



# St. JOSEPH PARISH

## NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

**Pastor, St. Joseph & Pastor, Nativity:**  
**Fr. Timothy J. O'Connor**

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**Sharon Angell**

**Business Manager, Nativity**  
**Music Director, Nativity:**  
**Ed Klimczak**

**Office Manager, St. Joseph:**  
**Kathy Flynn**

**Worship and Liturgy Coordinator,**  
**St. Joseph:**  
**Christina Dupre**

**Assistant Music Director, and Funeral**  
**and Wedding Coordinator, St. Joseph:**  
**Joy Rivera**

**Communications Coordinator:**  
**Kim Frankart**

**Principal, St. Joseph School:**  
**Amy Makruski**

**Principal Parish School of Religion:**  
**Angela Eads**

**Operations Manager, St. Joseph:**  
**Bob Kenska**

**Director of Youth Activities**  
**Rachel MacDonald**

**December 1, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

ST. JOSEPH PARISH OFFICE: 440-988-2848

NATIVITY BVM PARISH OFFICE: 440-986-7011

ST. JOSEPH PARISH WEBSITE: [stjosephamherst.com](http://stjosephamherst.com)

ST. JOSEPH PARISH ADDRESS: 200 St. Joseph Dr., Amherst, OH 44001

NATIVITY BVM PARISH: 333 S Lake St., South Amherst, OH 44001

NATIVITY BVM PARISH MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 767, Amherst, OH 44001

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL OFFICE: 440-988-4244

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL WEBSITE: [www.sjsamherst.org](http://www.sjsamherst.org)

Mass:

Monday, Friday 9:00 A.M. - St. Joseph Parish

Tuesday 8:00 A.M. - Nativity of the BVM Parish

Thursday 7:00 P.M. - St. Joseph Parish

Saturday Vigil 4:00 P.M. - St. Joseph Parish

Saturday 5:30 P.M. - Nativity of the BVM Parish

Sunday 8:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M., 5:00 P.M. - St. Joseph Parish

**The 11:00 A.M. Mass will be livestreamed.**

**The link can be found on our website: [www.stjosephamherst.com](http://www.stjosephamherst.com)**

Confession at St. Joseph Parish:

Thursday - Individual Reconciliation 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Saturday - Individual Reconciliation 11:00 A.M. - Noon

## Liturgy Schedule

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>** Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
9:00 A.M. Daniel Kaighin (Paul and Adrienne Mueller)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>** Mass at Nativity Parish  
8:00 A.M. Larry Knoble (Terry and Mark Chase)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>** No Mass

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>** Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
7:00 P.M. Harry and Phyllis Fior (Family)  
Confession after Mass until 8:30pm

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>** Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
9:00 A.M. Al Lesner (Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bonhotel)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>**  
11:00 A.M. Confessions at St. Joseph Parish  
4:00 P.M. Jim Guidish (Wife)  
Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
5:30 P.M. Curtis Marcucci (Kathy Marcucci)  
Mass at Nativity Parish

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>** Masses at St. Joseph Parish  
8:30 A.M. Mary and Peter Trnian (Family)  
11:00 A.M. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes  
5:00 P.M. For the Souls of the Faithfully Departed  
All Souls Intentions

## Daily Readings

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>** Advent Weekday  
Is 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>** Saint Francis Xavier, Priest  
Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>** Advent Weekday; Saint John  
Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
Is 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>** Advent Weekday  
Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>** Advent Weekday  
Saint Nicholas, Bishop  
Is 29:17-24 Mt 9:27-31

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>** Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent  
Bar 5:1-9 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>** Second Sunday of Advent  
Bar 5:1-9 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6

## Activity Schedule

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
Eucharistic Adoration 11:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M. (NBVM)

**TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS**  
Faithfully Fit Yoga - Tue. & Thur. 9:30 A.M. (NBVM)

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
7:00 P.M. OCIA (RCIA) (Nativity Parish Hall)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
8:30 A.M. Hospitality Tuesday (Nativity Parish Hall)  
Mass is at 8:00 A.M., refreshments to follow  
6:30 P.M. Men's Group "Mansgiving" (SJ Social Hall)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 A.M. Pew washing (SJ Church)  
5:30 P.M. PSR for Kindergarten - Grade 8 (SJ School)  
6:30 P.M. Sacred Sisters Meeting (OSE Community Ctr)

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>**  
11:00 A.M. First Friday Rosary (Nativity Parish)  
NOTE: There will be NO refreshments to follow this month

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 A.M. First Saturday Rosary (St. Joseph Parish)  
1:00 P.M. First Reconciliation (St. Joseph Parish)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>**  
5:00 P.M. Holy Ground Youth Group (SJ Social Hall)  
Meet near the choir before Mass. Fellowship to follow Mass in the Social Hall.

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### *St. Joseph Parish*

<b>Sunday, November 17</b>	\$ 10,495.00
Eoffering	\$ 1,834.56
<b>Total Sunday Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 12,329.56</b>
Other Collections	
Children's Envelopes	\$ 9.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 70.00
Maintenance	\$ 134.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 62.00
Advent Flowers and Decoration	\$ 425.00
All Souls	\$ 40.00
All Saints Day	\$ 75.00
World Missions	\$ 5.00

### *Nativity Parish*

<b>Saturday, November 16</b>	<b>\$ 1,259.00</b>
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 15.00
Maintenance and Upkeep	\$ 730.00

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 - A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

This year, December 8 is the Second Sunday of Advent, so the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** is transferred to Monday, December 9. This is to be observed as a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass Times will be as follows:

<b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>St. Joseph Parish</b>
<b>12:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Nativity Parish</b>
<b>7:00 P.M.</b>	<b>St. Joseph Parish</b>

## First Sunday of Advent

### Learn more about the ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND at our parishes

#### Join Us for Coffee and Donuts at the Informational Session on the Angel Scholarship Fund!

Are you looking for a way to support Catholic education at no cost to you? Join us for refreshments and learn more about the Angel Scholarship Fund, a unique opportunity to help students in need.

**Date:** December 14/15

**Time:** After all Masses at both Parishes

**Location:** St. Joseph Social Hall and Nativity Parish Hall

Our parish has set a goal to raise \$250,000 for this important initiative! Come find out how the program works, how you can participate, and the impact it has on our community. Everyone is welcome—whether you're considering a donation or just want more information. Together, let's reach our goal and make a lasting impact! For more information, contact Steve Frankart at 330-814-8844.



ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*Turning taxes into tuition*

### Men's Group Meeting

Just a reminder that our next meeting on **Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** will be our annual "Mansgiving." All are welcome to join us for this potluck dinner. If you were not able to attend our last meeting to sign up for a food item, please bring a side dish to share with others. We will be taking a break for the holiday season and resume meetings in January.

### St. Joseph Giving Tree

Our Giving Trees are up! Take a tag from the tree and follow the instructions. All gifts need to be returned no later than **December 15<sup>th</sup>**. We are in need of helpers to sort the packages as they come in. If interested in helping, call Evelyn Caffarel at 440-452-4361.

**PLEASE NOTE:** When returning gifts to the church, please keep the tag with the gift but **DO NOT** tie it to the bag handles, as this makes it difficult to process and deliver the gifts to the various organizations. Gifts should not be wrapped unless specified to do so on the ornament.

### Little Blue Books of Advent

Little Blue Books of Advent are now available at both parishes. See the gathering area counter at St. Joseph Church and the back tables at Nativity Parish to get yours today. Cost is \$2.00 and the money can be dropped in the collection basket with the envelope provided. May you enjoy a prayerful and peaceful Advent season.

### Pew Washing for the Holidays



Our sacristans will be washing pews and welcome anyone who would be able and interested in helping us clean the pews before Christmas. Pew washing will be held on:

**Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.**

Questions? Please contact Sue Cotton at 440-986-1725.

