



ST. JOSEPH PARISH & NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

PARISH NEWSLETTER

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and Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary,
South Amherst*

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JULY 2025

MEET *Elizabeth and Josh Gonzalez* *Siblings Reflect on Joyful Involvement in Music Ministry*

While many teens and young adults may hesitate to get involved in their parish, siblings Elizabeth and Josh Gonzalez are breaking stereotypes.

"We started getting involved when I was just a kid," says Elizabeth, the older of the two. "Our family wanted to find a way for everyone to get involved in the parish — Josh and I are two of seven siblings."

"I started singing for music ministry when I was in second grade, and I've sung with Elizabeth for as long as I can remember," Josh adds. "Really, we could all be a part of music ministry — my parents and all the kids."

What started as a volunteer opportunity for their family ended up becoming a bigger invitation for Josh and Elizabeth. Christina Dupre, their parish music director, switched from St. Mary of the Falls to St. Joseph and asked the duo to move parishes and help build up the Music Ministry there.

"There are more and more people who have joined the Music Ministry, and we've established a great team of people," Elizabeth says.

The Music Ministry team at St. Joseph has become more than just people to sing with — Josh and Elizabeth both attest that they've become a true community.

"Our Music Ministry team has truly become a family," Elizabeth says. "We regularly pray together. I feel comfortable going to all of them. They've all impacted my prayer life, simply because of that sense of community."

"I experience the presence of God in the music community," Josh adds. "It has really deepened my faith."

The impact that the Music Ministry has had on their own faith is precisely the kind that Elizabeth and Josh hope it has on the faith of fellow parishioners.



*Elizabeth and
Josh Gonzalez*



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Looking Towards the Catholic Youth Organization *Fall Season*

A Place for Our Young People to Experience Growth Through Effort and Teamwork

Sometimes, sports can get a bad rap because they distract kids from other, more important activities. This certainly can be true, but not for all leagues and sports. There are many valuable lessons and life skills to be learned from sports.

Jim Yanosko has been running the Catholic Youth Organization at the parish for about eight years.

“Our mission is to promote Christ’s teachings through athletics,” Jim says. “CYO inspires young people to know God, to love God, and to serve God through athletics.”

The fall sports are girls’ volleyball, third to eighth grade; boys and girls cross country, first to eighth grade; and boys and girls flag football, first to fourth grade. The other sports offered are cheer, rookie tackle football, tackle football, soccer, and volleyball. Students are often referred to the closest parish with a team since there isn’t usually enough for a team here. The grades first to eighth cheer team is starting again this winter.

Practices can begin on July 21. The CYO league season competition begins on Aug. 23, with the season ending on Oct. 26. League games, matches, and meets are held at various locations throughout the diocese.

The children and youth who are involved with CYO enjoy it. The organization’s mission is a bit different than most sports leagues, though — it’s not all about winning. Jim appreciates the many lessons that can be learned through sports — teamwork, wellness, self-confidence, discipline, and more.

“CYO athletics provides an opportunity for young people to experience spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional growth through participation in sports,” he says.

Even when the team loses, there are many lessons to be learned. We can liken this to our walk in faith.

“Facing challenges and setbacks in sports builds resilience,” Jim says. “Athletes learn to bounce back from defeats, injuries, and setbacks. Faith often involves enduring trials and persevering through challenging times. The ability to keep going despite adversity is a valuable virtue.”

Athletes, no matter their age, pick up good habits and form their characters during practices and games. This will pay dividends for them long into the future.

“Whether it is showing good sportsmanship, respecting opponents, or demonstrating integrity, athletes learn valuable life lessons,” Jim says. “These virtues align with Christian values and contribute to spiritual growth.”

It would be impossible to name every skill that can be learned in sports.

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A Letter from Our Pastor

What Is the Real *Purpose* of Our Lives?



Dear Members of St. Joseph and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes,

Do you ever think about your purpose in life? As a priest, I do. There are some days and times when I think, “What am I supposed to be doing right now? What does God want me to do?” For eons, philosophers have considered these questions and written about them.

But the truth is that we, as Catholics, already know the answers.

When we consider the many facets of life in our parish communities, there are numerous activities and opportunities that go beyond attending Mass. There are many ways in which we serve our communities.

