



SACRED HEART of JESUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

❧ Bethlehem • Founded 1833 ❧

November 30, 2025



First Sunday of Advent

Intentions

Tuesday

6:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: George Hines Family

Wednesday

8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: Rosemary Sutter

Thursday

5:30 pm - Confession at St. Joseph

6:30 - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intention: Daniel Rinaldi

Friday

8:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph

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

7:30 pm - Adoration at St. Joseph

Saturday

3:30 pm - Confession at SHJ

4:30 pm - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: Rodney Cole; Eileen Cochran

Second Sunday of Advent

7:00 am - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intentions: Living & Deceased Members of the Moyer Family; Rita (Vuckovich) Solowey

8:30 am - Mass at Sacred Heart

Mass Intention: Francis, Marie & Joe Biglin; Margaret Kromer

10:30 am - Mass at St. Joseph

Mass Intention: William (Bill) Sharrock; Tony Tesso

Greetings, Parishioners,

As you may know, this is my second year offering "Teenager Order of Christian Initiation" — a program for young people who have a desire about the Catholic faith but were not raised Catholic. This year, the program has grown significantly compared to last year, and this year I meet with ten teens on Saturday mornings. These students come from both public and Catholic schools and are seeking to join the Church through this program.

This is wonderful news — that young people who were not raised in the Catholic faith are now choosing to become Catholic! However, there is a bit of an obstacle. Although these teens have fallen in love with Jesus, many are journeying alone in that relationship. Their parents have graciously given them permission to join the Church, yet most of these teens do not have anyone in their lives who can serve as their sponsor for Baptism and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.

I would like to ask for your help! If you would be open to serving as a teenager's Catholic sponsor, please prayerfully consider this invitation.

A Confirmation sponsor is not merely a name on a certificate or someone who stands beside a candidate on the big day. A good sponsor is a guide, mentor, and example of what it means to live as a committed Catholic. Sponsors accompany their candidates through prayer, conversation, and encouragement — helping them to recognize the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how those gifts shape everyday life.

To serve as a sponsor, one must be a confirmed Catholic, at least sixteen years old, and actively practicing the faith. Also, if married their marriage must be recognized by the Church. Most importantly, a sponsor should strive to live in a way that reflects Christ's love — someone the candidate can look to as a model of faith, service, and integrity.

If you are asked to be a sponsor, take time to pray about it. Say "yes" not only to the ceremony but also to Jesus' call to be a fisher of men and women — even after the Easter Vigil. Stay in touch with your candidate after Confirmation. Celebrate their milestones and remind them that the Holy Spirit is always at work in their lives, especially during times when faith feels challenging.

Through this sacred friendship, both sponsor and candidate grow closer to Christ and His Church. What a beautiful calling that is!

For more information, please email me at jsmith@toledodiocese.org, and I will connect you with a teen with whom you may have a few things in common. But you already share the most important thing — a desire to know and love Jesus Christ!!!

**With Gratitude and Blessings,
Fr. Jeff**

COLLECTION:

Nov. 16, 2025
\$ 5,368.25

Reg. Offertory
4,538.25

Human Development
20.00
Cemetery
20.00
Christmas Flowers
411.00



Thank You !

Online
830.00
Heart of Bethlehem
125.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Wednesday, Dec. 5th
School Mass

Saturday, Dec. 6

MUSIC MINISTER

TBD

SERVERS

*Finnian & Gus
Metzger*

OFFERTORY

Jake & Jessica Rietschlin

EXTRAORDINARY**MINISTERS**

*Jake Rietschlin, Joanne Claytor
Greg Keller*

USHERS

*Nick Fike
Jacob Gosser*

LECTOR

Sarah Metzger

(Please check Ministry Scheduler Pro
for the most up to date assignments)

