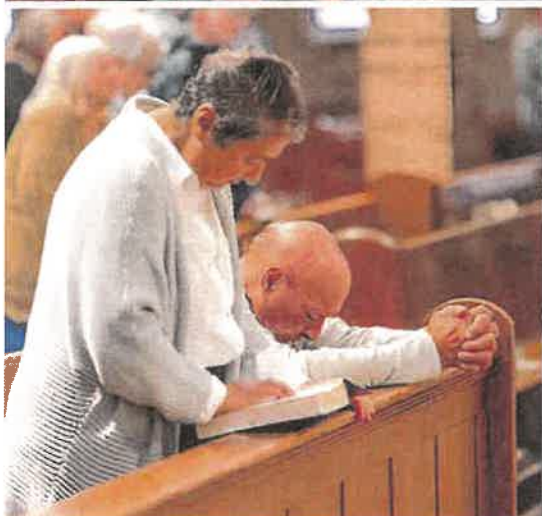




Catholic Diocese of Youngstown 2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal



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**Monday, February 16****Parish Office Closed****President's Day**

No Daily Mass

Tuesday, February 17**The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order**

8:00am – Jack Driscoll

Wednesday, February 18**Ash Wednesday****Parish Office Closed**

8:00am – The People of the Parish

12:15pm – The People of the Parish

6:00pm – The People of the Parish

Thursday, February 19

8:00am – Leslie Topoleski

Friday, February 20

8:00am – Mass

8:30am – Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 21**Vigil – The First Sunday of Lent**

4:00pm – Marion & Steve Goske

Sunday, February 22**The First Sunday of Lent**

9:00am – Jack Willison

11:30am – The People of the Parish

FROM THE PASTOR...

This Wednesday, we will gather to commit ourselves to our annual Lenten journey. Enriched with the Word of God, nourished with the Body of Christ, and marked with the Ashes of Repentance, we are sent out into the world, much like Christ in the desert. Our journey is one that seeks to renew us in the constant process of conversion. Through the traditional practices of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving, we are invited to reflect more deeply on our relationship with God, ourselves, and others. May this coming season of Lent become more than a *"this is what we always do"* approach, and rather, challenge us to discover a greater sense of devotion in living out our faith. **A reminder that we will have three Masses on Ash Wednesday to begin this holy season – 8:00am, 12:15pm and 6:00pm.** Please plan to join with our parish family as we prepare ourselves for the joy of the Easter Resurrection. As the words of Paul's letter to the Corinthians, heard every Ash Wednesday remind us, "Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation".

PRAYER, while always necessary for our relationship with God, is a valuable part of the Lenten journey. We are invited to consider increased participation at Mass, the prayer of the Stations of the Cross, or other forms of prayer – all leading us to a deeper understanding of God's presence in our lives.

FASTING refers to limitations on food and drink. The regulations of fast prescribe taking only one full meal a day, with two smaller ones; nothing in between meals. There are two days of fast: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Additionally, individuals are asked to reflect on their lives and seek to fast from something that has kept them from focusing more on their relationship with the Lord (i.e. – excessive TV or social media, certain foods or vices, etc.).

ABSTAINING means refraining from certain kinds of food or drink, typically meat. Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent including Good Friday are days of abstaining from meat.

ALMSGIVING, like prayer, should always be part of our Christian journey, but like prayer, becomes a heightened awareness and understanding during the Lenten season. Consider your gift to the 2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal – *One in Hope, One in Mission*, contributions to the Holy Week collections for Catholic Relief Services (Rice Bowl on Holy Thursday and the Holy Land on Good Friday), as well as an increased contributions to the parish and other charities of choice. Don't forget our "Green Eggs (or any color) and Ham" collection. Like the very successful Turkey Connection, we will be collecting Hams (not baked) and colored Easter eggs for Easter Dinners at area soup kitchens. This will be on Tuesday, March 31, from 10am – 3pm in the parish hall.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On the Fridays of Lent (February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, and 27), Mass will be held at 8:00am followed by Stations of the Cross at 8:30. Please plan on making this part of your Lenten Journey.



