



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

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

Operations Manager, St. Joseph:
Bob Kenska

Director of Youth Activities
Joshua Gonzalez

February 22, 2026
The First Sunday of Lent

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, FEBRUARY 23rd – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 a.m. Cheryl Sanders (Friends)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24th
8:00 a.m. Larry Knoble (Will and Cheryl Shaffer)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25th – No Mass

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
7:00 p.m. Tony Alessasandro (St. Joseph Players)
Confessions to follow until 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 a.m. Denise (Spanski) Andras
(Tim and Holly Rinkes)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28th
11:00 a.m. Confessions at St. Joseph Parish
4:00 p.m. Katie Wood (Children and Grandchildren)
Mass at St. Joseph Parish
5:30 p.m. Vicky Russo and Bert Hyster (The Sisters)
Mass at Nativity Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 1st – Masses at St. Joseph Parish
8:30 a.m. Sheila Montgomery (Friend)
11:00 a.m. Patricia Wigton (David Burgett)
5:00 p.m. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes

Daily Readings

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd – Lenten Weekday
St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 / Mt 25:31-46

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24th – Lenten Weekday
Is 55:10-11 / Mt 6:7-15

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25th – Lenten Weekday
Jon 3:1-10 / Lk 11:29-32

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26th – Lenten Weekday
Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 / Mt 7:7-12

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th – Lenten Weekday
Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Ez 18:21-18 / Mt 5:20-26

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28th – Vigil, Second Sunday of Lent
Gn 12:1-4a / 2 Tm 1:8b-10 / Mt 17:1-9

SUNDAY, MARCH 1st – Second Sunday of Lent
Gn 12:1-4a / 2 Tm 1:8b-10 / Mt 17:1-9

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.

Subscribe to us on YouTube at [sjandnbvmmmedia](https://www.youtube.com/@sjandnbvmmmedia).

Activity Schedule

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd
7:00 p.m. O.C.I.A. – Anointing of the Sick,
a Sacrament of Healing – Sickness in the World,
and the Church’s Response.
And the first “Eddie” video.
EVERYONE IS INVITED!
(Nativity Parish Hall)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24th
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Flow Classes (Nativity Parish Hall)
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus (School MPR)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25th
5:30 p.m. P.S.R. for Kindergarten thru Grade 8
(St Joseph School)
6:30 p.m. Sacred Sisters Meeting Tonight
(O.S.E. Community Center)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26th
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Flow Classes (Nativity Parish Hall)
6:00 p.m. Scripture Study (St. Joseph Church)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th
5:00 p.m. Fish Fry – Dine-in or Carry-out
(Nativity Parish Hall)
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Nativity Parish)

SUNDAY, MARCH 1st
6:00 p.m. Holy Ground Youth Group (School Gym)
(We will meet near the choir for the
5:00 p.m. Mass prior to our session.)



THANK YOU to all who made a gift to Catholic Charities. Because of your support, hundreds of thousands of individuals will be given help plus hope in the Diocese of Cleveland. You can still make a donation by visiting [CatholicCommunity.org/](https://www.CatholicCommunity.org/) inpw or text CCHOPE to 216-223-9372.



ST. JOSEPH MASS LIVESTREAMED

To view our 11:00 a.m. Mass for the homebound, visit our YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@sjandnbvmmmedia8044/streams>
Or you can use the button on our website:
<https://stjosephamherst.com/>

The First Sunday of Lent

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

St. Joseph Parish – February 1, 2026

Sunday Offertory	\$ 13,329.75
Children's Offertory	\$ 4.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 406.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 332.00
Eastern Europe Collection	\$ 50.00
Latin American Collection	\$ 57.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 50.00
Pro-Life Collection	\$ 75.00
Vincentians	\$ 2,659.00

E-Giving – January 27-February 2, 2026

Eoffering – Sunday Offertory	\$ 3,327.08
Eoffering – Christmas	\$ 24.70
Eoffering – Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 96.94
Eoffering – Latin American Collection	\$ 75.00
Eoffering – Maintenance Fund	\$ 106.94
Eofferin – Tuition Assistance	\$ 100.00

