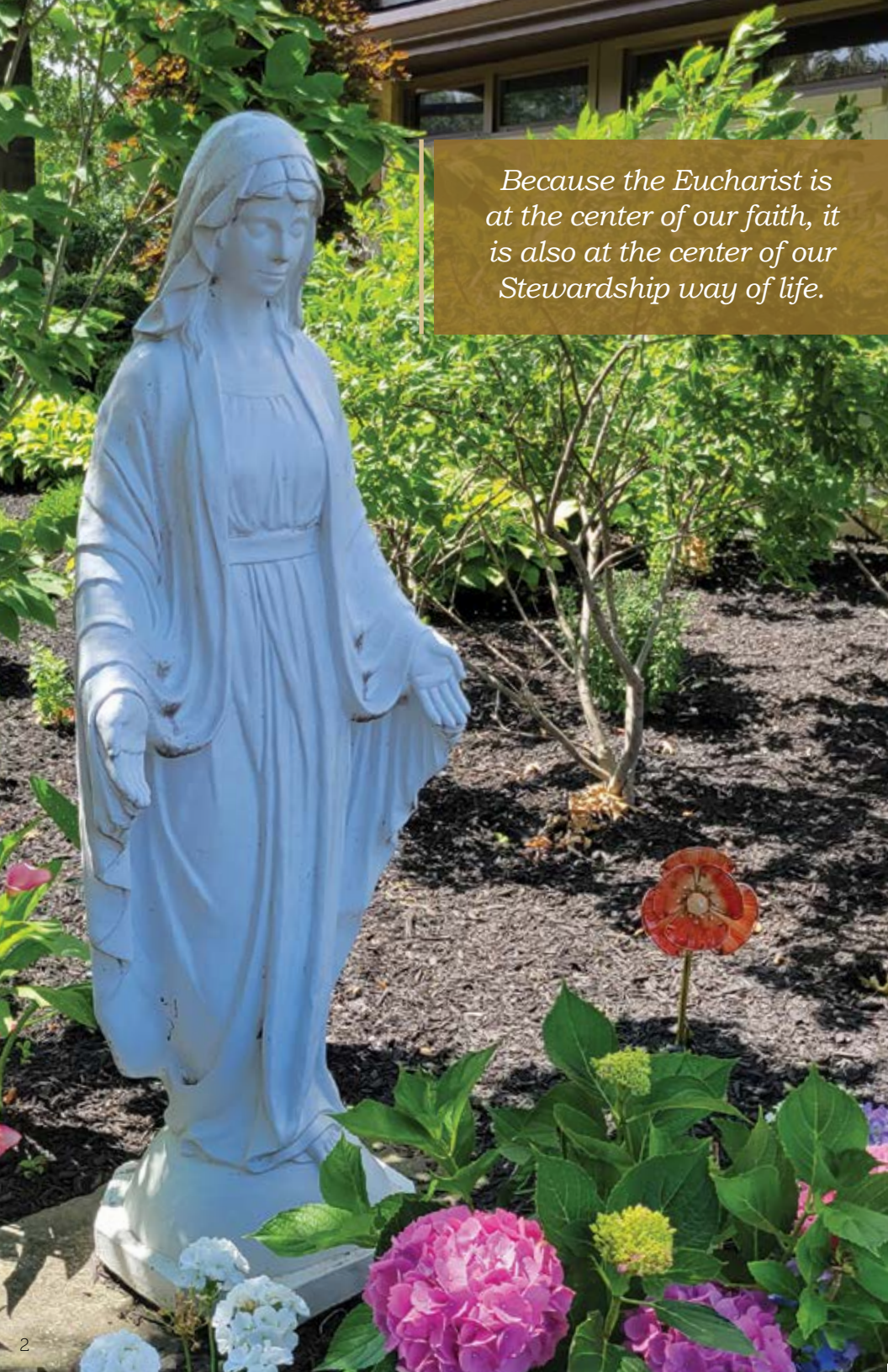




THE EUCHARIST *Unites Us*

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH &
NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH**

STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL 2023

A white, weathered statue of the Virgin Mary stands in a garden. She is depicted in a long, flowing robe with a sash at the waist, her hands held gently in front of her. The statue is set on a small, light-colored base. The garden is lush with green foliage, including hydrangeas in shades of pink, purple, and white, and a single red flower. In the background, a house with windows is partially visible. A semi-transparent brown box with white text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*Because the Eucharist is
at the center of our faith, it
is also at the center of our
Stewardship way of life.*

THE EUCHARIST

Unites Us



The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that we are the Body of Christ — “Those who receive the Eucharist are united more closely to Christ. Through it Christ unites them to all the faithful in one body - the Church. Communion renews, strengthens, and deepens this incorporation into the Church, already achieved by Baptism. In Baptism we have been called to form but one body. The Eucharist fulfills this call” (CCC, 1396).

By our Baptism, we have become the People of God. And it is through the reception of the Eucharist that we are unified as a Church to Christ — renewing, strengthening and deepening our union. As we witness the miracle of the Mass, the bread and wine becoming the Body and Blood of Christ, we are given hope. For it is in Christ’s sacrifice that we, as the People of God, unite our praise, sufferings, prayer and work to Him (CCC, 1368). When we give God everything, our lives take on a new meaning. All that we do is one step closer to eternal life with the One Who loves us. Together, as a Church, we strive for holiness and sanctity.

In the St. Joseph and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary communities, we have embraced Stewardship as a way of life for our parish family. Because the Eucharist is at the center of our faith, it is also at the center of our Stewardship way of life. As we enter into this time of Renewal, let us ponder the reality that we are one in the Body of Christ. Together, as the People of God, we are called to love and serve our Lord in every moment. Let us pray with new intensity as we receive the Eucharist as our love and our life, offering our gratitude to the Giver of this priceless Gift with our entire selves through concrete commitments of Time, Talent and Treasure.



STEWARDSHIP OF *Time*

“For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.” — John 6:55-57

Just as our bodies need healthy physical nourishment to survive and thrive, so, too do our spiritual lives require nourishment. We are called to use the gift of time above all to nourish our souls. So, we must take an honest look at ourselves. Do we put our spiritual life first, or do we focus more on the cares of the world or on escape from those cares? Do we use our time to obtain the lasting “food” of good spiritual nourishment that Christ and the Church offer to us? When we commit time each day to seeking spiritual food, our loving and generous Father will transform our lives. How will you commit to use your time in the year ahead so that God can truly feed you?

*Consider these ideas
to help you get started:*

- Consider attending one extra Mass each week, making a mid-week visit to Jesus in the tabernacle or attending Eucharistic Adoration.
- Prepare yourself for Sunday Mass by reflecting ahead of time as a family on the lectionary readings that will be proclaimed. Even five or ten minutes will change you!
- Commit to saying grace before meals and have every family member mention one way they were “fed” by God that day.
- Every night before bed, pray slowly and lovingly the prayer that Jesus Himself taught us, the “Our Father.”



STEWARDSHIP OF *Talent*



“In the building up of Christ’s Body there is engaged a diversity of members and functions. There is only one Spirit who, according to his own richness and the needs of the ministries, gives his different gifts for the welfare of the Church” (CCC, 791).

We are one in Christ, yet uniquely distinct. As St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Corinthians, “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord” (1 Cor. 12:4-5). As one body in Christ, we are unified in our mission to build up the Kingdom of Heaven. And within our unity, we are given countless gifts and talents. Have you considered the gifts God has blessed you with? Are you using them to give Him glory?

Pray about the following possibilities:

- Get involved in a service Ministry at your parish that stretches you to be more selfless.
- Pray for our Ministries, our parish leaders and all parishioners, asking the Holy Spirit to guide our parish communities.
- Commit to a daily extra act of service toward a family member as a concrete way to serve the Lord.
- If you are homebound, we value and need your talents! Consider ways you can serve right from home — helping with phone calls or emails for a ministry or offering skills like sewing or baking for parish events. There are countless ways to serve God’s kingdom.