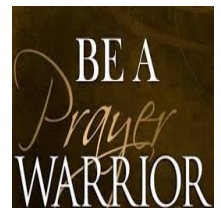
### Sacred Sisters Meeting Change

The Sacred Sisters prayer group will not be meeting on the following dates:

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025



Our first meeting in the 2025 year will be Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Old Stone Evangelical Church Community Center. All ladies of St. Joseph and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary are welcome.

# *St. Joseph Parish Christmas Concert*

Join us as we celebrate the joy of the Christmas season with uplifting music and a special celebrity guest!

A night of holiday cheer and inspiration awaits.  
Bring your family and friends!

Friday, December 27 | 7:30 P.M.  
200 St. Joseph Dr., Amherst



## Seasonal Programming on AM 1260 THE ROCK

With the Advent season upon us, AM 1260 The Rock will broadcast special programming starting **December 1<sup>st</sup>**, and throughout the season, to celebrate this joyous time. Things like Advent Reflections each Sunday at 4:00pm and 9:00pm and The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary at 9:30pm. For a complete listing of the Advent and Christmas Program schedule, please visit [am1260therock.com](http://am1260therock.com).

## First Sunday of Advent

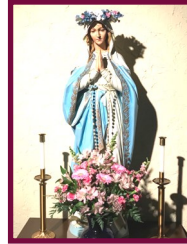
# Nativity News

### Hospitality Tuesday



NBVM will host Hospitality Tuesday with refreshments following the 8:00am Mass on **Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Parish Hall.**

### First Friday Rosary



First Friday Rosary will be on **Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at Nativity Church at 11:00am.** Please note that this month there will be *no refreshments* following the service.

### Altar and Rosary Society

In lieu of our monthly Altar and Rosary Society meeting, we will have a Christmas luncheon for our members. Our next meeting will be February 4<sup>th</sup> so that everyone can take care of holiday blessings and tasks.

Questions? Text Nancy Ann Smith at 440-731-2369.

### Nativity Giving Tree



The Giving Tree is up once again at Nativity this Christmas season. Each angel ornament/envelope contains the name and age of a child along with clothing sizes and toy wishes (if available). Feel free to buy a toy and/or clothes for your child and bring your gifts back in Christmas gift bags and be sure to **ATTACH THE ANGEL/ENVELOPE TO YOUR GIFT** so that it can be matched to the correct family and child. We are asking that the gifts be returned **NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>** so that they can be delivered to the families in time for Christmas.

As always, your generosity will go a long way to giving these kids a blessed Christmas. Any questions, contact Diane Kirsch at 440-935-2301.

### Retirement Fund for Religious

#### Aging religious need your help.

“Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement,” says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Sister Celeste Burgos, 80. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of more than 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.



# #weGIVECATHOLIC

with the Catholic Community Foundation December 3, 2024

## Northeast Ohio's Online Day of Catholic Giving

- Thanksgiving
- Black Friday
- Small Business Saturday
- Cyber Monday

UP NEXT...

## GIVING TUESDAY!!!!

This Tuesday, 12/3 is your opportunity to give to your favorite non-profit in this season of giving and we hope you will choose St. Joseph Parish School!

**Giving Tuesday is one of the ways that we are able to fund our STEM program and all of the projects/dreams of our students. Help us say "yes" when supplies, subscriptions, equipment, and more are needed!**

Starting at midnight on 12/3 our portal will be open for donations!

Use the link below!

Donate

<https://www.wegivecatholic.org/organization/Saint-Joseph-Parish-School?mode=edit>

Thank you for supporting the students at SJS!

## First Sunday of Advent

St. Joseph School will once again be hosting their annual Kris Kringle Santa Shop. This is an opportunity for SJS students to do some secret shopping to purchase gifts for family and friends.

**We are in need of new/gently used donations such as:**

**household goods  
jewelry  
decorations  
Christmas items,  
books, games, toys,  
pet items  
baby items, etc.**



**We are also in need of Christmas gift bags and tissue paper donations as well.**

Donations can be dropped off **BEFORE 12/6** at the school entrance Door A.

