



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

September 20, 2026
The Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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, SEPTEMBER 21st – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 a.m. Jim Kodger
(John and Cathy Sekletar)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd – Mass at Nativity Parish
8:00 a.m. John Srawley (Mom and Dylan)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd – No Mass

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
7:00 p.m. Jeffrey Howells (Wife, Lesley)
Confessions to follow Mass until 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish
9:00 a.m. Bob Hiser (Family)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th
11:00 a.m. Confessions at St. Joseph's
4:00 p.m. For the Intentions of
Tony Morell, Jr. (Parents)
Mass at St. Joseph Parish
5:30 p.m. Special Intention
Mass at Nativity Parish

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th – Masses at St. Joseph Parish
8:30 a.m. Frank and Jean Skiddle (Rita Hiser)
11:00 a.m. The Deceased Members of the Miksa Family
(Maria Mrosek)
5:00 p.m. People of St. Joseph and Nativity Parishes

Activity Schedule

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st
7:00 p.m. O.C.I.A. Informational Reception
(Nativity's Parish Hall)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd
No Chair Yoga Flow Class today
5:00 p.m. Dinners on-the-Go –
Drive-thru pickup only
(Nativity Parish)
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Meeting
(MPR)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd
6:30 p.m. Sacred Sisters Meeting
(O.S.E. Community Center)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th
No Chair Yoga Flow Class today

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th
No Holy Ground Youth Group Session tonight

Daily Readings

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st
St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Eph 4:1-7, 11-13 / Mt 9:9-13

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd – Weekday
Prv 21:1-6, 10-13 / Lk 8:19-21

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd
St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Prv 30:5-9 / Lk 9:1-6

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th – Weekday
Eccl 1:2-11 / Lk 9:7-9

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th – Weekday
Eccl 3:1-11 / Lk 9:18-22

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th
Vigil: Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 18:25-28 / Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5 / Mt 21:28-32

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 18:25-28 / Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5 / Mt 21:28-32

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

St. Joseph Parish – September 6, 2026

Sunday Offertory	\$ 13,082.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 222.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 211.00
Assumption	\$ 265.00
Faith and Values	\$ 15.00
Catholic Communications Campaign	\$ 50.00
Little Books	\$ 2.00

E-Giving – September 1-7, 2026

Eoffering-Sunday Offertory	\$ 1,627.93
Eoffering-Christmas	\$ 24.70
Eoffering-Maintenance	\$ 10.00
Eoffering-Vincentians	\$ 300.00

Nativity Parish – September 5, 2026

Sunday Offertory	\$ 2,297.25
Faith and Values	\$ 10.00
Communications	\$ 5.00

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/>

The Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL BEGINS TODAY

This week, we begin a vital part of life as a parish family – our annual Stewardship Renewal. Please take the time to review your commitment materials when they arrive in your mailbox and see where God is calling you to commit more deeply to Him in the year ahead! On Commitment Sunday, October 3rd and 4th, each parish family is asked to return their completed commitment card or complete a card online at our parish website, stjosephamherst.com.

EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING SESSION

The Diocese is offering formation sessions for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Registration is required. Please call the Parish Office at 440-988-2848 to learn more about the qualifications for the privilege of offering the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity to the faithful of our parish and to register. The next nearby upcoming session is Sunday, October 18, 2026, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at St. Peter Parish, 3665 Oberlin Avenue, Lorain, OH 44053.

CATHOLIC CHURCH'S STANCE ON IMMIGRATION



Bishop Edward Malesic is frequently asked for his thoughts on the challenging immigration issues facing our country. He has prepared a summary of his reflections and included links to his previous individual and joint statements made with other bishops on this important issue. The page is available here: <https://dioceseofcleveland.org/immigrants> or use the QR code to link to it. Please take some time to read Bishop's Malesic's Message and spend some time reflecting on it.

WINTER COAT DRIVE OCTOBER 3-25, 2026



St. Joseph Vincentians will sponsor a coat drive. **NEW and GENTLY USED, CLEAN Adult and children's coats** will be collected for the benefit of St. Vincent de Paul Lorain County Prison Outreach Program and Amherst Kids Closet. Please place all donations in the

bin in the gathering area of St. Joseph Church from October 3rd-25th. Your participation is appreciated.

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.



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults
(fka The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
is a ministry to adults

who are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith.

- * Adults who have never been baptized
- * Adults who have been baptized in another Christian tradition
- * Baptized Catholic adults who have not received the Sacrament(s) of Eucharist and/or Confirmation or who simply want to know more about their religion.

