



# 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 22, 2026**  
**The Fifth 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 23rd** – Mass at St. Joseph  
9:00 a.m. Clare Burgett (Donald and Beth Burgett)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 24th** – Mass at Nativity Parish  
8:00 a.m. Poor Souls in Purgatory

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25th** – No Mass

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26th** – Mass at St. Joseph  
7:00 p.m. Robin Hunker (The Loos Family)  
Confessions to follow until 8:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 27th** – Mass at St. Joseph  
9:00 a.m. Anthony Valencic (Daughter)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28th**  
11:00 a.m. Confessions at St. Joseph Parish  
4:00 p.m. Mike Anderson (Mom and Brother)  
Mass at St. Joseph Parish  
5:30 p.m. Curtis Marcucci (Kathy Marcucci)  
Mass at Nativity Parish

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29th** – Masses at St. Joseph Parish  
8:30 a.m. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes  
11:00 a.m. Margaret Borocz (Family)  
5:00 p.m. Joan Van Niel (Terri Van Niel)

## Daily Readings

**MONDAY, MARCH 23rd** – Lenten Weekday  
St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop  
Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62 / Jn 8:1-11

**TUESDAY, MARCH 24th** – Lenten Weekday  
St. Oscar Romero, Bishop and Martyr  
Nm 21:4-9 / Jn 8:21-30

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25th**  
**The Annunciation of the Lord**  
Is 7:10-14, 8:10 / Heb 10:4-10 / Lk 1:26-38

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26th** – Lenten Weekday  
Gn 17:3-9 / Jn 8:51-59

**FRIDAY, MARCH 27th** – Lenten Weekday  
Jer 20:10-13 / Jn 10:31-42

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28th**  
**Vigil, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**  
Mt 21:1-11 / Is 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11 / Mt 26:14 – 27:66 or 27:11-54

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29th**  
**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**  
Mt 21:1-11 / Is 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11 / Mt 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

### ST. JOSEPH MASS LIVESTREAMED

To view our 11:00 a.m. Mass for the homebound, visit our YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@sjandnbvmmedia8044/streams>  
Or you can use the button on our website:  
<https://stjosephamherst.com/>

## Activity Schedule

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

**MONDAY, MARCH 23rd**  
7:00 p.m. O.C.I.A. Holy Week – What is it, how to celebrate it what it means to all of us, and the last “Eddie” video.  
EVERYONE’S INVITED! (Nativity Parish Hall)

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

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25th**  
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 26th**  
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Flow Classes (Nativity Parish Hall)  
6:00 p.m. Scripture Study

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

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29th**  
6:00 p.m. No Holy Ground Youth Group Tonight

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

#### **St. Joseph Parish – March 8, 2026**

Sunday Offertory	\$ 14,816.60
Children’s Offertory	\$ 2.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 91.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 25.00
Eastern Europe Collection	\$ 25.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 82.00
Flowers and Decorations	\$ 220.00
Little Books for Lent	\$ 6.00
Candles	\$ 10.00
Vincentians	\$ 5,925.00

#### **E-Giving – March 3-9, 2026**

Eoffering – Sunday Offertory	\$ 1,839.86
Eoffering – Christmas	\$ 24.70
Eoffering – Vincentians	\$ 19.14
Eoffering – Maintenance Fund	\$ 10.00

#### **Nativity Parish – March 7, 2026**

Sunday Offertory	\$ 1,338.00
Landscape	\$ 35.00
Easter Flowers and Decorations	\$ 25.00

**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.**

## The Fifth Sunday of Lent

### REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY



#### 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](http://www.stjosephamherst.com). Registration forms can be found on the admissions page of the school website.

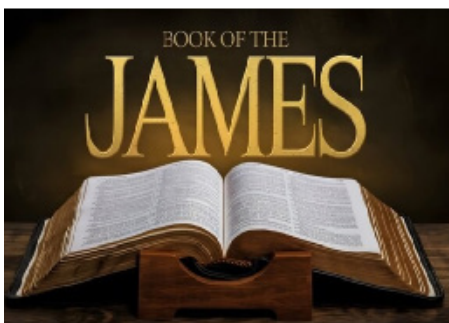
### SAVE THE DATE BACCALAUREATE MASS



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.

