



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

April 27, 2025
Divine Mercy Sunday

ST. JOSEPH PARISH OFFICE: 440-988-2848
Office hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

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, APRIL 28th Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 A.M. Larry Wohlever (Family)

TUESDAY, APRIL 29th Mass at Nativity Parish
8:00 A.M. Pope Francis

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30th No Mass

THURSDAY, MAY 1st Mass at St. Joseph Parish
7:00 P.M. Dennis White (John and Cathy Sekletar)
Confessions to follow Mass until 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, MAY 2nd Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 A.M. Patricia Orosz (David Orosz, Husband)

SATURDAY, MAY 3rd
11:00 A.M. Confessions at St. Joseph Parish
4:00 P.M. Mike Anderson (Mom and Brother)
Mass at St. Joseph Parish
5:30 P.M. Peter J. Sliman (Patty Clark)
Mass at Nativity Parish

SUNDAY, MAY 4th 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. For The Faithful Departed
All Souls Intentions

Daily Readings

MONDAY, APRIL 28th Easter Weekday, Saint Peter Chanel,
Priest and Martyr; Saint Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest
Acts 4:23-31 Jn 3:1-8

TUESDAY, APRIL 29th Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and
Doctor of the Church
Acts 4:32-37 Jn 3:7b-15

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30th Easter Weekday Saint Pius V, Pope
Acts 5:17-26 Jn 3:16-21

THURSDAY, MAY 1st Easter Weekday Saint Joseph the Worker
Acts 5:27-33 Jn 3:31-36, or for the Optional Memorial,
Gn 1:26—2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24 Mt 13:54-58

FRIDAY, MAY 2nd Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Acts 5:34-42 Jn 6:1-15

SATURDAY, MAY 3rd Vigil: Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 Rv 5:11-14 Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

SUNDAY, MAY 4th Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 Rv 5:11-14 Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

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, APRIL 27th

Hospitality Sunday after 8:30 and 11:00 A.M. Masses
(School Gym)

MONDAY, APRIL 28th

6:30 P.M. Confirmation at Sacred Heart Chapel in Lorain

TUESDAY, APRIL 29th

5:00 P.M. Dinners on the Go Pick-up (Nativity Parish)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30th

5:30 P.M. PSR K through Gr. 8 (St. Joseph School)

6:30 P.M. Sacred Sisters Meeting (O.S.E. Community Ctr.)

THURSDAY, MAY 1st

9:00 A.M. Vincentian Meeting (Conference Room)

FRIDAY, MAY 2nd

11:00 A.M. First Friday Rosary and May Crowning
(Nativity Parish and Hall)

7:00 P.M. SJS Drama Club Musical "ALADDIN"
(SJS School)

SATURDAY, MAY 3rd

9:00 A.M. First Saturday Rosary

7:00 P.M. SJS Drama Club Musical "ALADDIN"
(SJS School)

SUNDAY, MAY 4th

6:00 P.M. Holy Ground Youth Group (SJ Social Hall South)
Please join us for Mass before the meeting.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

St. Joseph Parish

Sunday, April 13	\$	13,860.20
Eoffering	\$	3,030.73
Total Sunday Offerings	\$	16,890.93

Other Collections

Children's	\$	2.00
Tuition Assistance	\$	76.00
Maintenance	\$	311.00
Easter	\$	995.00
Good Friday/Holy Land	\$	88.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$	186.00
Lenten and Easter Flowers	\$	178.00
Little Books for Easter	\$	19.00

Nativity Parish

Saturday, April 12	\$	2,061.00
Other Collections		

Easter Flowers and Decorations	\$	275.00
Easter	\$	5.00
Good Friday/Holy Land	\$	20.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$	40.00
Maintenance and Upkeep	\$	705.00

Divine Mercy Sunday

Remembering Pope Francis



Below is a small excerpt from a statement made by Bishop Malesic regarding the passing of Pope Francis. To read his full statement, visit:

<https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/news/2025/04/21/a-statement-from-the-most-reverend-edward-c-malesic-on-the-passing-of-pope-francis>

“It is with a heavy heart that I acknowledge the passing of Pope Francis, who has shepherded the Catholic Church for the past 12 years.....Pope Francis set an example for Catholic leaders everywhere by living the values of the Gospel, and by preaching the mercy of God... May we honor him by remembering God’s mercy and seeking it out. And may we demonstrate our love and

mercy to others, just as he did. I ask all the faithful to pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of Pope Francis. May Pope Francis rest in the love and peace of Christ.”