STEWARDSHIP OF *Treasure*

“From the very beginning Christians have brought, along with the bread and wine for the Eucharist, gifts to share with those in need. This custom of the collection, ever appropriate, is inspired by the example of Christ who became poor to make us rich” (CCC, 1351).

For the true Steward, money has a spiritual component. When used according to God’s will, our income becomes a sort of prayer — which demonstrates our love and gratitude to God, and our real trust in His plan for our lives. Our spending habits are also a reflection of who and what we truly love. God asks us to love Him above all else. Do we?

Try challenging yourself in the following ways this year:

- Take a look at your current spending habits, and assess what expenses are preventing you from offering your treasure more selflessly.
- Ask yourself if your family budget reflects what you most love in this life so that your spending is a reflection of that love.
- Commit to giving a percentage of your income to God through the parish offertory as an expression of your love for God, Who withholds nothing of Himself from us.



2023 MINISTRY GUIDEBOOK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Adoration (Held at Nativity of the BVM).....	12	Lectors	10
Altar and Rosary Society (Held at Nativity of the BVM).....	9	Meals for the Shelter.....	18
Altar Servers:		Men's Group	12
Adult.....	8	Mission Team - St. Joseph	19
Students grades 4-12.....	8	Music Ministries:	
Bakers.....	15	Music Ministry	11
Bulk Mailers/Bulletin Stuffers ...	23	Resurrection Choir	12
Church Environment	9	Pastoral Council	24
Collection Counters	23	Picnic Committee.....	19
Cub Scout Pack 3429	15	Prayer Chain	13
Eucharistic Ministries:		Pre-Baptism Formation for New	
At Mass	9	Parents.....	20
For Communion to the Homebound,		Rite of Christian Initiation for	
Hospitalized, and Nursing Homes		Adults (R.C.I.A.).....	13
(St. Joseph).....	16	Sacred Sisters.....	14
For Communion to Shut-ins		Sacristans	10
(Nativity).....	15	St. Joseph School Ministries:	
Funeral Luncheon Ministry	16	3 and 4-Year Old Pre-School,	
Gardeners.....	24	Kindergarten, Grades 1 to 8	21
Giving Tree (Nativity).....	16	Athletic Association/C.Y.O. ...	21
Giving Tree (St. Joseph)	17	Parent Club	22
Golden Agers	17	Parish School of Religion	
Greeters Ministry.....	10	(P.S.R.)	22
Health and Wellness Ministry.....	17	Stewardship Council.....	24
Holy Ground Youth Group	22	Ushers	11
Hospitality Ministry.....	18	Vincentians	20
Knights of Columbus	18	Voices For Life	20
		Wonderful Women.....	14

INTRODUCTION

This Ministry Guidebook contains the descriptions of the various Ministry opportunities available at both St. Joseph and Nativity of the BVM Parishes. A brief description of each Ministry is included. In addition, ALL MINISTRIES are available for members of either parish to participate in. Unless otherwise stated, all Ministries are held on the St. Joseph Parish Campus. Additionally, Ministries that are available at both parishes will have the leaders for each parish noted. For more information on how you can assist in or join a specific Ministry, contact the Ministry Leader listed at the end of each Ministry description.

Liturgical Ministries

ALTAR SERVERS (ADULT)

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

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

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

this ministry is under-staffed and is in need of more volunteers.

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Kathy Loos, 440-823-6177, jkmdmps@hotmail.com

Ministry Leader at Nativity: Ed Klimczak, 440-320-3508, nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com



ALTAR SERVERS

(STUDENTS GRADES 4 THROUGH 12)

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

Talent: Responsibility and willingness to make a commitment.

Time: Moderate

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph:

Kathy Loos, 440-823-6177,

jkmdmps@hotmail.com

Ministry Leader at Nativity:

Ed Klimczak, 440-320-3508,

nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com

ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY (HELD AT NATIVITY OF THE BVM)

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

Talent: Women from both parishes are welcome and invited to take part in this ministry by helping with a variety of tasks, such as preparing altar cloths, general cleaning and maintaining the church, preparing meals for funerals, assisting in our “Christmas in July” event for the needy, and more.