Sunday, Dec. 7

MUSIC MINISTER

Sean Beeson

SERVERS

*Titus & Leo
Beeson*

OFFERTORY

Aaron & Sarah Paynter Family

EXTRAORDINARY**MINISTERS**

*Paul & Samantha Schroeder
John Bonen*

USHERS

Dave Kromer & Diane Metzger

LECTOR

Steve Metzger

COUNTERS

*Steve Metzger, Veronica Cain
Catherine Turner*

Bible Readings for the Week of November 30, 2025

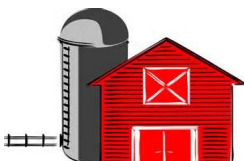
Monday Is 4:2-6, Ps 122:1-9, Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday Is 11:1-10, Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17, Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday Is 25:6-10a, Ps 23:1-6, Mt 15:29-37
Thursday Is 26:1-6, Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a, Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday Is 29:17-24, Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14, Mt 9:27-31
Saturday Is 30:19-21, 23-26, Ps 47:1-6, Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday Is 11:1-10, Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17, Rom 15:4-9, Mt 3:1-12

**BULLETIN SPONSORS OF THE WEEK:**

R&R Niese Farms
3364 Hinesville Rd
Shelby, OH 44875

Roger Niese (419) 631-1594

Owen Niese (419) 631-3771



Dave Metzger Painting

Interior and exterior
painting, staining, and
varnishing.

Commercial/Residential

419-544-0649

3254 Hummel Rd., Shelby, OH 44875



**Pack –A-Pick-up
Nov. 29 & 30**



THIS Weekend!

We are collecting new toys, shelf stable food, and personal care items for clients of Shelby Helpline and shelf stable foods only for CAMP. Trucks will be parked in front of the church on Saturday afternoon and again on Sunday until 3:00pm. Thank you!

Please mail any monetary donations:

Shelby Help Line, 39 Walnut St., Shelby, OH 44875
C.A.M.P. P.O. Box 126 Crestline, OH 44827

**Thank you Madison & Megan Ratliff for your time, talent, and truck for this weekend!*



**Altar & Rosary
End of year and Christmas party
Open to all women of Sacred Heart
parish**

Come one come all to celebrate at the Parish Hall **Thursday Dec 4 at 5:30**. Food and drink provided by Altar and Rosary. We have our new officers for next year in Megan Ratliff, Carrie Kemerer, Maggie Heiby and Bridget Milligan so we won't be asking for volunteers!! So just come and enjoy food and fellowship.. Please rsvp to Rhonda Gregson 610-505-8380 or Taylor Gosser 567-303-8038. Hope to see you there!

Annual Sacred Heart Christmas Cookie Exchange, in the school gym following 8:30 AM Mass **Sunday, December 14**. Bring 2 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookie, candy, breads, etc. & be prepared to exchange with fellow parishioners & leave with many treats to enjoy for the Advent season. Contact Taylor Gwartz with any questions.

Bake Sale

Sacred Heart 7th & 8th grade students will be holding a bake sale before and after Mass on **December 13 & 14** to help fund their trip to Washington D.C.

Boys Basketball Coach and Assistants Needed

We are in need of a head coach for the 3rd and 4th grade boys' basketball team and assistant coaches are needed for boy's 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade teams. Practice would be held at your discretion throughout the week. Games are held on Sundays starting in January. If you would like to donate your time and talent, please contact our Athletic Director, Jonah Studer, at 419-543-0119.

Day of Prayer for Sanctification of Priests

Kindly remember in prayer all our Priests serving in the Diocese of Toledo, as they gather on **Monday, December 1** for the annual Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. Through the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary, may the Lord grant them spiritual grace, renewed fidelity, consolation and joy in ministry.

Catholic Women's Club for the St. Juan Diego Deanery will hold the December gathering on **Wednesday 12/10** at Resurrection Parish, 2600 Lexington Ave. Lexington, Ohio. We will gather for Mass at 11:00am in the church, with a luncheon to follow in the hall at 12:00. Cost of lunch is \$20. Entertainment will be provided by Granny Creek Musical Group. All ladies from the deanery are welcome to attend and invite a friend to join in the fun.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/01	Lynn Wechter	12/12	Claire Davis
12/04	John Workman	12/16	William Alt
12/06	Jeffrey Nold	12/17	Dave Kromer
12/08	Louann Steiner	12/24	Barbara A. Weaver
12/09	Rose Workman	12/25	Dennis Gwartz
12/10	Chuck Keller	12/28	Barbara E. Weaver
12/10	Miriam Schroeder	12/30	Denise Welch
12/10	Paula Goodman		

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

8:30 am St. Joseph, Crestline

10:30 am Sacred Heart

12:30 pm St. Joseph, Galion

6:00 pm St. Bernard

6:30 pm Holy Trinity

7:00 pm Most Pure Heart of Mary

7:00 pm St. Peter, Mansfield



Our traveling vocations cross is looking for a home for January 2026 and beyond. This involves just a few minutes of your time each day to pray a short prayer for vocations. Please contact the parish office to sign up! Thank you!

