



SACRED HEART of JESUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

~ Bethlehem • Founded 1833 ~



Tuesday

Feast of St. Blaise Blessing of Throats

**9:00 am - St. Joseph
11:00 am - Sacred Heart**

6:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: In Memory of George Hines Family

Wednesday

8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: Rev. Robert Kill

Thursday

5:30 pm - Confession at St. Joseph

6:30 pm - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intention: For the Community of Faith

Friday

8:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intention: For Our Church Leaders

7:30 pm - Adoration at SHJ

Saturday

3:30pm - Confession at SHJ

4:30pm - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: Ron & Barb Finnegan, Jeff Belcik

Sunday

7:00 am - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intentions: Rev. Stanley Szybka

8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: For the People of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Parishes

10:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intention: Deacon William Rall, Lindsey & Lisa Anatra

February 1, 2026 Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time

5742 State Route 61 S.
Shelby, Ohio 44875
(419) 342-2256

A Sister Parish with St. Joseph, Crestline.

Dear Parishioners,

One of the greatest honors I have as a priest is the opportunity to visit the homebound. As more and more members of the baby boomer generation struggle to leave their homes during the cold winter months, it becomes my responsibility—and my privilege—to bring Christ to them in holy communion.

It is a profound experience to enter their homes and bring them the Eucharist. Do you feel called to join me in this ministry? I am not seeking to step away from my own visits; rather, I wish to extend an invitation to others who may feel drawn to serve in this way.

★ Please let me know if you feel called to be trained as a Eucharistic minister to the homebound.

If you are unsure, here are several meaningful reasons to consider bringing Communion to parishioners who are unable to attend Mass:

1. Jesus cared deeply for those who suffered physically. He calls us to remember and minister to those in our community who face physical limitations. In serving the homebound, we follow His example.

2. Our senior parishioners possess a wealth of lived experience. They have lived through events we often encounter only in books or documentaries. Spending time with them provides invaluable insight as they speak about:

- wars, recessions, and social movements,
- courtship and relationships in a different era,
- Occupations that no longer exist

It is like sitting with a living history book—except you can ask questions and form relationships.

3. They often express humor in delightful and unfiltered ways.

Many older adults possess:

- a dry, understated sense of humor,
- a candidness that is both refreshing and wholesome,
- colorful expressions and sayings that are often endearing and memorable.

I frequently find myself quoting them—sometimes in homilies—because their wit is that impactful.

4. These visits foster appreciation for simple yet profound human connections.

Your presence may be:

- the highlight of their week, the only meaningful conversation they have that day.

Our visits remind us of the power of presence and the sacredness of attentive listening.

Let me reiterate: I deeply enjoy and value my visits to the homebound. However, if you feel called to join this ministry, I encourage you to take part. The training is easy—even if you are not currently a Eucharistic minister at Mass. Don't worry; I will start by assigning you just one person to visit occasionally, and I will continue my own visits with that individual as well.

In Christ,
Fr. Jeff

COLLECTION:

Jan 25, 2026
\$ 3,295.00

Reg. Offertory
\$ 2,362.00

Solemnity of Mary
\$ 50.00
Immaculate Conception
\$ 30.00
Gen Maintenance
\$ 20.00
Latin America
\$ 3.00

Thank you!



Online
\$ 830.00
Heart of Bethlehem
\$ 125.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS	
School Mass	
Saturday, February 7	Sunday, February 8
MUSIC MINISTER Kevin Willis SERVERS Joseph Gwirtz Jude Kemerer OFFERTORY Sean & Laura Beeson Family	MUSIC MINISTER Folk Group SERVERS Gavin & Derek Keller OFFERTORY Klark Spearman Family
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS Tammy & Doug Lucius Rosanne Conley USHERS Dave Kromer Mark Vogt LECTOR Carrie Kemerer	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS Deacon Steve Vogt, Marti Keller Luke Rietschlin, Riki Rietschlin USHERS Zach Keller & Mark Gwirtz LECTOR Kate DiLullo COUNTERS Rhonda Gregson, Olivia Hoffman Veronica Cain
(Please check Ministry Scheduler Pro for the most up to date assignments)	

Bible Readings for the Week of Feb. 1, 2026

Monday	Mal 3:1-4, Ps 24:7-10, Heb 2:14-18, Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Tuesday	2Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3, Ps 86:1-6, Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday	2Sm 24:2, 9-17, Ps 32:1-2, 5-7, Mk 6:1-6
Thursday	1Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 (Ps) 1Chr 29:10-12, Mk 6:7-13
Friday	Sir 47:2-11, Ps 18:31, 47, 50-51, Mk 6:14-29
Saturday	1Kgs 3:4-13, Ps 119:9-14, Mk 6:30-34
Sunday	Is 58:7-10, Ps 112:4-9, 1Cor 2:1-5, Mt 5:13-16



BULLETIN SPONSORS OF THE WEEK:

Dave Metzger Painting

Interior and exterior
painting, staining, and
varnishing.