Time: Variable

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Marilyn Siekeres, 440-823-2061,
mlsiekeres@gmail.com*

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT

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

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

Time: Variable. Advent,

Christmas, Lent and Easter are the biggest times to decorate the church, but with planning, God’s direction and willing hearts — the work gets done.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Sue Cotton, 440-986-1725,
sue.cotton.44001@gmail.com; (Seeking Co-leader)*

*Ministry Leader at Nativity: Marianne Pellittieri, 440-984-2875,
mpellittieri@yahoo.com*



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT MASS

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

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

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

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Tim Nye, Scheduler, 440-596-1173,
tnye92884@gmail.com*

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

GREETERS MINISTRY

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

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

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

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph:

Phil Rawlings, 440-897-7437, philrawli@aol.com

Ministry Leader at Nativity: Ed Klimczak, 440-320-3508, nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com



LECTORS

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

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

Time: Varies depending on availability.

Lectors are scheduled several times of the year in two week increments and occasionally volunteer as needed for Holy Days and Holidays.

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph:

Chris Annable, 440-668-0308, christineannable7@gmail.com

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



SACRISTANS

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

Talent: A desire to keep the Lord's house clean.

Time: We have four teams that tidy up around the sanctuary and pews. This light work takes no more than two hours a week; each team straightens up for a two-week period and rotates every eight weeks. The time is flexible, so you can fit it into your week of activities. We welcome new volunteers to help out.

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: (Seeking New Leader, Training Will Be Provided) St. Joseph Office, 440-988-2848 for information.

Ministry Leader at Nativity: Cindy Miller, 440-670-1300, cindystemmill@yahoo.com

USHERS

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

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

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

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph:

Jeff Mount, 440-984-4223,

JJmount182@gmail.com

Ministry Leader at Nativity:

Marriane Pellittieri, 440-320-3875,

mpellittieri@yahoo.com



Music Ministries

ST. JOSEPH AND NATIVITY BVM MUSIC MINISTRY

Mission: The St. Joseph Music Ministry is inviting all ages, teens, adults, and children to come and be part of a growing and engaging ministry. Under the direction of Christina Dupré, the worship and liturgy coordinator, and a team of dedicated musicians, the music ministry has developed this past year and has helped lead and engage the congregation to worship together. We have included many new voices of many ages and instrumentalists

as well. We have partnered with the school in developing a youth choir. The St. Joseph Music ministry has also developed religious dramas and a media ministry. The music ministry has many exciting plans for this upcoming liturgical year. Come be part of it!

Talent: Rehearsals on Wednesday evening beginning in September.

Time: Schedule to be developed after Stewardship Renewal.

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Christina Dupré, 440-988-2848,

Christina.dupre37@gmail.com

Ministry Leader at Nativity: Ed Klimczak, 440-320-3508,

nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com



RESURRECTION CHOIR

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

Talents: Availability during the day and the ability to sing.

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

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph/Nativity: Jean Nossek, 440-315-2321, jojeno@centurytel.net

Spiritual Life and Evangelization Ministries

ADORATION (HELD AT NATIVITY OF THE BVM)

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

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

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

Ministry Leader at Nativity: Josie Tornabene, 440-396-5429, josie19114@yahoo.com



MEN'S GROUP

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

Talents: All men are welcome to join! If you would like to help plan our book and video series or bring ideas for discussions, we would love your input!

Time: Our group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month from 7 p.m.-8 p.m. in the Social Hall. Date, time, and locations are sent out via email. Our meetings usually follow the following format: — opening prayer — sharing of moments of grace in our lives — discussion of book/video study — closing prayer. In addition to our meetings, we also serve meals at the St. Elizabeth Center, visit the nursing homes, and participate in other community activities.

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Nick Toney, 440-452-6021, nicktoney012@gmail.com



PRAYER CHAIN

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

Talents: A willingness to pray for others.

