



# ST. JOSEPH PARISH & NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

PARISH NEWSLETTER

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St. Joseph Parish  
200 Saint Joseph Drive  
Amherst, OH 44001  
(440) 988-2848  
stjosephamherst.com

Nativity of the BVM Parish  
333 South Lake Street  
South Amherst, OH 44001  
(440) 986-7011

NOVEMBER 2023

## Meet the Hasel Family

*Embracing Involvement and Making  
Their Faith Home in Our Community*

Those who are raising children could come up with any number of excuses for being too busy to get involved. There is a lot of homework, extracurricular activities, meals — the list goes on and on. But many of us recognize that if we don't step up and get involved, our parishes and school can't prosper. We need "all hands on deck" to make things happen.

Matt and Ashley Hasel recognize this need and have found ways to share their time and talent. They have three children at St. Joseph Parish School — Jude is in sixth grade, Maggie is in fourth grade, and Jacob is in preschool.

"We've had a child at the school since 2014, and we love it there," Ashley says.

Ashley shares her time at the school by helping organize the St. Joseph Parish School Coming Together annual fundraiser, which started in 2021. The first two years have been very successful. It's a great fundraiser that has come with the bonus of bringing the school and parish community together following the pandemic.



*Matt and Ashley Hasel — along with their children, Jude, Maggie and Jacob — have enjoyed finding ways to share their time and talent.*

"We have been very fortunate to have very generous donors for raffle baskets, and it's just a very fun adult evening out," Ashley says.

Matt shares his time by coaching Jude's football team through the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). The Hasel family enjoys being involved in CYO sports

*continued on page 5*

# The Word of God

## By NATHAN FRANKART

**P**ease of Christ to you! This will be a little bit different than my normal updates because I did something a little bit different than my normal day here at St. Ambrose Parish. I took a bus trip with parishioners down to Noah's Ark Encounter in Kentucky.

There is a lot to be said about the trip in terms of the people that I met and talked to and the relationships that were formed because of it. I was incredibly blessed to journey with amazing people from St. Ambrose and other parishes from around the area. However, what I shared with them I also wanted to share with you. This was taken from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops regarding Genesis 1-11: "Ancient Near Eastern thinkers did not have our methods of exploring serious questions. Instead, they used narratives for issues that we would call philosophical and theological. They added and subtracted narrative details and varied the plot as they sought meaning in the ancient stories."

In other words, the biblical authors of this section still wrote, guided by the Holy Spirit, to provide answers to

God's being and explain our nature, but at the same time did not create a biographical history like the Noah's Ark Encounter in Kentucky claims. This is the beauty of our Catholic faith on display when looking into Scripture. We are not bound by each word in the Bible as though they were dictated fact. Rather, Scripture is a combination of accounts, stories, and histories all working together to enliven our faith in Jesus Christ.

Here lies the reason why I wanted to journey with so many people to Ark Encounter. It gave a great visual that might deepen our own appreciation for Scripture and remind us to take seriously how God uses the Bible to speak to us today. We don't need to be biblical literalists to still take the Bible seriously. But we should be deeply invested in the importance of Scripture in our lives as those people who believed it important enough to build a one-to-one replica of the Ark. Imagine if each of us took to heart that same level of devotion to living out the Gospel, and how much such devotion would impact our lives and the lives of our families.



*A Letter from Our Pastor*

## A Close Look at Our Parish Finances



Dear Members of St. Joseph and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes,

**O**ur annual parish financial reports for St. Joseph and for Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes are included in this newsletter. Each year we are required to submit a report of the finances of our parishes to the Diocese of Cleveland as well as a report to you, the members of our parishes. And so, I ask you to take a good look at these reports of money that has come in and money that has been spent over the last fiscal year which ran from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Also included are our budgets for the current fiscal year, ending June 30, 2024.

As stewardship parishes, we concentrate on sharing the God-given gifts of our time our talent, and our treasure. I want to thank all of you who are so faithful to Sunday offertory each week and month using your envelopes or online giving through direct debit or by credit card. You enable us to do as parishes what we do.

Sometimes people will say, “The Church should take care of that. “Which translated means, “Other people should take care of that. “They also say, “The Church has tons of money. “A careful look at our financial reports quickly dispels that myth. We need to remember that we are the Church. Each of us is a member of the Body of Christ. And each of us is called to be a fully participating member of the Church.

As you look over these financial reports, I ask you to consider whether the amount of your weekly or monthly offering might call for some adjusting. Sometimes we get used to a particular amount and it is good to review our personal circumstances and see if this gift of our treasure accurately reflects our life right now.

Household and personal expenses are going up each year, and so are those of our parishes. Whether talking about our parishes or our households, we cannot afford to pay our bills by depleting our savings. As participating members of our parish families, what is the Lord asking of you right now in terms of sharing a portion of the treasure that He has entrusted to you?