Commercial/Residential

419-544-0649
3254 Hummel Rd, Shelby, OH 44875



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Help with Tuition at Sacred Heart School!

Ohioans can receive a dollar for dollar tax credit up to \$750 per person for donations to the Diocese of Toledo Scholarship Fund. Please designate Sacred Heart, Shelby as the recipient. Forms are in the back of church. Learn more at www.dotsgo.org.

High School PSR Meeting Dates

Mark your calendars for Feb. 11 & 25

March 4, 11, 18 & 25

Hope to see you there! Steve & Sheila Vogt



Hope & Healing Mass

February 7th. At 11:00am

315 Clay St., Carey, OH

Lunch available in Shrine cafeteria.

The Catholic Women's Club of the St. Juan Diego Deanery offers a scholarship to a qualified Catholic girl in her Senior year.

She should graduate in 2026 from high school and plan to attend college or trade school. She does not need to be attending Catholic High School, or to attend a Catholic college to apply.

See your parish office, youth director, or the President of CWC, Brenda Starr-Jude for the application form and requirements.

Submit the application by mail before **April 8, 2026** to:

Brenda Starr-Jude, President CWC
182 Foxcroft Rd., Lexington OH 44904
PH: 419-610-8251



February Birthdays

Marilyn Vogt	2nd.
Russ Keller	7th.
Carol Niese	12th.
Lillian Niese	16th.
Deb Schumacher	17th.
Donna Biglin	20th.
Duane Borgelt	25th.

Most Pure Heart of Mary

The Parish Life Coordinator is a passionately Catholic missionary disciple who coordinates and oversees various activities in the life of the parish; as well as plans, executes, and assesses faith-based social activities. This position also coordinates parish fundraisers and volunteers. Qualifications include being an active, practicing Catholic who possesses an authentic and faithful understanding of Church teaching and is self-motivated, anticipatory, and collaborative in the workplace; and has experience in budgeting, recruitment, evaluation, and supervision.

To Apply please send cover letter and resume to Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish, Attn: Father Chris Mileski, 29 West St., Shelby, OH 44875 or email fatherchris@stmaryshelby.org by February 8, 2026.

The Diocese of Toledo will host the **Relic of the Heart of Saint Carlo Acutis** during a three-day visit at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral from Saturday, February to Monday, **February 9, 2026**. Msgr. Anthony Figueiredo, promoter of St. Carlo's cause, will offer catechesis and reflections drawn from his personal involvement in Carlo's canonization. The faithful are invited to venerate the relic, deepen their faith through prayer, and write prayer intentions that Msgr. Figueiredo will bring to the tomb of St. Carlo in Assisi.

The Catholic Women's Club will have their February luncheon and meeting on **Wednesday, Feb 11th** at the Ontario Event Center. Social time at 11:30 and buffet lunch (\$19) at noon. Our speaker is Jenny Zang from Flying Horse Farms. Collection will be fabric and batting for quilts. All women of the deanery are invited to attend, bring a friend, and enjoy time together. If you need a reservation, call Cheryl Mears, Feb committee chairperson 419-512-1021 for details.

Deanery Eucharistic Mission: February 9 - 12

St. Joseph Activity Center, Galion

Each evening begins at the activity center at 6:30pm with a light dinner followed by a presentation at 7:00. Then moving to the church for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 8:30.

Fr. Jeff Smith will be presenting Wed., February 11th!

Most Pure Heart of Mary Hosting Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre: Join us on **February 14** at 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary School for our murder mystery dinner theatre! Bring your friend, neighbor, cousin, coworker, workout buddy ... or, if you have to, your spouse. For more information about this FUNdraiser visit mphmshelby.org/upcomingevents

St. Joseph Senior Citizen Luncheon Tuesday, February 17 at 12:15 pm - Convocation Center Cost \$5. Menu: grilled cheese, tomato soup, grapes, and cookie. RSVP 419-683-1284 by Wednesday, February 11.

