

Wednesday, February 25

10:30 am Rosary

11:00 am Mass (David Schimpf †)

Thursday, February 26

5:00 pm Confessions

6:00 pm Mass (Joseph Baker †)

6:30 pm Chosen-Season 5

Friday, February 27

10:30 am Rosary

11:00 am Mass (Clarence Schlukbrier †)

4:00 pm Fish Fry

6:30 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 28

7:00 am Columbus Catholic Men's Conference - Offsite

3:00 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass (Jim Akers †)

Sunday, March 1

Family Promise Week

8:30 am Confessions

9:00 am Mass (Cleda & Chalmar Wilson)

10:30 am Confessions

11:00 am Mass (Dennis Sweeney)

12:15 pm OCI

3:00 pm Middle School Youth Group

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Mass (People of the Parish)

6:00 pm High School Youth Ministry Large Group

SACRAMENTS & PARISH REGISTRATION

Anointing of the Sick

Call the Parish Office at 740-965-1358. After office hours, you will select Option 1.

Bulletin Requests

Monday at Noon Deadline. Contact Krissy Ciacchi - kciacchi@stjohnsunbury.org

Becoming Catholic

Contact Paul Stokell - pstokell@stjohnsunbury.org

Confirmation (2-year prep)

Contact Sarah Gantz - sgantz@stjohnsunbury.org

First Communion (2-year prep)

Contact Amanda Westrick - awestrick@stjohnsunbury.org

Funeral Planning

Contact Lynne Stelmach - lstelmach@stjohnsunbury.org

Marriage Prep / Weddings / Baptism

Contact John Pratt - jpratt@stjohnsunbury.org

Parish Registration

Contact Julie Bando - jbando@stjohnsunbury.org

ADORATION, CONFESSION AND PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Confession

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 5:00-5:50 pm

First Fridays: 10:00-10:50 am

Saturdays: 3:00-3:50 pm or by appointment

Sundays: 8:30-8:50 am, 10:30-10:50 am, 4:30-4:50 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Perpetual Adoration is located in the Chapel.

Unlocked hours: 7:00 am-7:00 pm. To sign up, visit:

saintjohnsunbury.org/adoration-chapel

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Closed Monday & Wednesday: 11:00-11:30 am for Daily Mass

OFFERTORY

Thank you for supporting St. John Neumann's mission. Your generosity is vital to the success of our community. The offertory for February 15, 2026, was \$49,758. Thank you for your commitment. To donate online, please scan the QR code below.



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