Please check Ministry Pro for openings on 12/24, 25, and 31. Thank you!



St. Joseph Catholic Church, Crestline

Rev. Jeff Smith, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Lucy

St. Lucy was born into 4th century pagan Syracuse, Sicily, and is one of the most famous martyrs of the early Church. Her family arranged for her to marry a pagan, but since she had consecrated her virginity to Christ, St. Lucy refused him. Offended, he betrayed her to the authorities for her Faith. She was questioned and tortured, but all attempts to discourage her failed. She was finally executed. She is the patron saint against eye problems.

The three comings of Christ

This season of Advent, we celebrate the three comings of Christ: in glory at the end of time, in time when He was born in Bethlehem, and His coming in our own lives and hearts. Advent is a time of "busy stillness," of preparing and waiting, like Mary certainly did, for the arrival of the Savior. This Christmas, let's renew our "Yes" to God's request to dwell in our hearts and be "born" in the daily living of our lives.

"The King comes as a helpless infant, born of insignificant parents in a small town of a distant outpost of the Roman Empire. He will conquer through the finally irresistible power of love, the same power with which he made the universe." Most Reverend Robert E. Barron

Find peace before Christmas by slowing down

The busyness leading up to Christmas can be exhausting, but the Advent season holds a better path. It's a time to breathe, reset, and prepare our hearts for the coming of the King. Advent is a built-in gift, a chance to slow the pace and lift our eyes to what matters most.

Renew a sense of the holy: Advent is a chance to wake up the soul. When we lean into our Faith with intention, the season stops feeling rushed and starts feeling radiant. Light the Advent Wreath and let its glow steady your heart. Go to Confession and feel the weight lift as mercy takes over. Spend a few quiet minutes before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and let His presence ground you. Pray the Joyful Mysteries, the "Christmas mysteries" that still speak powerfully to our lives today.

Tune out the noise: Advent becomes richer when we clear space for God to speak. The world buzzes with distractions, but your soul needs room to breathe. Build small pockets of

silence into your day and let stillness sharpen your awareness of God's presence. Reach for a spiritual book instead of a scroll through your feed. Cut back on the constant stream of news that crowds the mind. When the noise quiets, the Holy Spirit has space

"Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

to guide, steady, and renew you.
Streamline and prioritize: Choose what draws you closer to Christ. When your heart is ordered toward what matters, even the cooking, decorating, singing, and gift-giving gain a deeper beauty. You may decide to attend fewer events, keep the décor simple, or choose more modest gifts. Far from taking away joy, this clears space for it. You move through the season with more peace, more purpose, and a heart in step with Jesus.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe Jesus is God?

Every Christmas, we remember that Jesus, the Son of God, took on our humanity without losing His divinity. It is a mystery, yet we hold it with confidence because God, who is Truth, has revealed it.
During His earthly life, Jesus spoke and acted with divine authority. He

said, *"The Father and I are one"* (John 10:30). He forgave sins, clarified the Law, and worked miracles. His Resurrection stands as the clearest confirmation of His identity, showing that His claim to be God was real. As man, He could suffer and die. As God, He rose and conquered death.

The most meaningful gifts of Christmas aren't wrapped

We know that the most valuable gifts are often the ones we cannot wrap. Alongside whatever you give your loved ones this year, do not let Christmas pass without offering these gifts as well:

Your time: Being present with the people we love is one of the simplest and strongest ways to show care. A short visit, an unhurried coffee, or an evening without phones can mean more than any item we put under a tree. When we give someone our attention, we affirm their worth.