Yet, as we undertake these important pursuits — both within and outside our parishes — we must always remember that our ultimate goal is salvation. After

all, the only reason we exist, the only reason our Church exists, is the same as the reason that Jesus joined here on earth: He came to save humanity.

We use the term the “Body of Christ” to describe the Church with Christ as the head. We are all parts of this body, and the parts of the body must move in the same direction as the body itself. We are all in this together.

When our lives are complete, we do not base our success or failure on how much money we have, or whether or not we are famous. Nor does our success or failure depend upon the difference between health and sickness, or being old or young. Rather, it is the difference between being saved and not being saved.

I often think of my family members

who have passed away and, as a priest, I deal with this issue with other people on a very regular basis. Sometimes I wonder if everyone fully realizes that salvation is the answer to so many of our questions in life.

I am surrounded by memories of those who have gone before, as are all of you. Someday, we will know more about the “communion of saints” and how it all works. In the meantime, we pray for everyone who has gone before us, hoping they have made it home!

Please pray for me as I pray for you.

Gratefully in Christ,

Fr. Timothy J. O'Connor

Fr. Timothy J. O'Connor,
Pastor



Meet Elizabeth and Josh Gonzalez *continued from front cover*

“Singing worship is a form of prayer,” Josh says. “St. Augustine says, ‘Singing is praying twice.’”

Elizabeth stresses that because it’s a form of prayer, music should be taken seriously in the liturgy.

“The music during Mass really lifts the spirit in a different way,” she says. “I’ve always appreciated really good music in Mass, so it’s a joy to strive to provide that to our parish.”

The siblings’ involvement in music ministry gives them an opportunity to serve through their time and talent and witness to other young people who are called to do the same.

“Getting more involved outside of attending Mass on Sundays and stepping into your parish more really enriches your

faith life and connects you with a community of other believers,” Elizabeth says. “As a young adult especially, it’s not always easy to find. I really love that I get to be a part of that by using my gifts to serve God in this way.”

“Music has been a gift given to me by God,” Josh adds. “In order to say thank you to Him, I believe I should use that gift to serve the Church in some way. It’s my ‘thank you’ back to Him.”

The Gonzalez siblings can serve as an inspiration for anyone looking for ways to serve, connect with the parish community, and deepen their faith life. If you’re looking for a way to serve, look first at the gifts God has given you. There are often ways to use those gifts to thank Him!

Looking Towards the Catholic Youth Organization Fall Season

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Trust may not be one that immediately comes to mind. However, athletes learn to trust their teammates in the same ways they learn to trust God.

“Just as faith involves trusting God, athletes learn to trust their team members and rely on their collective efforts,” Jim says. “Being part of a sports team creates a sense of community. Athletes bond with teammates, share experiences, and support each other. Similarly, faith communities offer fellowship, encouragement, and shared beliefs.”

One way CYO integrates faith is through the “cross initiative.” CYO coaches have small wooden crosses — they will give one to athletes when they notice a moment of sacrifice or gratitude.

Jim wants to thank all those who have committed to CYO over the years. Many stick with it long after their children have grown out of the program.

“CYO Athletics is proud of the coaches and parents who support our teams and improve every child’s experience,” Jim says.

In 2022, the CYO program opened to children in the neighborhood. Jim was very excited to add this option. Other ways a child or youth qualifies are parish membership here or at another diocesan church, Catholic school enrollment, or Parish School of Religion or Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) for children enrollment.


Volunteers are always needed for CYO. The diocese needs scorers and referees, and these positions are typically paid.



Contact Jim Yanosko at 216-496-5303 or jyanosko@roadrunner.com for more information. Watch the parish bulletin or parish website, stjosephamherst.com, for more information on sign-ups.

Catholicism in Different Places

By DEACON NATHAN FRANKART



Peace of Christ to you! I suppose I should update you as to this new assignment at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Wooster. On the fun side of things, I have an office! I have no idea what to do with all this desk space and all these shelves! I'm used to being at St. Ambrose, where I worked at a small cubicle in a room shared by five people. But here, I get all the space in the world to work!

Truthfully, this is not the reason why I love being at this parish. Rather, it is the sincerity of the people here in Wooster. And this sincerity has developed in the context of these people's environment here in the area.

