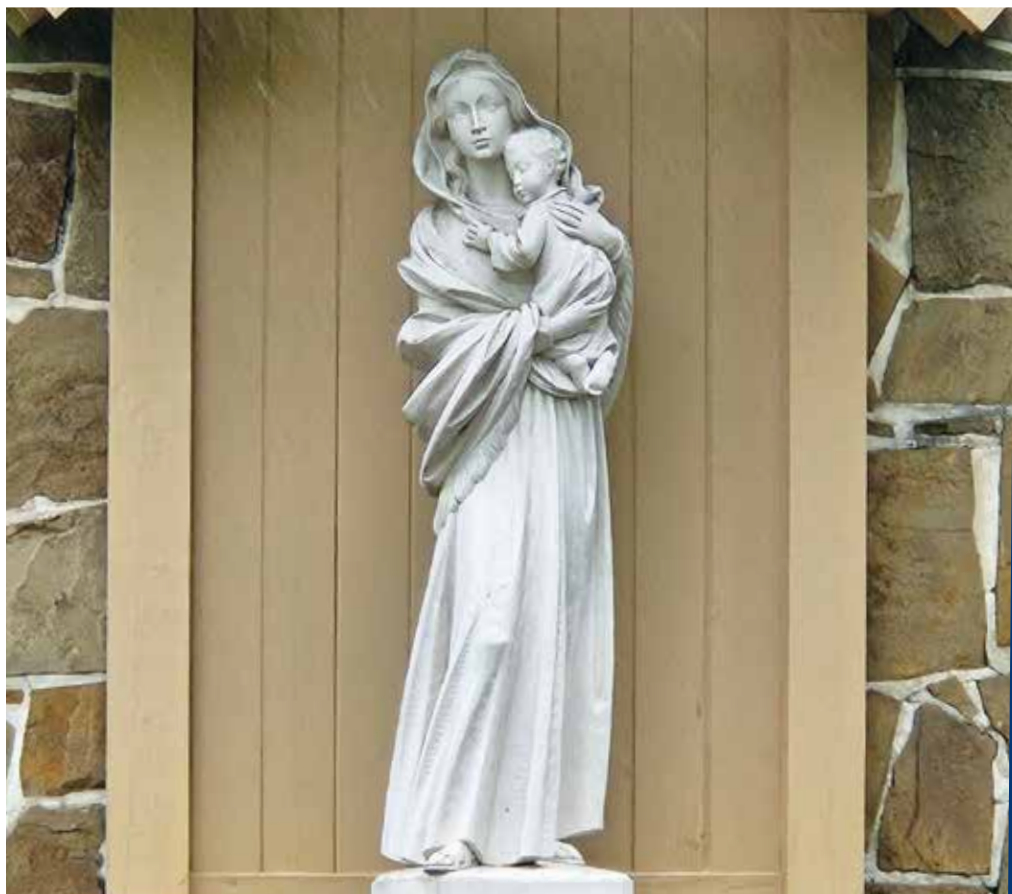
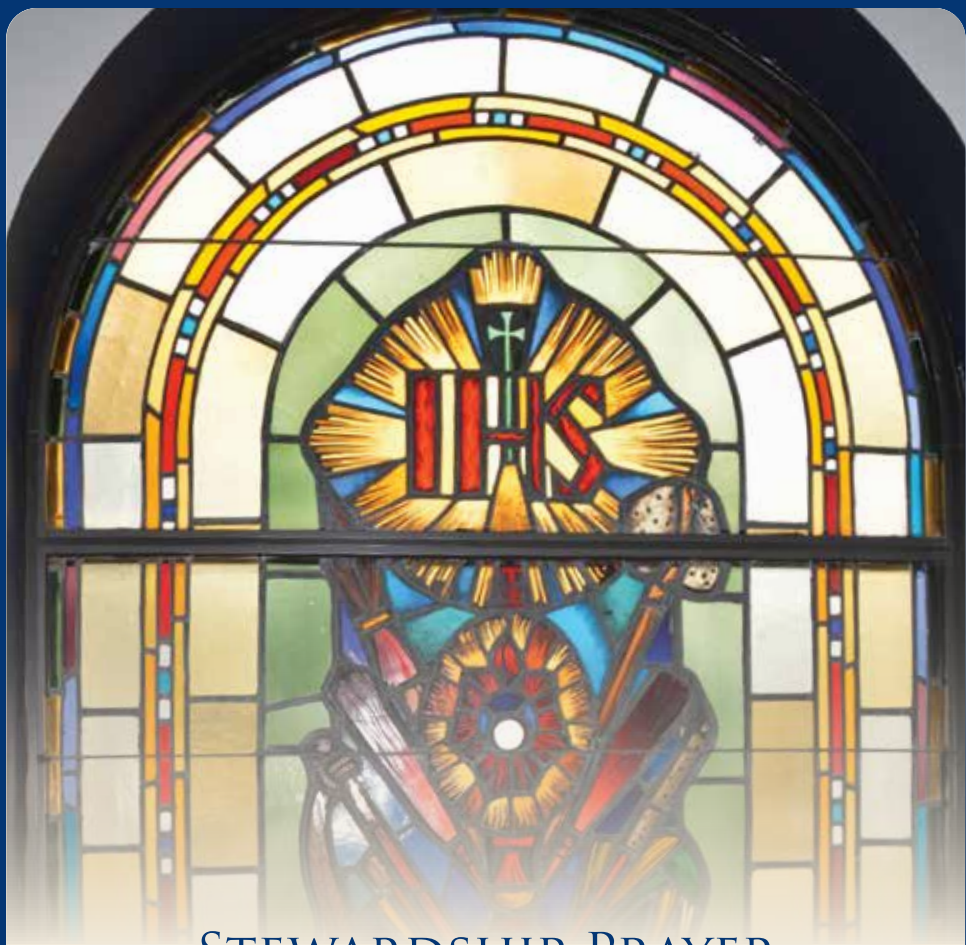


# SPEAK, LORD, *Your Servant Is* LISTENING

2026 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL



ST. JOSEPH PARISH &  
NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH



## STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom. We are reminded by the Psalmist that Yours is “the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it”. We know that it is from Your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that You call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us. Allow us to grow in a greater respect for all human life. Help us to use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them and the resources of our planet generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus’ name.