Healing for A Caregiver's Heart

Saturday, February 21

9:00am-3:00pm (Lunch included)

St. Joseph Parish Ministry Workshop

204 W. Wayne Street

Maumee, OH

Register: toledodiocese.regfox.com/caretakers-retreat





ISSUE 29

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

PARISHIONERS MARTI KELLER AND PATTI BUNKER

BETHLEHEM – The Holy Year of 2025 called Catholics to renewal as 'Pilgrims of Hope,' according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Parishioners and sisters, Marti Keller and Patti Bunker, heeded that call.

"It was a year of pilgrimage," Marti said. "We went to Blessed Solanus Casey's center in Detroit," followed by Toledo's cathedral, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, the same day.

On Mothers Day, the sisters joked with Patti's son, Shan Rodriguez, that he needed to take them to Europe. He had previously been stationed in Germany while in the military, so they knew he could help them navigate.

Shan made all the plans and they embarked on the "trip of a lifetime," the sisters emphasized, to Portugal, France and Germany June 28 - July 7, 2025. In September, "we went to Mackinaw Island and St. Anne's Church, a devotion to Mary's mother," noted Marti.

Their year of pilgrimage also brought them to Pennsylvania to visit the National Centre of Padre Pio, a revered priest blessed with the stigmata, or miraculous wounds, of Christ.

In October, "we got to see the confessional of Padre Pio," said Marti. Closer to home, "we went to Our Lady of Consolation's 100th anniversary and to Our Mother of Sorrows 150th anniversary Mass" with the Bishop.

Patti once lived in California and Galion, while Marti was away during college but the Settlement has always been home through their maternal ancestors.

"Mom's a descendent of the Henry Weaver family," Marti added, "part of this parish two/three generations."

"I've lived in Lexington for 21 years," Patti shared, "and when my mom (Eileen Cochran) passed away, that's when I decided to come back to the parish."

Marti's connection coincides with her husband, Russ.

"I've been a Sacred Heart parishioner for truly all my life. We lived on the corner of '61. Russ's parents lived on Settlement East, a quarter of a mile - half a mile apart."

The sisters' year of pilgrimage took them to Portugal, France and Germany.

Mother's Day weekend, Patti's son, Shan, surprised her with a call: He offered to take her and Aunt Mart to Fatima, 45 minutes away from the beach he wanted to visit in Nazaré, Portugal.

Patti was shocked. "He goes, 'call Aunt Mart. If you want to go, I'll plan everything.' And he did: Plane. Hotels. Airbnbs. Everything."

6 weeks later, they were overseas for the first time in their lives. 10 days.

Fatima, known worldwide for the apparitions – or appearances – of the Blessed Mother to three shepherd children culminating in the Miracle of the Sun – was the high-point of the trip.

"Just the spirit of knowing Mother Mary was there," Patti said in awe. Along with the basilica where the 3 children are buried, visitors can pray in the chapel built where the Virgin Mary appeared.

One of the children became a nun and lived until she was 97-years-old. The other two children died from complications of the Spanish Flu at very young ages.

The sisters felt united to the Universal Church during their visit.

"This is worldwide and how wonderful that we're all praying for the Jubilee," said Marti.

Lessons from Fatima can instruct us today.

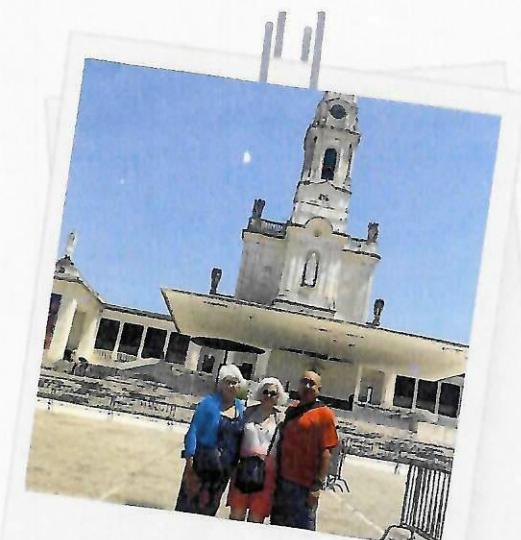
"These children got to see the Blessed Virgin and she told them, 'pray the rosary daily, pray for the reparation of sins and the conversion of those that are not Catholic. And pray for Russia,'" Marti shared.

