



# St. JOSEPH PARISH

## NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

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

**Business Manager, St. Joseph:**  
**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 22, 2024**  
**Fourth 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 23<sup>rd</sup>** Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
 9:00 A.M. Julio Castillo and Silvia Monzon  
 (The Lamas Castillo Family)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Vigil Masses  
*Holy Day of Obligation*  
 4:00 P.M. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes  
 Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
 6:00 P.M. People of Nativity and St. Joseph Parish  
 Mass at Nativity Parish  
 8:00 P.M. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes  
 Mass at St. Joseph Parish

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Masses  
*Holy Day of Obligation*  
 8:30A.M. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes  
 Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
 10:00 A.M. People of Nativity and St. Joseph Parish  
 Mass at Nativity Parish  
 11:30 A.M. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes  
 Mass at St. Joseph Parish

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>** No Mass or Confessions

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>** Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
 9:00 A.M. Al Kelling (Wife, Wanda)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>**  
 11:00 A.M. Confessions at St. Joseph Parish  
 4:00 P.M. Denise Seymour (The Family)  
 Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
 5:30 P.M. Sylvia and Anthony Marusin (Kathy Marcucci)  
 Mass at Nativity Parish

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>** Masses at St. Joseph Parish  
 8:30 A.M. Deceased Members of the Coughlin and  
 Grob Families (Family)  
 11:00 A.M. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes  
 5:00 P.M. Teresa Zientarski (Jack and Deborah Bradley)

### Activity Schedule

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

No School December 23 through January 6  
 Parish Offices closed December 24 - 26  
 No Activities this week so that all may enjoy their time  
 with loved ones.

### Daily Readings

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>** Late Advent Weekday  
 Saint John of Kanty, Priest  
 Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>** Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord  
**Vigil:** Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
**Night:** Is 9:1-6 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>** The Nativity of the Lord  
**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12 Ti 3:4-7 Lk 2:15-20  
**Day:** Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>** Saint Stephen, The First Martyr  
 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>** Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist  
 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>** Vigil: The Holy Family of  
 Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>** The Holy Family of  
 Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52

### NBVM FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

***Nativity Parish***

<b>Saturday, December 7</b>	<b>\$ 950.00</b>
Flowers and Decorations	\$ 55.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 110.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 5.00
Human Development	\$ 20.00

### ST. JOSEPH

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

***St. Joseph Parish***

<b>Sunday, December 8</b>	<b>\$ 21,309.71</b>
Eoffering	\$ 2,223.45
<b>Total Sunday Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 23,533.16</b>
Other Collections	
Tuition Assistance	\$ 50.00
Maintenance	\$ 85.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 469.00
Advent Flowers and Decoration	\$ 280.00
Christmas	\$ 645.00
Retirement Fund For Religious	\$ 341.00
Little Blue Books for Advent	\$ 10.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 55.00
All Souls	\$ 10.00
Year-End Giving	\$ 1,300.00



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

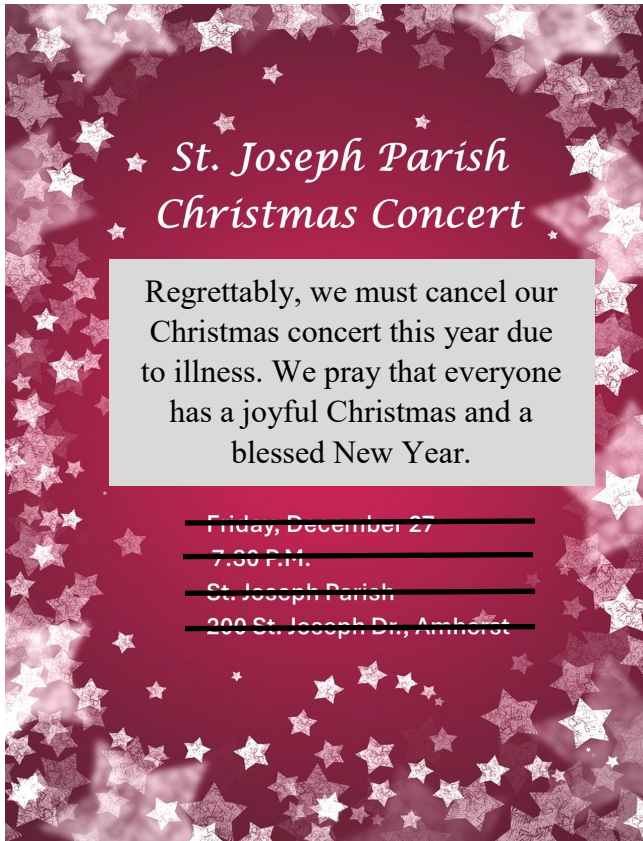
### Dear Saint Joseph and Nativity Parish Families,

Thank you so much for all that you do to make our Saint Joseph Parish and our Nativity Parish such wonderful families to be a part of. You help to extend the hands, the voice and the heart of Jesus to so many. And I want you to know that I am personally grateful to you for all the ways, seen and unseen, that you share yourselves so generously with others — and with me. May the Lord bless you and those you love in some very special personal ways during this holy Christmas season and hope-filled New Year.