Amen

# SPEAK, LORD, *Your Servant Is* LISTENING

When the young prophet Samuel heard the voice of the Lord calling him, he responded with one of the simplest and most powerful prayers in Scripture: “Speak, for your servant is listening” (1 Sm 3:10). That posture of humility and attentiveness lies at the foundation of Christian stewardship. Before we act, before we serve, before we give — we listen.

Our theme for this year’s Stewardship Renewal, *Speak, Lord, Your Servant Is Listening*, invites us to renew our commitment to a kind of prayer that does more than speak to God — it creates space to hear Him. Through silence, Scripture, the sacraments, and the life of the Church, God continues to call us into deeper relationship. Stewardship flows from that encounter. It is not about doing more, but about responding faithfully to what God asks of us.

In the pages that follow, you are invited to reflect on how you can offer your time, talent, and treasure as a response to God’s call. But do not rush. Begin by listening.



# STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

Time is one of our most valuable and limited gifts, and it is often the first thing we struggle to give God. Yet when we begin our days in prayer, everything else falls into better alignment. Listening to the Lord through silence, Scripture, and the sacraments is not a luxury — it is essential to discipleship.

## WAYS TO OFFER YOUR TIME IN PRAYER INCLUDE:

- Beginning or ending each day with a few minutes of silence, quietly repeating Samuel's prayer: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."
- Spending time in Eucharistic Adoration, journaling, or reading the Gospel prayerfully.
- Using time during a commute or walk to pray the Rosary or speak with God from the heart.
- The more time we give to prayer, the more clearly we begin to recognize the voice that truly matters.





## STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT

God speaks not only to our hearts, but also through our lives. He has given each of us gifts — not to keep, but to share. When we listen in prayer, we begin to understand how our talents are meant to serve others and build up the Church.

### CONSIDER PRAYERFUL WAYS TO OFFER YOUR TALENTS:

- Reflecting on moments when you felt most alive while helping others — these often reveal how God is calling you to serve.
- Trying a new ministry or area of service this year and asking God to guide your discernment.
- Offering your abilities behind the scenes — in setup, communications, technology, or support roles — and pairing that service with prayer.

WHEN OUR SERVICE FLOWS FROM PRAYER, IT BECOMES  
MORE THAN ACTIVITY. IT BECOMES MISSION.

# STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Before we give materially, we are first called to listen spiritually. While the world encourages us to hold tightly to what we have, the voice of the Lord invites us to trust more deeply. Financial giving, when rooted in prayer, becomes a joyful expression of gratitude and confidence in God's care.

We encourage you to pray before setting your level of giving. Then consider the biblical practice of tithing — offering 10% of your income back to God. A common guide includes:

## 5% TO THE OFFERTORY

*1% to the diocese, and 4% to other charitable causes*

Prayerful giving moves us beyond habit or obligation and into a deeper relationship of trust with God.



# 2026 MINISTRY GUIDEBOOK

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## INTRODUCTION

This Ministry Guidebook contains a brief description of all the Ministries available at both St. Joseph and Nativity of the BVM Parishes. The name of each Ministry Leader is included along with their phone number, and email. ALL MINISTRIES are available for members of either parish. For more information on how you can assist in or join a specific Ministry, contact the Ministry Leader listed at the end of each Ministry description.

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

### ALTAR SERVERS (ADULT)

**Mission:** We are servants of the celebrant at Mass. We are there to help Father in all aspects of the celebration.

**Talent:** Be a regular member at either parish. Having been a server in the past as a youth does help, but is not necessary. Being a reliable member of your serving team for the month assigned.

**Time:** Variable. Rotating schedules monthly based on the number of available servers. Ideally, each team has two servers. Currently, this ministry is under-staffed and is in need of more volunteers. Servers may be asked to assist at special liturgies — including weekdays, funerals, weddings and other special occasions. There may be two short meetings prior to the Christmas Eve and Easter Vigil Masses.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Kathy Loos, 440-823-6177, [jkmdmps@hotmail.com](mailto:jkmdmps@hotmail.com)*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Ed Klimczak, 440-320-3508, [nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com](mailto:nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com)*



### ALTAR SERVERS (STUDENTS GRADES 4 THROUGH 12)

**Mission:** To provide altar servers to assist the priest(s) during Mass on Saturdays, Sundays, weekdays, funerals, weddings and special occasions.

**Talent:** Responsibility and willingness to make a commitment.

**Time:** Moderate

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Kathy Loos, 440-823-6177, [jkmdmps@hotmail.com](mailto:jkmdmps@hotmail.com)*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Ed Klimczak, 440-320-3508, [nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com](mailto:nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com)*



### ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY (NATIVITY OF THE BVM)

**Mission:** The Altar and Rosary Society is composed of women of the parish dedicated to promoting devotion of the Rosary, and serving God and the parish through behind-the-scenes tasks, including care of the altar.

