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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

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

Operations Manager, St. Joseph:
Bob Kenska

Director of Youth Activities
Joshua Gonzalez

December 21, 2025
Fourth 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 22nd – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 a.m. Shirley Zeh (June Childress Family)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd – No Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24th – Christmas Vigil Masses
A Holy Day of Obligation

4:00 p.m. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes
Mass at St. Joseph Parish

6:00 p.m. People of Nativity and St. Joseph Parishes
Mass at Nativity, South Amherst

8:00 p.m. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parish
Mass at St. Joseph

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25th – Christmas Day Masses
A Holy Day of Obligation

8:30 a.m. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes
Mass at St. Joseph Parish

10:00 a.m. People of Nativity and St. Joseph Parishes
Mass at Nativity, South Amherst

11:30 a.m. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parish
Mass at St. Joseph

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26th – No Mass

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27th

11:00 a.m. Confessions at St. Joseph Parish

4:00 p.m. Jeffrey Howells (Wife, Lesley)
Mass at St. Joseph Parish

5:30 p.m. Albert and Helen Gentile
(Gentile Family)
Mass at Nativity Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28th – Masses at St. Joseph Parish

8:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the Coughlin and
Grob Families (Family)

11:00 a.m. Adam Wood
(Wood and Srawley Families)

5:00 p.m. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes

Activity Schedule

Merry Christmas to All!

No School December 22nd through January 5th
Parish Offices closed December 24th through 26th

MONDAY-FRIDAY

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Flow Classes
(Nativity Parish Hall)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26th

7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Music Ministry
Christmas Concert (St. Joseph Church)

Daily Readings

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22nd – Late Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24-28 / Lk 1: 46-56

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd

Late Advent Weekday, St. John of Kanty, Priest
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 / Lk 1:57-66

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24th

Vigil Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve)

Vigil: Is 62:1-5 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 /

Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25th

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

Dawn: Is 62:11-12 / Ti 3:4-7 / Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26th – St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 / Mt 10:17-22

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27th

Vigil, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 / Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17 /

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 / Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17 /

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

St. Joseph Parish

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Sunday Offertory	\$ 20,585.87
Maintenance Fund	\$ 286.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 198.00
Flowers and Decorations	\$ 68.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 1.00
Little Books for Advent	\$ 6.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 771.00
Year-end Contributions	\$ 251.00
Christmas	\$ 725.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 197.25
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	\$ 95.00

E-Giving – December 2, 2025-December 8, 2025

Eoffering-Sunday Offertory	\$ 2,734.69
Eoffering-Maintenance Fund	\$ 136.94
Eoffering-Christmas	\$ 24.70
Eoffering-Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 96.94
Eoffering-Vincentians	\$ 19.14
Eoffering-Flowers and Decorations	\$ 114.70

Nativity Parish

November 23, 2025

Sunday Offertory	\$ 1,585.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 5.00

November 30, 2025

Sunday Offertory	\$ 1,353.00
Maintenance and Upkeep	\$ 2,075.00

Dear Saint Joseph and Nativity Parish Families,

Thank you so much for all that you do to make our Saint Joseph Parish and our Nativity Parish such wonderful families to be a part of. You help to extend the hands, the voice and the heart of Jesus to so many. And I want you to know that I am personally grateful to you for all the ways, seen and unseen, that you share yourselves so generously with others — and with me. May the Lord bless you and those you love in some very special personal ways during this holy Christmas season and hope-filled New Year.

Gratefully in Christ,
Fr. Tim

**A very Merry Christmas to all from Father Tim, St. Joseph Parish Staff,
St. Joseph School Staff, and Nativity Parish Staff**



THE SACRED SISTERS PRAYER GROUP

The Sacred Sisters Prayer Group will not be meeting on December 24th and 31st.

Our first meeting in the 2026 year will be on Wednesday, January 7th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Old Stone Evangelical Church Community Center. All ladies of St. Joseph and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary are welcome.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will have its first meeting of 2026 on Tuesday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the gathering area of St. Joseph Church. We will be starting the video series "Fearless" by Chris Stefanick. This is a 7-part series, and we will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month. If you have been away or have never attended, we invite you to attend and look forward to you joining us. If you have any questions, call Bob at 919-896-5413.

A NEW SCRIPTURE STUDY

Have you wished you had a better understanding of the Sunday Scripture readings and Mass?

Do you want to be more engaged in Mass?

Join us, starting on Thursday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m. in St. Joseph Church. We will be presenting Dr. Brant Pietre in videos explaining Mass and readings for the following Sunday. The study will continue on Thursdays and end by 6:45 p.m. This is not a discussion group.

Mass will follow at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions, call Bob at 919-896-5413.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

All are welcome to our St. Joseph Music Ministry Christmas Concert on Friday, December 26th at 7:00 p.m. here at St. Joseph Church under the direction of Christina Dupre. It will be a wonderful way to spend an uplifting evening of beautiful traditional and contemporary Christmas Music with your family, friends, and out-of-town company. Please join us for this amazing event, you won't be disappointed!!!!

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.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve
(Holy Day of Obligation)

4:00 P.M. - Mass at St. Joseph Parish

6:00 P.M. - Mass at Nativity Parish, South Amherst

8:00 P.M. - Mass at St. Joseph Parish

Thursday, December 25th – Christmas Day
(Holy Day of Obligation)

8:30 A.M. - Mass at St. Joseph Parish

10:00 A.M. - Mass at Nativity Parish, South Amherst

11:30 A.M. - Mass at St. Joseph Parish

Please Note: There will be no weekday Mass on Tues. Dec. 23 or Fri. Dec. 26th.