Patti had a physical reaction, which continues every time she thinks – or talks – about it.

"We're there and all of a sudden, I think of Mom. I just start crying like this," Patti said while wiping tears from her eyes. "Martha looks at me and she goes, 'what is wrong?' I go, I don't know. I was thinking about Mom. Wish Mom could see this and I guess Mom's here. Mom's telling me, 'I am here.'"

When her mother got sick in October 2019 at the nursing home, she went downhill fast.

"I told Mother Mary, 'just let her go peacefully. That's all I'm asking. I promise I will say the rosary every day.' I have not missed in six years," Patti said. "Every morning, my rosary comes out with my coffee. I have a lot of devotion for Our Mother."

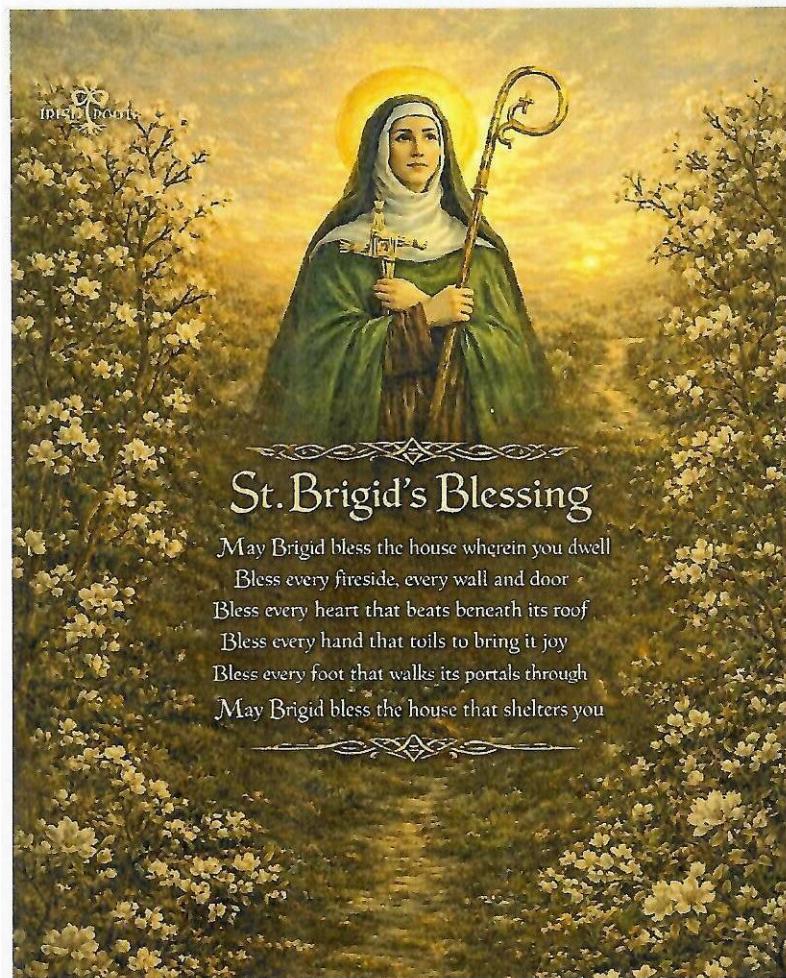


A MINISTRY OF SACRED HEART OF JESUS CATHOLIC CHURCH
BY JOE DI LULLO

IMAGE OF CHURCH BY LORETTA BOCIAN, 2024

Photo submitted by Marti Keller and Patti Bunker Settlement Spotlight





St. Brigid's Blessing

May Brigid bless the house wherin you dwell
Bless every fireside, every wall and door
Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof
Bless every hand that toils to bring it joy
Bless every foot that walks its portals through
May Brigid bless the house that shelters you

St. Brigid of Ireland (born c. 450, according to tradition, Fochart [now Faughart], near Dundalk, County Louth, Ireland—died c. 525, Kildare, Ireland; feast day February 1) was an Irish abbess who founded an important monastic community at Kildare in the 5th century and is revered as one of the three patron saints of Ireland, along with St. Patrick and St. Columba (Colmcille). She is also venerated as the patron of dairy farmers, cattle, midwives, babies, beer, computers, and blacksmiths.