**Talent:** Women from both parishes are welcome and invited to take part in this ministry by helping with a variety of tasks, such as preparing altar cloths, general cleaning and maintaining the church, preparing baked goods for funerals, and other meaningful events.

**Time:** Variable

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Nancy Ann Smith, 440-731-2369, [JNSLWKSHP@aol.com](mailto:JNSLWKSHP@aol.com)*



## CHURCH ENVIRONMENT

**Mission:** To create an atmosphere that is welcoming and inviting to parishioners throughout the Liturgical Seasons. We complete this work behind the scenes and welcome new ideas.

**Talent:** Any parishioner who has creative decorating and/or craft skills.

**Time:** Variable. Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter are the biggest times to decorate the church, but with planning, God's direction and willing hearts — the work gets done.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Sue Cotton, 440-986-1725, sue.cotton.44001@gmail.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Marriane Pellittieri, 440-320-3875, mpellittieri@yahoo.com*



## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT MASS

**Mission:** To assist the celebrant priest in distributing the Body (Holy Communion) to parishioners present at Mass.

**Talent:** Must be a member in good standing with the Church and possess an inner spirituality and a firm belief that you are handling the Precious Body and Blood of Christ and not just bread and wine. A firm desire to honor the commitment to be present when scheduled.

**Time:** Rotating monthly schedule(s) based on the number of ministers available per Mass. Ministers are typically scheduled to work one month at a time. There is an initial class sponsored by the diocese, and an introductory class at St. Joseph's. Thereafter, a yearly review and prayer session.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Mark Coughlin, 440-984-9773, markandhelenc@gmail.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Joe Siekeres, 440-965-4001, JSiekeres@zoominternet.net*



## GREETERS (ST. JOSEPH)

**Mission:** To provide a team of parishioners to greet other parishioners and visitors at the doors as they arrive for Mass and special events. To be climate makers, setting the tone of being friendly and upbeat while making people feel happy they came.

**Talent:** To be a welcoming and warm ambassador of our parish.

**Time:** Low, 30 minutes before the weekend Mass you usually attend and be available for some of the special Masses and events.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Phil Rawlings, 440-897-7437, philrawli@aol.com*



## GREETERS AND USHERS (NATIVITY)

**Mission:** To provide a team of parishioners to greet other parishioners and visitors at the doors as they arrive for weekend Masses and special events. To be climate makers, setting the tone of being friendly and upbeat while making people feel happy they came. To distribute bulletins. Would like to have at least five regular ushers at every Mass.

**Talent:** A warm smile and the ability to make parishioners and guests feel welcome.

**Time:** Low, 30 minutes before the weekend Mass and be available for some of the special Masses and events.

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Marriane Pellittieri, 440-320-3875, mpellittieri@yahoo.com*



## LECTORS

**Mission:** To proclaim the Word of God to the people of the parish during Mass.

**Talent:** The ability to read confidently and to have time to prepare prior to the Liturgy.

**Time:** Varies depending on availability. Lectors are scheduled several times of the year in two week increments and occasionally volunteer as needed for Holy Days and Holidays.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Chris Annable, 440-668-0308, christineannable7@gmail.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Stephanie Hyster, 440-396-3454, stephanie.hyster@gmail.com*



## SACRISTANS

**Mission St. Joseph:** To work as a team to clean the church. Also, to help set up before and clean up after special Masses such as funerals and weddings.

**Mission Nativity:** Members of the parish and (at Nativity members of the Altar and Rosary Society) collaborate using their time,

talents, and treasures to keep God's house and the church environment always presentable and prepared for the Sacraments celebrated. Volunteers clean, decorate, and serve the needs of our priest as he celebrates the sacraments, ordering items needed, like candles, hosts, oils, incense, flowers and more. Add to the list clean windows, pews, altar cloths, vestments, straightening hymnals, information boards and tables.

**Talent:** A desire to keep the Lord's house clean and provide the necessary items listed above.

**Time:** At St. Joseph there are four teams that tidy up around the sanctuary and pews. This light work takes no more than two hours a week; each team straightens up for a two-week period and rotates every eight weeks. The time is flexible, so



you can fit it into your week of activities. We welcome new volunteers to help out. At Nativity time is flexible depending on church needs.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Brenda Yovan, 440-864-8500, [brenday318@yahoo.com](mailto:brenday318@yahoo.com)*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Cindy Miller, 440-670-1300, [cindystemmill@yahoo.com](mailto:cindystemmill@yahoo.com)*

## USHERS (ST. JOSEPH)

**Mission:** To provide a team of parishioners to greet, usher, and distribute bulletins at weekend Masses and to usher at Holy Days and special events as needed. Would like to have at least five regular ushers at every Mass.

**Talent:** A warm smile and the ability to make parishioners and guests feel welcome.

**Time:** Low, one hour per week during Mass when scheduled.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Jeff Mount, 419-602-3125, [JJmount182@gmail.com](mailto:JJmount182@gmail.com)*



## MUSIC MINISTRIES

### ST. JOSEPH AND NATIVITY BVM MUSIC MINISTRY

**Mission:** The St. Joseph Music Ministry is inviting all ages, teens, adults, and children to come and be part of a growing and engaging ministry. Under the direction of Christina Dupré, the worship and liturgy coordinator, and a team of dedicated musicians, the Music Ministry has developed this past year and has helped lead and engage the congregation to worship together. We have included many new voices of many ages and instrumentalists as well. We have partnered with the school in developing a youth choir. The St. Joseph Music Ministry has also developed religious dramas and a media ministry. The Music Ministry has many exciting plans for this upcoming liturgical year. Come be part of it!