Looking for an anchor to hold you steady through the storms of Life? Want the secret to find joy in the midst of trials? Interested in learning to recognize the source of discord and the way to peace?



Have you ever struggled with living your faith practically? James is one of the most practical books of the Bible. The teachings speak loudly to all those who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and our faith.

**Sacred Sisters Wednesday Night Ladies Prayer Group** will begin an eleven-week Bible study on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Old Stone Evangelical Community Center. Saint Joseph and Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary ladies will meet every week to discuss the readings of St. James, answer questions and enjoy fellowship. For more information or to register, call Lesley at 440-371-6418.



### 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](http://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](mailto:ASFINFO@DIOCESEOFCLEVELAND.ORG) | [CATHOLICCOMMUNITY.ORG/ANGEL](http://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

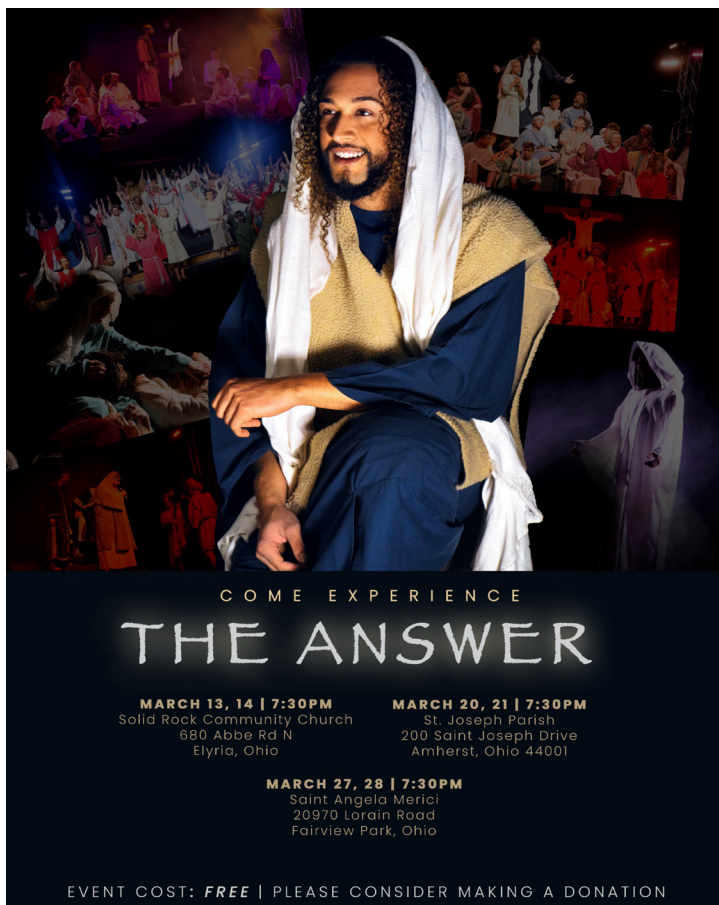
SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

25000202 Sequence No. 2

Rc. Income tax liability before credits (line 8a plus line 8b).....Rc. \_\_\_\_\_

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.



### 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, Peter 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 at St. Angela Merici, 20970 Lorain, Road, Fairview Park, Ohio on Friday, March 27th and Saturday March 28th at 7:30 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken up, if you choose to make a donation.

### SAVE THE DATE – VBS

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

### 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”

#### 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.**

### 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.

### 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 [sjandnbvmmedia](https://www.youtube.com/sjandnbvmmedia).

## The Fifth Sunday of Lent

**2026**

Join us **February 27<sup>th</sup>** AND **March 27<sup>th</sup>** (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.

 <b>Choice 1</b> <b>The Lake Erie Perch Dinner</b> 4 Pieces of fried Lake Erie Perch & French Fries Coleslaw / Roll / Butter Piece of Cake <b>\$25</b>	 <b>Choice 2</b> <b>The Shrimp Dinner</b> 10 Pieces of fried Shrimp French Fries Coleslaw / Roll / Butter Piece of Cake <b>\$25</b>	 <b>Choice 3</b> <b>The Combo Dinner</b> 2 pieces of Lake Erie Perch & 5 Shrimp French Fries Coleslaw / Roll / Butter Piece of Cake <b>\$25</b>
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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***