Gratefully in Christ,  
Fr. Tim

**A very Merry Christmas to all from Father Tim, St. Joseph Parish Staff,  
St. Joseph School Staff, and Nativity Parish Staff**





## Year-End Giving

In the month of December, many parishioners very generously make donations before the end of the calendar year. The assumption is that contributions DATED in December are deductible in the current calendar year. However, the **deductibility of the contribution is dependent on the date in which the contribution is POSTMARKED or when someone is available to receive it during regular office business hours.** Please call the parish office if you have any questions about your contribution. Year-end Statements will be available in **mid-January**, after we have had time to record all the contributions received in December.

In addition, if you are 70½ or older, you may be able to make a gift of a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA that will help us in our ministry and reduce your taxable income. Talk to your advisors and IRA administrator for more information and to be sure that your IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution gift is made directly from an IRA to a qualified charity such as our parish. Questions? Contact Moira Wopershall of the Catholic Community Foundation at 216-696-6525, ext. 8070 or visit [www.catholiccommunity.org/ira](http://www.catholiccommunity.org/ira).

## Sacred Sisters Meeting Change

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

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 Mass Livestream

To view our 11:00am Mass for the homebound, visit our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@sjandnbvmmmedia8044/streams>



Or you can use the button on our website:

<https://stjosephamherst.com/>

## Fifth Sunday Rosary



Holy Family Council 4891 invites everyone to participate in a Rosary Prayer scheduled for **Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>** after the conclusion of the 11:00am Mass at St. Joseph Church. The Rosary will take place either in the Church or Social Hall and should last no more than 15 to 20 minutes.

The praying of the Rosary as a community and with others can create a sense of spiritual bonding and fellowship within our parishes. Please plan on participating in this important prayer to the Blessed Virgin for her intercession of our spiritual needs and personal connectedness to God. God's blessings to all.



## Mass Schedule

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve (Holy Day of Obligation)

4:00 P.M. - Mass at St. Joseph Parish

6:00 P.M. - Mass at Nativity Parish

8:00 P.M. - Mass at St. Joseph Parish

Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day (Holy Day of Obligation)

8:30 A.M. - Mass at St. Joseph Parish

10:00 A.M. - Mass at Nativity Parish

11:30 A.M. - Mass at St. Joseph Parish

**Note: There will be no Mass or Confessions on Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**



### The Mass schedule for January 1<sup>st</sup> :

Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> Vigil Mass: The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

4:00 P.M. - Mass at St. Joseph Parish

Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

8:30 A.M. - Mass at Nativity Parish

10:00 A.M. - Mass at St. Joseph Parish

**Note: There will be no Mass or Confession on Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

## ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

# ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHOOSE TO SUPPORT YOUR



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1

### REVIEW YOUR TAX LIABILITY FROM LAST YEAR

Use this to estimate tax liability for the current year. The maximum tax credit is \$750 per tax payer (\$1,500 for married filing jointly).

2

### DONATE AND DESIGNATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION

You contribution can be designated to a school of your choice.

\*Contribution can be any amount. The amount of the tax credit cannot exceed the amount of your tax liability.

3

### CLAIM YOUR TAX CREDIT

A tax receipt will be provided that documents your Angel Scholarship Fund contribution. This receipt is then submitted with the Ohio 1040 tax form.



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CATHOLICCOMMUNITY.ORG/ANGEL

# Fourth Sunday of Advent



## ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Turning taxes into tuition with the Catholic Community Foundation

### TO GIVE ONLINE:

CatholicCommunity.org/angel-contribution  
OR donate by scanning this QR code



# CONTRIBUTION FORM

**PLEASE NOTE:** Donations must be made by **April 15, 2025** to be eligible for a 2024 state tax credit.

### Donor Information

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

### Designation

Support Area of Greatest Need: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
School Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### For a State Tax Credit In

- 2024 Tax Year**  
Eligibility: Donation made between 1/1/2024 - 4/15/25  
 **2025 Tax Year**  
Eligibility: Donation made between 1/1/2025 - 4/15/26

### Payment Information

I am paying by:  
 Check (made payable to Angel Scholarship Fund)  
 Credit Card:  
 Visa  Mastercard  Discover  AMEX  
Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Spouse Information (if additional donation)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check if address is the same  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

### Spouse Designation

Support Area of Greatest Need: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
School Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### For a State Tax Credit In

- 2024 Tax Year**  
Eligibility: Donation made between 1/1/2024 - 4/15/25  
 **2025 Tax Year**  
Eligibility: Donation made between 1/1/2025 - 4/15/26

### Spouse Payment Information

Check if payment info is the same, one check can be submitted  
I am paying by:  
 Check (made payable to Angel Scholarship Fund)  
 Credit Card:  
 Visa  Mastercard  Discover  AMEX Card  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### or Monthly Contribution

Would you like to **STRETCH** your contribution into smaller monthly payments?