Life and legends

Little is known of Brigid's life but from legend, myth, and folklore. According to these, she was born in the province of Leinster to a noble father and an enslaved mother and was sold along with her mother to a Druid, whom she later converted to Christianity. On being set free, she returned

to her father, who tried to marry her to the king of Ulster. Impressed by her piety, the king removed her from parental control. According to the *Liber hymnorum* (11th century), the Curragh, a plain in County Kildare, was granted by the king of Leinster to St. Brigid. At Kildare she founded the first nunnery in Ireland. The community became a double abbey for monks and nuns, with the abbess ranking above the abbot. Her friend St. Conleth became, at Brigid's beckoning, bishop of her people. She is said to have been active in founding other communities of nuns.

St. Brigid of Ireland Statue of St. Brigid of Ireland and a cow. Among other duties, Brigid is the patron saint of cattle and dairy farmers.

St. Brigid appears in a wealth of literature, notably the *Book of Lismore*, the *Breviary of Aberdonense*, and *Bethada Náem n-Érenn*. One of the loveliest and most profound legends of Brigid is the story of Dara, a blind nun for whom Brigid prayed for the restoration of her eyesight. When the miracle was granted, Dara realized that the clarity of sight blurred God in the eye of the soul, whereupon she asked Brigid to return her to the beauty of darkness. Brigid is also said to have miraculously changed water into beer for a leper colony and provided enough beer for 18 churches from a single barrel.

What is St. Brigid the patron saint of?

St. Brigid is one of the three patron saints of Ireland, along with St. Patrick and St. Columba (Colmcille). She is also a patron of dairy farmers, cattle, midwives, babies, beer, computers, and blacksmiths.

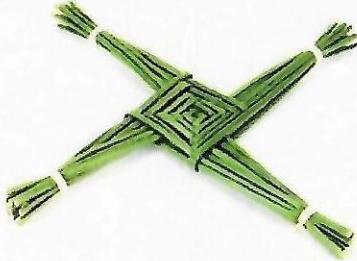
What is the legend of St. Brigid's cloak?

The legend of St. Brigid's cloak, or mantle, is a folktale that described how the Irish saint acquired the Curragh, a plain in County Kildare, from the king of Leinster to build her monastery. According to the story, Brigid asked the king to grant her as much land as her mantle would cover. Noting the small size of her cloak, the king agreed. Brigid then asked four of her followers to spread the cloak in all four directions: east, west, north, and south. When they did, the cloak miraculously expanded to cover a wide expanse of the fertile plain.

How is St. Brigid's feast day celebrated in Ireland?

St. Brigid's feast day (February 1) is celebrated with folk customs such as weaving crosses out of rushes, reeds, or straw that feature four arms (sometimes only two or three) and are blessed and hung in homes for protection. In some parts of Ireland, girls weave small dolls known as *brídeogs*. Special masses and pilgrimages to sites associated with Brigid are also a tradition on her feast day.

Feast day observations



St. Brigid's cross A St. Brigid's cross woven from rushes.

Brigid's feast day is observed as far away from Ireland as Australia and New Zealand. In early times she was celebrated in parts of Scotland and England that had been converted by Celtic Christian missionaries. In modern Ireland her feast day is celebrated

with many folk customs and traditions, notably the weaving of crosses out of rushes, reeds, or straw. The so-called St. Brigid's cross features four arms (though some feature only two or three) tied at the ends and a patterned square at the center. The crosses are typically made on the evening before her feast day, blessed with holy water, and hung in houses or at the threshold of homes as a sign of welcome to Brigid. Even after her feast day, the crosses remain hanging in many Irish homes, offering the saint's protection throughout the year. In another tradition, mainly in western Ireland, girls honor Brigid's feast day by weaving small dolls known as *brídeogs* out of rushes or straw.

Numerous wells are dedicated to Brigid throughout Ireland, including near Kildare and at her traditional birthplace, Faughart, and near Liscannor, a small village in County Clare in western Ireland. These wells and others dedicated to saints are known as "holy wells." Many of them likely originated as sites of worship associated with pre-Christian deities and were appropriated to venerate Christian saints who had links to the nearby communities. These wells are visited year-round by pilgrims, who typically leave rosaries, photographs, pieces of cloth, and other personal mementos as votive offerings. In addition, special masses are celebrated in churches and at other pilgrimage sites on Brigid's feast day.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica

Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



"We're Moving!"

