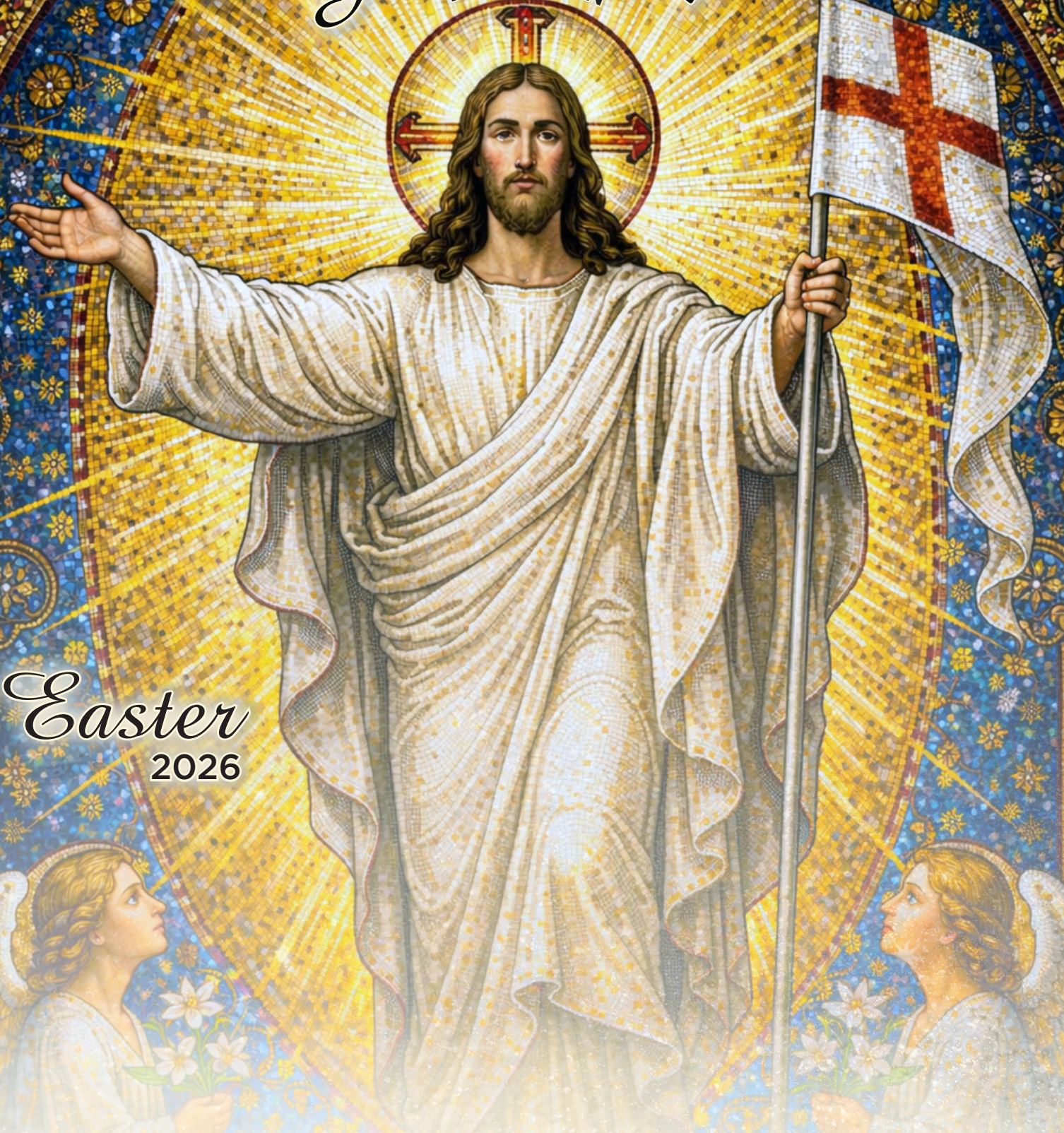


Alleluia!
HE IS RISEN



Easter
2026

St. John Neumann Catholic Church

9633 E. OH-37, Sunbury, OH 43074
740-965-1358 • www.saintjohnsunbury.org

Congratulations to Our First Communicants!