Wayne County is Protestant to a fault. There are mega churches on the outskirts of town, with plenty of smaller congregations of Mennonites and Baptists and every non-denominational congregation in between. The Catholics are a true minority in our neck of the woods. For that reason, the Catholics draw close to one another in an environment where being a devout Catholic is considered to be abnormal.

It leaves me in a certain kind of awe, one that feels compelled to live up to the expectations and needs of a community like this. These folks leave the church on Sunday to encounter their workplaces, schools, or other areas of community life that question their faith and challenge doctrine. It gives me the immense responsibility of aiding them in providing responses to the questions around them, but also to prod their own hearts in ways other than in judgment or skepticism.

To deepen a life of faith is to allow yourself to re-deepen your understanding of who Jesus is and how Christ loves you. Sometimes that requires a breaking down of old ideas, dying to old conceptions and beliefs to make way for new ones. Living in a non-Catholic environment has certainly facilitated that for this community. Likewise, I consider it my awesome responsibility to continue this process of deepening conversion, so that the people of St. Mary in Wooster might better respond to the world around them, and more easily respond to the inner call we all receive on our hearts from God — the need to evangelize in difficult places.

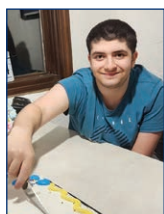
THE CLASS OF 2025 —

Our High School and College Graduates

St. Joseph's, Amherst, and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, South Amherst



Amelia Abraham is a St. Joseph Parish school graduate with the Class of 2021 and is now a very proud high honors member of the Class of 2025 from Elyria Catholic High School. Amelia has always been a very involved student, athlete and volunteer throughout all of her academic years. She was a member of the Spirit Senate, the track & field team for three years, and swim team all four, qualifying for districts in the breaststroke, and is currently a lifeguard at the Elyria Country Club. Amelia was a member of the Environmental Club, and was inducted into the National Honor Society. Amelia was elected homecoming queen by her classmates in her senior year. This Fall, Amelia will be attending the University of Kentucky to pursue the animal science/pre-veterinary program. She is the daughter of Samantha and Michael Abraham.



Jack Badr is a St. Joseph Parish school graduate with the Class of 2021 and now a very proud member of the Class of 2025 from Elyria Catholic High School. While at EC, Jack was a member of eSports, the Film Club and the Socratic Clubs. He spent his service hours as an ambassador to Elyria Catholic for the Makerspace at their Open Houses, and volunteered at both the St. Jude Food Pantry and at St. Maron's Parish in Cleveland. Jack has future plans to attend LCCC and then transferring to the University of Akron to study Computer Programming. He is the son of Dina and Chaiban Badr.



Olivia Bailey is a Class of 2025 honors graduate from Amherst Steele High School. While at Steele, she was involved in Student Council, the Leo Club, and was inducted into the National Honor Society. This Fall, Olivia will be

attending Bowling Green State University to major in business and interior design. Olivia is the daughter of Andrea and Pete Bailey.



Isabella Bennett is a St. Joseph Parish school graduate from the Class of 2021 and is now a very proud member of the Class of 2025 from Amherst Steele High School. When Isabella is not working, she enjoys hanging out with her friends. This Fall, Isabella has plans to attend Ohio University to study accounting. Isabella is the daughter of Michele Tarone and Chris Bennett.



Will Bobek is a proud member of the Class of 2025 graduating from the Lorain County JVS, where he studied the auto technology program. While at Steele, Will played freshman and JV football, and was on the varsity bowling team that went to the State Championships in both 2023 and 2024. Will began his years as a Scout with St. Joseph's Troop 429 and then bridged to Troop 427 where he earned his Eagle Scout award. Will is working full-time at Dillard's. He is the son of Laura and Rick Bobek.



Alyssa Cardina was a member of the St. Joseph Parish school Class of 2021 and is now a very proud member of the Class of 2025 with honors from Elyria Catholic High School. Alyssa was always hard at work, earning four-year honors in academics and a four-year letter on the varsity soccer team. Alyssa will be attending the University of Cincinnati this Fall, majoring in business marketing with a minor in English. She is the daughter of Michael and Kerry Cardina.



Callie Christner is a proud member of the Class of 2025 from Amherst Steele High School with honors. During her high school years, she was an active member of the softball and tennis teams. She was also a member of the Leo Club. Callie will be attending Bowling Green State University this Fall to major in environmental science. She is the daughter of Nikki and Jason Christner.