Traditionally, the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be to the Father are recited by all Catholics for the repose of the soul of the Pope. Making a Holy Hour or praying the rosary are also a wonderful ways to pray for and remember Pope Francis. In addition, there are prayer cards and flyers available on the Gathering Area Counter at St. Joseph and on the tables at Nativity.

Additional information and resources on the death of Pope Francis can be found at
[Dioceseofcleveland.org/popefrancis](https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/popefrancis)

Grief Recovery Program - St. Joseph Parish



If you have been struggling with grief over a loss for an extended period of time—at least one year—please consider participating in the Grief Recovery Program. Grieving is a normal reaction to the losses we face in life. These losses can include death, changes in health or lifestyle, career changes, retirement, and many others.

A recent phenomenon occurred during the Covid pandemic when hospital and nursing home visitations were canceled, and many people died without seeing their loved ones. Funerals were allowed only outdoors. This led to complicated grief. Unresolved grief from any kind of loss can lead to physical health issues, substance use, and depression. This is known as persistent or complicated grief.

This program is based on a 12-step approach to healing. It requires a weekly commitment—up to 12 weeks, a book, and a partner. If you are tired of suffering, please attend an informational session on **May 7th at 6:30 P.M.** in St. Joseph Social Hall.

**To register and/or for questions, call Pam Waite at 440-309-7661
and please leave a message with your phone number.**

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - APRIL 27th

The Divine Mercy Devotion views mercy as the key element in the plan of God for salvation and emphasizes the belief that it was through mercy that God gave His only Son for the redemption of mankind, after the fall of Adam.

Divine Mercy is a devotion to Jesus Christ associated with the apparitions of Jesus to Saint Faustina Kowalska. In all, there were 14 revelations to Saint Faustina regarding the feast of Divine Mercy. The most comprehensive revelation can be found in her Diary entry 699: **My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day, the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.** For a more comprehensive explanation of The Divine Mercy Devotion, visit www.thedivinemercy.org/message.



To fittingly observe the feast of Mercy, one should:

1. Sincerely repent of your sins by attending confession before Divine Mercy Sunday.
2. Place your complete trust in Jesus.
3. Celebrate Mass and receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast.
4. Venerate the Image of the Divine Mercy.
5. Be merciful to others through your actions, words, and prayers on their behalf.

Plenary Indulgences - General Conditions

See the Gathering Area counter at St. Joseph and the tables at NBVM for an explanation of the General Conditions of Plenary Indulgences as we approach Divine Mercy Sunday to receive God's mercy and unconditional love.

We bring our sins and struggles to our Lord and to the Church, represented by the person of the priest, when we come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We confess our sins, our failures and our faults, promise to strive again to conform ourselves to Christ, and are forgiven. "The Lord never tires of forgiving. It is we who tire of asking for forgiveness." (Pope Francis, First Angelus as pope, March 17, 2013)

Divine Mercy Devotions

including Sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Sunday, April 27, 2025
2:00 p.m. Confessions
3:00 p.m. Prayer Service

Nativity B.V.M. Church
418 W. 15th St.
Lorain, OH 44052
nativitybvmlorain.org

Please join us for our Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions, including Confessions, Exposition, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet (sung), and the Litany of Divine Mercy. A reception will follow.

Nativity News

Final Dinner on the Go until Fall 2025

Dinners are \$13 and the Soups are an additional \$4.

Drive-thru pick-up only from 5:00-6:00 P.M.
at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
located at **333 South Lake St., South Amherst.**

To order, please call Lynn Johnson at
440-752-6519

Thank you for your continued support!

April 29

Beef Stroganoff with
Mushrooms and Noodles
Applesauce Cup
Roll/Dessert
Soup: Chicken and Wild Rice

May Crowning and First Friday Rosary



Nativity Altar and Rosary Society in South Amherst
will be celebrating **May Crowning at our
First Friday Rosary on May 2nd at 11:00 A.M.**

All are welcome to join us celebrate our
Blessed Mother.

There will be a luncheon to follow
in the parish hall.