MAY 2/3, 2026

Alexander Heckendorn
Alexander Shirar
Alexandria Walters
Andrew Barnhart
Angelo Valiski
Ariana Perez
Ashlyn Artzner
Avery Slupski
Avila Schlater
Beau Harvey
Bella Perez
Bennett Ricciardi
Breanna Burgett
Camden Hess
Camden League
Cecilia Konko
Charles Seich
Clara Vielhaber
Cohen Petro
Cole Schroeder
Cooper Coleman
Cora Brown
Dean Gibbons
Dominic Franz
Edward Porath
Elena Chill
Emma Codrea
Emma Pizzino
Emma Rigby
Estelle Gatton
Ethan Brandt
Evelyn Bryant
Evelyn Hollenbaugh
Evelyn Schroder

Evelyn Smith
Everleigh Darnell
Felicity Richards
Gabriel Malich
Gary Giallombardo
Gianna Young
Grace English
Graham Sidol
Hannah Swartz
Harrison Cordle
Hayes Padden
Jack Snodgrass
Jacob Conklin
James Chill
Jaxon Scott
Joelle Scott
Jonah Irvan
Jonas Cannell
Jordan Jr. Lonchyna
Julian Boeckman
Kateri McCray
Landon Miller
Lawson Petro
Leo Druso
Liana Miller
Lila Young
Lilah Kurz
Lilyana Largent
Lincoln Grisak
Logan Hamilton
Lorelai Terch
Lucas Echelberry
Luke Pederson
Lydia Kurz

Mabel DeLong
Maddison Steinke
Margaret Craver
Mary (Elena) Such
Mia Grabowski
Noah Brown
Olive Holloway
Oliver LeClair
Olivia Goslin
Owen Russell
Owen Young
Parker Albright
Patrick Brown
Penelope Yahner
Piper Seich
Raiter Rehring
Reece Wheeler
Riley Darnell
Roman Herrmann
Ross Yeager
Sebastian Westrick
Simone Reiber
Sloan Stago
Stella Brodman
Stella Griffin
Tatiana Baughn
Theodore Kessinger
Tyler Toth
Vincent Albright
Weston Vanest



May 3, 2026 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

"Just as Columbus is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States, so too is our Diocese. Rooted in Christ, we are growing, not only in number, but also in mission!"

- Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus



The Appeal

Rooted in Christ, Growing in Mission

2026

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE

Visit: www.columbuscatholicgiving.org/appeal or scan the QR code.

MAIL

Complete the pledge envelope and mail it to **The Appeal, 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215**. Please make checks payable to "The Appeal - Parish Name".

AT YOUR PARISH

Place your pledge envelope in your parish's offertory and your parish leadership team will ensure it is sent to the diocese.

When giving through your parish, please make checks payable to "(Parish Name) - Appeal."

QUESTIONS about The Appeal? Please contact the Advancement Office at 614-241-2550 or sroberts@columbuscatholic.org

PARISHES THAT EXCEED THEIR PARISH GOAL
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the Miter Society giving levels,
or to give, please scan.



DIOCESE of
COLUMBUS



MITER SOCIETY
THE APPEAL
DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS



REGINA CAELI

Come to Life with Us
ST. JOHN NEUMANN
Catholic Church

During this holy season of Easter, we will be singing a hymn at the end of Communion, Regina Caeli. "Queen of Heaven" is a Marian hymn full of Alleluias that Christ is risen! A song not of sorrow, but triumph. We can reflect on our Mother Mary, who gave birth, witnessed His crucifixion, and now rejoices in her Son's victory over sin and death.

*O queen of heaven, rejoice! Alleluia:
For he whom you merited to hear, Alleluia,
Has risen as he said, Alleluia.
Pray for us to God, Alleluia.*

According to legend, Pope St. Gregory the Great (d. 604) heard angel voices above the church singing the first three verses one Easter morning. He then added the fourth verse, asking for God's prayers.