**Talent:** Rehearsals on Wednesday evenings beginning in September.

**Time:** Schedule to be developed after Stewardship Renewal.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Christina Dupré, 440-988-2848, [Christina.dupre37@gmail.com](mailto:Christina.dupre37@gmail.com)*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Ed Klimczak, 440-320-3508, [nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com](mailto:nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com)*



## RESURRECTION CHOIR

**Mission:** To sing for funeral liturgies at St. Joseph Parish and/or Nativity Parish. Provide a sense of parish support to the families of the deceased.

**Talent:** Availability during the day and the ability to sing.

**Time:** Variable — Approximately one hour per funeral. No rehearsals or meetings required.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph and Nativity: Jean Nossek, 440-315-2321, [jojeno@centurytel.net](mailto:jojeno@centurytel.net)*



## SPIRITUAL LIFE AND EVANGELIZATION MINISTRIES

### ADORATION (HELD AT NATIVITY OF THE BVM)

**Mission:** To help parishioners experience grace in their lives through spending time in meditation, prayer, and adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Talent:** A desire to spend time with our Eucharistic Lord.

**Time:** One hour per week, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 10 p.m.

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Josie Tornabene, 440-396-5429, [josie19114@yahoo.com](mailto:josie19114@yahoo.com)*



### MEN'S GROUP

**Mission:** For the men of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes to grow closer to God through fellowship, scripture, prayer, and community service.

**Talent:** All men are welcome to join! If you would like to help plan our meetings, please bring your ideas for discussions, we would love your input!

**Time:** Our group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the school multipurpose room (MPR). Date, time, and locations are in the bulletin and are also sent out via email and/or text. Our meetings usually follow the following format: — opening prayer — watching a video — discussion — closing prayer. In addition to our meetings, we have also served meals at the St. Elizabeth Center, visit the nursing homes, and participate in other community activities.

*Ministry Leader: Bob Hooper, 919-896-5413, [bhooper116@gmail.com](mailto:bhooper116@gmail.com)*



### ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (OCIA, formerly RCIA)

**Mission:** To welcome all inquirers — those not yet baptized into a Christian faith, those of other Christian faiths, and Catholics who have not yet celebrated the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation — to help them feel comfortable and eager to learn



about Christianity and the Catholic Church, and to prepare those, who choose to continue, to receive the Catholic Church's Sacraments of Initiation.

**Talent:** All that is required to participate in our parishes' OCIA program, as one pursuing either entry into the Catholic faith or completion of their Sacraments of Initiation, is an open heart, some regular homework, and steady attendance at the meetings and events. In addition, we welcome all fully Sacramentalized Catholics who want to learn more about their faith. To be a member of our OCIA team, one must (1) be at least 18 years of age and a baptized, practicing Catholic who has celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, (2) have a good knowledge of the Catholic religion and its beliefs and teachings as shown by Scripture and Tradition, (3) have a willingness to learn more about and to teach our religion, and a willingness to share your own personal journey of faith with the other team members and the OCIA participants, (4) have a regular prayer life, and (5) keep confidential the private information others share in the OCIA process.

**Time:** Team members and the OCIA participants meet for approximately 90 minutes one evening a week, from September until approximately Divine Mercy Sunday; currently we are meeting on Mondays at 7 p.m. at Nativity's Social Hall. All are expected to prepare for the meetings with assigned readings and tasks to be completed prior to the meeting. In addition, from the First Sunday of Advent through Palm Sunday each OCIA participant is expected to attend a weekend Mass through the homily, and then leave the congregation with some team members and the other OCIA participants for a post-homily discussion and reflection until that Mass is concluded. There are additional celebrations and events involving the team and participants throughout Holy Week. The program's meetings, preparations for our meetings, and event commitments, as related above, require a fairly high level of time commitment from participants. The additional time required of team members, in program development and participation, is medium.

*Ministry Co-Leader: Tom Theado, 440-320-8652, [TomTheado@aol.com](mailto:TomTheado@aol.com)*

*Co-Leader: Brian Sarvas, 440-396-8329, [sarvii@hotmail.com](mailto:sarvii@hotmail.com)*

## PRAYER CHAIN

**Mission:** To offer heartfelt prayer support to anyone requesting prayers for themselves or for others.

**Talent:** A willingness to pray for others.

**Time:** Daily — Pray for special intentions. Parish membership not necessary.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Roberta Machesky, 440-346-5836, [r\\_machesky@yahoo.com](mailto:r_machesky@yahoo.com)*

*Ministry Co-Leader at St. Joseph: Colleen Wyszynski, 440-984-8480, [retina.md@gmail.com](mailto:retina.md@gmail.com)*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Nancy Ann Smith, 440-731-2369, [JNSLWKSHP@aol.com](mailto:JNSLWKSHP@aol.com)*

*Ministry Co-Leader at Nativity: Carol Brewer, 440-670-0858*



## SACRED SISTERS PRAYER AND STUDY GROUP

**Mission:** This group is composed of women who wish to grow closer to God through fellowship, scripture, book studies, prayer, and community service.

**Talent:** A desire to confer our Faith with other women. Time and Place: Typically every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. for 90 minutes. Meetings are at 553 S Main St., Amherst, OH 44001 - Amherst Old Stone Church.

