



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 6, 2026

The Twenty-third 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 7th

Mass at St. Joseph Cemetery, weather-permitting. Otherwise,
Mass will be at Nativity, in South Amherst.

9:00 a.m. For the Souls of Our Loved Ones
at St. Joseph Cemetery

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th – Mass at Nativity Parish

8:00 a.m. People of Nativity and
St. Joseph Parishes

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th – No Mass

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish

7:00 p.m. Joe Sroka (Kazimiera Miskiewicz)
Confessions to follow Mass until 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th – Mass at St. Joseph Parish

9:00 a.m. Gerry Gatten (Chuck and Gloria Hobor)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th

11:00 a.m. Confessions at St. Joseph's

4:00 p.m. Joseph P. Farkas (Family)
Mass at St. Joseph Parish

5:30 p.m. Tracy Herrada (Alberta)
Mass at Nativity Parish

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th – Masses at St. Joseph Parish

8:30 a.m. For the Faithfully Departed – All Souls Intention

11:00 a.m. Joseph Phillips (Wife, Marilyn and
Children, Joseph, Brenda, and Matthew)

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 7th – No School

Parishes and School Offices Closed

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

8:30 a.m. Hospitality Tuesday,
following the 8:00 a.m. Mass
(Nativity Parish Hall)

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Flow Classes
(Mill Hollow Amphitheater)

5:00 p.m. Dinners on the Go –
Drive-thru pickup only
(Nativity Parish)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th

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

7:00 p.m. Pre-Baptism Class (School)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Flow Classes
(Mill Hollow Amphitheater)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th

9:00 a.m. Parish Retreat (Nativity Parish Hall)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th

6:00 p.m. Holy Ground Youth Group Session
(School Gym)

Please join us for the 5:00 p.m. Mass

Daily Readings

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th – Weekday

1 Cor 5:1-8 / Lk 6:6-11

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30 / Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or Mt 1:18-23

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th

USA: St. Peter Claver, Priest

1 Cor 7:25-31 / Lk 6:20-26

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th – Weekday

1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13 / Lk 6:27-38

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th – Weekday

1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27 / Lk 6:39-42

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th

Vigil: Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:30 – 28:7 / Rom 14:7-9 / Mt 18:21-35

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:30 – 28:7 / Rom 14:7-9 / Mt 18:21-35

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

St. Joseph Parish – August 23, 2026

Sunday Offertory	\$ 13,692.92
Children's Offertory	\$ 2.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 413.00
Assumption	\$ 65.00
Faith and Values	\$ 45.00
Catholic Communications Campaign	\$ 20.00
Vincentians	\$ 5.00

E-Giving – August 18-24, 2026

Eoffering-Sunday Offertory	\$ 2,910.55
Eoffering-Christmas	\$ 24.70

Nativity Parish – August 16, 2026

Sunday Offertory	\$ 2,051.00
Assumption	\$ 165.00

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Emily Scheppner and Brian D'Andrea
III



PLEASE NOTE:

Labor Day Mass on Monday, September 7th will be at St. Joseph Cemetery, at 9:00 a.m. For inclement weather, Mass will be held at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in South Amherst.

The Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

WINTER COAT DRIVE COMING THIS FALL



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 keep us in mind as you go through your closets. Specific dates will be forthcoming soon. Your participation is appreciated.

PRE-BAPTISM CLASS

St. Joseph Parish will be holding a Pre-Baptism Class for any parent wishing to have their child baptized. The class will take place on Wednesday, September 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in St. Joseph School. You must register with the parish office before attending the class. Please call 440-988-2848 to register for the class and to schedule your child's Baptism.

SACRED SISTERS WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER GROUP



Wednesday, September 9th, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Old Stone Community Center with the "Rescue Project."

This session will be an Eight (8)-week study guide called the "Rescue Project" by Fr. John Riccardo. The Rescue Project is a compelling video series and small-

group experience created by Fr. John Riccardo and the missionary apostolate, Acts XXIX. Designed to clearly proclaim the foundational message of the Gospel, it guides participants through 8-9 weeks of fellowship and video presentations to help them encounter a deeper personal relationship with Jesus.

If you would like to join the Ladies Wednesday Night Prayer Group and/or have questions, you can call or text Lesley at 440-371-6418. All are WELCOME!

REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY



St. Joseph School is committed to integrating the Catholic faith and culture to help students develop into mature, Christian persons, whose lives modeled on Christ and His Gospel message. Check out our St. Joseph Parish School and register your child for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Registration is now open, visit our website for details at www.stjosephamherst.com. Registration forms can be found on the admissions page of the school website. If you would like to tour the school, call the school office at 440-988-4244.

YOU ARE INVITED! Annual Parish Retreat

ST. JOSEPH
THE GOOD STEWARD

To you God entrusted his only Son; in You Mary placed her trust; with You Christ became man.

God is at work in our lives and in our parishes! This spiritual retreat is a powerful opportunity to pull away from the demands of everyday life and spend time with God and with one another. During our retreat, discern how God is calling you to use your gifts for His people, right here, right now. You are encouraged to welcome others from our Catholic community and invite them to attend this retreat as well.

The retreat will include inspiring talks about St. Joseph, the Good Steward, by Msgr. Robert Tucker from Seward, Nebraska. There will be time for quiet reflection and brief small-group discussion. There is no cost to attend. A light continental breakfast is available starting at 9:00 a.m. The Retreat will start promptly at 9:30 a.m. and a catered lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m.

I truly hope that you can participate and ask that you please RSVP no later than September 5. You will be receiving an email to RSVP to this Retreat. After clicking on the "sign-up" button in the email, you will be taken to a page where you can click on either the "I will attend" or "I will not attend" button. To complete the RSVP be sure to click on the "Sign me up!" button. If you prefer, you can RSVP to the parish office at 440-988-2848.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Tim O'Connor,
Pastor



Retreat Leader -

Msgr. Robert Tucker was ordained for the Diocese of Lincoln in 1989 and has been involved in parish work his entire priesthood. He taught religion in two parish schools during the first seven years of his priesthood, and then began working in school administration while also serving as a pastor. He served as pastor of the Cathedral of the Risen Christ for 19 years, and during that time, he was first introduced to stewardship as a way of life. His interest in stewardship further evolved during the past three years through his work with Catholic Stewardship Consultants. Together with CSC, Msgr. Tucker works with his current parish to help parishioners grow together as stewards in the love of God.

St. Joseph & Nativity of the BVM
Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Nativity of the BVM Social Hall



IN THE ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL GYM

FALL KICKOFF SEPTEMBER 13TH

SUNDAYS FROM 6PM TO 7:30PM

ALL 7TH TO 12TH GRADERS WELCOME!

QUESTIONS?
CHARLES.J.GONZO@GMAIL.COM

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT

Pull away from the demands of our daily lives and spend time with God to see how He is calling you to use your gifts for His people, right here, right now. Experience inspirational talks and quiet reflection as well as a continental breakfast and boxed lunch-all at no cost to you! Our Annual Parish Retreat will take place at the Nativity BVM Social Hall in South Amherst on Saturday, September 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Our retreat leader is Msgr. Robert Tucker, who will talk about "St. Joseph, the Good Steward." ALL members of St. Joseph and Nativity BVM are invited. If you are signed up to receive the "Weekly Happenings" messages, you will receive an email asking you to RSVP by September 5. After clicking on the "Sign up" button, you will be taken to a page where you will select I will/will not attend. Be sure to click the "Sign me up" button to complete your RSVP. If you are not signed up to receive the "Weekly Happenings" messages, please call the Parish Office at 440-988-2848 to RSVP. Thank you!

HOSPITALITY TUESDAY



Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Join us for the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Tuesday, September 8th, for The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let us rejoice in the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was predestined to give birth by the strength of the Lord. Mass will be at Nativity in South Amherst. Coffee and donuts will follow in Nativity's Parish Hall.

DINNERS ON THE GO IS BACK!

Nativity of the BVM is excited to announce the return of the "Dinners on the Go" for the fall of 2026.

September 8th Menu

Cabbage Rolls
Mashed Potatoes
Applesauce Cup
Roll/Dessert
Soup – Chicken n' Wild Rice

September 22nd Menu

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

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!



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Catholic Education Fundraiser Steak Fry

Porterhouse Steak Dinner

\$30.00

Includes: Baked Potato, Corn on the Cob, Salad,
Roll & Butter, and Dessert

Coffee, Soda, Tea, and Draft Beer Included

Basket Raffles, 50/50, and More!