These 50 days of Easter season, please joyfully sing out, Regina Caeli!



PADRE PIO ROOM

Prayer for Our Priests – Learn More About the Seven Sisters Apostolate

THURSDAY,
MAY 7
6:30 PM

Join us for an evening of prayer and inspiration as we gather to pray for our priests and learn about the Seven Sisters Apostolate. Colleen Lewis, Diocesan Coordinator, will share more about this powerful ministry.



For questions, contact Jackie Sutton at
jsutton@stjohnsunbury.org or
740-965-1358 ext. 123

Guide Book & Directory Advertising Opportunity

We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the church. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions, and events plus a complete directory of all members.

This book is being provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, and it is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call Jackie Sutton in the Parish Office.

Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guide Book & Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It "will pay" to advertise in our new Guide Book & Directory.

Does our Church database have YOUR family membership record correct?

Do you want your record published? If you have not already informed the Parish Office about changes to your record, please let us know now so that the information in the Guide Book & Directory is correct.

Number: 740-965-1358 x 123

Email: jsutton@stjohnsunbury.org



THANK YOU!



On behalf of the SJN Knights of Columbus, thank you to all those who donated to the Ronald McDonald House snack drive. Your generosity will help the children and families staying at Ronald McDonald House in their time of need.”



Baby Bottle Drive



Pick up a baby bottle on Mother's Day weekend and fill it with loose change, cash, or checks to support Pregnancy Resources of Delaware County — the only Pregnancy Resource Center in the county.

Your support helps provide life-affirming care, support, and resources to women and families in need.



Please return filled bottles on Father's Day weekend.

50th ANNIVERSARY

WANTED

SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE BASKET DONATIONS

The Festival Committee is seeking donations of themed baskets, sports memorabilia, and experiences or services.

ALL CREATIVE IDEAS AND NEW DONATIONS ARE WELCOME! PLEASE NO USED ITEMS. THANK YOU!

FAMILY FUN Zoo, Zoombezi Bay, COSI, Museums Laser Tag, Paintball, Mini Golf, Movies, Vacation Homes	SPORTS MEMORABILIA Autographed Sport Items Framed Sport Art	SPORTS TICKETS Blue Jackets Columbus Crew OSU Football OSU Basketball
THE GIVING TREE Small Tree Gift Card Variety	RELAXATION SPA Robe & Slippers Lotion & Candles Massage, Facial, Nail Certificates	UNIQUE ART Jewelry Woodworking
LOTTERY BASKET Lottery Scratch-Offs	BOURBON/WINE Variety of Alcohol	SUMMER FUN Pool Toys, Towels, Sunscreen, Bug Spray, Outdoor Games, Cooler

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL
ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DONATIONS DUE: JUNE 8TH

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00-4:00 MONDAY-THURSDAY

IF INTERESTED IN DONATING OR HAVE QUESTIONS,
EMAIL: SJNFESTIVAL@GMAIL.COM.



This year's Festival kicks off a yearlong celebration of 50 years since St. John Neumann's canonization and our parish's first Mass in Sunbury.

SAVE THE DATE
ST. JOHN NEUMANN
COMMUNITY FESTIVAL!
FRIDAY, JUNE 19 &
SATURDAY, JUNE 20

- Live entertainment: Ray Massa's EuroRhythms on Friday night and Shucking Bubba on Saturday night
- Beer Garden
- Family B-I-N-G-O - for all ages!
- Kids and Adults Midway Games
- Italian Kitchen
- Jet's Pizza Pavilion
- Sweet Shoppe and Cake Walk
- Cash Raffle
- Silent Auction and Basket Raffle
- Fireworks on Saturday night
- ...And So Much More!



WE NEED A FIREWORK SPONSOR

Contact Jackie Sutton at jsutton@stjohnsunbury.org.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!



Family of Faith

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

FoF May 2026 Community Night: May 12

All first to fourth-grade Families of Faith are invited to attend our final Community Night of the year on Tuesday, May 12th. We will begin the evening with Mass at 6:00, followed by food and fellowship from 6:30-7:30 PM. We will be celebrating another year of Family of Faith, and our First Communicants this evening with pizza, Kona Ice, and fun games and activities. We will be outside if weather permits!