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, December 31st – Solemnity of Mary,
the Mother of God - (Holy Day of Obligation)**

4:00 P.M. - Mass at St. Joseph Parish

**Thursday, January 1st – Solemnity of Mary,
the Mother of God - (Holy Day of Obligation)**

8:30 A.M. - Mass at Nativity Parish, South Amherst

10:00 A.M. - Mass at St. Joseph Parish

Please Note: There will be no weekday Mass on Tues. Dec. 30th or Fri. Jan. 2nd.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

TUESDAY MASSES AT NATIVITY IN SOUTH AMHERST DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

Please note: During the winter months, if the weather is bad and there is NO school for either or both St. Joseph School in Amherst or Firelands Schools in South Amherst due to the weather on a Tuesday morning, then there will be NO Mass at Nativity of the BVM Church on that Tuesday morning.

THE ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY TRIP

The Altar and Rosary Society of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in South Amherst are planning a visit to Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lorain. We will see the church's beautiful Christmas decorations, hear the history of the church, and have a tour.

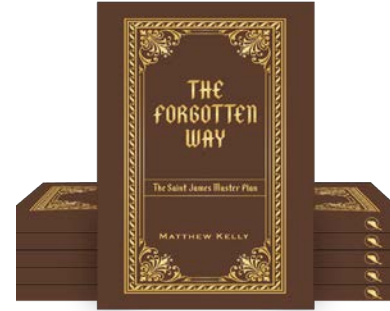
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lorain has been designated as a Jubilee of Hope site. We are going to visit it on December 26, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. We will meet in their parking lot.

Anyone interested is welcome. Their address is: 418 West 15th Street, Lorain, OH 44052

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.

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This book will be available at all Christmas Masses at St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes.

DINNERS ON THE GO

Dinners on the Go will resume on Tuesday, January 13th. We wish all of you a happy, healthy, and Blessed Christmas and New Year.

3 STEPS TO SUPPORT OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 2025

- 1 Review your tax liability from last year**
(2023 1040 IT, line 8c) to help estimate the amount of your tax liability for this year.
- 2 Make an ASF donation at:**
www.catholiccommunity.org/angel
While your donation can be any amount, the scholarship tax credit is limited to \$750 per tax payer (\$1,500 for married filing jointly) and cannot exceed your state tax liability for 2024.
- 3 Claim the scholarship tax credit on your 2024 Ohio income tax return**
You will receive a receipt for your Angel Scholarship donation that can be sent with your 2024 state tax return.



DONATE BY APRIL 15, 2025 TO CLAIM A 2024 STATE TAX CREDIT

This information does not constitute legal or tax advice. Always consult with your tax professional for information on the impact of any charitable giving.



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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

In the charity of your prayers,
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Burton "Burt" Vilagi

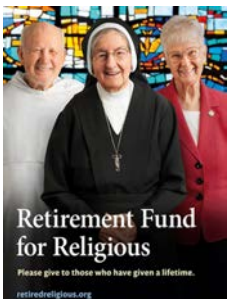
We pray for his family and the families of all our deceased relatives and friends that they may enjoy eternal peace with our Risen Christ.

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.

UPCOMING CURSILLO WEEKENDS

With great joy, we announce the return of the Cursillo Weekends to all. The men's weekend is scheduled for January 8-11th, 2026 and the women's weekend is scheduled for April 16th-19, 2026. We are currently accepting applications for any men or women who would like to secure their spot for the weekend. Christ is calling, be still and listen for that call. Please visit the website for more details at <https://lsescursillo.org>. You are also welcome to call Ed Molnar at 440-320-0120.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS



Heartfelt gratitude for your generosity!
"Thank you very much for your donations, always," says Sister Olivia Bellegante, 93, a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Louis, Missouri. Your gift directly impacts thousands of senior religious, providing the support they need in their later years. Learn more at retiredreligious.org.

THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS WEST



**For Adults 40 & Over
Join us Monday, Jan. 12
7:00-8:30pm**

**Westside Irish American Club
8559 Jennings Road, Olmsted Twp.**

Who is C.S. Lewis? Why, as Catholics do we care?

Dr. Matt Carey Jordan, VP of Academic Affairs at Borromeo & St. Mary Seminary, has led several Lewis-themed pilgrimages to England and taken people behind the scenes to walk in the footsteps of C.S. Lewis. Join us for an enlightening discussion of the man behind *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Screwtape Letters*.

Light appetizers included. Cash Bar is available. **Advance tickets recommended. Register in advance: www.theologyontherockswest.com.** Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

YEAR-END GIVING

In the month of December, many parishioners very generously make donations before the end of the calendar year. However, the **deductibility of the contribution is dependent on the date in which the contribution is POSTMARKED or when someone is available to receive it during regular office business hours.** Please call the parish office if you have any questions about your contribution. Year-End Statements will be available in mid-January, after we have had time to record all the contributions received in December.

In 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 the Catholic Community Foundation at 216-696-6525, ext. 8070 or visit www.catholiccommunity.org/ira.

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The advertisements that appear completely defray all publishing costs, which would otherwise burden the parish.
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