Your forgiveness: Forgiveness does not excuse the hurt. It frees you from the weight of anger and resentment. It

also gives the other person room to grow and seek healing. Letting go is often the first step toward real peace. In many ways, forgiveness is a gift you give yourself.

Your gratitude: Giving thanks to God at Christmas is more than a warm sentiment. It is a heartfelt response to the depth of His love.

Look at the Crucifix, the Nativity, or the Eucharist and consider the humility behind such a gift. Our gratitude matters to God (see Luke 17:17-18). So after attending Mass on Christmas Day, take a moment to say, "Thank you." It is a small act that carries real meaning.

from Scripture

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, Obedience is trust in action

By the time Mary gave birth to Jesus, Saint Joseph had already formed a habit of steady obedience to God. So when the angel spoke to him in a dream and instructed him to flee to Egypt, Joseph acted without delay. He trusted that God would care for him and for the family entrusted to him.

This trust is even more striking when we consider the circumstances of Jesus' birth. Mary and Joseph had traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem during the final stages of her pregnancy. Whether by foot or by donkey, the trip would have been long, uncomfortable, and

exhausting. When they finally arrived, they found no suitable place to stay and settled among animals. Soon after, they faced the threat against Jesus' life and fled to Egypt, living for years in a foreign land without the support of relatives or friends. Through every hardship, Joseph relied on God to protect his family.

The Holy Family was perfect in love, yet not spared from difficulty. Mary and Joseph met each challenge with faith and allowed God's Word to guide them. We can follow the same path.

Q & A Why is it said that Mass brings us closer to God than anything else?

At every Mass, Jesus is really and truly present in the Eucharist in His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1374). In this moment, the Sacrifice of Christ is made present to us in a mysterious but real way. His self-giving is the greatest act of love, and our participation at Mass is our strongest response, our way of saying, "I love you, too."

Worshipping together also strengthens our faith in the God who is everywhere yet unseen. Faith grows in community. It grows through the physical actions of the Mass as well. When we sit, stand, bow, and kneel, we express with our bodies what we believe in our hearts.

Finally, the Real Presence of Jesus on the altar draws us into a closeness to God that we cannot find anywhere else in this life. Nowhere do we meet Him more directly than when He feeds us with His very life. In the Eucharist, He is as present to us as He was to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem and to His apostles in the Upper Room.

Feasts & Celebrations

December 6 – St. Nicholas of Myra (4th century). St. Nicholas had a very generous heart and always gave to the poor. He is credited with saving three girls from being sold to pay their father's debt. St. Nicholas is also the patron saint of children.

December 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin, preparing Mary to be the Mother of God. Though given to Mary, this special grace was for our sake. Pope Pius IX declared this doctrine in 1854. This year, it's considered a holy day of obligation.

December 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by Our Lady at Tepeyac Hill, Mexico. She requested a chapel be built and sent him with roses to the bishop as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses before the bishop, his cloak retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 29 – St. Thomas Becket (1170). Thomas enjoyed power and riches as a close friend of England's King Henry II, who appointed him chancellor of England. In 1162, King Henry had St. Thomas named Archbishop of Canterbury. St. Thomas refused to allow the King to regulate Church matters and was exiled. He fled to France for safety. Thomas returned to England and was martyred.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

