



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

March 15, 2026
The Fourth 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, MARCH 16th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 a.m. Special Intention for Kathleen Kelley
(First Saturday Rosary Group)

TUESDAY, MARCH 17th – Mass at Nativity Parish
8:00 a.m. Personal Intention

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18th – No Mass

THURSDAY, MARCH 19th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
7:00 p.m. John A. Volak (Len and Kathy Logar)
Confessions to follow until 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 a.m. Sr. Mary Ann Burke, S.N.D. (Friends)

SATURDAY, MARCH 21st
11:00 a.m. Confessions at St. Joseph Parish
4:00 p.m. Living and Deceased Members of
the Farkas Family
Mass at St. Joseph Parish
5:30 p.m. Dennis G. Stock (Dennis and Jean Stock)
Mass at Nativity Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd – Masses at St. Joseph Parish
8:30 a.m. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes
11:00 a.m. Thomas N. O'Connor (Friends)
5:00 p.m. Louise Sroka (Norm, Alan, and Jayne)

Daily Readings

MONDAY, MARCH 16th – Lenten Weekday
Is 65:17-21 / Jn 4:43-54

TUESDAY, MARCH 17th – Lenten Weekday
St. Patrick, Bishop
Ez 47:1-9, 12 / Jn 5:1-16

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18th – Lenten Weekday
St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Is 49:8-15 / Jn 5:17-30

THURSDAY, MARCH 19th – St. Joseph, Spouse of
The Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 / Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 /
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

FRIDAY, MARCH 20th – Lenten Weekday
Wis 2:1a, 12-22 / Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

SATURDAY, MARCH 21st – Vigil, Fifth Sunday of Lent
Ez 37:12-14 / Rom 8:8-11 /
Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd – Fifth Sunday of Lent
Ez 37:12-14 / Rom 8:8-11 /
Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

**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.**

Activity Schedule

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

MONDAY, MARCH 16th
7:00 p.m. O.C.I.A. – Eternal Life – Death, Heaven, Hell,
Purgatory, and a Community of Souls.
And the second “Eddie” video.
EVERYONE IS INVITED! (Nativity Parish Hall)

TUESDAY, MARCH 17th
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Flow Classes (Nativity Parish Hall)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18th
5:30 p.m. P.S.R. for Kindergarten-Grade 8
(St. Joseph School)

6:30 p.m. Sacred Sisters Meeting
(O.S.E. Community Center)

THURSDAY, MARCH 19th
9:00 a.m. Vincentians Meeting (Conference Room)
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Flow Classes (Nativity Parish Hall)
6:00 p.m. No Scripture Study tonight

FRIDAY, MARCH 20th
7:30 p.m. “The Answer” Musical Production
(St. Joseph Church) Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21st
7:30 p.m. “The Answer” Musical Production
(St. Joseph Church) Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd
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.)

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

St. Joseph Parish – March 1, 2026

Sunday Offertory	\$ 17,595.46
Children's Offertory	\$ 2.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 136.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 378.00
Eastern Europe Collection	\$ 35.00
Home Missions	\$ 15.00
Little Books for Lent	\$ 7.00
Latin America Collection	\$ 15.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 195.00
Flowers and Decorations	\$ 30.00

E-Giving – February 24-March 2, 2026

Eoffering – Sunday Offertory	\$ 3,072.91
Eoffering – Christmas	\$ 24.70
Eoffering – Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 100.00
Eoffering – Vincentians	\$ 24.70
Eoffering – Eastern Europe Collection	\$ 50.00
Eoffering – Black & Indian Missions	\$ 50.00
Eoffering – Tuition Assistance	\$ 100.00

Nativity Parish – March 1, 2026

Sunday Offertory	\$ 1,887.00
Landscape	\$ 40.00
Eastern Europe	\$ 5.00
Black and Indian Missions	\$ 10.00
Maintenance and upkeep	\$ 365.00

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

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 are 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.

SCRIPTURE STUDY

There will be **No** Scripture Study on Thursday, March 19th. Scripture Study will resume on Thursday, March 26th at 6:00 p.m. in St. Joseph Church.

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.

SAVE THE DATE – VBS

Mark your calendars, Vacation Bible School will take place Monday, July 20th through Friday, July 24th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. More information to follow in upcoming bulletins.

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.



HELP OUR SCHOOL WIN AN ICE CREAM PARTY AND HELP STUDENTS AT THE SAME TIME!

WE THINK WE HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE THE ANGEL MADNESS DOLLARS RAISED CHAMPION

WHAT IS ANGEL MADNESS?

All Diocesan schools are invited to compete in generating the most Angel Scholarship Fund donors or donations during March 2026. Two winning schools will receive an end of the school year ice cream social sponsored by the Catholic Community Foundation. Each school will compete in either a "Donor" or "Dollar" bracket. Bracket assignments and results will be posted at: catholiccommunity.org/angelmadness

WHAT BRACKET ARE WE IN?