During our Community Night, our Knowledge Stations will also be open, along with our famous Stop 'N Shop, so be sure to continue working on those prayers!

We look forward to seeing you there!

MAY 2026 EVENTS

5/2/26:

- May Crowning before Mass (inside)
- First Communion at Mass 4:00 pm

5/3/26:

- May Crowning before all Masses (inside)
- First Communion at Mass 9:00 am
- First Communion at Mass 11:00 am
- First Communion at Mass 5:00 pm

5/10/26:

- Baptisms 12:15 pm

5/12/26:

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

5/17/26

- High School Youth Ministry End of Year Celebration 6:00 - 8:00 pm

5/24/26:

- Baptism Preparation Class 10:15 - 11:15 am
- Baptisms 12:15 pm

High School Youth Ministry Year-End Celebration: May 17

Be there for our Senior Sendoff! We will be honoring our seniors with awards, welcoming Fr. Dury, who will share a special message, and wrapping up the evening with some fun—including slip-and-slide kickball and a water balloon fight.

Congratulations to the Newly Baptized!

Thomas William Marr
Jaclyn Marie Dubil
Samantha Jean Dury
Paige Geneva Francis
Vander Ryan Noftz



Baptisms are scheduled every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 12:15 pm. Baptism preparation classes are held on the 4th Sunday of the month from 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 am. If you would like to have your child baptized, please contact John Pratt at jpratt@stjohnsunbury.org.

SJN OUTREACH



THE DIOCESAN SVDP COUNCIL RECOGNIZES SVDP SJN CONFERENCE'S SENIOR GROCERY PROGRAM

The SJN St. Vincent de Paul Conference is pleased to announce that our *Senior Grocery Program* in Sunbury has been named the 2026 SVDP Top Hat Group Award winner by the Columbus Diocesan SVDP Council. This award recognizes extraordinary service to those in need and reflects the strong support of our parish community. The Top Hat Mass and Dinner was held on April 25, at St. Charles High School.



FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING WEEK – MAY 17-23

Our parish will provide evening meals for guests staying at Promise House in Delaware during our hosting week, May 17–23, 2026. The house is currently full, serving 25–30 guests.

Nightly dinners are needed, along with pizza-night sides and a driver tip for Tuesday. Meals may be delivered between 5:00 and 5:45 pm. Please note what you will prepare when signing up to avoid duplicate menus. Assistance with delivery is available if needed.

Sign up on the St. John Neumann volunteer page, saintjohnsunbury.org/volunteer, or scan the QR code.

Additional household supply items are also listed on the signup. Donations may be dropped off in the Family Promise bin in the Hall of Saints.



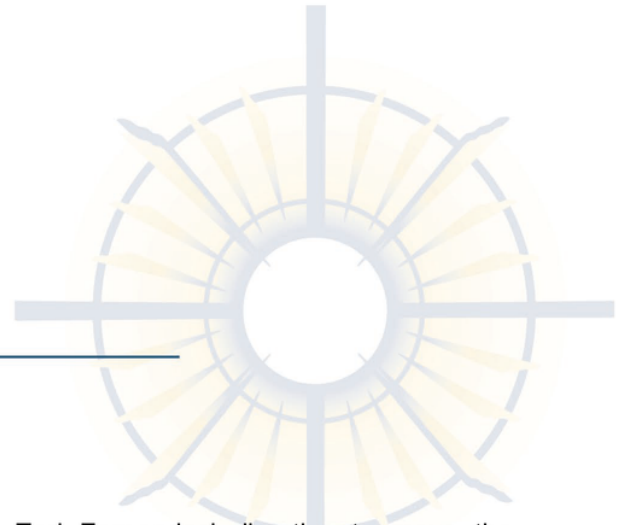
Thank you for supporting this important ministry, and please keep those experiencing homelessness in your prayers.

saintjohnsunbury.org/outreach





ST. JOHN NEUMANN
Catholic Church



April 22, 2026

Dear Families,

We are excited to share more details concerning Bishop Earl Fernandes' directive to move the Confirmation age to 4th grade for the Diocese of Columbus. This change reflects a need and desire for our young people to receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit so they are able to grow in their identity as sons and daughters of God throughout their formative years.