2025 Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 November Light the first violet candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing Hope. Reflect on the source of your hope in Christ and what it means in your life.	1 December Be intentional. As soon as your alarm goes off, rise and kneel before a crucifix. Offer your day—and this entire season—to God with purpose and reverence.	2 Decide how you will draw closer to Christ this Advent—through intentional prayer, acts of penance, charitable giving, or participation in the Sacraments.	3 Read Luke 1:26–38, where Mary's "Yes" made way for the coming of Christ. Ask for the grace to respond with your own "Yes" to God's will in your life.	4 Set out your empty nativity scene as a sign of anticipation of the coming of the King. Gradually add the remaining figures throughout the Advent season.	5 Attend First Friday Mass, in honor of Jesus' Sacred Heart. "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like yours." And He will.	6 St. Nicholas of Myra Call or visit your parish office and ask who needs help this Christmas. Then do something about it — quietly, as St. Nicholas did.
7 Light the second violet candle for Peace. Pray for the <i>"peace which surpasses all understanding"</i> (Philippians 4:7) for yourself and whoever needs it most.	8 Immaculate Conception God preserved Mary from sin so that she could be the mother of Jesus. Attend Mass and pray for our country. It is a holy day of obligation.	9 Make a small sacrifice today, offered solely to God. It is even more meaningful if it's done in secret, as encouraged in Matthew 6:18.	10 Prepare your heart and soul to welcome the King. Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and encounter the mercy of God.	11 Advent is a busy season for parishes. Consider calling or emailing your parish office to ask how you can offer your time and support.	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mary's miraculous image reveals a profound mystery of Christmas (John 1:14). Take time today to pray for expectant mothers and the gift of new life.	13 <i>"If you have two shirts in your closet, one belongs to you and the other to the man with no shirt"</i> (St. Basil the Great). Donate gently used clothing you don't need.
14 <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> Light the rose candle for Joy to mark the halfway point to Christmas.	15 Offer the alms of patience when you're irritated, a smile when you're weary, and a kind word in place of judgment. You will touch hearts in ways you'll never fully realize.	16 Harboring unforgiveness burdens the heart and disrupts inner peace. Pray for the grace to let go, so you can move forward in freedom and healing.	17 Only nine days remain until Christmas. Place a lamp or candle in a window as a sign of welcome for the Christ Child.	18 Visit the Blessed Sacrament, where Jesus fulfills His promise to remain with us (Matthew 28:20). Take this time to renew your faith in His unwavering love.	19 Today, refrain from recreational screen use between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Offer this sacrifice for those who struggle with screen-related addictions.	20 Share the joy of the Gospel—gather a group of friends and go caroling to bring the Good News to others through song.
21 Light the final violet candle, symbolizing Love—awaiting the coming of Christ, the ultimate expression of the Father's love (John 3:16).	22 The King is coming—prepare to welcome Him. Take time to ready your home as a reflection of the joy and reverence in your heart.	23 Discern which Advent practices you feel called to carry beyond Christmas. Which ones deepened your relationship with God? Which ones strengthened your capacity for charity?	24 <i>Rejoice!</i> Tonight, place the Christ Child in the manger and rejoice!	<i>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).</i>		

PARISH CONTACTS

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***F.I.S.H. food pantry most needed items:
Strawberry jelly, kidney beans, regular coffee,
and zip sandwich bags.***

Thank you for your continued support!

**The food pantry is not a part of Shelby Helpline
community Christmas Program.**



Area Events

November 29& 30: Pack-A-Pickup Collection

December 3: High School PSR

December 4: Altar & Rosary Christmas Party

December 6: Shelby St. Mary's Christmas Bazaar 9-2:00pm

December 6: Marvin Memorial Library Open House 10:30 to 1:00pm. Sean Beeson and Family performing at 11:30am. and Santa.

December 7: Breakfast with Santa at St. Gaspar del Bufalo 9-11:00am

December 13: Little Lambs Playdate 9-11:00am

December 13 & 14: Sacred Heart 7th & 8th Grade Bake Sale

December 14: Annual Cookie Exchange

December 14: Carey Ecumenical Choir

December 17: Sacred Heart School Christmas Nativity

December 23: Marvin Memorial Library blood drive (RSVP)

St. Joseph Catholic School is currently accepting resumes for a School Secretary. This position plays an important role in fostering a welcoming and supportive environment for students, families, and colleagues in alignment with our school mission.

For more information and a complete job description, please contact Sue Sanders at 419-683-1284 or at ssanders@stjosephcrestline.org



Mass Cancellation

The following policies are in effect for Sacred Heart when inclement weather threatens.

***On mornings when there is a school Mass, if there is a 2 hour delay the Mass will be at 1:30 p.m. IF school is cancelled, the Mass is CANCELLED. If unsure call Parish Office.**

***If school is cancelled on a day when Mass is in the evening, please listen to the radio (WVNO @ 106.1 FM) or call the Parish Office to check to see if Mass is cancelled for that evening. Father Jeff will make a decision by Noon on those days.**

