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NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

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Office Manager, St. Joseph:
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Worship and Liturgy Coordinator,
St. Joseph:
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Assistant Music Director, and Funeral
and Wedding Coordinator, St. Joseph:
Joy Rivera

Principal, St. Joseph School
and PSR Coordinator:
Amy Makruski

Operations Manager, St. Joseph:
Bob Kenska

Director of Youth Activities
Joshua Gonzalez

November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent

ST. JOSEPH PARISH OFFICE: 440-988-2848
Office hours are Monday - Friday 8:30 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 - 8:30 P.M.
Saturday - Individual Reconciliation 11:00 A.M. - Noon

Liturgy Schedule

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1st – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 a.m. Dave Taylor (Ted and Kathy Litkovitz)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd – Mass at Nativity Parish
8:00 a.m. Victor Celaschi
(Derrick and Lynn Johnson)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd – No Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
7:00 p.m. Steve Kessler (Family)
Confessions to follow until 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 a.m. Barbara Ann Needham
(Daughter, Audrey Korbel)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th
11:00 a.m. Confessions at St. Joseph Parish
4:00 p.m. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes
Mass at St. Joseph Parish
5:30 p.m. Jeffery Gentile (Gentile Family)
Mass at Nativity Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th – Masses at St. Joseph Parish
8:30 a.m. Beula Giacobbe (Sons)
11:00 a.m. Mass of Thanksgiving for our Blessings
(George Family)
5:00 p.m. Jim Guidish (Wife, Judi)

Daily Readings

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1st – Advent Weekday
Is 4:2-6 / Mt 8:5-11

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd – Advent Weekday
Is 11:1-10 / Lk 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd
Saint Francis Xavier, Priest
Is 25:6-10 / Mt 15:29-37

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4th – Advent Weekday
Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5th – Advent Weekday
Is 29:17-24 / Mt 9:27-31

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th
Vigil, Second Sunday of Advent
Is 11:1-10 / Rom 15:4-9 / Mt 3:1-12

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th – Second Sunday of Advent
Is 11:1-10 / Rom 15:4-9 / Mt 3:1-12

Activity Schedule

MONDAY-FRIDAY
11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration (NBVM)

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
9:30 a.m. Yoga Flow Classes at Nativity Parish Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1st
7:00 p.m. O.C.I.A. The Meaning and Mission
of the Church and our Advent Prayer Service.
EVERYONE'S INVITED!
(Nativity Parish Hall)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd
8:30 a.m. Hospitality Tuesday following the 8:00 a.m. Mass
(Nativity Church and Hall)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd
5:30 p.m. P.S.R. for Kindergarten through Grade 8
(St. Joseph School)
6:30 p.m. Sacred Sisters Meeting
(O.S.E. Community Center)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4th
9:00 a.m. Vincentians Meeting (Conference Room)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5th
11:00 a.m. First Friday Rosary
(Nativity Church S. Amherst)
There will be NO luncheon following
the Rosary today.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th
9:00 a.m. First Saturday Rosary (St. Joseph Church)
1:00 p.m. First Reconciliation (St. Joseph Church)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th
6:00 p.m. Holy Ground Youth Group (School Gym)
Will meet near the choir before
the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 8th,
the Feast of the Immaculate Conception
is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Mass Times are as follows:
9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Parish
12:00 p.m. Mass at Nativity Parish
7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Parish

New Deadline For Bulletin Content

Please make a note that if you would like to submit
information for the bulletin, please email it to
parishoffice@stjosephamherst.com,
by **Noon, NO LATER than 2 Fridays prior**
to the Sunday you want it to appear.