Our school is competing to generate the most dollars raised through online gifts in the Gold Bracket. Totals are calculated Monday-Sunday each week.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

3/2-3/8	Week 1- Top 16 schools will advance to Sweet 16
3/9-3/15	Week 2- Top 8 schools will advance to Elite 8
3/16-3/22	Week 3- Top 4 schools will advance to Final 4
3/23-3/29	Week 4- Top school is crowned 2026 Angel Madness Dollars Raised Champion



216-902-1312 | ASFINFO@DIOCESEOFCLEVELAND.ORG | CATHOLICCOMMUNITY.ORG/ANGEL

NEW TO GIVING TO THE ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND?

YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO CLAIM A TAX CREDIT WHEN FILING YOUR 2025 TAXES!

A contribution for a 2025 tax credit must be made by April 15, 2026.

CLAIM YOUR TAX CREDIT IN THREE EASY STEPS

1 REVIEW YOUR 2025 TAX LIABILITY

Use this to find your State of Ohio tax liability for 2025. The maximum tax credit is \$750 per tax payer (\$1,500 for married filing jointly).

2 DONATE AND DESIGNATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Your contribution can be designated to a school of your choice. *Contribution can be any amount. The amount of the tax credit cannot exceed the amount of your tax liability.

3 CLAIM YOUR TAX CREDIT

A tax receipt will be provided that documents your Angel Scholarship Fund contribution. This receipt is then submitted with the Ohio 1040 tax form.



EXAMPLE OF OHIO TAX CREDIT SCENARIO*

INDIVIDUAL	MARRIED, FILING JOINTLY		
Ohio Income Tax owed	\$1,000	Ohio Income Tax owed	\$2,000
Tax Credit on \$750 Contribution to the Angel Scholarship Fund	-\$750	Tax Credit on \$1,500 Contribution to the Angel Scholarship Fund	-\$1,500
Ohio Income Tax owed after Tax Credit	\$250	Ohio Income Tax owed after Tax Credit	\$500

CLAIMING THE TAX CREDIT WHEN YOU FILE**

Donations to ASF are nonrefundable credits, and the total of your nonrefundable credits cannot exceed the amount of your state tax liability. Ohio nonrefundable credits are entered in line 9 of the Ohio IT 1040. Your tax receipt must be submitted with your taxes to claim the credit.

2025 Ohio IT 1040 Individual Income Tax Return

SSN: _____

25000202C Sequence No. 2

8c. Income tax liability before credits (line 8a plus line 8b).....8c. _____

9. Ohio nonrefundable credits - Ohio Schedule of Credits, line 40 (include schedule).....9. _____

**THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGAL OR TAX ADVICE. ASF DONORS SHOULD CONTACT A TAX PREPARER WITH QUESTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH DONATIONS TO ASF.



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.

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.

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.

“DINNERS ON THE GO”

APRIL 14, 2026 MENU

Chicken Marsala
Wild Rice
Corn
Roll/Dessert
Soup – Beef Vegetable

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 our continued support!

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

Save These
DATES



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.

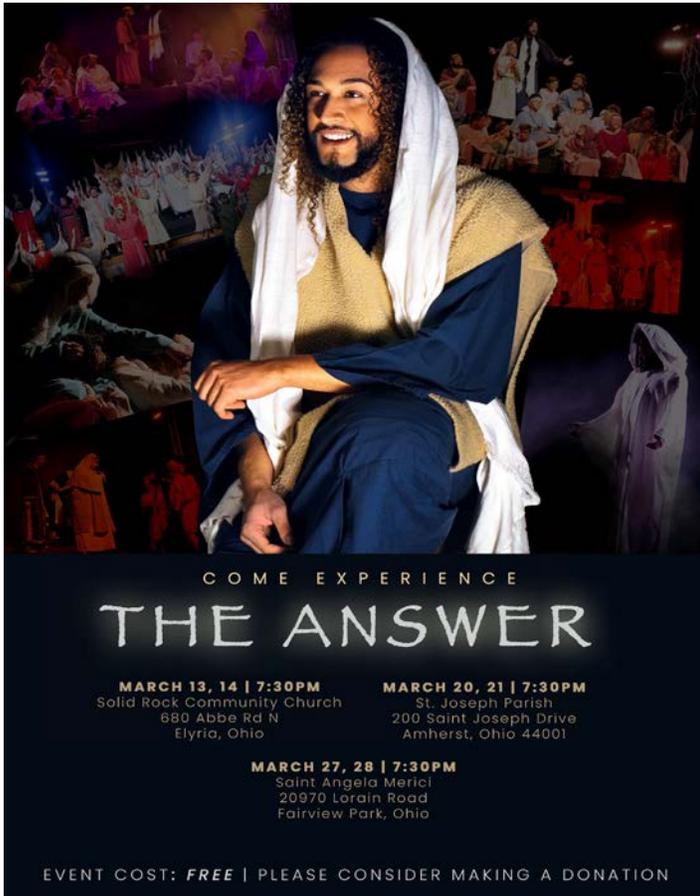


Call ahead orders are appreciated but not required to Lynn Johnson at 440-752-6519. Pay by check to Nativity BVM or cash (*preferred*) at the door.

