



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 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent

ST. JOSEPH PARISH OFFICE: 440-988-2848

NATIVITY BVM PARISH OFFICE: 440-986-7011

ST. JOSEPH PARISH WEBSITE: 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

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

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 16th
9:00 A.M. Mabel McDermott (Family)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17th Mass at Nativity Parish
8:00 A.M. Personal Intention

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18th No Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19th Mass at St. Joseph Parish
7:00 P.M. Bernard Zientarski (Kathy and Dave Coffman)
Confession after Mass until 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 A.M. James Welte, Sr. (Sliman Family)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st
11:00 A.M. Confessions at St. Joseph Parish
4:00 P.M. Holly Herbert (Dan Balko)
Mass at St. Joseph Parish
5:30 P.M. Kelly Hills (Kathy, Chrissy, and Jackie)
Mass at Nativity Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22nd Masses at St. Joseph Parish
8:30 A.M. William Bringman (Family)
11:00 A.M. Jeff Howells (Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sliman)
5:00 P.M. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes

Daily Readings

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16th Late Advent Weekday
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Mt 21:23-27

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17th Late Advent Weekday
Gn 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18th Late Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19th Late Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th Late Advent Weekday
Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mi 5:1-4a Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22nd Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mi 5:1-4a Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

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)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th
6:00 P.M. Holy Ground Youth Group Christmas Party
(SJ Social Hall) Join us for the 5:00 P.M. Mass
prior to the party—meet near the choir.

After all Masses there will be an Information Session for the
Angel Scholarship Fund. (Following 8:30 A.M.
and 11:00 A.M. Masses, meet in SJ Social Hall.
Following the 5:00 P.M. Mass, meet in the
Gathering Area)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16th
7:00 P.M. OCIA (RCIA) (Nativity Parish Hall)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18th
5:30 P.M. PSR for Kindergarten – Grade 8 (SJ School)

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

<i>St. Joseph Parish</i>	
Sunday, December 1	\$ 15,374.76
Eoffering	\$ 2,432.59
Total Sunday Offerings	\$ 17,807.35
Other Collections	
Tuition Assistance	\$ 47.00
Maintenance	\$ 135.00
Year End Contribution	\$ 50.00
Advent Flowers and Decoration	\$ 70.00
Christmas	\$ 445.00
Little Blue Books for Advent	\$ 81.00
Retirement Fund For Religious	\$ 627.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 26.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 75.00
<i>Nativity Parish</i>	
Saturday, November 30	\$ 1,762.00
Christmas Flowers and Decorations	\$ 95.00

Advent on AM 1260 The Rock

During this season filled with prayer and preparation, enrich your Advent by listening to AM 1260 The Rock. Filled with ways to deepen your and your family's faith, AM 1260 The Rock offers daily Mass, devotionals, apologetics, Advent, and Christmas programming, and much more. Don't forget about AM 1260 The Rock's own **Wisdom From The Rock**, where you can hear Daily Gospel Reflections from local priests and deacons, special interviews, and more. Listen anytime on the AM 1260 The Rock app, online, or on your favorite podcast platform.

Third Sunday of Advent

ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND Information Session

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

(Note: Following the 5pm Mass on Dec. 15, we will meet in the Gathering Area.)

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



Thank You!

A great, big, heartfelt THANK-YOU to this fine group of folks who pitched in to wash the pews at St. Joseph Church on December 4th. At this busy time of year, we would like to thank them for taking the time to help make our church clean for the holidays!



Knights of Columbus 5th Sunday Rosary



Holy Family Council 4891 invites everyone to participate in a Rosary Prayer scheduled for **Sunday, December 29th** 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.

Sacred Sisters Meeting Change

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

December 18th, 2024

December 25th, 2024

January 1st, 2025



Our first meeting in the 2025 year will be Wednesday, January 8th 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.