*Ministry Leader: Tracy Shamhart, 440-370-2055, [tracybrunetto@yahoo.com](mailto:tracybrunetto@yahoo.com)*



## WONDERFUL WOMEN

**Mission:** For the women of our parishes to grow closer to God and to each other through scripture, discussion, prayer, and laughter. Each meeting will celebrate the lives of women with a different topic to help us grow in discipleship.

**Talent:** There are opportunities to play a role, or you can just come every other month and enjoy yourself. Because there are different topics each month, we will be looking for ideas on presentation topics and presenters. Volunteers will be asked to bring a snack or baked item. For anyone interested in music, a song or two will always be included.

**Time:** Gatherings are once every other month on Tuesday from 7 - 8:15 p.m. in the St. Joseph Social Hall. Each meeting is independent of the next with no continuing content. Come when you can! Dates are emailed out and published in the bulletin.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Olivia Toney, 440-670-5933, [olivia.sliman@gmail.com](mailto:olivia.sliman@gmail.com)*



## OUTREACH MINISTRIES

### BAKERS, FUNERAL, NATIVITY BVM

**Mission:** To bake or purchase goods to offer hospitality to funerals of Nativity BVM parishioners.

**Talent:** Baking or purchasing baked goods when baked goods are needed.

**Time:** Variable, dependent on the number of funerals.

*Ministry Leader: Nancy Ann Smith, 440-731-2369, [jnslwkshp@aol.com](mailto:jnslwkshp@aol.com)*

### BAKERS, FUNERAL, ST. JOSEPH

**Mission:** To bake or purchase goods to offer hospitality to funerals of St. Joseph parishioners.

**Talent:** Baking or purchasing baked goods when baked goods are needed.

**Time:** Variable, dependent on the number of funerals.

*Ministry Leader: Josi Powell, 216-551-0476, [jospowell@gmail.com](mailto:jospowell@gmail.com)*

## BAKERS, GENERAL PARISH EVENTS

**Mission:** To help offer hospitality for various parish events.

**Talent:** Baking or purchasing baked goods and/or making phone calls when baked goods are needed.

**Time:** Variable, dependent on parish activities, as well as the number of parish Bakers. Generally Bakers are asked three or four times a year. Calls are rotated through the list so no one is overburdened. Callers are provided with a list of people to call for each event.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph and Nativity: Evelyn Caffarel, 440-452-4361, ecaff809@gmail.com*

## COMMUNION TO SHUT INS (NATIVITY)

**Mission:** To facilitate the reception of Holy Communion to those who are unable to be present at Mass due to illness or disability. Eucharistic Ministers distribute Holy Communion to those living in private homes, in nursing homes and hospitals in the general Amherst area. People wishing to receive Holy Communion are to contact the Ministry Leader directly. Personal transportation is necessary.

**Time:** One or two hours after Mass.

*Ministry Leader: Wendy Rosso, 440-986-0304, wrosso777@gmail.com*

*Co-Leader: Lynn Johnson, 440-752-6519, Gerry.Lynn.Johnson@gmail.com*



## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS TO THE HOMEBOUND AND NURSING HOMES (ST. JOSEPH)

**Mission:** To facilitate the reception of Holy Communion to those who are unable to be present at Mass due to illness or disability. Eucharistic Ministers distribute Holy Communion to those living in private homes and nursing homes in the Amherst area. Personal transportation is necessary. We would like for anyone who cannot attend Mass to have the opportunity to be visited and receive the Holy Eucharist. Help is especially needed on Sunday Mornings after the 8:30 a.m. Mass for distributing Communion at Amherst Manor.

**Time:** One or two hours on Sunday mornings after Mass. Currently four to eight Sundays during the year.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Tootie Tsacoumangos, 440-864-5438, johnandtootie@gmail.com*



## FUNERAL LUNCHEON MINISTRY

**Mission:** To assist grieving members of our parish communities provide a post-funeral luncheon for their families and friends either at St. Joseph's or Nativity's parish Social Hall. Often after the Mass or burial, families choose to come together to share a meal and spend time remembering the person who died in a more informal setting. Together with the parish staff, this ministry can provide information such as area caterers or additional venues to help in the decision making process, as well as provide volunteers to help set up, serve, clean up, and/or bake for the luncheons.

**Talent:** A willingness to help set up, serve, clean up and/or provide baked goods for families suffering the loss of a loved one.

**Time:** Two to four hours on the day of the funeral. You may select to participate in any or all of the above activities. A larger group of volunteers is often needed to provide baked goods based on the attendance of each luncheon. All funeral ministry helpers/bakers will be called on a rotating basis to ensure everyone is given the opportunity to contribute their time and talents to this ministry.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph and Nativity BVM Parishes: Helen Coughlin, 440-984-8758, markandhelenc@gmail.com*

## **GIVING TREE (NATIVITY)**

**Mission:** To provide a memorable Christmas for families in need by providing toys and clothes for Catholic Charities in Lorain County. They provide us with family profiles with children's names, ages, gender, and a wish list (if available). The gifts are then returned to the church in gift bags with the ornament attached. Once the gifts are organized, they are delivered to Catholic Charities a week before Christmas.

**Talent:** Preparing and placing paper ornaments on the giving tree, then sorting and loading the returned gifts in order to transfer them to the Catholic Charities Center.