Through the Sacrament of Baptism  
 St. Joseph Parish welcomes

**Aurora Jeanne Price**  
**Daughter of**  
**Hunter and Brianna Price**

into the fullness of our parish community and we congratulate her 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:

**Howard Mowcomber**

We pray for his 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.***

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> — Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**  
 4:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass - at St. Joseph Church  
 5:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass - at Nativity BVM Church  
 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m. - Sunday Masses at St. Joseph Church

**Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**  
 9:00 a.m. Mass of Holy Week - at St. Joseph Church  
 Adoration of Blessed Sacrament - at Nativity BVM Church  
 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**  
 8:00 a.m. Mass of Holy Week - at Nativity BVM Church  
 Adoration of Blessed Sacrament - at Nativity BVM Church  
 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
 5:00 p.m. Chrism Mass - at St. Sebastian Church in Akron

**Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
 Adoration of Blessed Sacrament - at Nativity BVM  
 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**EASTER TRIDUUM**

**Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Holy Thursday at Nativity B.V.M. Church**  
 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper at Nativity B.V.M. (with Foot Washing)  
 Adoration and Confessions follow Mass until 9:00 p.m.  
 9:00 p.m. Adoration Closing

**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Good Friday at St. Joseph Church**  
 12:00 Noon - Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at St. Joseph with Confessions afterwards until 3:00 p.m.  
 7:00 p.m. TAIZE Stations of the Cross at St. Joseph

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Holy Saturday at St. Joseph Church**  
 10:45 a.m. Blessing of Easter Food at St. Joseph  
 Confessions from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon at St. Joseph  
 8:45 p.m. Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection at St. Joseph

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Easter Sunday**  
 Masses of Easter Sunday at St. Joseph Church  
 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.  
 Mass of Easter Sunday at Nativity BVM Church  
 10:00 a.m.  
**No 5:00 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday at St. Joseph Church**

### MARY'S WAY OF THE CROSS

All are invited to come see  
 "Mary's Way of the Cross"  
 on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.  
 at St. Mary's Parish,  
 731 Exchange Street, in Vermilion.

### 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>

**THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS WEST**



**For Adults 40 & Over**  
**Join us on Monday, April 13**  
**7:00-8:30 p.m.**  
**Westside Irish American Club**  
8559 Jennings Road  
Olmsted Twp.

*Would you like to hear What God Just Said?* Join blind Cleveland broadcaster and Touched by Heaven podcast host Trapper Jack, and his wife Elizabeth, for an evening of power storytelling drawn from real-life encounters with God that are happening today. Through humor, heart, and a broadcaster's ear, these stories of unmistakable grace and divine intervention, will have you wondering... if indeed, *God is still speaking – are we listening?* The cost is \$15.00 per person. Light appetizers included. Cash Bar is available. **Advance tickets recommended. Register in advance: [www.theologyontherockswest.com](http://www.theologyontherockswest.com).** Doors open at 6:30 p.m.



**MY DAILY Prayers**

A free emailed recording of prayers and insights led by our bishops and priests. Take 10 minutes and join us in prayer.



Sign up!

[dioceseofcleveland.org/mydailyprayers](http://dioceseofcleveland.org/mydailyprayers)  
– and encourage others to join us!



Share the Prayers!

**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:

**CALLED TO FLOURISH: PARISHES**

*Sustaining parish communities, the epicenter of our faith*

Last weekend, we kicked off the *Called to Flourish: Our Church for the Future* campaign. In the coming weeks, learn more about each campaign element in the bulletin: **Parishes, Worship, Evangelization, and Service.**

Our parishes are our spiritual homes, the places where we encounter Jesus in Word, sacrament, and community. This is why *Called to Flourish* directs the largest share of campaign support, \$85 million, to strengthening parish life across our diocese. Through the campaign, parishes will retain 50% of funds raised locally to support capital improvements, sustain ministries, and expand outreach.

In addition, the **Parish Emergency Fund** provides critical assistance to parishes in economically challenged communities, while the **Parish Evangelization Fund** helps parishes hire staff and develop leaders who will carry our mission forward.

**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: \$626,200
- # Gifts: 21

Last updated 3/13/26

**Nativity of the BVM**

- Goal: \$185,000
- Total Raised: \$83,600
- # Gifts: 11

**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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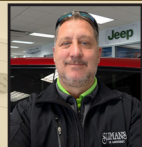
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