Emily Csanady began her academic journey at St. Joseph Parish School, attending from Preschool through the eighth grade, graduating with the Class of 2021, she continued her education at Elyria Catholic High School, where she is now a proud member of the Class of 2025. During her four years at EC, Emily achieved academic honors every semester, earned several academic distinctions and was inducted into the National Honor Society. Emily served as a Eucharistic Minister, a student ambassador, and a member of the Student Senate. This Fall, she will be attending Bowling Green State University and pursuing a degree in nursing. Emily is the daughter of Danielle and Anthony Csanady.



Nora Darkow is an honors graduate with the Class of 2025 from Amherst Steele High School. While at Steele, Nora was a dedicated student, athlete and volunteer. She participated in the Eco-League, the Leo Club, the Backpack Program, and organized a giving tree for the school community this year. Nora was inducted into the National Honor Society and served as vice president. She was a member of the cross country and track & field teams as well, and

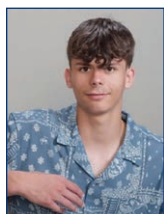
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Class of 2025 Graduates *continued from page 6*

served as captain of both. Nora is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as well as a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society! She loves to sing and play the electric guitar, paint, and sketch. Her favorite show is One Piece. Nora sang at St. Peter's Church. This Fall, Nora will be attending the University of Dayton to study political science with future hopes of going to law school to advocate for social justice. She is the daughter of Katie and Jon Darkow.



Madilyn Daviduk is a very proud Class of 2025 Honors Graduate from Amherst Steele High School. Madilyn was always a very enthusiastic student, earning her spot on the cheer team for two years. She was a recipient of the Presidential Scholarship, as well as inducted into the National Honor Society. This Fall, Madilyn will be attending LCCC to study radiology with the scholarship she has received from them. Madi is the daughter of Mara and Edwin Oliveras.



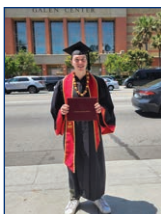
Logan Farlow is a proud member of the Class of 2025 from Amherst Steele High School. While at Steele, Logan was a member of the boys basketball team all four years and a two-year varsity letterman. Logan received the Comet Award for boys basketball in the 2024-2025 season. Logan plans to attend LCCC this Fall to major in cybersecurity, and will be a member of the Commodores Basketball Team. He is the son of Christopher and Kristina Farlow.



MacKenzie Gutierrez is a Class of 2025 graduate from Amherst Steele High School. MacKenzie is a passionate tennis player, and was captain of the varsity tennis team while at Steele. This Fall, she will be attending Miami University in Oxford, along with her twin sister Madison. MacKenzie will be studying biology and plans to pursue her dream of becoming a veterinarian.



Madison Gutierrez is a Class of 2025 graduate from Amherst Steele High School. Madison is a competitive dancer at Miss Kristen's Dance Studio in Avon Lake, she was also captain of the Steele High school dance team. This Fall, Madison will also be attending Miami University in Oxford, along with her twin sister MacKenzie, majoring in political science and pursuing her dream of becoming a lawyer. MacKenzie and Madison are the twin daughters of Keith and Tiffany Gutierrez.



Michael Hughes was a National Merit Scholar from the Class of 2021, graduating from Amherst Steele High School and now a very proud 2025 graduate from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering. Michael has accepted a position with TikTok in Silicon Valley, Calif. He is the son of Michael and Coleen Hughes.



Ainsley Hunker is an honors graduate with the Class of 2025 from Amherst Steele High School. While at Steele, Ainsley was very involved as a member of the Student Council and was inducted into the National Honor Society. She was a member of the volleyball, basketball, and track & field teams. Ainsley earned over 20 college credits through the CCP Program at LCCC and was in the Medical Health Tech program at Steele, which inspired her to pursue a career in nursing, and this Fall she will be attending Ohio University for their Nursing program. Ainsley is the daughter of Amber and Eric Hunker.