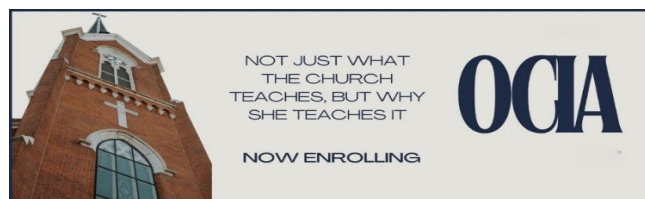
No-obligation informational reception, with *yummy food*.

Monday, September 21, 7:00 p.m.

Nativity's Social Hall, 333 S. Lake St., South Amherst

If not you, then someone you know. Invite them to come!

For anyone thinking about beginning OCIA, check out this alum's recommendation ➡➡



PSR REGISTRATION FOR 26/27 IS OPEN!

All children in grades K-8 who do not attend a Catholic day school are invited to join us for our Parish School of Religion (PSR) Program. Classes take place on Wednesday evenings from October through April from 5:30-6:45 in St. Joseph School. Please register ASAP!

Use this link to register:
<https://forms.gle/7zxNadNbHQu3cQUu9>

PSR Fees:
1 Student: \$75
2 Students: \$60 each
3+ Students: \$45 each
*Billed after classes begin

Questions?
Email
amy.makruski@sjs-amherst.org

DINNERS ON-THE-GO

September 22nd Menu

Salisbury Steak
Egg Noodles
Mixed Vegetables
Roll/Dessert
Soup – Ham & Bean

October 13th Menu

Breaded Pork Chops
Cabbage and Noodles
Applesauce Cup
Roll/Dessert
Soup – Loaded Baked Potato

All dinners are \$15.00 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 pickup only is from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

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!

“A NIGHT WITH MARY”

The Nativity B.V.M. Altar and Rosary Society, in South Amherst, cordially invites everyone to attend their evening candlelight rosary service on October 7, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Nativity B.V.M. Parish in South Amherst.

We celebrate October as the Month of the Holy Rosary, and we're holding our service on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. We hope you will join us for a “quiet evening” with our Blessed Mother. We are looking forward to praying together and spending “A Night with Mary.” Refreshments will follow the service in the social hall.

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND FOR NATIVITY PARISH

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.

CHAIR FLOW YOGA CLASSES UPDATE

Please note there will be no Chair Flow Yoga Classes on September 22nd and 24th. All classes will move from Mill Hollow Amphitheater back to Nativity's Parish Hall on Thursday October 1st. The meeting times will stay the same 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To learn more about the Chair Flow Yoga Classes, contact Cindy Miller at 440-670-1300



Through the Sacrament of Baptism
St. Joseph Parish welcomes

Elias James Schulin
Child of Terry and Karly Schulin

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. John R. Olsavsky
Mitch Mitchell, brother-in-law of Gary Link

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.

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JOIN US *Fall* **FOR A**
CRAFT FAIR

SEPTEMBER 26
10:00AM - 3:00PM

Bring your friends & family and make it a fall day to remember!

SHOP LOCAL. DISCOVER HANDMADE. CELEBRATE FALL!

The Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“WHAT TO DO IN THE MOMENT” MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

“What to do in the Moment” is a training presentation explaining what to do when a mental health emergency occurs. Participants will learn about: (1) How to respond in a crisis, (2) Crisis intervention training skills, and (3) Skills to use when making a call for help. Co-sponsored by the Diocesan Social Action Office of Lorain County and St. Julie Billiart and St. Peter Parishes, in North Ridgeville. The event will be held on October 4, 2026, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at St. Julie Billiart Parish, 5500 Lear Nagle Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039. For questions or to register, contact Terry Flanagan at tjpfan@gmail.com.

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The Catholic Cemeteries Association's next Sunday Grief Support Group will be on Sunday, September 20th. In-person will meet at 3:00 p.m., virtual at 5:00 p.m. In a welcoming and supportive setting, find fellowship among others who share their experiences and understand the pain of loss. Meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday this month, at no charge to you. Please join us for an hour of listening, healing, and finding comfort with others who understand. For details, call Suzi at 216-930-4866 or visit <https://www.clecem.org/Events/Events.aspx>.

Topics for the September 2026 meeting are *Family Dynamics & Grief and the Loss of a Child*.