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



The Fourth Sunday of Lent



THE ANSWER



“The Answer” is a powerful contemporary musical production. It is told through the eyes of the apostle Peter. While in prison in Rome prior to his own execution, he reminisces about Jesus and how Jesus is the answer. It is based on scripture and focuses on Jesus’ last 3 years of ministry and includes His death and resurrection.

Invite your family, friends, fellow students, and coworkers to come and see “The Answer.” This powerful contemporary musical production will be here at St. Joseph Church in Amherst on Friday, March 20th and Saturday March 21st at 7:30 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken up, if you choose to make a donation.

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/channel/UCjandnbvmmmedia).



Through the Sacrament of Baptism
St. Joseph Parish welcomes

Gordon Giuseppe Sheahan
Son of
Collin Sheahan and Angelica Bradac

into the fullness of our parish community and we congratulate his parents.

May the Lord walk closely with you in your journey and may He guide your parents in this very important and challenging role they play in your life.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

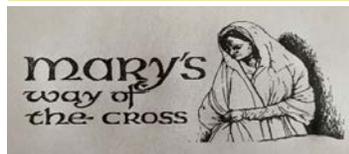
In the charity of your prayers,
We commend to God:

Rev. David J. Halaiko
Robert Sobie, Brother of Tootie Tsacoumangos

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.

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, 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

**JOIN THE DIOCESAN WEEK OF SERVICE
MARCH 22-28!**

Catholic Charities invites parishioners across the Diocese of Cleveland to take part in the **Diocesan Week of Service, March 22-28**. This special week offers an opportunity for individuals, families, and parish groups to volunteer at Catholic Charities sites throughout our eight-county diocese. Serving together is a meaningful way to witness how Catholic Charities brings hope and help to those in need across Northeast Ohio. To learn more about volunteer opportunities and sign up, visit www.dioceseofcleveland.org/week-of-service

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION
MONTHLY GRIEF SUPPORT**

The **Catholic Cemeteries Association** offers free, safe, and compassionate monthly **Grief Support** meetings throughout the year. Our next gathering will be held on **Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 p.m.** for in-person support (available at five locations throughout the Diocese) and at **5:00 p.m.** for virtual support. This month's topics are: **"Spring, Easter, and Grief: Times of Sacred Transition"** and **"The Loss of a Sibling."**

All are welcome. Come find comfort, understanding, and hope in a caring community. For more information or questions, call Renee at 216-930-4866.

VILLA MARIA

Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, PA will host "WHY the CROSS???" Insights and Perspectives from the Gospels with Lisa Marie Belz, OSU, MA, MTS, Ph.D. – March 27-29, 2026. For more information, go to the VMESC website at <https://vmesc.org/programs-retreats/all-events?id=1069>



Revival 
Lenten Mission

March 22 - March 24
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
at St. Peter Parish, Lorain

You are invited to join our Lenten Mission!

Children 18 and under are free.
Families are encouraged to attend!

Scan to register:




HOLY HOUR FOR PEACE

Please come pray with us for our country and world on Saturday, March 21st, at 2:30 p.m. at Nativity B.V.M. Parish, 418 W. 15th Street in Lorain, OH 44053. For more info, go to our website nativitybvmlorain.org.

**CALLED TO FLOURISH: OUR CHURCH FOR THE FUTURE
CAMPAIGN AT ST. JOSEPH & NATIVITY OF THE BVM**

Today, we kick off the *Called to Flourish: Our Church for the Future* campaign. Our parishes' participation will meet our parishes' needs and support Catholic ministries across the Diocese of Cleveland.

Our goal is to raise \$1,225,000 for St. Joseph and \$185,000 for Nativity of the BVM, in pledges payable over five (5) years. **Half of every dollar raised will remain at our parishes** and go toward the priorities listed below. The other half will help form and support our Church's leaders, strengthen evangelization and Catholic education, and expand ministries that serve those most in need.

When you receive your invitation to participate in the coming weeks, please pray and discern a multi-year sacrificial pledge that is right for you.

PARISH PRIORITIES

St. Joseph:

- Building a fund for an Athletic and Performing Arts Center

Nativity of the BVM

- Replacing the church flooring
- Installing new pew cushions

OUR PROGRESS

St. Joseph:

- Goal: \$1,225,000
 - Total Raised: \$616,200
 - # Gifts: 20
- Last updated 3/6/26

Nativity of the BVM

- Goal: \$185,000
- Total Raised: \$77,600
- # Gifts: 10

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

THANK YOU

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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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stjosephamherst.com/knights-of-columbus

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

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