Third Sunday of Advent

Nativity News

Thank You from the Seminary

Cookie bakers! Here is the thank-you we received from Fr. Turner, the seminary rector, following the recent delivery of many dozens of your homemade cookies—enough to serve 89 people:

"Thank you so much for the wonderful cookies that were delivered yesterday!! We are grateful for all the cookie bakers! The treats bring joy to the seminarians and faculty in this busy time of final classes and exams. God bless you for your kindness and have a peaceful Advent and Christmas! In Christ, Fr. Andy."

Faithfully Fit Yoga

Just a reminder that there **will be no yoga classes on Tuesday, December 24th and 31st.**

We **will still be holding** our Thursday sessions on **December 26th and January 2nd** to help unwind and recenter after the holiday busyness.

St. Teresa of Avila Church
1878 Abbe Road, Sheffield Village, OH 44054

Monthly Holy Hour for Life

Tuesday: December 17th at 7:00pm

All are invited to come pray before our Lord.

The Holy Hour includes:

- Scripture Reading
- Litanies
- the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Questions? Call the church office at 440-934-4227.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Women and men religious offer gratitude.

"Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next." says Sister Teresa Korycka, 81, of the Sisters, Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift impacts more than 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit retiredreligious.org.





Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24th – 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 25th – 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 26th



The Mass schedule for January 1st :

Tuesday, December 31st 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 1st 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 2nd

Third Sunday of Advent



ALL ARE WELCOME! 7TH - 12TH GRADERS

HOLY GROUND YOUTH NIGHTS!

- Fellowship & faith formation in the social hall
- Snacks provided
- Closing Prayer 7:30 PM



Quarter Two Dates!



(Bring money to go shopping for the Giving Tree!)

December 15th

(Note this is our Christmas Party and will go until 8:15!)

January 5th

January 19th

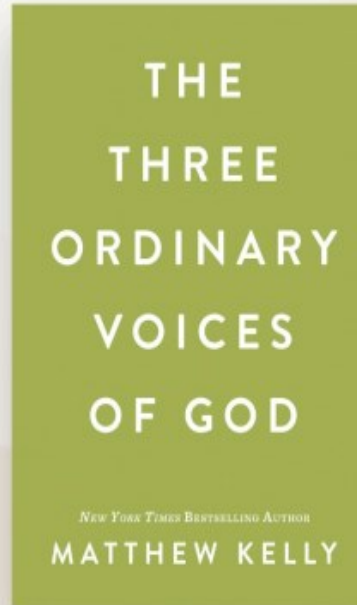


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BOOK PROGRAM

In this simple and powerful guide, Matthew Kelly demonstrates that God speaks to everyone—whether we are aware of it or not—through three ordinary voices: OUR NEEDS, OUR TALENTS, and OUR DESIRES.

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

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 70-½ 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.

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 takes just about 15 minutes.

Children's Worship Page



In today's second reading, Paul writes to the people telling them to "Rejoice" and "The Lord is near." In this third week of Advent, the celebration of Jesus' birth certainly is near. Remember to pray giving thanks to God for all things and you will receive the peace and happiness that only Jesus can bring.

Today, a pink candle is lit on the Advent wreath. This candle represents joy. Joy is a special kind of happiness that comes from feeling safe and believing in something good. During this week of Advent, think about everything you've learned so far about Advent, and get ready for the weeks to come.

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

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



Brothers

Hearts

Lord

Petition

Sisters

Christ

Jesus

Minds

Prayer

Thanksgiving

God

Kindness

Peace

Rejoice

Understanding

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.

St. Joseph Mass Livestream

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

[https://www.youtube.com/
@sjandnbvmmmedia8044/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@sjandnbvmmmedia8044/streams)

Or you can use the button on our website:

<https://stjosephamherst.com/>

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:
December 29 bulletin - Wed., Dec. 18 by Noon
January 5 bulletin - Mon., Dec. 23 by Noon



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

James Welte, Sr.

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.

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.

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