The Parish Office will be Closed this coming Monday, February 16 for President's Day and Wednesday, February 18 for Ash Wednesday.

Thank you for understanding.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, February 16
President's Day
Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, February 17
 9:00am – 4:00pm – DOY Olympics
 10:00am - OCIA
 11:00am – Patriotic Rosary
 6:00pm – OCIA
 6:00pm – Garden Guild

Wednesday, February 18
Ash Wednesday
Parish Office Closed

Thursday, February 19
 8:30am – Bible Study
 10:00am – Scripture

Friday, February 20
Parish Office Closed
 7:30pm – AA Meeting

Saturday, February 21
 3:00pm – Reconciliation

Sunday, February 22
 9:00am – Children's Liturgy of the Word
 10:05 – 11:20 – YFF



Readings for February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7
 Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11

MILITARY LIST

Abby Cruz – Navy Pilot
Ryan Cruz – Captain, Marine Corp.
Colonel Gerald Nunziato
Lt. William "Bill" Sweeney, Battalion Surgeon, 6 th Marines, US Navy
Capt. Lisa Sukenaga - Army



2025 TAX STATEMENTS

To obtain a 2025 statement, please call the parish office (330-533-6839) and it will be ready in two days. **Statements will not be done while you wait.**



FEBRUARY IS CATHOLIC CHARITIES AWARENESS MONTH

The Most Reverend David J. Bonnar, Bishop of Youngstown, has designated February as "*Catholic Charities Awareness Month*" in the Diocese of Youngstown. This occasion provides an opportunity for Catholic parishioners and the community to learn more about the important ministry of Catholic Charities, whose mission is to provide service to people in need, to Advocate for justice in social structures, and to call the entire Church and other people of good will to do the same.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day, we are reminded that love is more than words – it is action. Did you know that the word 'charity' comes from the Latin word *caritas*, meaning "Christian love." Catholic Charities puts that love into action by serving people in our community who are poor, vulnerable or facing difficult times.

VOCATIONS – February 15, 2026 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary

"I did not come to abolish but to fulfill."
 (Matthew 5:17)

Jesus calls us to live with integrity, love, and holiness, going beyond the letter of the law to embrace its full meaning. Priests participate in this mission by bringing His grace to the world through the sacraments, helping others encounter God's love. Could God be inviting you to this ministry of service?

Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 330-744-8451 or via email at vocations@youngtowndiocese.org.

STEWARDSHIP – February 15, 2026 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."
 (Matthew 5:20)

The Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law, and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it's the love that you have in your heart, for God and others, that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules to the letter and not out of love, does not necessarily put you on the path to heaven. Attending Sunday Mass and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner in the parking lot is an example of being a modern-day Pharisee.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS WEDNESDAY – 7:00pm

A weekly opportunity for prayer and reflection.

February 25 – Holy Hour with a reflection on Prayer

March 4 – “Light is On” Penance Service

March 11 – Holy Hour with a reflection of Fasting

March 18 – Holy Hour with a reflection on
Almsgiving

March 25 – Annunciation/Stations of the Cross



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Mass with distribution of ashes will be at
8:00am, 12:15pm, and 6:00pm.

