



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

May 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter 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, MAY 5th Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 A.M. Charles Katkic (Charlene Kalo)

TUESDAY, MAY 6th Mass at Nativity Parish
8:00 A.M. Jim Herman and Katie Busiere
(Richard and Sylvia Herman)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7th No Mass

THURSDAY, MAY 8th Mass at St. Joseph Parish
7:00 P.M. Robert VanNiel, Sr. (Daughter-in-Law)
Confessions to follow Mass until 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, MAY 9th Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 A.M. Adam and Katie Wood (Family)

SATURDAY, MAY 10th
11:00 A.M. Confessions at St. Joseph Parish
4:00 P.M. The Stein and Amador Families (Raquel Stein)
Mass at St. Joseph Parish
5:30 P.M. Morgan E. Stock (Dennis and Jean Stock)
Mass at Nativity Parish

SUNDAY, MAY 11th Masses at St. Joseph Parish
8:30 A.M. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes
11:00 A.M. Harry and Phyllis Fior (Family)
5:00 P.M. Betty Szucs (Kathy and Ted Litkovitz)

Daily Readings

MONDAY, MAY 5th Easter Weekday
Acts 6:8-15 Jn 6:22-29

TUESDAY, MAY 6th Easter Weekday
Acts 7:51—8:1a Jn 6:30-35

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7th Easter Weekday
Acts 8:1b-8 Jn 6:35-40

THURSDAY, MAY 8th Easter Weekday
Acts 8:26-40 Jn 6:44-51

FRIDAY, MAY 9th Easter Weekday
Acts 9:1-20 Jn 6:52-59

SATURDAY, MAY 10th Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 13:14, 43-52 Rv 7:9, 14b-17 Jn 10:27-30

SUNDAY, MAY 11th Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 13:14, 43-52 Rv 7:9, 14b-17 Jn 10:27-30

To view our 11:00 A.M. Mass for the homebound,
visit our YouTube Channel:



[https://www.youtube.com/
@sjandnbvmmedia8044](https://www.youtube.com/@sjandnbvmmedia8044)

Or you can use the button on our
website: <https://stjosephamherst.com/>

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, MAY 4th
6:00 P.M. Holy Ground Youth Group (SJ Social Hall Lobby)
Please join us for Mass before the meeting.

TUESDAY, MAY 6th
8:30 A.M. Hospitality Tuesday following 8:00 A.M. Mass
(NBVM Parish)
6:30 P.M. Altar and Rosary Society Meeting
(NBVM Parish Hall)
7:00 P.M. Men's Group (SJ Social Hall Lobby)
7:00 P.M. Parent Club (School MPR)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7th
6:00 P.M. Stewardship Council Meeting
(SJ Office Conference Room)
6:30 P.M. Sacred Sisters Meeting (O.S.E. Community Ctr.)
6:30 P.M. Grief Recovery Program (SJ Social Hall Lobby)

FRIDAY, MAY 9th
9:30 A.M. May Devotional with SJS Parish Students
(SJ Parish)

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

St. Joseph Parish

Easter Sunday, April 20	\$	20,887.04
Easter Eoffering	\$	692.82
Total Easter Offerings	\$	21,579.86
Other Collections		
Good Friday/Holy Land	\$	1,893.00
Regular Sunday (mailed in and coffering)	\$	4,021.16
Catholic Relief Services	\$	20.00
Tuition Assistance	\$	10.00
Maintenance	\$	40.00
Newman Campus Ministry	\$	1.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$	10.00
Lenten and Easter Flowers	\$	45.00
Little Books for Easter	\$	14.00

Nativity Parish

Easter Sunday, April 20	\$	2,211.00
Other Collections		
Flowers and Decorations	\$	95.00
Regular Sunday	\$	1,438.00
Good Friday/Holy Land	\$	5.00

Third Sunday of Easter

We were blessed to celebrate a beautiful Easter Triduum across all our liturgies, with a special joy at the Easter Vigil as we welcomed three individuals into the Catholic faith. Below are a few photos capturing those meaningful moments.



St. Joseph and NBVM Men's Fellowship Group

Upcoming Gathering – May 6 at 7:00 P.M. in the St. Joseph Social Hall Lobby.
Join us as we listen to the podcast, “*Do Men's Groups Really Work?*” from
Just a Guy in the Pew on HEROICMEN.com, featuring **Fr. David Aufiero**.

Fr. David understands the unique struggles that men face—and he reminds us that healing begins when we bring our burdens into the light. Vulnerability isn't easy, especially for men, but the rewards are great. Learn how this podcast inspired a parish to build a thriving men's group—and how it might inspire you, too.