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

Ministry Leaders at St. Joseph: Sharon Del Valle, 440-864-1753, sharon.delvalle7@gmail.com; Roberta Machesky, 440-346-5836, r_machesky@yahoo.com

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

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

Mission: To welcome all inquirers — those not yet baptized into a Christian faith, those of other Christian faiths, and Catholics who have not yet celebrated the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation — to help them feel comfortable and eager to learn about Christianity and the Catholic Church, and to prepare those, who choose to continue, to receive the Catholic Church's Sacraments of Initiation.

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

Time: This past year we resumed our pre-pandemic meeting practices, and we pray that we'll be able to keep them. Team members and the RCIA participants meet for approximately 90 minutes one evening a week, from September until approximately Divine Mercy Sunday; currently we are meeting on Mondays at 7 p.m. at Nativity's social hall. All are expected to prepare for the meetings with assigned readings and tasks to be completed prior to the meeting. In addition, from the First Sunday of Advent through



continued on page 14

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA) *(continued)*

Palm Sunday each RCIA participant is expected to attend a weekend Mass through the homily, and then leave the congregation with some team members and the other RCIA participants for a post-homily discussion and reflection until that Mass is concluded. There are additional celebrations and events involving the team and participants throughout Holy Week. The program's meetings, preparations for our meetings, and event commitments, as related above, require a fairly high level of time commitment from participants. The additional time required of team members, in program development and participation, is medium.

Ministry Co-Leader: Tom Theado, 440-320-8652, TomTheado@aol.com

Ministry Co-Leader: Brian Sarvas, 440-396-8329, Sarvii@hotmail.com

SACRED SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND NATIVITY BVM PARISH

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

Talents: A desire to confer our Faith with other women.

Time and Place: Typically every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. for 90 minutes. Meetings are at 553 S Main St., Amherst, OH 44001 - Amherst Old Stone Church

Ministry Leader: Tracy Shamhart, 440-984-2822, tracybrunetto342@icloud.com



WONDERFUL WOMEN

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

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

Time: Gatherings are every other month on Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. in the St. Joseph Social Hall. Each meeting is independent of the next with no continuing content. Come when you can! Dates are emailed out and published in the bulletin.

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Olivia Toney, 440-670-5933, olivia.sliman@gmail.com

Outreach Ministries

BAKERS

Mission: To help offer hospitality for various parish events, and to help offer comfort to people grieving the loss of a loved one, by baking for funeral luncheons. Please sign up for one or more of the following: general baking, funeral baking, and/or making phone calls.

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

Time: Variable, dependent on parish activities and funeral luncheon needs, as well as the number of parish Bakers. Generally Bakers are asked three or four times a year. Funeral Bakers may be needed more frequently. Calls are rotated through the list so no one is overburdened. Callers are provided with a list of people to call for each event.

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

COMMUNION TO SHUT INS (NATIVITY)

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

Time: One or two hours after Mass.

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

CUB SCOUT PACK 3429

Mission: Instill values in young men and prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime. To help instill solid values, confidence and citizenship in young people through Scouting, related activities, and events.

Talents: Willingness to assist the Scouts in meeting requirements for advancements to higher ranks.

Time: Pack 3429 meets once a month during the school year. Dens of Pack 3429 meet throughout the school year also to accomplish small projects and adventures required for advancement. Kids can also earn more badges through home projects and activities.

Ministry Leader: Chris Phillips, 216-903-4881, krisephillips@yahoo.com



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

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

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

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

FUNERAL LUNCHEON MINISTRY

Mission: To assist grieving members of our parish communities by planning and serving a post-funeral luncheon either at St. Joseph's or Nativity's social hall. Often after the Mass and burial, families choose to come together to share a meal and spend time remembering the



person who died in a more informal setting. Together with the parish staff, this ministry not only provides information about area caterers, menus and venues to help in the decision making process, but also provides volunteers to help coordinate and serve the luncheon.

Talents: A willingness to help set-up, serve, clean up, and provide baked goods or side dishes when requested.

Time: Two hours on the day of the funeral, and can select any or all of set up, serve and clean up.

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Helen Coughlin, 440-984-8758, markandhelenc@gmail.com

Ministry Leader at Nativity: Marylin Siekeres, 440-823-2061, mlsiekeres@gmail.com

GIVING TREE — NATIVITY

Mission: To collect toys and clothes for Catholic Charities in Lorain. We get family profiles from there, which list ages and gender. We only buy for younger children, not teenagers. The toys and clothes are unwrapped per family and delivered to Catholic Charities the week before Christmas.