Road Closure Notice



The north-south road connecting
Amherst and South Amherst, known as
Pyle South Amherst Road in Amherst
and Lake Street in South Amherst, will
be closed at the bridge over I-80, beginning Monday,
March 24, for a duration of 180 days.

Detour Routes:

- **West detour:** Use Quarry Road and Route 113.
- **East detour:** Use Route 58 and Route 113.

Hospitality Tuesday and Altar and Rosary Society Meeting

Join us on May 6th at Nativity Church for Mass at
8:00 A.M., followed by Hospitality Tuesday.
Enjoy some refreshments and fellowship in the
parish hall, immediately following Mass.

The next Altar and Rosary Society Meeting will
be held on Tuesday, May 6th at 6:30 P.M. in the
parish hall.

Altar and Rosary Mother's Day Bake Sale

On May 10, 2025, Nativity Altar and Rosary
Society is having their Annual Mother's Day Bake
Sale. Baked goods will be available for purchase
following the 5:30 P.M. Mass in Nativity Parish
Hall. Prices for baked good items are by freewill
donation. Come check the delicious items our
bakers have prepared!

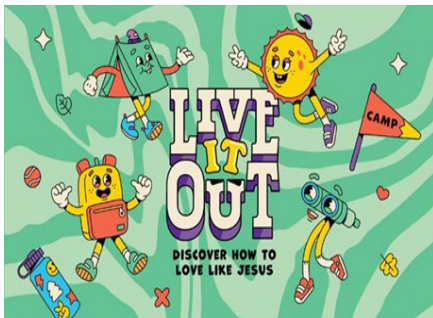


Save the Date - VBS is BACK!

It's an exciting time for our St. Joseph and Nativity communities, as Vacation Bible School makes its return. Joy Rivera has been hard at work pulling together a team to bring VBS to our children.

VBS will take place **Monday, July 28 through Friday, August 1, from 9:00 to 11:30 A.M.** Children who are entering Pre-K (4 years old) through Fourth grade are welcome. VBS is open to children from St. Joseph, Nativity, and those outside the parishes. There will be 120 spots available, so register early!

Volunteers are needed and must be VIRTUS trained. There are so many ways to help, so don't hesitate to reach out to Joy at 440-396-7568.



Registration will open on Friday, May 23, and close on Monday, June 2. More information to follow in upcoming bulletins and on the parish website.

Save the Date Baccalaureate Mass



Our Baccalaureate Mass will be celebrated at the **11:00 A.M. Mass on Sunday, May 18th**. This special day provides an opportunity for all high school, vocational school, and college graduates to participate in and be celebrated at Mass.

We invite graduates to take part by serving as a lector for the Processional Introduction, the First and Second Readings, and the Intercessions. Please encourage your graduate to participate—this is a beautiful Mass and a very special day for all!

Additionally, remember to **submit your graduate's photo and short bio by May 23rd**, so that they can be included in our Parish Newsletter.

For questions or more information, contact Diane Syrowski at 440-522-2491 or via email at dianesyrowski@gmail.com

ALL ARE WELCOME! 7TH - 12TH GRADERS

HOLY GROUND YOUTH NIGHTS!

- Fellowship and faith formation
- Snacks provided
- Closing Prayer at 7:30 P.M.



Upcoming Dates!

Meet for the 5:00 P.M. Mass before the session

May 4th May 18th

Hospitality Sunday

St. Joseph Hospitality Ministry invites you to **Hospitality Sunday on April 27th following the 8:30 and 11:00 A.M. Masses.**

The men of our Knights of Columbus will be serving coffee and donuts in the **school gymnasium.**

We hope to see you there!



440-895-7756



rachel.macdonald@sjs-amherst.org

Divine Mercy Sunday

Congratulations



We joyfully celebrate the ordination of Deacon Nathan Frankart to the transitional diaconate, which took place on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in Cleveland.

Please continue to keep Deacon Nathan in your prayers as he prepares for his ordination to the priesthood in May 2026.

We also congratulate him on his new assignment at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Wooster. May God bless him abundantly in this next step of his vocation!



First Saturday Rosary



FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY at St. Joseph Church

First Saturday Rosary will be held at St. Joseph Church on **Saturday May 3 at 9:00 A.M.**

Please join us as we pray together the most Holy Rosary.