**Time:** Approximately 12 hours per year during the Advent Season.

*Ministry Leader: Diane Kirsch, 440-935-2301, dmk0259@centurytel.net*

## **GIVING TREE (ST. JOSEPH)**

**Mission:** To show Christian love and care for others by providing, collecting, and distributing gifts to the less fortunate through local organizations at Christmas time. Please sign up for providing gifts and/or to join the committee for helping with the collecting and distributing of gifts. Parish children make and decorate the ornaments used for this ministry.

On your commitment card, please check one (or both) of the following areas in which you are willing to participate:

**Administration Talent** – Helping with one or more of the following:

- 1) Create computer labels to be placed on ornaments showing gifts needed;
- 2) Decorate Christmas trees with paper ornaments before or after a weekend Mass on the first and second Sundays of Advent;
- 3) Consolidate gifts on the Monday following the second Sunday of Advent;
- 4) Move gifts from under the trees to the social hall lobby after weekend Masses on the third Sunday of Advent;
- 5) Deliver gifts to designated organizations on the Monday or Tuesday following the third Sunday of Advent;
- 6) Act as a liaison to one of the organizations served by this ministry.

**Gift-giving Talent** – I wish to donate gift or gifts cards to those most in need.

**Time:** As little as 15-20 minutes or as much as two hours for one of the listed jobs, longer if you are involved in more than one area of service.

*Ministry Leader: Evelyn Caffarel, 440-452-4361, ecaff809@gmail.com*



## HOSPITALITY MINISTRY (ST. JOSEPH)

**Mission:** Hospitality is the cornerstone of Stewardship, so we want to offer hospitality and a spirit of fellowship for various parish events, making people feel welcome and comfortable. People should experience a genuine sense of warmth and belonging when they come to St. Joseph Church. We also want to welcome back Catholics who have been away from the Church.

**Talent:** A friendly and accommodating attitude, plus enjoy talking to others.

**Time:** 90 minutes once every three months on Sundays after Mass to set up, serve refreshments, donuts etc. and clean up, plus host occasional special events such as Movie Night.

*Ministry Leader: Phil Rawlings, 440-897-7437, philrawli@aol.com*



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**Mission:** The Knights are Catholic men who are committed to supporting St. Joseph and Nativity BVM Parishes, enhancing our own faith and our family lives, and making our community a better place.

**Talent:** A strong desire to serve.

**Time:** Various service activities during the year. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. in MPR room fourth Tuesday of every Month.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Rob Stipe, 440-864-5034, robstipe@gmail.com*



## MEALS FOR THE SHELTER

**Mission:** To provide one hot meal the first Friday of each month throughout the year for the St. Elizabeth Center in Lorain. This ministry provides a way of continuing the mission of Jesus to evangelize the world by showing our love and care for our homeless brothers. Our members are organized into six groups, each with a captain who leads 12 to 15 individuals, who cook enough food to serve 70 people a meal.

**Talent:** The only prerequisite is the desire to serve the needy with your gifts and talents. All the meals are prepared at your own expense.

**Time:** Once part of team, the time for the individuals involved is fairly low, preparing a meal roughly twice a year.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Nancy Ann Smith, 440-731-2369, JNSLWKSHP@aol.com*

## MISSION TEAM

**Mission:** Sharing our God-given gifts by building relationships with many people, supporting projects, helping people in ways that are meaningful and lasting, and sharing the Gospel. More importantly, the mission team goals are to know our brothers and sisters in Christ, to love and serve them. Jesus gives us the freedom to go into our mission trips and serve others with the goal of just plain ministering, whether it is going on a mission trip to El Salvador, helping Catholic Charities, or

donating to special causes in which the Mission Team has been involved.

**Talent:** Willing hands and hearts from both parishes with the willingness to love people.

**Time:** Meeting dates as needed. Volunteering for fundraisers once a year. If desired a one-week mission to El Salvador.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Justin Hunker, 440-225-4186, [jdhunker@gmail.com](mailto:jdhunker@gmail.com)*

## PICNIC COMMITTEE

**Mission:** To plan and coordinate the annual parish picnics with the hope of gathering parishioners, old and young alike, to enjoy food, fun, and games together. Even though the picnics are held individually at this time, parishioners are encouraged to attend one another's picnic and even join the committees from both parishes to help in the planning process.

**Talent:** The ability to help in planning, decorating, and overseeing games for children and adults.

**Time:** Moderate. Hourly planning meetings held as needed. Help as needed before picnic to obtain food, drinks, etc. Help as needed to setup prior to picnic, serve as needed during picnic, and help clean up after picnic.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Maria Mrosek, 440-225-4970, [mrosekmaria440@gmail.com](mailto:mrosekmaria440@gmail.com)*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Ed Klimczak, 440-320-3508, [nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com](mailto:nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com)*



## PRE-BAPTISM FORMATION FOR NEW PARENTS

**Mission:** The Sacrament of Baptism is the foundation of Christian Life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments. The Pre-Baptism Preparation Team seeks volunteers to assist in facilitating classes that help parents prepare for their children's reception of this holy sacrament. Parents are required to attend classes.

**Talent:** The desire to assist parents in the formation process prior to Baptism.

**Time:** Classes are held quarterly for forty five minutes.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Laura Lamb, 440-315-4196, [LLamb86@outlook.com](mailto:LLamb86@outlook.com)*



## VINCENTIANS

**Mission:** To assist those who are in need of the basic necessities of life in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.

**Talent:** A strong compassion for those in need and a desire to help them.

**Time:** Hourly meetings once every two weeks to review assistance given to those in need.



Approximately 30 minutes to gather food from pantry when calls come in for assistance; longer if food is delivered.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Ed Molnar, 440-320-0120, e.molnar@oh.rr.com*

## **VOICES FOR LIFE**

**Mission:** To learn more about life issues and find ways to share that knowledge and understanding with our parish family so we can better support people in need at various life stages.