## November Calendar Raffle Winners

Below is our list to date of the Calendar Raffle winners. Thank you for your participation and congratulations.

11/1/24 Martha Ponce \$200, sold by the Ponce family  
11/2/24 Carrie Mason \$100, sold by the Mason family  
11/3/24 Jeff & Sue Barnes \$100, sold by the Barnes family  
11/4/24 Norm Schultz \$250, sold by the Kuhnle family  
11/5/24 Keith Kapanke \$100  
11/6/24 Lori Youngberg \$200, sold by the Youngberg family  
11/7/24 Vanessa Roszak \$100, sold by the Yerkes family  
11/8/24 Steve & Diane Medve \$200, sold by the Moran family  
11/9/24 Melissa Holbert \$100, sold by the Savage family  
11/10/24 Deb Werner \$100, sold by the Hunker family  
11/11/24 Sabine Wright \$100, sold by the Kolcun family  
11/12/24 Fred Goecker \$100.00, sold by the Pecina family  
11/13/24 Beth Strawn \$100.00, sold by the Pecina family  
11/14/24 Beth Burrelli \$250.00, sold by the Linell family  
11/15/24 John Bonar \$100, sold by the Petro family  
11/16/24 Kathy Thompson \$100, donated back to the school!  
11/17/24 Kevin Violand \$100, sold by Rose Danicki  
11/18/24 Michael Holp \$100, donated back to the school!  
11/19/24 Ed Hess \$100, sold by the Miller family

**ALL ARE WELCOME! 7TH - 12TH GRADERS**

### HOLY GROUND YOUTH NIGHTS!

- Meet us by the pews near the choir for 5 o'clock Mass!
- Fellowship & faith formation to follow in the social hall
- Snacks provided
- Closing Prayer 7:30 PM



### Quarter Two Dates!

November 24th  
December 8th & 15th  
January 5th & 19th

\*\*\*Note 12/15 is our Christmas Party and will go until 8:15!



440-895-7756



rachel.macdonald@sjs-amherst.org

## Advent Prayer Opportunity



As we enter into the sacred season of Advent, Father Michael Denk would like to invite you to join the **PrayAdvent Prayer Program**, a free program designed to deepen your relationship with Christ.

### Program Highlights:

- **Daily Guided Meditations:** Receive daily emails featuring audio recordings where Fr. Michael will personally guide you through a new prayer experience each day of Advent.
- **Weekly Webinars:** During Advent, participate in live webinars every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. EST, which offer deeper insights and interactive discussions.

### Important Dates:

- **Preparation Days:** Began on **Thursday, November 28th.**
- **Program Start:** The program officially begins on **Sunday, December 1st.**

To learn more or sign up for this program, visit:

<https://www.theprodigalfather.org/pray40days/>



## First Sunday of Advent: Blessing of the Advent Wreath

The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the Sign of the Cross as the leader says:

**Our help is in the name of the Lord.**

Response (R/.) **Who made heaven and earth.**

Then the Scripture, [Isaiah 9:](#) (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or [Isaiah 63](#) (lines 16-17 & 19) or [Isaiah 64](#) (lines 2-7) is read.

Reader: **The word of the Lord.**

R/. **Thanks be to God.**

With hands joined, the leader says:

**Lord our God,**

**we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ:**

**He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,**

**He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,**

**He is the Savior of every nation.**

**Lord God, let Your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.**

**May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.**

**May He come quickly and not delay.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

R/. **Amen.**

The blessing may conclude with a verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":

**O come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind;**

**bid ev'ry sad division cease and be thyself our Prince of peace.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**



## More Ways to Pray

If you haven't already done so, consider downloading an app to your phone to help your prayer time during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Below are a few favorites to get you started.