Hospitality Movie Night



MOVIE NIGHT IS BACK, BUT IN A NEW LOCATION!!

Hospitality Movie Night will be held at SJS School this month. Enter through the East Doors (Door "D") with the blue awning.

This true story begins on an ordinary day in a small, sleepy town in Wyoming in 1986—until something goes horribly wrong. A parent's worst nightmare unfolds at the elementary school, and both the police and parents are helpless. Their only hope for their children lies in the power of prayer, faith, and Guardian Angels. As the events unfold, you can decide whether it was divine intervention or simply too many coincidences to ignore. A *must-see*, gripping, and powerful movie. These events remind us why it's so important to teach children to pray—and why forgiveness is essential.

It's FREE!! Please join us at **SJS SCHOOL** on **Monday, May 5th at 6:30 P.M.** (1 hr. 33 min.)

If you have any questions, contact Phil Rawlings
philrawli@aol.com 440-897-7437 (Hospitality Ministry)



Office of Marriage & Family Ministry 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

We are always excited to celebrate the Jubilee Anniversary Mass for couples married 50 years. This Mass is celebrated at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in downtown Cleveland. On **Sunday, June 29, 2025 at 2:00 P.M.**, we will celebrate with **all couples married in 1975**. Everyone is invited and may bring family with them. Doors open at 1:30 P.M. **This is NOT a ticketed event. There is no registration required.** For full details, please visit the Diocesan website at: <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/offices/parish-life/marriage-and-family-ministry/marriage/50th-wedding-anniversary-celebration>.

The Office of Marriage and Family Ministry is pleased to provide a letter from Bishop Malesic and a certificate for all couples married 50 years. Attendance at the 50th Wedding Anniversary Mass is not required. The certificates and letters are compiled **once a month** and must be requested online in advance.

Cemetery Clean-up

Our cemetery grounds must be clear for the mowing and trimming season. Any obstructions to mowing or trimming will be removed and discarded. The following is our cemetery policy and it will be adhered to by the groundskeeping crew.

- **Decorations, must be removed by April 1st for the mowing season. If you want to save your decorations, you must remove them before April 1st.**
- **No plantings of flowers, bushes, or vegetation of any kind are allowed.**
- **No landscaping or permanent decorations of any kind are allowed, including but not limited to stone, bricks, borders, etc.**
- **After April 1st, only fresh-cut flowers are allowed, in paper or foil wrapping, and these will be removed weekly.**
- **Regarding holidays during the growing season (April 1st to October 31st) – Decorations will be allowed four days before the holiday. They must be removed 2 days following the holiday. Any decorations you do not remove, will be removed and discarded by groundskeeping personnel.**
- **Winter decorations will be allowed from October 31st to April 1st.**

A Day in the Life of a Benedictine Monk

Greetings from the Benedictine monks at Saint Andrew Abbey, Cleveland!

We are excited to launch our new ***Come and See*** Program!

If you are a male between the ages of 20-45, and are curious about Benedictine living, and would like to discern a possible vocation to religious life, we invite you to join us for a day of prayer, work, and discernment. We will take you through a day in the life of a Benedictine monk, here in Cleveland. We will start the day with Lauds at 7:10 A.M. and end with Vigils starting at 7:05 P.M. The program is scheduled to take place on the second Saturday of each month. If you would like to join us, and other young men for a day of discernment, please contact our vocation director, Father Thomas Sanders, or his assistant, Br. Gregory Coyne, for further details. Walk-ups not accepted and space is limited.

Vocation Director, Father Thomas Sanders, OSB
Office Phone: (216) 721-5300, ext. 225
Email: thomas@standrewabbey.org

Assistant Vocation Director, Brother Gregory Coyne, OSB
Cell: (216) 894-3502
Email: gregory@standrewabbey.org

Divine Mercy Sunday

Carlo Acutis - Movie Release



Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality explores the life and legacy of the soon-to-be Saint Carlo Acutis and how he navigated the modern world. It tackles urgent technology-related questions, examining how the virtual landscape threatens our fundamental understanding of what it means to be human.

The film also tracks the journey of a group of high school students who embark on a two-week pilgrimage from North Dakota to Italy to visit Carlo's tomb. A requirement for their pilgrimage: disengage from technology and leave their phones at home.