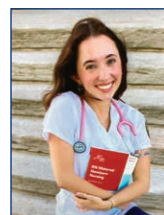


Madeline Jeffries is a graduate of St. Joseph Parish School with the Class of 2021 and is now a very proud high honors graduate with the Class of 2025 from Amherst Steele High School. Madeline is a passionate learner with a strong academic

foundation, and while at Steele was inducted into the National Honor Society. She was also awarded the Presidential Award and the fourth-year Academic Award. Madeline was involved in volleyball, and track & field, where she honed her discipline and teamwork skills. In her free time she enjoys crocheting, a hobby that reflects her creativity and her attention to detail. She is also an avid reader. Madeline is committed to giving back to her community and has volunteered during the holidays with Thanksgiving Heroes to support families in need. She continues to pursue excellence in both her academic and personal endeavors, striving to make a meaningful impact in the fields of science and mental health. This Fall, Madeline will be attending the University of Mount Union, majoring in biochemistry with a minor in psychology. She is the daughter of Joy and James Jeffries.



Bryan Kelley began his journey with God at St. Mary's School in Elyria, where he attended from preschool through the eighth grade. Bryan was active both in the classroom and athletically participating in both football and basketball for the Cougars. His journey in faith continued at Elyria Catholic High School, where he thrived spiritually, academically and athletically. Bryan was a first honors student and standout leader on the football team, known for his strong work ethic, integrity and commitment to excellence. Bryan credits his deepening faith and love for Jesus Christ to St. Joseph Parish and the spiritual guidance of Fr. O'Connor, who played a pivotal role in his formation during his high school years. This Fall, Bryan will continue his academic and athletic pursuits at Walsh University, where he has accepted a football scholarship. More importantly, he looks forward to continuing to grow in his Catholic faith as a living witness to Christ, on and off the field. Bryan is the son of Dan and Natalie Kelley.

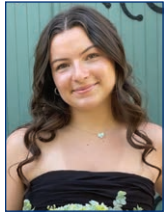


Helen Lewis is a proud Class of 2025 graduate from Lorain County Community College, obtaining her nursing degree. Helen will receive her RN License upon completion of her state

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Class of 2025 Graduates *continued from page 7*

boards. She is very excited to start her new job as a labor and delivery nurse at Metro Health Hospital in Cleveland. Helen is the daughter of Sara Lewis.



Mallory Makruski attended St. Joseph Parish School from preschool through eighth grade, graduating with the Class of 2021 and is now an honors graduate of Amherst Steele High School. Throughout high school, you could always look to Mallory to have a funny comment and a positive outlook, even in the face of adversity. For all four years, Mallory was a member of the Lady Comets Volleyball Team, making many good friends and memories. Outside of school, Mallory enjoys exploring new places with her friends and spending time at the beach. Next school year, Mallory will continue her college journey at LCCC. Mallory is the daughter of Amy and Joe Makruski.

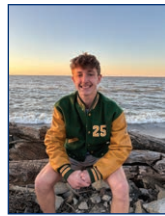


Dr. Margaret (Maggie) Manges is a 2010 graduate of St. Joseph School and a 2014 graduate of Edison High School. Maggie received her Bachelor of Arts, Summa Cum Laude, with honors, from the University of Akron in 2017, and then her master's degree in education studies in May of 2020. Maggie completed the Ph.D. program in counseling psychology from the University of Buffalo in May of 2023, and has recently completed her postdoctoral fellowship at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Dr. Manges has accepted a position at the Rochester Institute of Technology as an Assistant Professor in Clinical Psychology. She is the daughter of Linda and Kevin Manges.



Jozsef Meszlenyi is a 2021 graduate from St. Joseph Parish School and is now a very proud graduate of the Class of 2025 from Amherst Steele High School. Over the years Jozsef has enjoyed

playing sports, his favorites being football and baseball, and through his dedication and hard work, he was part of these teams while in high school. While not working, Joe also enjoys reading, playing golf, fishing and spending time with his friends. Joe is a hard worker by not only having a regular job, but also a side gig with landscaping and lawn mowing. After graduation, Joe plans to use his Presidential Scholarship at LCCC to complete an associate's degree in law enforcement before joining the police academy at age 21. We wish Joe all the love and best wishes in all he does in this next chapter. Jozsef is the son of Stacy and John Meszlenyi.