We, at St. John Neumann, are in full support of this change and the reasoning behind it. We also understand that with change, finding the best pathway to implement this transition can be challenging. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we developed a plan that will not only achieve the goal of moving the Confirmation age, but also fuel the Parish and Youth Ministry's mission of bringing people to a transformative encounter with Christ.

This strategy, which is shared by all of the parishes in our Deanery, will be a "stair-step" approach that gradually moves the Confirmation age down from 8th grade to 4th grade. We will begin this process this coming fall of 2026. Please reference the timeline below to see how this plan will progress:

- 2026-2027: Students in grades 7 and 8 will be confirmed (current 6th and 7th graders/ first year (students).
- 2027-2028: Students in grades 6 and 7 will be confirmed (current 4th and 5th graders).
- 2028-2029: Students in grades 5 and 6 will be confirmed (current 2nd and 3rd graders).
- 2029-2030: Students in grades 4 and 5 will be confirmed (current KDG and 1st graders).

As parents, we understand you may have questions: we are ready to answer them as best we can. We truly feel blessed to walk alongside our families as we partner to pass on our faith to our children and at the same time, continue to walk and grow in our own faith journeys together.

More details, schedules, and information are available on our website for our families that will start this process in the fall. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Confirmation Coordinator, Sarah Gantz sgantz@st.johnneumann.org.

You are in my prayers,

Reverend Dan Dury
Shepherd, St. John Neumann

Why “Who Says” can be Important in the Liturgy

By Paul Stokell, Adult Formation Director

Not long ago I spoke with a parishioner about what I'd written on a practice that varies widely across parishes and dioceses alike. There's plenty of practices like that, given the options available to presiders and assemblies in the celebration of Catholic liturgy. Some are more important than others, and some are – let's say this now – non-negotiable. The parishioner pushed back a bit, saying, “Well...who says we have to do it that way?” Excellent question.

There are all sorts of resources out there (official and unofficial) used by dioceses and parishes on how to celebrate the Eucharist and the other Sacraments, what should (and shouldn't) be in a church worship space, what makes for proper sacred music, and so forth. Those in formation to become priests and deacons get liturgical training prior to ordination, and they are given opportunities for “continuing education.” Apart from the liturgical books themselves (which include *The Roman Ritual* in their titles), a full list could take up this entire Bulletin. They usually agree on the important things – most of the time. The needs of the faithful (local background, ethnic makeup, socioeconomics, etc.) and the resources available (material, financial, historical) give guidance for interpretation, too. All of this allows clergy and ministers to give the best “pastoral application” of the rites of the Church. I'll give a recent example to show these in action.

In the 1990s there was experimentation in liturgy, music, and art as a result of the changes allowed by the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965). Some of these experiments were good. Some were very strange. In the midst of this, a writer in the Archdiocese of Chicago with a background in Catholic liturgy mused about how the season of Lent should be a “desert experience,” and suggested that Baptismal Fonts and Holy Water stoups (found at entrances to the church space) should be replaced with sand. Nothing existed in opposition to the practice, and so American pastors and others began turning their fonts into sandboxes for six weeks out of the year. Some well-meaning folks welcomed the practice...others not so much. One seminary I know of filled their font with sand one day, only to discover the following morning that a student added a beach bucket, sand shovel, and those little green toy soldiers. Questions about the appropriateness of this were raised to pastors (who make the major liturgical decisions for a parish), and to diocesan Divine Worship Directors (clergy or lay people with education and training in liturgy) and local bishops.

Finally, the question took the form of a *quaeritur* (“it has been asked”) sent to what is now the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in Rome, not far from Saint Peter's Square. Any such *dubium* (“doubt” about something) is answered with a *responsum*, and what Rome says, goes. The brief reply came in two parts – first, Lent is primarily a reminder of one's Baptism, and second, Holy Water is a sacramental (a created object used for devotion by the faithful). Therefore, Holy Water should never be denied to those who want or need it. And with that, the sand was swept away, and ultimately the Chicago writer found another line of work.