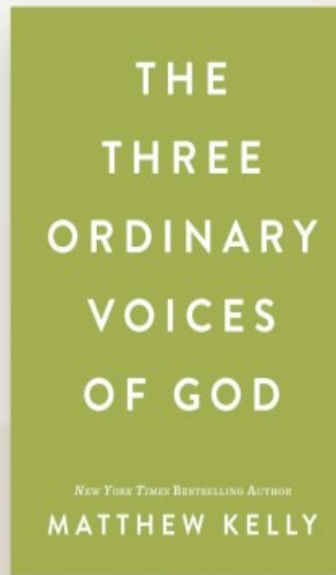
Register for monthly contributions at [www.CatholicCommunity.org/angel](http://www.CatholicCommunity.org/angel), email [asinfo@dioceseofcleveland.org](mailto:asinfo@dioceseofcleveland.org)  
or call our office for assistance at 216-696-6525 x 3670

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This book will be available at all Christmas Masses at St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes, thanks to the generous donation of a parishioner.



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The Three Ordinary Voices of God

CHRISTMAS  
BOOK PROGRAM

### Updating Parish Records

If you have recently moved, changed your phone number or email address, or updated your household status, please reach out to us so we can update our parish records. Additionally, if you are an adult whose parents were parish members and you're listed on their family file, but have never officially registered with us, please contact us at 440-988-2848, ext. 204. Most importantly, if you have been attending our church or are enrolled in our parish school, but have not yet registered with the parish, please do so at your earliest convenience. Registering only takes about 15 minutes. Drop the completed form below in the collection basket and someone will contact you to finish the registration process.

**I am interested in joining St. Joseph Parish or Nativity BVM Parish  
Please call or email me so that I can register. My contact information is listed below:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Single  Married  Divorced  Widowed

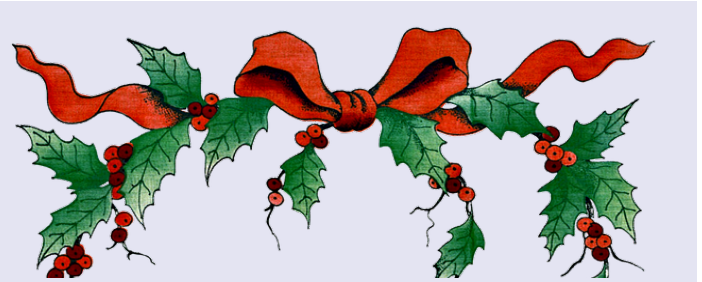
Do you need to update your name due to a change in a change in marital status? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ St. Joseph Parish      or      \_\_\_\_\_ Nativity of BVM Parish

*Cut out and drop in the offertory basket or call 440-988-2848 ext. 204 to register over the phone.*



# Children's Worship Page



"In today's Gospel reading, we learn that Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, and both of them are going to have babies. When Mary walks into the house and says hello, Elizabeth's baby, who is named John, "leaped for joy." This shows that even before they were born, John knew that Jesus was special and that He is God's Son.

Today, the last purple candle is lit on the Advent wreath. This candle represents love. It symbolizes the endless love of God, which we are called to share with others."

G V N H L E L J B N  
N I N O C E N D L E  
I E R I A J P O E M  
T D O P J J O Y S O  
E V E B Y U G J S W  
E D G B R H D U E J  
R U L G A D S A D O  
G G P X M K S V H H  
E L I Z A B E T H N  
T N A F N I B N U M

Can you find these words that are in today's Gospel reading?



Mary  
Judah  
Leaped  
Greeting  
Joy  
Lord

Elizabeth  
John  
Infant  
Voice  
Blessed  
Women

## Eucharistic Revival



There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,  
for You to reveal Yourself to us.  
There is a longing in our hearts for love,  
we only find in You, our God.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:



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

Richard (Dick) Bailey  
Terry Howells  
Tom Jama

Tina Argenti Taylor, sister of Gloria Hobor

We pray for their families 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.*

## Pastoral Letter from Bishop Edward Malesic

On Sunday, Dec. 15, Bishop Edward Malesic issued his first Pastoral Letter as Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

In the letter, he encourages the faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland to pray, celebrate the sacraments and serve those in need. We invite all parishioners to read the letter and reflect on the contents.

A copy of the letter can be viewed and downloaded here: [APOSTOLIC LETTER](#)

To view the introductory video from the Bishop, read a glossary of terms, and see reflection questions, please visit the Diocesan website at [dioceseofcleveland.org/pastoral-letter](http://dioceseofcleveland.org/pastoral-letter), or by clicking [HERE](#).

We invite you to read the letter, which focuses on three key areas: worship, evangelization, and service. These are at the heart of parish ministry and are the primary reasons why a parish exists.



If you prefer, you can also use this QR code to learn more.

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.

**Submission deadlines for upcoming holidays:  
January 5 bulletin - Mon., Dec. 23 by Noon**

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# Donna Templeton

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