We've all had that familiar life experience: making a move. It may have been the move after marriage into your first home, or after ordination into your first parish assignment. Perhaps the move was from one home to another, even one state or country to another. It may have been a move from high school to college, or from college to a first job, or from one job to the next.

Whatever the moves we've experienced, such transitions are never easy, and often marked by challenges. Statistics report that of the top causes of stress in one's life in a year, a major move ranks in the top five! As I write this column, "we're moving!" The long-anticipated sale of our Diocesan Pastoral Center to the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department has been finalized, as announced publicly in November, and as foreseen, our major move to a temporary location is underway. Diocesan and Catholic Charities services will not be interrupted while in our temporary space.



and beyond, seeking the most accommodating, suitable, economical and practical space we could find. Now we are delighted to announce that we are moving to our temporary space at the Fifth Third

Building - One Seagate in downtown Toledo, where our entire Pastoral Center staff will occupy just one floor, the 23rd floor. Our work from this temporary location, for which we have a two-year lease, will also come at significant cost savings! The Diocesan Pastoral Center has long served as the central

administrative and ministry offices for all our nineteen-county diocese.

But before I continue, a bit of history is in order. It was in 1957 that Bishop George Rehring sold the then existing diocesan offices elsewhere in the city to consolidate diocesan ministries at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, where the Pastoral Center has been located since. That building was enhanced and enlarged by Bishop James Hoffman in 2002 with a two-story addition connected to the seven-story building.

Our diocesan team had examined and evaluated several possible temporary locations, within the city

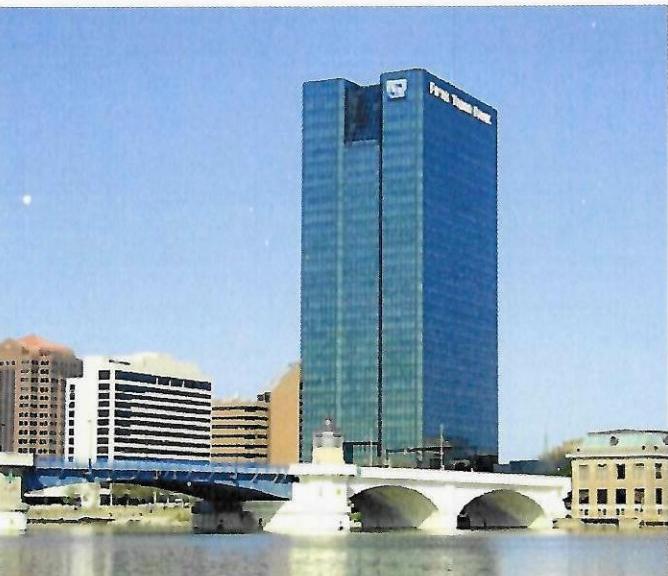
It was back in 2020, that a Pastoral Center Project Committee had been formed consisting of myself, several members of the Diocesan leadership team, and the Diocesan Real Estate Committee. The Project Committee engaged several professional consultants and conducted a needs assessment and feasibility study of the current Pastoral Center offices, concluding that the space was too large and expensive for present and future needs. This is mainly due to a 47 percent reduction in staff over a period of years, which resulted in a 60 percent occupancy of the current space.

Recognizing the importance of responsible stewardship of diocesan properties and resources as provided by the people of God, it became clear that relocating the offices to a more effective and efficient space would be the most sensible path.

Additionally, it was determined that to remain in the existing space for an extended period, significant funds would need to be invested to address key maintenance projects. Recognizing the importance of always being good stewards of our properties and resources, as provided by the people of God, it became clear that relocating the offices to a more efficient space would be the most responsible path. Therefore, alternative options were studied and evaluated with an emphasis placed on existing diocesan owned and vacated properties.

After regular and ongoing consultation with the Diocesan Finance Council and College of Consultors, the Project Committee identified an area adjacent to Rosary Cathedral as the preferred new location for the Pastoral Center offices. This involves renovating and augmenting the already owned diocesan property located at the corner of Delaware Ave and Collingwood Blvd. It was agreed that a move to this

location will prove the most effective use of existing Diocesan assets, will result in substantial overall cost savings, will enhance the Rosary Cathedral campus and will enrich the surrounding neighborhood and community. Further updates will be shared as this new Pastoral Center project advances.