First Sunday of Advent

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

St. Joseph Parish – Sunday, November 16, 2025

Sunday Offertory	\$ 11,580.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 52.00
All Saints	\$ 40.00
Flowers and Decorations	\$ 408.00
Children's Offertory	\$ 2.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 65.00
Little Books for Advent	\$ 27.00

E-Giving – November 11, 2025-November 17, 2025

Eoffering – Sunday Offertory	\$ 4,865.21
Eoffering – Maintenance Fund	\$ 101.64
Eoffering – Christmas	\$ 24.70
Eoffering – Vincentians	\$ 94.70
Eoffering – All Saints Day	\$ 334.70
Eoffering – Tuition Assistance	\$ 59.70
Eoffering – Campaign For Human Dev.	\$ 50.00
Eoffering – Flowers and Decorations	\$ 10.00
Eoffering – Religious Retirement Fund	\$ 96.94

Nativity Parish

Saturday, November 15

Sunday Offertory	\$ 2,022.00
Christmas Flowers and Decorations	\$ 25.00
Human Development	\$ 5.00

REMINDERS TO ALL ST. JOSEPH LECTORS

St. Joseph Lectors, please remember to pick up your 2025-2026 practice book from the back sacristy at your convenience.

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Please join us as we pray together the Rosary on Saturday, December 6th, at 9:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church.

PEW-WASHING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

St. Joseph Sacristans will be washing pews and welcome anyone who would be able and interested in helping us clean the pews before Christmas. Pew-washing will be held on Wednesday, December 10th at 9:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

Below is our list of recent Calendar Raffle winners. Thank you for your participation and support. Congratulations!!!

11/13: Sally Wagner, \$150.00 – sold by the Santiago Family
 11/14: William Hoff, \$250.00 – sold by Rose Danicki
 11/15: Camden Haslage, \$250.00 – sold by Mia Muzik
 11/16: Arturo Norris, \$125.00 – sold by the Groves Family
 11/17: Kathy Loos, \$100.00 – sold by the Loos Family



ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Turning taxes into tuition

The Angel Scholarship Fund (ASF) is a State of Ohio approved Scholarship Granting Organization.

Donors to ASF may be eligible for a 100% tax credit on their State of Ohio income tax return for the year the contribution is made. ASF donations are awarded as tuition assistance for K-12 students in the Diocese of Cleveland, and donors may designate a school/schools to receive their donation. Just follow these three steps:

STEP 1- Estimate your 2025 Ohio state tax liability

STEP 2 - Make your donation to ASF

STEP 3 - Claim your scholarship tax credit when you file your 2025 State of Ohio taxes.



For more information, call or email: 216-902-1312 /

asfinfo@dioceseofcleveland.org

**This does not constitute income tax advice. Always consult with a tax professional for information on the impact of any charitable donation.

ST. JOSEPH GIVING TREE

Our Giving Trees are up and are ready to be made bare! Take a tag from the tree and go shopping! All gifts need to be returned no later than December 14th. Gift cards need to be returned via the collection basket as indicated on the ornament. Bins will be available at each tree for other gifts. Please place your gift and its ornament inside a bag and then place it in the proper bin marked according to the organization you are helping. **Please do not attach the ornament by any means (tying, stapling, taping, etc.) to the bag or the gift.** The bag will keep both safe in the bin. Also, do not tie the handles of the bag together. Our Parish Community is known for its compassionate generosity which warms our hearts when we are packing and delivering the gifts we collect. Our time is valuable, and deliveries need to be made early enough for the gifts to be distributed to the organizations before Christmas. Attaching the tags or tying the handles means we must undo all the attachments before packing, which takes a considerable amount of time.

If you prefer to shop online, Birthright and Blessing House each have wish lists on Amazon. Simply log into your Amazon account and under the "Accounts and Lists" tab you will see "Find a List or Registry," then you can use the search feature to find Blessing House or Birthright. Check out their websites and you may also find a direct link to their Amazon Wish List.



THE "SACRED SISTERS" WEDNESDAY NIGHT LADIES PRAYER GROUP ON DECEMBER 10TH, 2025, 6:30 P.M.

We will gather to complete our Christmas project for our Homebound parishioners and our nursing home residents. This will be followed by a Christmas gathering of all our Sacred Sisters, or if you are considering joining this women's group, please do join us on Wednesday, December 10th and get to know all of these remarkable ladies.

YOU ARE MOST WELCOME!

The Sacred Sisters then will be taking a Christmas break and will not return till January 7th at the Old Stone Evangelical Community Center with some new and exciting sessions. Keep watching for our announcements in the bulletin.