**Talent:** A genuine interest in learning about life issues and a willingness to help accomplish our mission. Each of us have gifts from God that together can help our parish work as a family to better support those facing life's difficulties.

**Time:** Dependent on your schedule. No more than one meeting per month beginning with an organizational meeting to develop a viable schedule for those helping with this ministry.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Evelyn Caffarel, 440-452-4361, ecaff809@gmail.com*

**Seeking Co-Leader, Training Will Be Provided**

## **ST. JOSEPH PARISH SCHOOL MINISTRIES**

*To keep our children safe, all those who work with or volunteer their services involving children must receive VIRTUS training, fingerprinting and a background check.*

## **3 AND 4-YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN, GRADES 1 TO 8**

**Mission:** To provide rigorous curriculum rooted in faith in an environment that fosters self-reliance. Students are immersed in social justice teachings and 21st century learning to help them achieve their maximum potential.

**Talent:** All parents who are part of St. Joseph Parish School, either in the day school or preschool, are considered members of this important ministry as they support the education of their students and SJS each day. SJS is committed to providing high quality STEM education to our students. If you believe that you can help support a project at the school or have an idea where the school can support a project in the community, please feel free to contact the school principal.

**Time:** Varies by project.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Parish School Principal, Amy Makruski, 440-988-4244 ext. 215, amy.makruski@sjs-amherst.org*

## **ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION/C.Y.O.**

**Mission:** To promote Christ's teachings through athletics. CYO Mission Statement: CYO inspires young people to know God, to love God, and to serve God through athletics.

**Talent:** A love of sports and a commitment to serving the youth of our parishes. Coaches are first and foremost youth ministry leaders in athletics who serve the Church, young people, and families as compelling witnesses of the love, mercy, and compassion of Jesus Christ. The late Pope Francis reminds us: "How important

it is that a coach be an example of integrity, of coherence, of good judgment, of impartiality, but also of the joy of living; of patience, of capacity to esteem and of benevolence to all, especially the most disadvantaged. And how important it is that he or she be an example of faith!" Volunteers must receive VIRTUS training with fingerprinting and background check.

**Time:** Moderate – Quarterly association meetings, helping with fundraisers. Coaches' times also include practice and games.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Jim Yanosko, 216-496-5303, [jyanosko@roadrunner.com](mailto:jyanosko@roadrunner.com)*

## **HOLY GROUND YOUTH GROUP**

**Mission:** Holy Ground Youth Group is a youth ministry focused on serving the 7th-12th graders of our local communities. It is designed to give our youth a safe place to dive deeper into their faith and become the men and women God is calling them to be. We also strive to encourage and equip them to walk as disciples in this ever changing and challenging world. Our goal is to open the hearts and minds of our youth to the power of the gospel and plant seeds of faith on the "holy ground" of their souls, that will grow as they mature in their faith. Students participate in games, various types of faith formation opportunities, service projects, and fellowship activities. We are always in need of volunteers and your participation is highly encouraged. Volunteers can help in serving meals, facilitating discussion and activities, and brainstorming/planning of events. Older students may have opportunities for leadership!



**Talent:** Genuine interest in spiritual growth of teens and the ability to interact with them. Those who are creative and have the ability to think on their feet are also needed. Volunteers must receive VIRTUS training with fingerprints and a background check.

**Time:** Sundays twice a month at 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the Social Hall during the school year. Socials, service projects, and faith formation activities also take place during various times throughout the year.

*Ministry Leader: Joshua Gonzalez, 440-650-7554, [Charles.J.Gonzo@gmail.com](mailto:Charles.J.Gonzo@gmail.com)*

## **PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (P.S.R.)**

**Mission:** To help children from both parishes (from Kindergarten to Grade 8) develop as faith filled, committed Catholics ready to serve our Church and our world by instructing them in the ways of the Gospel. To continue to proclaim our faith as we have been commissioned to do by Jesus, "Go and teach all nations." Volunteers are always welcome.

**Talent:** A love of children and to witness your Catholic faith in word and action. A willingness to learn more about doctrine and catechesis at an adult level. Stipends are offered to volunteers who are willing to work towards diocesan certification or hold valid teaching credentials. VIRTUS training required.

**Time:** Large time commitment.

*Ministry Leader: PSR Coordinator, Amy Makruski, 440-988-4244, ext. 215, [amy.makruski@sj-s-amherst.org](mailto:amy.makruski@sj-s-amherst.org)*

## ST. JOSEPH PARISH SCHOOL PARENT CLUB

**Mission:** To provide support for the educational and recreational needs of children attending St. Joseph Parish School and to promote a good working relationship between parents, teachers, pastor and principal. Our vision is to help people see SJS as more than just a school their child/children attend, but to also encourage them to be part of this great group who share the same goals for our children, which is providing them with a faith filled education. We do a variety of activities from service, family fun, fundraisers and enrichment.

**Talent:** All parents with a student at SJPS are automatically members.

**Time:** Time given is at the discretion of each member in regards to meeting attendance, volunteering, fundraising, etc.

*Ministry Leader: St. Joseph Parish School Principal, Amy Makruski, 440-988-4244, ext. 215, amy.makruski@sjps-amherst.org*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Mission:** To create a fun, safe, and faith-filled environment where children, ages preK through 4th grade, can learn about God's love, grow in their faith, build lasting friendships, and discover how to live out Biblical truths in their everyday lives through worship, Bible lessons, music, crafts, games and service.