St. Joseph Parish – February 8, 2026

Sunday Offertory	\$ 15,270.38
Children's Offertory	\$ 2.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 72.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 38.00
Eastern Europe Collection	\$ 75.00
Latin American Collection	\$ 1.00
Catholic University	\$ 2.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 20.00
Pro-Life Collection	\$ 1.00
Vincentians	\$ 1,156.00

E-Giving – February 3-9, 2026

Eoffering – Sunday Offertory	\$ 1,913.64
Eoffering – Christmas	\$ 24.70
Eoffering – Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 96.94
Eoffering – Latin American Collection	\$ 304.00
Eoffering – Maintenance Fund	\$ 30.00
Eoffering – Vincentians	\$ 19.14

Nativity Parish

Figures will be in upcoming bulletin

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 on Thursday night 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 evenings 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.

REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY



St. Joseph School is committed to integrating the Catholic faith and culture to help students develop into mature, Christian persons, whose lives modeled on Christ and His Gospel message. Check out our St. Joseph Parish School and register your child for the 2026-2027 academic year. Registration is now open; visit our website for details at www.stjosephamherst.com. Registration forms can be found on the admissions page of the school website.

DIOCESAN EVENING OF CONFESSION

On Wednesday evening, March 4th, every parish that has a resident priest in the Diocese of Cleveland will be hearing Confessions from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Fr. Tim will be hearing Confessions at St. Joseph Parish on March 4th as well as on Thursday evenings after the 7:00 p.m. Mass and on Saturday mornings from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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.

“ANSWER THE CALL”

**Diocese of Cleveland
Catholic Men's Fellowship Conference
Saturday, March 7, 2026**



FEATURED SPEAKERS:



Pete Burak
Vice President of
Renewal Ministries



Bishop Edward C. Malesic
Bishop of Diocese of Cleveland
Speaking at 3:00 PM
Celebrating Mass at 4:00 PM



Father Damian Ference
Diocese of Cleveland
Vicar for Evangelization

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HOLIDAY INN ROCKSIDE
6001 Rockside Road,
Independence, OH

DIRECTIONS: Northeast corner of the intersection of Rt. 77 & Rockside Road at the Rt. 480 Interchange.

**AGAIN IN 2026....50/50 Raffle
& T-Shirt Sale**
Help to defray ever-increasing costs.
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Registration: 8:00 am
Mass: 4:00 pm
Adjourn: 5:00 pm

Registration deadline is February 23, 2026

For info or to register, go to www.cmfnco.com
Need help? Call 216-633-3502



SAVE THE DATE: BACCALAUREATE MASS



Our Baccalaureate Mass will be celebrated at the **11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 10th**. 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 to cherish.

**MINISTRY LEADER NEEDED
FOR THE MISSION TEAM**



The Mission Team is currently looking for a new Ministry Leader. After many years of service, John Sabo is relinquishing his role as Ministry Leader. Those of you who have participated in this ministry have many wonderful, heartfelt experiences of meeting and becoming friends with people both here and in El Salvador. Please pray about taking on this position so that this ministry can continue, grow and give others the Spiritual and Religious experiences that are the foundation of this ministry. John will be leaving his position by April 2026.

If you are interested or have any questions about what this position entails, call John at 440-984-4429 or email him at StJosephmissionteam@gmail.com. John is willing to help in the transition of leadership.

Sacred Sisters Wednesday Night Ladies Prayer Group: Sacred Sisters will not meet on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18th, but will start back up on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6:30 at Old Stone Evangelical Community Center with the following book / session **“33 Days to Merciful Love”** by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC.

This 5 week session opens hearts, including all of us, to a fuller meaning of Divine Mercy (with the help of St. Therese of Lisieux)

- 1: **“Keep Trusting”** Trust is an attitude of faith expressed by praising and thanking God for everything with a smile because we truly believe in God’s goodness.
- 2: **“Keep Trying”** Keep trying to grow in holiness every day.
- 3: **“Keep Loving”** Keep doing small things with great love. Have extraordinary love in ordinary things!

You will need to purchase a book for this session. If you would like to join the Ladies Wednesday Night Prayer Group, purchase a book and or have questions you can call or text Lesley 440-371-6418. No Meeting also, on April 1st., Wednesday of Holy Week. All are WELCOME!!!



**St. Joseph
2026
Spring Sports
Registration**



Join the Trojans and be part of a faith-based program with a competitive edge!