As already shared publicly, the source of funds for this project will come from a combination of the sale of the existing Pastoral Center property, Mareda sale proceeds, grants, gifts and other financing. Intentionally, no funds for this project will be from parish assessments, offertory or the *Living Christ* capital campaign.

So for us, just as for all of you when you've made a major move, there is a mix of excitement and apprehension, of enthusiasm and anxiety, of hopefulness and trepidation. During one of our recent monthly Pastoral Center staff gatherings, I recommended that we all keep in mind four important words which begin with "p" to characterize how we approach this transition. Those four words are: prayer, patience, prudence, and perseverance! In hindsight, I think it would have been helpful to add a fifth now popular "p" word: positivity! As you can see, much work has been accomplished, and there is much still to be accomplished! So do pray with me that our transition be blessed and that our temporary space may serve the needs of our diocese, because "we're moving"!

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
January 23, 2026

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**JONAH STUDER
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

419-543-0119

JO55ST@YAHOO.COM

**F.I.S.H. food pantry most needed items:
Snack bars, mixed vegetables, canned potatoes,
peas and spam.**

New location: 115 W. Main St., Shelby.

Thank you for your generous continued support!

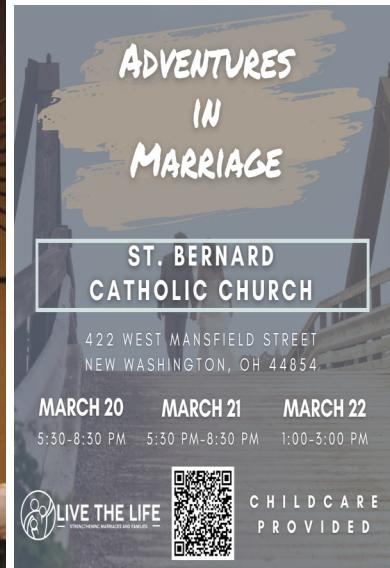
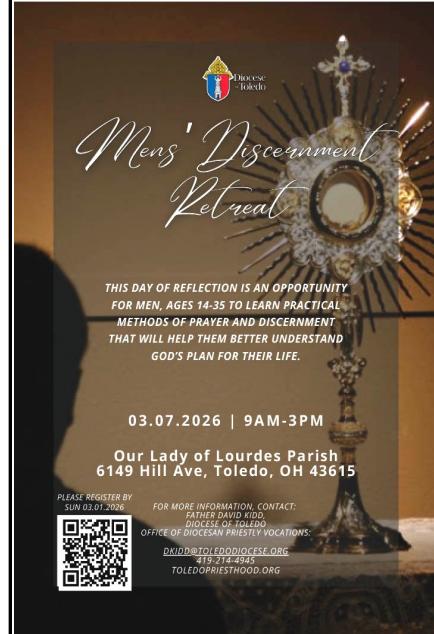
Lenten Retreat: Come Away Beloved

Saturday, February 21st. 9:00 am – 2:45 pm

Sorrowful Mother Shrine, Bellevue

Retreat Presenter: Fr. Patrick Gonyea, C.P.P.S.

Call the Shrine office at 419-483-3435, option 4 to register. \$25.00 Registration Fee. Lunch provided.



The Terror of Demons:

The Virtues of St. Joseph Thursday, March 19, 2026

We hope you will be able to join us for an evening of faith, fellowship, fun, and learning more about our patron saint, St. Joseph. We will start the evening off with Mass at St. Joseph Church, Crestline, followed by a light meal in the Convocation Center. After the meal, we have invited John R. Woods, author of "Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission" to present "The Terror of Demons: The Virtues of St. Joseph". Mathew Kelly from Dynamic Catholic states "I believe John is one of the great emerging Catholic voices of our time. John Wood has a passion that is contagious... make an effort to go and hear him speak!" Please mark your calendars now for this special event. You wont want to miss it!

Pilgrimage Opportunity! The tri-parish group of the Mansfield area invites you to consider joining us on a trip to Italy October 12-23, 2026. We will spend several nights in each of Assisi, Florence, and Rome, visiting many basilicas, and other historical and faith-related sites. Mass will be celebrated each day, and we will have a local guide accompanying us throughout the trip. If the Holy Father is in Rome, we will attend the weekly papal audience. You can find additional information about this trip at catholicfaithjourneys.com or by contacting Kathy Wilkinson at 419-989-8513 or by email to kmadams58@gmail.com.