Thinking about joining us?

Have you been considering it, but haven't taken the final step? — **COME**

Still on the fence? — **JUMP OFF**

Feeling anxious? — **FEAR NOT**

For questions or more information, contact:

Tony Alessandro | 440-452-3727 | talessandro51@gmail.com

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.**

Catholic Cemeteries Grief Support

You are not alone. The Catholic Cemeteries Association is here to walk with you on your grief journey. We offer free, safe, and compassionate monthly Grief Support Meetings and memorial events throughout the year. The next Grief Support Meeting is scheduled for May 18th at 3:00 P.M., with in-person meetings at six locations throughout the Diocese, or if you prefer, a virtual meeting at 5:00 P.M. This month, we will explore the topics “Father’s Day and Grief” and “Mental Health Awareness.”

For more details, please visit: [Catholic Cemeteries Bereavement](#). You can also access our local Grief Resource Guide and subscribe to our monthly Bereavement E-Newsletter on this site.

If you have any questions or need further information, please call Rhonda at 216-930-4866. We look forward to supporting you.

“A Closer Walk With Thee” CCA Grief Support E-Newsletter

Our monthly Grief Support E-Newsletter, “*A Closer Walk with Thee*,” offers valuable information similar to what is presented at our monthly meetings, all from the comfort of your home and accessible on any device with email access.

This E-Newsletter is sent out on the first Tuesday of each month to individuals and families interested in our bereavement programs.

To subscribe to this important grief support resource, please complete the sign-up form at <https://bit.ly/ccabereavementbulletin> or contact Rhonda at rabrums@clecem.org or 216-930-4866.



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION
DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND
Faith, Hope, and Remembrance

Third Sunday of Easter

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 only 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



Did You Know...

Many of you may already know about our online Sunday Offertory option, which allows you to make charitable donations without using monthly envelopes. However, did you know that you can also contribute to Holy Days and special collections through myEoffering? MyEoffering offers a quick, simple, and secure way to donate to our parish.

To learn more or to sign up, visit

<https://myeoffering.com/>.

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440-895-7756



rachel.macdonald@sjs-amherst.org

Hospitality Movie Night



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

Hospitality Movie Night will be held at St. Joseph 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
ST. JOSEPH 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)

The graphic for the 'Baby Bottle Blessings' campaign features a large baby bottle on the left, filled with blue liquid and containing several gold coins. To the right of the bottle, the text 'cornerstone' is written in a sans-serif font, with a cross symbol above the 'c'. Below this, there are two smaller logos: 'Cornerstone' with a cross and 'Lili Women's Center' with a cross. The main title 'Baby BOTTLE BLESSINGS' is written in a large, stylized font, with 'Baby' in a cursive script and 'BOTTLE BLESSINGS' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the title, a purple banner contains the text 'Mother's Day to Father's Day'. At the bottom, it says 'To give, or for more information, visit cornerstonepregnancy.org/events/baby-bottle-blessings'. A QR code is located in the top right corner of the graphic.

The Annual Baby Bottle Campaign is back at St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes! If you'd like to participate, bottles are available at both locations. Simply fill a bottle with a check (made payable to *Cornerstone Pregnancy Services*), cash, or coins, and return it by Father's Day, June 15. Prefer a different way to give? Flyers with donation envelopes are also available at both parishes. You can mail in your gift or use the QR code (also shown in the photo above) for a faster and easier way to contribute. Thank you for considering support of this worthy cause!

Nativity News

Altar and Rosary Partners with Birthright of Lorain County for Fundraiser



Once again, the Altar and Rosary Society is honoring mothers by partnering with Birthright of Lorain County, a nonprofit, interdenominational organization that offers support to women and families in need who are challenged by pregnancy.

Birthright has provided a “wish list” of most needed items:

- Size 5, 6, and 7 disposable diapers.
- Baby wipes in packs of 50-100

Other items always appreciated are:

- 0-6 month sleepers or sleep sacks
- Baby towels
- Burp cloths
- Baby food
- Or any baby-related item you wish to donate

If you would like to join us in this effort, please place your donation on the back table in Nativity Church, or place a monetary donation in an envelope marked “A and R Birthright / Kathy” and drop it into the collection basket.

All checks should be made payable to “Altar and Rosary Society” Attn: Kathy.

Donations will be accepted from May 10 through June 8.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

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.



Road Closure Notice

For those of you traveling to and from Nativity Parish for Adoration, Mass, or other activities, please note the following.

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.