Track Grades 1 – 8

Online Registration Open Until 3-7-2026
 Player Fee \$100
 Questions Greg Pecina – Head Coach
 Email: gpecina84@gmail.com

Track Grades 1 – 4
 Meet Days: Saturdays

Track Grades 5 – 8
 Meet Days: Sundays

Practices Begin February 23, 2026
 Season Starts March 28/29, 2026

Diocesan Championship – May 10-17, 2026

Other Spring Sports Offered – CYO Regional

- Baseball – Boys Grades 3-8
- Lacrosse – Boys & Girls Grades 3-8
- Coach Pitch – Boys & Girls Grades 1-2
- Co-Ed
- Softball – Girls 3-8
- Tennis Boys & Girls Grades 1-8
- Individual Registration
- Volleyball – Boys & Girls Grades 2-12

Athletes from other parishes will be combined to form teams, fees and location TBD.

If interested email Jim Yanosko – AD

Email: jyanosko@roadrunner.com

To Register Online:

1. Go to www.stjosephamherst.com
2. Click in Ministries
3. Click on CYO
4. Click on Register Here Tab

Questions: Jim Yanosko – Athletic Director
 Email: jyanosko@roadrunner.com

Mobile: 216-496-5303

COME EXPERIENCE
THE ANSWER

MARCH 13, 14 | 7:30PM
 Solid Rock Community Church
 680 Abbe Rd N
 Elyria, Ohio
MARCH 20, 21 | 7:30PM
 St. Joseph Parish
 200 Saint Joseph Drive
 Amherst, Ohio 44001
MARCH 27, 28 | 7:30PM
 Saint Angela Merici
 20970 Lorain Road
 Fairview Park, Ohio
 EVENT COST: **FREE** | PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION

The First Sunday of Lent

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, then there will be NO Mass at Nativity of the BVM Church on that Tuesday morning.

“DINNERS ON THE GO”

MARCH 10, 2026 MENU

Salisbury Steak

Egg Noodles

Mixed Vegetables

Roll/Dessert

Soup – Ham and Bean

Dinners are \$15.00 each and include dessert.

A 16-oz. soup cup is \$5.00.

Additional desserts (if available) are \$2.00 each.

Nativity of the BVM Parish is located at

333 S. Lake Street, in South Amherst.

Drive-thru pick-up only is from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

on the day of the dinner.

Please call Lynn Johnson at 440-752-6519 to place your order(s).

Please try to place your order by the Friday BEFORE a dinner.

Orders placed AFTER Friday cannot be guaranteed.

Thank you for your continued support!

Please Note: There will be no “Dinners on the Go” on February 24th due to the Fish Fry on Friday, February 27th.

ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Altar and Rosary Society membership has begun with the Stewardship program. Our yearly dues are generally collected January through March 1st. If you would like to join the Altar and Rosary Society and did not receive an Altar and Rosary envelope with your January donation envelopes, you can place your \$5.00 dues in an envelope with the following information:

- Your Name, Address, City, Zip Code
- Phone Number (include 440 or Area Code), cell phone numbers enable us to contact you if a storm is cancelling our meeting.
- Email Address, Birthday, and Home Parish

Drop it in the collection basket, or give it to one of the Society officers (Nancy Ann Smith, Carol Brewer, Michaelen Udovich, or Kathy Rokasy) OR mail it to Nativity BVM – Altar and Rosary Society, P. O. Box 767, Amherst, OH 44001.

We would love to have you join us!

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.

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 real.

Please know that no one from our 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.

AMERICAN CATHOLIC HISTORY SERIES

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation’s birth with monthly lectures by Fr. Kyle Rosser. The next Lecture will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25th at the St. Albert the Great Parish Life Center in North Royalton.

Save These DATES

FISH FRY

2026

Save These DATES

Join us **February 27th AND March 27th** (Fridays), at Nativity BVM Church (333 S. Lake Street, S. Amherst) for a **Lake Erie Perch Fish Fry!** Dinners will be available for dine-in OR carry-out from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. The cost of each dinner is \$25.00.