Jacob Michalak was a graduate of St. Joseph Amherst in the Class of 2021 and is now an Amherst Steele High School graduate in the Class of 2025. During Jacob's time at Steele, he was a member of the cross country team, which qualified for the OHSAA Cross Country State Championships in the Fall of 2023, and it was the first time that Amherst has qualified as a Team since 1995. Jacob was named First Team All SWC and First Team All Lorain County his senior year. Jacob was also a member of the indoor/outdoor track and field team. Jacob was a part of the Marion Mentoring Program for the fourth-grade students at Nord Middle School. He was a member of the Medical Health Tech Program at Steele. Jacob plans to attend Cuyahoga Community College Fire Academy and become a firefighter/paramedic. Jacob is the son of Michelle and Dominic Scarvelli.



Zachary Nickoloff is a proud Class of 2025 graduate from Amherst Steele High School. Zach has always been a very active and outgoing student. He enjoys playing basketball, fishing, and working out. This Fall he will be attending Ohio Business College studying to be an electrician. He is the son of Jessica and Jeff Nickoloff.



Logan Orlandi is a proud member of the Class of 2025 from Amherst Steele High School. While at Steele Logan was a four-year letterman of the Amherst hockey team, where he played the position of goalie. In his spare time, Logan enjoys roller blading with his dog, Jasmine. He is currently working as a line cook at Cole's Public House in Amherst. Logan will continue his education at LCCC in the Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management Program. He is the son of Marty and Valerie Orlandi.



Sophia Pecora is a 2025 honors graduate from Amherst Steele High School. While attending Steele, she participated in cross country, track & field, the Leo Club, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and the National Honor Society. Sophia will be attending Ohio University studying psychology with an emphasis towards a physician's assistant program. She is the daughter of Myra and Bryan Cesear and Tony and Jessica Pecora.



Logan Pitcock is a proud member of the Class of 2025 from Amherst Steele High School, graduating with honors. While at Steele, Logan kept very busy with volunteer work and activities. He was an honor student and inducted into the National Honor Society. Logan volunteered with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, participated in cross country, wrestling, and the track & field teams. In his spare time when not at work, Logan enjoys fishing. Logan has committed to the Ohio Army National Guard. After basic training, he will be attending Bowling Green State University with the ROTC program and study military science. Logan is the son of Kaytlyn Allen and Craig Pitcock.

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Class of 2025 Graduates *continued from page 8*



Cassidy Seymour was a member of the St. Joseph Parish Class of 2021 and is now a proud Class of 2025 honors graduate from Amherst Steele High School. Cassidy participated in volleyball her freshman year, and received academic honors all four years at Steele. Cassidy is a shift leader at Biggby Coffee, where she has worked for more than two years. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends. She loves animals and volunteers at the APL and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Cassidy will be attending Ohio University this Fall to major in psychology. She is the daughter of Megan and Andrew Seymour.



Mary Soboslay is a very proud graduate of the Class of 2025 from Olivet Nazarene University. Mary has just received her Bachelor of Science degree in zoology with honors! Mary was a Class of 2022 graduate from Amherst Steele High School and has been a lifelong member of St. Joseph Parish, as well as an altar server. It has always been a dream of Mary's since she was little to work hands-on with animals in wildlife rehabilitation and conservation. She first fulfilled this at the Lake Erie Science and Nature Center as a summer intern in 2023, and her first post-grad opportunity is a position at the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center in Tavernier, Fla. Mary has wanted to move to the Sunshine State for a long time and is so excited to begin living out her biggest dream. Mary is the daughter of John and Theresa Soboslay.



Joshua Thomas was a member of the Class of 2021 from St. Joseph Parish School, although his home school district is Amherst. He now has completed his four-year high school education with the Lorain County JVS and is a very proud member of the Class of 2025. He began at JVS through the Career Exploration Program and in the last two years has completed the Engineering Design &

Technology Program. Josh maintained over a 3.0 GPA and was on the honor roll numerous grading periods during his time at the JVS. Josh participated with Amherst Steele's track & field team, as well as a member of the winter indoor and spring outdoor seasons his sophomore year. Josh enjoys 3D printing projects and computer gaming. This Fall he will attend LCCC to complete the Manufacturing Engineering Tech — Computer Aided Design Operator, obtaining a One-Year Technical Certificate. Due to his academic achievements in high school, Josh earned the LCCC Career Incentive Scholarship. Josh is the son of Amanda and Steve List, and Jason Thomas.