CLEAN UP YOUR ACT FOR LENT

Beginning next weekend, we will be collecting personal hygiene and household cleaning items for those in need throughout our community. Any items may be placed in the bins located at the entrances of the Church. All items will then be distributed through Catholic Charities. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

*Welcome our Newly
Baptized*

Ellie Rose Mehle

Daughter of Anthony & Sarah Mehle



GARDEN GUILD

Saint Michael Garden Guild will meet on **Tuesday, February 17th** at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall for their business meeting. Afterwards, Barbara Spencer will present a talk on the history of Mardi gras. Mardi Gras dessert refreshments will be served. Guests are always welcome.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Dante DeAngelo	Dale Hynes	Shirley Morvay
James Dunn, Sr.	Bridget Dunn Leonard	Janice Rovnak
Jim Fisher	Patricia Lesho	Charles Slivkoff
Marilyn Fisher	Barbara Dunn Lowe	Caroline Zeigler
John Hahn		

God of all goodness, look with mercy on all who suffer any kind of infirmity, sickness or injury, that they may be comforted. Let your hand of healing and protection be upon them. When they are fearful, ease their fear and anxieties, When they are afraid, give them strength and courage. Amen

Parish Support

February 8, 2026

Amount Received \$ 14,227.00
Amount Budgeted \$ 15,000.00
Surplus/ (Deficit) (\$ 773.00)
EFT January \$ 11,638.00
YTD Received \$474,616.12
YTD Budget \$450,000.00
YTD Surplus (Deficit) \$ 24,616.12



Thank you for your continued support of our parish and all our ministries! God Bless.

I WANT TO HELP WITH THE SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL SOUP KITCHEN “But I don’t have the time to give.”

Please consider a monetary donation. Just mark a plain envelope “St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen” and place it in the collection basket at Mass.

It’s a tangible way to be a part of this important work and we need your help!

Born to Eternal Life
Jack LeBrun



HANDEL’S PINT CARDS

Everybody Loves Handel’s Ice Cream!

We have a new supply of Handel’s pint cards that are good through January 2027.

The cost is \$6.75 per card. A portion of the proceeds from the purchase of the card is donated back to Saint Michael Parish.





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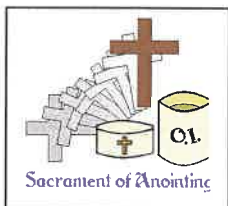


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CHANGE IN MENU

This year, Saint Michael Parish will not be hosting weekly Fish Dinners. For the past few years, we have been monitoring the attendance of diners, number of volunteers (for all roles), and the cost factor compared to the net profit. Each year, the attendance has been less than the year before, while volunteers for some jobs are good, certain key positions are hard to fill, and the costs continue to rise, including the increased utilities of the building during that time. While we had already decided not to continue this year, we then discovered that the cost of a case of fish has increased greatly. This has prompted others not to continue this year, and the rest are faced with increasing prices. We will, however, be holding a **Palm Sunday Pasta Dinner on Sunday, March 29, 2026, from 12:30 – 3:00pm in the FLC**. More information is on the Lenten card being mailed out and will appear in the bulletin. A heart-felt thanks to everyone who volunteered and supported the Fish Dinners over the past years.

Please plan to join us for the Pasta Dinner and all other events throughout the year.



THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the parish office if you would like Father Lavelle to administer the Sacrament of Anointing.

Due to Father Lavelle's many responsibilities both at our parish and the diocese, please allow time when scheduling the sacrament.

Thank you for understanding.

PATRIOTIC ROSARY

Please join us on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the church to say *The Patriotic Rosary*. For more information call Kate Pavlich at 330-533-2432.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY

A group gathers in the pews near the Holy Family Statues for an oral recitation of the rosary the first Saturday of the month at 3:15 PM. **The next rosary will be Saturday, March 7th.**



SONG BOOK SPONSORSHIP

If you would like to sponsor a book in memory or honor of someone, please fill in the form below. The opening announcements will ask everyone to first turn to the front cover of the book and if there is a name in memory or honor, please keep that person in prayer throughout the Mass. The cost of sponsorship is \$20 each. Thank you for your generosity and remembering our loved ones in prayerful song.

Song Book Sponsorship

Name – circle one: _____ Memory _____ Honor _____

Name – circle one: _____ Memory _____ Honor _____

Name – circle one: _____ Memory _____ Honor _____

Your Name _____

Amount enclosed: _____ (# of books x \$20)

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