BLESSING OF AN ADVENT WREATH



The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it is blessed by a parent or another member of the family. Taken from USCCB website

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (R/) **Who made heaven and earth.**

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (line 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or

Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: **The Word of the Lord. R/. Thanks be to God.**

With hands joined, the leader says:

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: He is Emmanuel,

The hope of the peoples, He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,

He is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May He come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/. Amen.



St. Joseph School will once again be hosting their annual Kris Kringle Santa Shop. This is an opportunity for SJS students to do some secret shopping

to purchase gifts for family and friends.

We are in need of new/gently used donations such as:

household goods, jewelry, decorations, Christmas items, books, games, toys, pet items, baby items, etc. We are also in need of Christmas gift bags and tissue paper donations as well. Donations can be dropped off BEFORE 12/9/25 at the school entrance, Door A.

First Sunday of Advent

NATIVITY'S GIVING TREE



The Giving Tree will be up again at Nativity this Christmas season. Each ornament was handmade by the children and will include age, gender, and wish list items. PLEASE RETURN YOUR GIFTS BY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH (UNWRAPPED AND IN A CHRISTMAS GIFT BAG).

The children would like you to keep the ornaments as they truly appreciate your

generosity to provide them with a blessed Christmas!

If you have any questions, contact Diane Kirsch at 440-935-2301.

FIRST FRIDAY ROSARY



First Friday Rosary will be on Friday, December 5th at Nativity Church at 11:00 a.m. Please note that this month there will be no refreshments or luncheon following the service.

COOKIE BAKERS

Cookie-Bakers of all ages are invited to donate 3 dozen (or more!) of their family favorites to our seminarians. Donations should be packaged in non-returnable containers and left in the Nativity kitchen just before or after the Noon Holy Day Mass on Monday, December 8th. Cookies should be home-baked. They may contain nuts but should not be frosted. For more information, or to let us know you'll be participating, please leave a message for Carrol Wilhelm at 440-647-3251 or email her at proofit1@gmail.com. If you like, you/your family can include a card for the seminarians, but please do not put the cards inside the containers. Thank you!

NBVM HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

If you or someone you know – whether a friend, family member, or acquaintance – is a member of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in South Amherst and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Lynn Johnson at 440-752-6519 or Wendy Rosso at 440-986-0304, so that we are able to meet the needs of the homebound.

#weGIVECATHOLIC

**THIS TUESDAY-
DECEMBER 2, 2025!!**

Help us reach our goal of \$5000!

1

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SEARCH

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Amherst**

2

3

DONATE

to help support our STEM fund and
directly benefit our students!



Give Back. Give Catholic.

To be added to St. Joseph and Nativity's
weekly emails, simply text SJPA to 84576.

We typically send only emails
and respect your privacy;
text messages will be sent only for
urgent situations.

HOSPITALITY TUESDAY

NBVM will host Hospitality Tuesday with refreshments following the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Tuesday, December 2nd in the Parish Hall.

YEAR-END GIVING

In this season of giving, consider making a year-end gift to our parish in gratitude for all the blessings you have received. As you plan to make the most of your charitable donations in 2025, we gratefully accept cash gifts, Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA, grants from your donor-advised fund, and appreciated assets such as stocks or bonds. Looking ahead, you might also consider naming our parish as a beneficiary of your IRA. Consult your financial advisor or contact Moira Wopershall at 216-696-6525, ext. 8070.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

In the charity of your prayers,
We commend to God:
**Jerry Hughett, the father of Lynn and
Dereck Johnson**
Edith Ziska, mother of Rick Ziska
James J. Stock

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.

THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS WEST

For Adults 40 & Over



**Join us Monday, December 8
7:00-8:30 p.m.**

Westside Irish American Club
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Your Brain on Prayer

*Dr. Jacqueline Philips-Sabol, Ph.D.;
Neuropsychologist & Faith Leader,
Director of The Center for Spiritual
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present scientific data, videos and examples that will explain the effects of prayer & faith on our health, brain function and our lives.

Join us for a theologically enriching evening. 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 6:30 p.m.

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