**Amen App:** Visit [Augustineinstitute.org](http://Augustineinstitute.org) under resources or:

[Click Here](#)

**Hallow App:** Visit [Hallow.com](http://Hallow.com) use this button:

[Click Here](#)

**My Daily Prayers:** Found on the Diocese website or:

[Click Here](#)

**Laudate App:** Found on Google Play store and Apple app store.



# Children's Worship Page



Jesus promised us that one day He would return. In this Gospel story Jesus is telling us that we must be ready when He comes again, but that we cannot be exactly sure when that will be. Since we don't know when He is coming, we must try to be ready all the time.

Today, just one purple candle is lit on the Advent wreath to symbolize the hope in our hearts for Jesus' coming and the joyful celebration of His birth on Christmas Day.

## St. Peter Lorain Bus Trip

Once again, St. Peter Parish in Lorain is sponsoring a bus trip. This year, they will travel to Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA for 7 days and 6 nights, June 8-14, 2025. Cost is \$1,129.00 per person for double occupancy. More information can be found in the flyer located on the gathering area counter at St. Joseph Church. Or you can call Sr. Cordell Kopec for more details at 440-282-2378.



### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

In the charity of your prayers, we commend to God:

Gary Gantz, brother of David Gantz

We pray for his family and the families of all our deceased relatives and friends that they may enjoy eternal peace with our Risen Christ.

*Let us also remember to pray for those confined to hospitals and nursing homes, the homebound, and their caregivers, our sons and daughters in the military, those dealing with mental illness and addictions, the homeless and those who have no one to pray for them.*

FYI: Bulletin article submission deadline is NOON on the Monday prior to publication. Also note that as we approach any and all holidays, this deadline is moved up as deemed necessary by our bulletin publisher. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## SPONSOR OF THE WEEK



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### THANK YOU

This bulletin is furnished to the parish without charge. The advertisements that appear completely defray all publishing costs which would otherwise burden the parish. Please patronize these sponsors as a thank-you for their kind generosity.



We live in a world where there will continually be fraudulent attempts to trick people into giving out personal information, purchase gift cards, or to respond to a request for an "urgent matter." These scams can come as a text, email or even a phone call. They look and sound very legitimate. Please know that no one from the parish office will ask you to make a purchase, or respond to an "urgent need." As a best practice, never open any links or give out private information without first checking to see that the source is legitimate.

## Choral Spectrum Christmas Concert

Choral Spectrum invites you to join us as we celebrate the Christmas Season with our winter concert: "A Merry Choral Spectrum Christmas." This concert will feature heartwarming and festive Christmas music that is sure to put you in the Holiday spirit! Performances are: Friday, December 13 at 7:30 pm at St. Peter Parish in Lorain; Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 pm at Sacred Heart Parish in Oberlin; and Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 pm at St. Mary Parish in Sandusky. The concerts are free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be collected. Choral Spectrum is an auditioned choir under the direction of Anthony Trifiletti.

Visit us at [choralspectrum.org](http://choralspectrum.org) for more information!


EXPERIENCE THE  
**JOURNEY TO Bethlehem**

Saturday, December 7th  
11AM-2PM & 5:30-7PM

a walking tour at...  
**St. Mary Catholic Church**  
46 E. Main Street, Wakeman, OH

BRING A CANNED FOOD OR NON-PERISHABLE ITEM FOR CARING COMMUNITY IF YOU ARE ABLE.

Visit our Journey to Bethlehem Facebook page

Point the camera of your smartphone at this QR Code  and follow the link it creates to our Facebook page.

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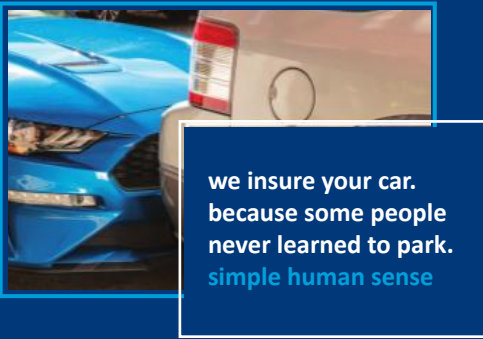
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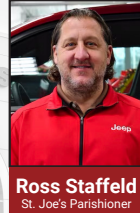
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