Amherst Eagles 1161 Milan Ave, Amherst
Saturday, September 19, 2026
Event 5:30 - 10:00 Dinner Starts at 6:00 PM

To purchase tickets contact Steve Frankart

Phone/Text: 330-814-8844

Email: SteveFrankart@yahoo.com

Buy Online: <https://tinyurl.com/KofCSteakFry>

Use QR code:



Tickets must be purchased by Sept 14, 2026

Seminarian and Catholic High School Scholarships paid through the
Grace Martello Scholarship Fund



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 adult's recommendation →



NOT JUST WHAT
THE CHURCH
TEACHES, BUT WHY
SHE TEACHES IT
NOW ENROLLING

OCIA

The Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mercy Health Lorain Hospital is seeking parishioners to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Spiritual Health Volunteers who visit and pray with patients. If you feel called to this ministry of compassion and presence, please contact Fr. Damian Ezeani, Director of Mission and Market Ethics Lead, Bon Secours Mercy Health Lorain, at 440-960-3846, or email him at DEzeani@bsmhealth.org

“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.

FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

Please join us as the Lorain County First Friday Forum returns on September 11, 2026 from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Tom's Country Place in Avon (3442 Stoney Ridge Road, Avon, Ohio) for our fall season with a very powerful story of the Fr. Pedro Arrupe led by longtime attendee and participant of our forum, Fr. Robert Sanson. Cost is \$25.00. Call 440-320-3272 or email fflorain@gmail.com to make a reservation. Deadline to register is September 7th at 6:00 p.m.

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/>



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

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

**Mary Ference
Albert Miller**

We pray for their family 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.

ARE YOU GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE?

We invite you to register for an 8-week Bereavement Support Group that will be held at St. Ladislav Parish (2345 Bassett Road, Westlake) on Wednesday evenings. “Growing through Grief” presents a different topic each week, while offering compassionate spiritual and emotional support for those grieving the death of a loved one. The group will meet **September 9 through October 28** from 6:30-8:00 p.m. To register, call 440-835-2300 or email the facilitator, Carol Burnett, at cburnett@stlads.org.

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.

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.

THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS WEST For Adults 40 & Over



**It's a FIELD TRIP
to the Seminary Center
for Pastoral Leadership
28700 Euclid Avenue
Wickliffe, OH 44092
Monday, September 14
7:00-8:30 p.m.**

Join us as we see where our seminarians live, are formed and grow in faith on their journey to becoming future shepherds of our Diocese. Our evening will begin in the Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd Chapel where we'll learn about the recent renovations. We'll then enjoy light appetizers and refreshments as we engage with a few of our seminarians and hear about life in the seminary. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Light appetizers and nonalcoholic beverages included. **Advance tickets recommended. Register in advance at www.theologyontherockswest.com.** Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

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. Nearby upcoming sessions are:

Tuesday, September 15, 2026, from 7:00-9:30 p.m. at St. Albert the Great Parish, 6667 Wallings Road, North Royalton, OH 44133 or Sunday, October 18, 2026, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at St. Peter Parish, 3665 Oberlin Avenue, Lorain, OH 44053.

CARING FOR CREATION: WORLDWIDE CONCERNS, LOCAL ACTION

Catholic social teaching calls for us to care for all of God's creation. We invite you to attend an interactive panel discussion on Sunday, September 13, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at St. Ladislav Parish (2345 Bassett Road, Westlake) for a look at Pope Francis's encyclical, the global water crisis, and the surprising connection among what we consume, how we treat creation, and the lives of people around the world. No reservations required. Light refreshments will be served.

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).

SKILLS FOR NAVIGATING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Learn skills for listening and connecting more deeply with people we care about. Practice using these skills while cultivating respect and civility, especially if you have differing views on political issues that caused you to lose valued closeness with friends or relatives. Learn how to re-engage with others in a constructive way.

This free workshop for a time of polarization is on September 19th, from 9:30 a.m. to Noon at St. Mary's Elyria Weigand Room, 320 Middle Avenue, Elyria, OH 44035. Light refreshments starting at 9:00 a.m. This workshop is sponsored by St. Mary's Social Concerns Committee and facilitated by Bill Shaul, MD, co-founder of the NE Ohio Chapter of Braver Angels. Preregistration is required. Email Kathy Hazelton at kathyhazelton@gmail.com for more information or to register. Deadline to register is September 13, 2026.

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-pit 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>.

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.

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Amherst Holy Family Council 4891
stjosephamherst.com/knights-of-columbus

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

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