 <p>Choice 1 The Lake Erie Perch Dinner 4 Pieces of fried Lake Erie Perch & French Fries Coleslaw / Roll / Butter Piece of Cake \$25</p>	 <p>Choice 2 The Shrimp Dinner 10 Pieces of fried Shrimp French Fries Coleslaw / Roll / Butter Piece of Cake \$25</p>	 <p>Choice 3 The Combo Dinner 2 pieces of Lake Erie Perch & 5 Shrimp French Fries Coleslaw / Roll / Butter Piece of Cake \$25</p>
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The Kids Dinner (10 yrs. old & under) is \$5 for 1 slice of cheese pizza w/a bag of potato chips & a slice of cake.

Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea, Tap Water & Lemonade will be provided with purchased meal(s). Cans of pop & bottled water will be available for \$1 each while supplies last.

No alcohol is permitted on the premises.

This is a dine-in or carry-out event. No “drive-thru” is available.

Call ahead orders are appreciated but not required to Lynn Johnson at 440-752-6519. Pay by check to Nativity BVM or cash (*preferred*) at the door.

We look forward to seeing you there!
Lovingly, Your Dinners on the Go Crew





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

**Mary Jane Robson
Jack Priestas**

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.

FIRST FRIDAY FORUM OF LORAIN COUNTY

**LIVING OUR
Pillar of Faith
ELYRIA CATHOLIC STUDENT PANEL**



LORAIN COUNTY
FIRST FRIDAY FORUM
MARCH 6, 2026
DOORS OPEN: 11AM
LUNCH: 11:30AM
SPEAKER: 12-1PM

TOM'S COUNTRY PLACE 3442 STONEY RIDGE DR, AVON
\$25 LUNCH BUFFET

The First Friday Forum of Lorain County will hear from Elyria Catholic students talking about their ongoing Faith, at the luncheon on Friday, March 6. Come join us for good food, fellowship and a very informative panel of students. Lunch begins at 11:30 at **TOM'S COUNTRY PLACE, 3442 Stoney Ridge Road, Avon.**

Reservations need to be received by Friday, February 27.

Call 440-320-3272, or email fflorain@gmail.com. Cost is \$25.00.

MARY'S WAY OF THE CROSS



The women of our parishes offered a beautiful portrayal of the Stations of the Cross as "Mary's Way of the Cross" at St. Joseph Church last Friday. Throughout this season of

Lent, the group will be presenting at several area churches. If you missed the presentation here, you can catch it at one of the locations listed below in the coming weeks of Lent.

Friday, February 27th – 7:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart Parish, located at 410 W. Lorain Street, Oberlin

Friday, March 6th – 7:00 p.m.
St. Peter Parish, located at 3655 Oberlin Avenue, Lorain

Friday, March 13th – 7:00 p.m.
St. Anthony of Padua, located at 1305 East Erie Avenue, Lorain

Friday, March 20th – 12:15 p.m.
St. Mary's Parish, located at Reid and Eighth Street, Lorain

Friday, March 27th – 7:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Parish, 731 Exchange Street, Vermilion

**THE CLEVELAND GUILD
OF THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

The Cleveland Guild of the Catholic Medical Association is sponsoring a conference entitled, "Innovative Approaches to Compassionate Healthcare: The Ministry of Mercy" on Saturday February 28, 2026, at St. Albert the Great Parish Life Center. Bishop Edward C. Malesic will celebrate the opening conference Mass at 8:00 a.m. Medical education credits are available for healthcare professionals, and the conference is also open to anyone interested who is not in healthcare.

For online registration assistance, please contact Debra Sudy, 216-696-6525, ext. 3670. For questions about the conference, call 216-312-4172.

**BRINGING AMERICA
BACK TO LIFE CONVENTION**

The Bringing America Back to Life Convention is the premier Diocesan-wide pro-life event: two jam-packed days filled with the nation's top speakers, workshops, and exhibitors. To discover more about this must-see event, view the impressive lineup of speakers, and register for "In-person" or "Livestream" options, visit <https://bringingamericabacktolife.org/> or call 216-246-9127. Join us March 13th and 14th as we Bring America Back to Life!

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK



THANK YOU

This bulletin is furnished to the parish without charge. The advertisements that appear completely defray all publishing costs, which would otherwise burden the parish.

Please patronize these sponsors as a thank-you for their kind generosity.



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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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