Detour Routes:

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

Altar and Rosary Mother's Day Bake Sale NBVM South Amherst



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 out the delicious items our bakers have prepared!

Third Sunday of Easter



Choral Spectrum
Anthony Trifiletti, Artistic Director

Choral Spectrum
presents

On My Way

songs of the journey

Sunday, May 4

3:00pm

St. Peter Parish Lorain
3655 Oberlin Avenue
Lorain, OH 44053

Open to the Public · Free-will offering

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.

Pilgrimage for Justice

Cleveland | Cincinnati | Memphis | Jackson | Montgomery

June 8-14, 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.

Shroud Encounter with Russ Breault

The Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, Pa. will present a program on the Shroud of Turin on Thursday, May 22nd at 7:00 P.M.



This presentation is a fast-moving, big-screen experience, using more than 200 images to explore the profound mystery of the Shroud of Turin. The program is a production of the Shroud of Turin Education Project, Inc., and will be presented by international expert and author, Russ Breault. Mr. Breault has been featured in several national documentaries seen on CBS, *The History Channel*, EWTN, and *Discovery*.

There is no charge, but pre-registration is requested if attending in person. We are also hosting this program via Zoom for those who wish to join us online. Go to vmesc.org, or call 724-964-8886 for more information or to register.

THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS WEST For Adults 40 & Over

Join us Monday, May 12 from 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

at

Westside Irish American Club
8559 Jennings Rd.
Olmsted Twp.



Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us. This is fulfilled by ordinary people who have received gifts of healing, prophecy and more. Mary Beth Garvin, Director of Encounter School of Ministry, along with her husband Mike Ragon, will share their personal journey. We'll hear testimonies, explore what scripture teaches us and experience a special time of prayer. Prayer teams will be available to pray with us through the intercession of Jesus for physical, mental, and emotional healing.

Join us for an evening of Encounter! The cost is \$15.00 per person. Light appetizers included. Cash Bar is available. **Advance tickets recommended.** Register in advance: www.theologyontherockswest.com.

Doors open at 6:30pm.

Office of Marriage & Family Ministry 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

50



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 to receive a certificate. The certificates and letters are compiled **once a month** and must be requested online in advance.



[Wedding Anniversary Jubilee](#)

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 are 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

Cemetery Clean-up

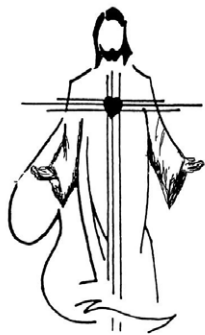
Our St. Joseph Cemetery grounds must be clear for the mowing and trimming season. Any obstructions to mowing or trimming will be removed and discarded. The following is our cemetery policy and it will be adhered to by the groundskeeping crew.

- **Decorations, must be removed by April 1st for the mowing season. If you want to keep 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 by the groundskeeping crew.**
- **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 the groundskeeping crew.**
- **Winter decorations will be allowed from October 31st to April 1st.**

ATTENTION: ALL MINISTRY LEADERS

All Ministry Leaders will be contacted in the next few weeks by a member of our Stewardship Council to review their entries in the Annual Stewardship Renewal Guidebook.

Please review the information carefully so that parishioners interested in joining your ministry can easily contact you with any questions.



Our Guidebook provides information about every ministry to help parishioners prayerfully discern where and how God is calling them to serve. Let's help them make an informed decision.

We  love
having you as part of our *flock*



Keep in touch
with us via
email & text

To be added to St. Joseph and Nativity's weekly emails, simply text SJPA to 84576. We typically only send emails and respect your privacy; text messages will only be sent for urgent situations.

Be Aware of Scams



The threat of fraudulent attempts to trick people into giving out personal information, to purchase gift cards, or a request for an "urgent matter" are an ever-present reality in our digital world.

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." All correspondence from the office will include specific information as to the nature of the correspondence.

As a best practice, never open any links, give out private information or respond to texts or emails without first checking to see that the source is legitimate.

St. Joseph and NBVM YouTube Channel

Our YouTube Channel offers the 11:00 A.M. Mass livestreamed, along with past videos and newly added content! We will also be uploading weekly event videos featured during Mass on weekends, as well as new music from our music ministry.



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YouTube at
[sjandnbvmmedia](https://www.youtube.com/sjandnbvmmedia)

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Amherst Holy Family Council 4891

stjosephamherst.com/knights-of-columbus

Meetings held:
4th Tues of every month
in the MPR



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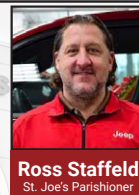
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