Alissa Van Dress is a Class of 2021 honors graduate from Amherst Steele High School and now a Class of 2025 graduate from John Carroll University. Alissa received a Bachelor of Arts in English and will be returning to John Carroll for an 11-month fast-track program to obtain her M.Ed and initial teaching licensure. Alissa plans to teach high school English. Alissa has always been and continues to be a very involved member of our parish community — she volunteers with the Holy Ground Youth Ministry program and Vacation Bible School, cantors and sings in the choir, and also serves as a lector. Alissa is a catechist and taught Kindergarten PSR this year. Alissa is the daughter of Brenda Phillips and Mitch VanDress.



Jada Williams is a member of the Class of 2021 from St. Joseph Parish School and now a proud graduate of the Class of 2025 from Amherst Steele High School. Jada was a member of the Amherst Marching Comets and participated in the competition shows Spain, Secret Agent 54, Haunted Mansion, and Dream. She was also a part of the Steele News Live Team and enjoyed creating informational shows for the school. After graduation, Jada will be attending the Northern Institute of Cosmetology. She is the daughter of Myrna and Jason Williams.



Aiden Workman is Class of 2025 honors graduate from Amherst Steele High School. While at Steele he played on both the soccer and men's volleyball teams. Aiden served as president of Student Council, captain of the Academic Team, and was also a member of the Leo Club and FCA. During his free time, Aiden enjoys pickleball and escape rooms. After graduation, Aiden will be attending the University of Alabama to potentially double major in psychology and neuroscience. Aiden plans to attend medical school after that to specialize in anesthesia. He is the son of Dawn and Anthony Workman.



Adriano Zagar is a proud honors graduate of the Class of 2025 from Amherst Steele High School. While in high school, Adriano participated in many activities, he was inducted into the National Honor Society, and received the FANUC CERT Handling Tool Operations & Programming Certificate; Amherst 2024 Technology Department Award; first, second, and third-year Academic Awards; served as captain of the soccer team; was a recipient of the Soccer State of Ohio Representative Award; soccer first team all Greater Cleveland, received the soccer SWC Award; soccer All Ohio Academics; soccer second team Lorain County; and volunteered at the local Second Harvest Food Bank and at church. Adriano's future plan is to attend Cleveland State University to major in electrical/computer engineering. His educational goals in electrical engineering are focused on gaining a strong foundation in key areas such as circuit design, signal processing, and power systems. He wants to deepen his understanding of both traditional and emerging technologies, preparing him to address the challenges of an increasingly interconnected world. In his career, he aspires to contribute to the development of innovative and sustainable technologies, particularly in the areas of renewable energy and smart systems. He is driven to work on projects that improve efficiency, reduce environmental impact, and enhance the way we live through engineering solutions that make a meaningful difference. Adriano is the son of Bernard and Adrijana Zagar.

AD SPACE

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PERMIT 58
AMHERST OH

200 Saint Joseph Drive, Amherst, OH 44001

Address Service Requested

Fr. Tim O'Connor Serving Both Parishes

Mass:

Monday, 9:00 a.m. - *St. Joseph*

Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. - *Nativity of the BVM*

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*

Friday, 9:00 a.m. - *St. Joseph*

Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*

5:30 p.m. - *Nativity of the BVM*

Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*

Confession at St. Joseph:

Thursday - Individual Reconciliation 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday - Individual Reconciliation 11:00 a.m. - noon

Eucharistic Adoration (Chapel) at Nativity of the BVM:

Monday-Friday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Upcoming Activities and Events

**NOTE: ALL ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL HALL
ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE
TO CEILING REPAIR WORK**

Hospitality Tuesday

Tuesday, July 1 - 8:30 a.m.

Happy Fourth of July

Friday, July 4 - Parish Office closed

Friday, July 4 - 9 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph
Cemetery weather permitting. For inclement
weather to be held at NBVM in South Amherst

First Saturday Rosary

Saturday, July 5 - 9:00 a.m. St. Joseph Church

Stewardship Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 9 - 6:00 p.m.

Parish Office Conference Room

Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 28 through Friday August 1

9:00 a.m. St. Joseph School

Grief Recovery Program

Wednesday, July 2, 9, 16, and 23 -

6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Social Hall

Faithfully Fit Yoga Classes

Tuesday and Thursdays in June -

9:30 a.m. Mill Hollow