Talents: Placing paper ornaments on the trees and the sorting/grouping of gifts.

Time: Approximately 12 hours per year, during the Advent Season

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

GIVING TREE — ST. JOSEPH

Mission: To show Christian love and care for others by providing, collecting, and distributing gifts to the less fortunate through local organizations at Christmas time. Please sign up for providing gifts and/or to join the committee for helping with the collecting, and distributing of gifts. Parish children make and decorate the ornaments used for this ministry. On your commitment card, please check one (or both) of the following areas in which you are willing to participate:

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

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

Gift-giving Talent –

I wish to donate gift or gifts cards to those most in need.

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

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

GOLDEN AGERS

Mission: To share fellowship and offer informational programs on a monthly basis to members of both parishes as well as people living in the Amherst/Lorain area. All are welcome.

Talent: A desire to share fellowship.

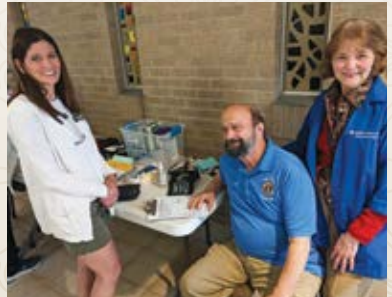
Time: Various activities during the year.

Ministry Leader: Joyce Nye, 440-412-1189, tnyce92884@gmail.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY

Mission: To extend the compassionate ministry of Jesus by improving the health and well being of our community and bring good health to those in need especially people who are poor, dying, and underserved. We provide education to raise health awareness to the church community through health screenings, health counseling and linking people to appropriate community resources.

Talents: A license in the State of Ohio as a RN or LPN, a person with a health related occupation or a person interested in wellness, the ability to understand and communicate the relationship of body, mind and spirit to



continued on page 18

HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY *(continued)*

health and wellness, understanding of the commitment of the Church's mission in fostering wellness in today's society, good communication, interpersonal and caring skills, and the understanding that the Health Ministry/Nurse Program is a health education service not "hands-on" nursing.

Time: Commitment of time is 30 minutes to one hour, six to eight times a year when health screenings are scheduled after weekend Masses.

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Kathy Northeim, 440-984-3366, 2wehn@jetnet.org

Ministry Leader at Nativity: Debby Romes, 440-988-4515, debromes@yahoo.com

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

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

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

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

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



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

Talent: A strong desire to serve.

Time: Various service activities during the year.

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Mike Hughes, 440-654-0129, hughesm@cmha.net



MEALS FOR THE SHELTER

Mission: To provide one hot meal the first Friday of each month throughout the year for the St. Elizabeth Center in Lorain. This ministry provides a way of continuing the mission of Jesus to evangelize the world

by showing our love and care for our homeless brothers. Our members are organized into six groups, each with a captain who leads 12 to 15 individuals, who cook enough food to serve 50 people a meal.

Talents: The only prerequisite is the desire to serve the needy with your gifts and talents. All the meals are prepared at your own expense, but because of the number of parishioners involved, each individual is only asked to make enough food to feed approximately six people.

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

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: (Seeking New Leader, Training Will Be Provided)

MISSION TEAM AT ST. JOSEPH

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

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

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

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: John Sabo, 440-984-4429, stjosephmissionteam@gmail.com

PICNIC COMMITTEE

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

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

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

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Maria Mrosek, 440-225-4970, mrosekmaria440@gmail.com

Ministry Leader at Nativity: Ed Klimczak, 440-320-3508, nativitysouthamherst@gmail.com



PRE-BAPTISM FORMATION FOR NEW PARENTS

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

Parents are required to attend classes.

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

Time: Classes are held quarterly for one hour.

*Ministry Leader at St. Joseph:
Laura Lamb, 440-315-4196,
LLambparalegal@gmail.com*



VINCENTIANS

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

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

Time: Hourly meetings once every two weeks to review assistance given to those in need. Approximately 30 minutes to gather food from pantry when calls come in for assistance; longer if food is delivered.