At the highest level, the Church's universal liturgical norms come from Rome. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, states: “Regulation of the sacred liturgy depends solely on the authority of the Church...no other person, not even a priest, may add, remove, or change anything in the liturgy on his own authority” (SC 22). This is a foundational principle. Rome establishes the structure, texts, and essential elements of the rites. The Dicastery for Divine Worship interprets these norms and responds to questions from around the world, as in the “sand-in-the-font” case.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) says: “The diocesan Bishop... must promote, regulate, and be vigilant over the liturgical life in his diocese” (GIRM 387). He ensures that the universal norms are followed, but he also has legitimate authority to adapt certain elements to the pastoral needs of his people. He may issue diocesan guidelines, approve liturgical training, and oversee the construction or renovation of worship spaces.

On the parish level, the pastor has the primary responsibility for how the liturgy is celebrated. The Code of Canon Law states that the pastor “is to see to it that the Most Holy Eucharist is the center of the parish assembly of the faithful” (CIC 528 §2). He applies the norms of the Church and the directives of the bishop, balancing fidelity to the rites with pastoral sensitivity. He consults parish staff, musicians, and liturgical ministers, but ultimately he is accountable for the parish's liturgical life.

Finally, the People of God have a role. The faithful “should not be there as strangers or silent spectators” but should participate “fully, consciously, and actively” (SC 14). Their participation shapes the liturgy – not by making decisions about its structure, but by bringing their faith, voices, and lives to the celebration.

In short, the liturgy is not a free-for-all, nor is it micromanaged from afar. It is a shared “public work” (*leitourgia*) guided by the Holy Spirit through the Church's hierarchy, celebrated faithfully by pastors and assemblies, and safeguarded by the norms that preserve our unity. When we ask, “Who says we have to do it that way?” the answer is: the Church herself, in her wisdom, for the good of all who gather to worship the living God.

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!

Read more Little Liturgical Lessons like this at saintjohnsunbury.org/little-liturgical-lessons

SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 3

First Communion Weekend & May Crowning - All Masses SCRIP

8:30 am Confessions

9:00 am Mass (John & Tuesday Trippier)

10:30 am Confessions

11:00 am Mass (Tom McPherson †)

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Mass (People of the parish)

Monday, May 4

10:30 am Rosary

11:00 am Mass (Jeff Brader †)

6:00 pm Festival Planning

Tuesday, May 5

5:00 pm Confessions

5:30 pm Rosary

6:00 pm Mass (Nathan Myers †)

6:30 pm Confirmation Call Session- Parent and Child

Wednesday, May 6

10:30 am Rosary

11:00 am Mass (Greg Sutton †)

6:30 pm Confirmation Call Session- Parent and Child

Thursday, May 7

5:00 pm Confessions

5:30 pm Rosary

6:00 pm Mass (Leah Wilson †)

6:30 pm 7 Sisters Apostolate
Pilgrimage Gathering

Friday, May 8

10:30 am Rosary

11:00 am Mass (Eva Wagner †)

Saturday, May 9

Baby Bottle Distribution

3:00 pm Confessions

4:00 pm Mass (Evelyn Kress †)

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day

No Coffee or Donuts Today

Baby Bottle Distribution

8:30 am Confessions

9:00 am Mass (Gene Arnold †)

10:15 am NO OCI due to Mother's Day

10:30 am Confessions

11:00 am Mass (Sarah Cramer †)

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Mass (People of the parish)

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

Contact Sarah Gantz - sgantz@stjohnsunbury.org

First Communion (2-year prep)

Contact Amanda Westrick - awestrick@stjohnsunbury.org

Funeral Planning/Communion to Homebound

Contact the Parish Office - 740-965-1358

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 April 26, 2026, was \$59,913.
Thank you for your commitment.
To donate online, please scan the QR code below.



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