Many young people feel isolated, anxious, and unsure of what's real in a world saturated with screens. Amid their struggle, they need hope. They need a living example of how to live with purpose, clarity, and joy. *Roadmap to Reality* offers that through the model of Carlo Acutis.

The film features Carlo's family and friends sharing their firsthand experiences and his impact on their lives. It also includes well-known voices in the Catholic Church and technology experts who offer a model for young people to engage in the digital world.

Every Movie Ticket Purchased Brings the Film to More Theatres. Get yours now!

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW at
<https://carloacutisfilm.com/>

First Friday Forum of Lorain County



First Friday Forum of Lorain County will host guest speaker Fr. Ryan Mann, who will speak on the topic of Theology of the Body on Friday, May 2nd, 2025. Lunch begins at 11:30 A.M. at the Spitzer Conference Center, Lorain County Community College 1005 N. Abbe Rd., Elyria. Enjoy good food, fellowship, and a great speaker as we explore this powerful topic! Cost: \$25 per person and reservations must be received by 6:00 P.M. on Monday, April 28th.

To reserve your spot, call 440-320-3272 or 440-213-2132, or email ffflorain@gmail.com.

Formation Sessions for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Below are some nearby Formation Sessions for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. If you are interested in becoming an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister, please call the Parish Office at 440-988-2848, so that we can review the qualifications and register you.

Sunday, May 4, 2025

St. Jude Parish, Elyria | 2:00 - 4:30 P.M.

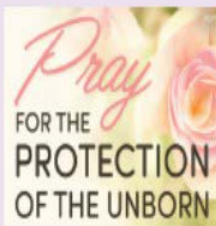
Thursday, June 12, 2025

St. Joseph Parish, Avon Lake | 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

St. Teresa of Avila Church

1878 Abbe Road, Sheffield Village, OH 44054

Monthly Holy Hour for Life



Tuesday: April 29th, 2025 at 7:00pm

All are invited to come pray before our Lord.

Prayer for Divine Mercy

O Jesus, I understand that Your mercy
is beyond all imagining.

I ask You, therefore, to make my heart so big that there
will be room in it for the needs of all the souls living
on this whole earthly globe.

O Jesus, my love reaches beyond the world to the souls
suffering in Purgatory, and I want to exercise mercy
toward them by means of indulgenced prayers. God's
mercy is unfathomable and inexhaustible, just as God
Himself is unfathomable. Were I to use the strongest
words for expressing this mercy of God, they are nothing
in comparison with what it is in reality.

O Jesus, make my heart sensitive to all the sufferings of
my neighbor whether they be of body or of soul. O my
Jesus, I know that You act toward us as we act toward our
neighbor. My Jesus, make my heart like unto Your
merciful Heart. Jesus, help me to go through life
doing good to everyone.

Amen

For more Divine Mercy prayers, visit
<https://centrefordivinemercy.org/divine-mercy-prayers#trustlitany>.

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defray all publishing costs, which would otherwise
burden the parish. Please patronize these sponsors
as a Thank-you for their kind generosity.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

Pope Francis
Deacon Robert Kovach, Jr.
Lynda Wearsch

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.*

2025 Pilgrimage for Justice

The Pilgrimage for Justice is a faith-based, intercultural,
intergenerational immersion experience for pilgrims to
travel, learn, reflect, pray, and grow as we rediscover
Civil Rights history. The pilgrimage will depart from
Cleveland and visit Cincinnati, Memphis, Jackson, and
Montgomery.

Event Details:

Date: June 8 - 14, 2025

Cost: \$1,195.00 per participant for double occupancy
or \$1,495.00 per participant for single occupancy

Includes: Bus transportation, most meals and lodging

*Participation is confirmed only after submitting
registration and a down payment of \$400.00 or full
payment of registration fees. Final and full payment is
due no later than May 5, 2025.*

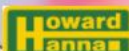
For more information on the pilgrimage and how to
register, please visit <https://www.ccdocle.org/P4J> or grab
a flyer from the Gathering Area Counter.

Pilgrimage for Justice

Cleveland | Cincinnati | Memphis | Jackson | Montgomery

June 8-14, 2025





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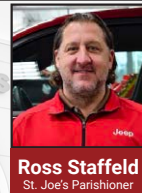
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