In-Person Locations (Main Office Buildings):

- All Saints Cemetery, Northfield | 480 W. Highland Road
- All Souls Cemetery, Chardon | 10366 Chardon Road
- Holy Cross Cemetery, Akron | 100 E Waterloo Road
- Holy Cross Cemetery, Brook Park | 14609 Brook Park Road
- St. Joseph Cemetery, Avon | 32789 Detroit Road

Virtual – Please register at <https://clecem.org/Information/Bereavement.aspx>. Handouts for the meeting will be available when you register online.

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN

This campaign represents a mission of love to share the Gospel message of hope with people in the United States using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half of the money we collect remains here in the Diocese of Cleveland to fund local communications efforts. The other half supports the communication activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and other projects across the United States. Your help spreads the Gospel message. Learn more at www.usccb.org/cc. Please support this collection by using the envelope provided in your envelope packets. Extra envelopes are available in the gathering area of church or select Catholic Communications Campaign on Eoffering.

FOLLOWING ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI INTO THE HEART OF JESUS AND ABBA FATHER



Jesuit Retreat
Center

Spend a prayerful weekend (**October 2nd to 4th**) reflecting on the life and spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi and his profound conversion to Jesus Christ on the 800th Anniversary of his death.

Themes to be addressed: his growing reverence for all creation and rapid growth of followers in the Lord, his commitment to dialogue, non-violence, and peace-making, and the Franciscan Way. The weekend will be conducted in prayerful silence after each talk. Weekend includes topical talks, liturgy, Adoration, meals, and optional group sharing session.

Learn more and register at:

<https://www.jesuitretreatcenter.org/calendar>

Join our email list by scanning the QR code!



SAVE THE DATE – SND CHICKEN BBQ

The Sisters of Notre Dame Chicken barbeque is Sunday, September 27th, from Noon to 5:00 p.m. at the Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School Gym, 13000 Auburn Road, Chardon, OH. There will be boutique shopping, children's activities, Country Kitchen-flavored pies, ice cream, photobooth, fellowship, and a fun afternoon. Chicken dinners are \$18.00 (includes BBQ chicken, coleslaw, chips, roll & a slice of apple pie). All meals will be boxed. Takeouts are available. For more info, visit <https://sndusa.org/bbq2026>.

WALKING WITH MARY THROUGH THE LIGHT AND DARKNESS OF OUR DAILY LIFE

Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, PA will sponsor a **Walking with Mary through the Light and Darkness of Our Daily Life** with Melannie Svoboda, SND from Friday, October 9 to Sunday, October 11, 2026.

This retreat weaves together prayer, music, scripture, in-pot sessions, videos, art, personal reflection time, and sharing. This time together will help us to know Mary better as our mother, sister, companion, and fellow disciple of Jesus.

For more information on this program, go to: <https://vmesc.org/programs-retreats/all-events?id=1080>.

ELYRIA CATHOLIC CLASS OF '76 REUNION

The Class of 1976 will celebrate our 50th reunion at the Foundry (located at 525 Broad Street) on Saturday, September 26th. In fact, we hope to make a weekend of it, so please keep it open for a Friday football game, Saturday reunion, and Sunday brunch. Please send questions and RSVP to: EC76reunion@gmail.com.



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
– and encourage others to join us!

**Share the
Prayers!**



DID YOU KNOW...

Many of you may already know about our online Sunday Offertory option, which allows you to make charitable donations without using monthly envelopes. However, did you know that you can also contribute to Holy Days and special collections through myEoffering? MyEoffering offers a quick, simple, and secure way to donate to our parish. To learn more or to sign up, visit <https://myeoffering.com/>.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

If you are 70½ or older, you may be able to make a gift of a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA that will help us in our ministry and reduce your taxable income. Talk to your advisors or IRA administrator for more information and to be sure that your IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution gift is made directly from an IRA to a qualified charity such as our parishes. Questions? St. Joseph Parishioners, contact Sharon Angell in our Parish Office at 440-988-2848, ext. 206. Nativity B.V.M. Parish parishioners, contact Ed Klimczak at 440-320-3508 or parishioners from both parishes are welcome to contact Moira Wopershall of the Catholic Community Foundation at 216-696-6525, ext. 8070 or visit www.catholiccommunity.org/ira.

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” is 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.

PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN

The Diocese of Cleveland’s “Protecting God’s Children” program is a continuing effort to instruct and inform everyone about the protection of children from sexual abuse. To report any past or present suspected inappropriate behavior towards children by priests, deacons, religious, lay ecclesial ministers or personnel associated with the Church, immediately inform local authorities about inappropriate behavior.

Also, please contact the Diocesan Response Service Office at 216-334-2999, or via email at response_services@dioceseofcleveland.org.

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This bulletin is furnished to the parish without charge.

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

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

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