**Talent:** There are various ways to volunteer for VBS. We have 5 stations the kids go through each day: Crafts, Snack, Music, Games & Bible Stories. We need leaders and a handful of helpers for each age group and leaders for each station. ADULT, TEEN & YOUTH volunteers are needed and encouraged. Youth entering 5th grade and up are considered helpers. \*\*Volunteers over the age of 18 must have completed the VIRTUS Training Program for the Safety and Protection of God's Children.

**Time:** VBS happens once a year, usually in the last week or two of July, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. for the kids, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for volunteers. There are a handful of meetings leading up to it usually beginning in the springtime. The weekend before is usually our set up & decorating time and the weekend after is usually our tear down time, so a lot of help is needed during these times.

*Ministry Leader: Joy Rivera, joyrivera@stjosephamherst.com, 440-396-7568*

## PARISH ADMINISTRATION MINISTRIES

### BULK MAILERS

**Mission:** To process (fold, seal, and label) the 2,200-plus monthly joint newsletters and various once a year projects as necessary in preparation for mailing.

**Talent:** The ability to work with others in a variety of tasks.

**Time:** This is a daytime ministry and requires approximately three hours for bulk mailings.

*Ministry Leader: Sandy Piwowski, 440-984-3749, sandypiwowski@yahoo.com*



## COLLECTION COUNTERS

**Mission:** Weekly counting of collections. In addition, individuals are responsible for reconciling the totals to the deposit sheet.

**Talent:** Must be able to keep information confidential and be able to follow directions.

**Time:** There are four separate teams with three people on each team. Each separate team meets once per month. Each meeting is approximately 90 minutes.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Alison Smith, 440-725-8625, dsmith14@oh.rr.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: (Seeking New Leader, Training Will Be Provided)*



## GARDENERS

**Mission:** Beautify the grounds of the churches, school, rectory and convent.

**Talent:** Gardening skills and seasonal maintenance.

**Time:** A low to medium level of time commitment is needed; cleanup in the late Fall, two hours in the early Spring, and shorter periods of time to plant, water and weed during the growing season.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Jim Saccardi, 614-929-6044, jvsaccardi@yahoo.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Carol Zellmer, 440-984-2970, dmk0259@centurytel.net*



## PASTORAL COUNCIL

**Mission:** To provide an ongoing response to the spiritual, social, educational and economic needs of the parish, local and global community.

**Talent:** A willingness to work with the pastor as part of a consultative body, a dedication to the mission and spiritual welfare of the parish, a commitment to work in a group process of prayer, consensus building and planning, a commitment and ability to give time to attend meetings and to prepare for them sufficiently.

**Time:** Up to eight one-hour meetings per year plus ad-hoc committee commitments.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Dan Bullock, 440-989-1323, netcando@hotmail.com*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: (New Council will be formed based on response from Stewardship Renewal Commitment Cards)*

## STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

**Mission:** We encourage and enable parishioners to offer their Time, Talent, and Treasure to fully live their Catholic Faith and become Disciples of Christ. We help our pastor guide the development of Stewardship within St. Joseph and Nativity BVM Parishes. The Council seeks ways to promote a Stewardship way of life through year-round communication, by coordinating the Annual Parish Retreat, managing the



publishing of the Ministry Guidebook, and by coordinating and implementing the Annual Stewardship Renewal that takes place each Fall.

**Talent:** Council members should be very active in parish activities and/or in other Ministries and have a strong commitment to making Stewardship a way of life in our parishes. Members should have organizational skills as well as planning, implementation, creativity, and communication skills. Since planning and decisions are made by the entire Council, attendance at all meetings is requested.

**Time:** Council meets once a month for approximately one and a half hours. Special planning meetings are held as needed.

*Ministry Leader: Jim Pecchio, 330-631-9948, [carminep49@yahoo.com](mailto:carminep49@yahoo.com)*

## ST. JOSEPH MEDIA MINISTRY

**Mission:** This is an exciting new ministry using state of the art media technology to bring the gospel to the community via video, streaming, close captioning, and recording. This is a ministry for all ages. Youth are encouraged to join.

**Talent:** Basic computer skills. Specific training will be provided.

**Time:** Typically up to three hours per week.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Christina Dupré, 440-988-2848, [Christina.dupre37@gmail.com](mailto:Christina.dupre37@gmail.com)*



## CONFIRMATION 2026 & PARISH RETREAT 2026



# TIME TO COMMIT

Christian stewardship always begins in prayer — not in pressure or routine. As you renew your commitment this year, begin by renewing your desire to listen. What might God be asking of you right now? Where might He be inviting you to trust more deeply or respond more freely?

May our response, like Samuel's, be one of openness, trust, and love.



PLEASE BRING YOUR COMPLETED COMMITMENT CARD TO MASS ON **OCTOBER 3/4**, MAIL IT TO THE PARISH WITH THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED, OR FILL OUT THE CARD ONLINE AT OUR PARISHES WEBSITE: [STJOSEPHAMHERST.COM](http://STJOSEPHAMHERST.COM).

ST. JOSEPH PARISH  
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Amherst, OH 44001  
440-988-2848  
[www.stjosephamherst.com](http://www.stjosephamherst.com)

NATIVITY OF THE BVM  
333 S Lake Street  
South Amherst, OH 44001  
440-986-7011  
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*Please Keep Until Fall 2027*