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



VOICES FOR LIFE

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

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

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

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

St. Joseph Parish School Ministries

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

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

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

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

Time: Varies by project.

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

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION/C.Y.O.

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

Talents: A love of sports and a commitment to serving the youth of our parishes. Coaches are first and foremost youth ministry leaders in athletics who serve the Church, young people, and families as compelling witnesses of the love, mercy, and compassion of Jesus

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

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

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Jim Yanosko, 216-496-5303, jyanosko@roadrunner.com



HOLY GROUND YOUTH GROUP

Mission: Holy Ground Youth Group is a youth Ministry focused on serving the 7th-12th graders of our parish communities. Holy Ground is designed to disciple the youth of our parishes and encourage and equip them in their faith walk



as young Catholic men and women. Our goal is to open the hearts and minds of our youth to the power of the gospel and plant seeds of faith on the “holy ground” of their souls, that will grow as they mature in their faith. Students participate in fun activities, games, and faith-based discussion. We are always in need of volunteers and your participation is highly encouraged. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact the Ministry Leader at St. Joseph. Volunteers can help in serving meals and facilitating discussion and activities.

Talents: Genuine interest in spiritual growth of teens and ability to interact with them. Volunteers must receive VIRTUS training with fingerprints and a background check.

Time: Sundays at 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the Social Hall during the school year.

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Director of Youth Activities, Kailey Baca, 440-876-7345, kbaca@stjosephamherst.com

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

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

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

Time: Large time commitment

Ministry Leader St. Joseph PSR Principal: Angie Eads, 440-988-4244, ext. 247, angela.eads@sjs-amherst.org

ST. JOSEPH PARISH SCHOOL PARENT CLUB

Mission: To provide support for the educational and recreational needs of children attending St. Joseph Parish School and to promote a good working relationship between parents, teachers, pastor and principal. Our vision is to help people see SJS as more than just a school their child/children attend, but to also encourage them to be part of this great group

who share the same goals for our children, which is providing them with a faith filled education. We do a variety of activities from service, family fun, fundraisers and enrichment.

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

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

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

Parish Administration Ministries

BULK MAILERS/BULLETIN STUFFERS

Mission: To process (fold, seal, and label) the 2,200-plus monthly joint newsletters and various once a year projects as necessary in preparation for mailing. This group also places inserts in the Sunday bulletins as needed.

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

Time: This is a daytime ministry and requires approximately three hours for bulk mailings and one hour for bulletin inserts.

Ministry Leader: Sandy Piwkowski, 440-984-3749, sandypiwkowski@yahoo.com

Scheduler: Tillie Sroka, 440-988-3138, t717@centurytel.net



COLLECTION COUNTERS

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

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

Time: One time a month with a 90-minute time commitment. There are four teams with three people on each team.

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Allison Smith, 440-988-8613, dsmith14@oh.rr.com

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



GARDENERS

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

Talents: Gardening skills

Time: Variable

Ministry Leader at St. Joseph: Jim Saccardi, 440-988-2163, jvsaccardi@yahoo.com

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

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

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

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

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

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

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Mission: We enable parishioners to offer their Time, Talent, and Treasure to allow them to fully live their Catholic faith and become Disciples of Christ. We help our pastor guide the development of Stewardship within St. Joseph and Nativity BVM Parishes. The Council also seeks ways to promote Stewardship through

year-round communication and special initiatives such as a mid-year retreat for all of our Ministry Leadership and by coordinating and implementing the Annual Stewardship Commitment Renewal that takes place in the Fall.

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

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

Ministry Leader: Jim Pecchio, 330-631-9948, carminep49@yahoo.com





STEWARDSHIP

Prayer

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

AMEN







TIME TO *Commit*

Every member of this parish family has been called by God to be here, in this time and in this place, for a reason — to be loved by Him and to love Him and others in return. He has given us Love itself in the Eucharist. As a parish family, let us love Him in return with our Time, our Talents, and our Treasure.



St. Joseph Parish

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