Several people are making their Sunday offerings by online giving through myEoffering. I have been using online giving for my own regular contributions to the Sunday offertory to St. Joseph and Nativity parishes for a lot of years now. Online giving ensures that the Lord gets our first fruits each month, that the parish receives this contribution when people are out of town, and it also is more convenient for those who use this method regularly to pay their bills.

For St. Joseph parishioners and Nativity parishioners, signing up is as simple as going to the parish website — [www.stjosephamherst.com](http://www.stjosephamherst.com) — and clicking on “eOffering” on the home page. This will take you to myEoffering where you may sign up, indicate your parish, and then begin giving online.

I stand in gratitude for the goodness of the people of our St. Joseph and Nativity Parish families. Thank you so much for sharing so generously your time, your talent, and your treasure so that the Lord’s work may be done. And may the Lord continue to bless you and those you love, richly and warmly.

Gratefully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Timothy J. O'Connor".

Fr. Timothy J. O'Connor,  
Pastor

## Celebrating the Feast of St. Leo the Great,



Regarded as one of the best administrators of the ancient Church, St. Leo the Great displayed tireless dedication as pope. From securing true Christian beliefs and settling doctrinal controversies as a Doctor of the Church, to defending Rome against barbarian attack and his commitment to the spiritually centered pastoral care of his people, St. Leo the Great provides a wonderful — and historically significant — example of a Church administrator who used his skills to reinforce the essential connections between spirit and structure. This resolute upholding of the faith earned him the title of “the Great.” Indeed, Leo himself held that everything he did as pope was to represent St. Peter, in whose place he acted, and to represent Christ, the head of the Mystical Body.

A native of Tuscany, Leo was believed to have been born around the year 400. The earliest known information about Leo is that he was a deacon under Pope Celestine I and Pope Sixtus III. During his time as a deacon, he was already recognized for his skills in mediation when the emperor designated him with the task of settling a dispute between the two highest officials in Gaul.

In the year 440, upon the death of Pope Sixtus III, Leo was unanimously elected by the people as the pope’s successor. Just weeks later, he would enter upon a pontificate lasting 21 years. This timespan would prove to be a crucial era for the centralization of the government in the Roman Church.

Importantly, Leo’s recorded papal letters and sermons have survived through the centuries, thus providing key historical sources regarding his career and personality. In fact, his particular prose style — *cursus leonicus* — would have a lasting impact on ecclesiastical language.

A major priority during Leo’s papacy was to sustain the unity of the Church — he was devoted to combating the heresies that threatened this unity. He was also a tireless champion of almsgiving, fasting, and prayer, while clearly and concisely expounding Catholic doctrine. Leo put much of what he said and wrote into action as well, inviting and encouraging bishops to meet and consult with him in person.

## Pope of Rome, Nov. 10

These committed efforts took place largely in the shadow of the Western Empire's approaching collapse, and Leo would serve as a steadfast representative of lawful authority during this turbulent era.

Indeed, a crucial point of Leo's papacy occurred during the invasion of Italy in 452. As Attila and his forces made their way to Rome, having already overrun several cities, the ruler of the Huns demanded a dowry from the reigning emperor. As a result, three envoys were sent to negotiate with Attila — one of which was Pope Leo I. While the exact nature of the envoys' negotiations with Attila are not

known, historians often credit Leo with compelling Attila to withdraw from invading Rome. And while the Vandals would sack the city of Rome just three years later, it is believed that Leo's assertiveness and influence also helped to repress murder and bloodshed during this invasion.

Even as he maintained courage in the face of such challenges, Leo continually worked to address the everyday needs, concerns, and interests of his people. He died in the year 461, most probably on Nov. 10 — which is celebrated in the Catholic Church as the feast day of St. Leo the Great.

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*St. Leo the Great provides a wonderful — and historically significant — example of a Church administrator who used his skills to reinforce the essential connections between spirit and structure. This resolute upholding of the faith earned him the title of "the Great."*

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## Meet the Hasel Family *continued from front cover*

— Maggie played volleyball last year, and they all look forward to the years when Jacob can play.

"We enjoy CYO programs as they instill faith into athletics, teach teamwork, and promote respect towards the opponents and officials," Ashley says.

Maggie has been involved in the St. Joseph's Parish youth choir for more than a year.

"Youth choir has been a great experience for her, and it connected us with the church in a different way that we really enjoy and look forward to continuing," Ashley says.

Matt and Ashley recognize the need to be involved so that things like the Coming Together event and CYO sports can happen. But there's another essential aspect at play — setting a strong stewardship example for Jude, Maggie, and Jacob.

"They recognize our involvement provides a deeper connection with the parish and school community," Ashley says.

The members of the Hasel family have also gotten to know new people through stepping up and being involved. Sharing her time and talents with the school has helped Ashley feel more connected to the children's education. She's not just an observer — she has a hands-on role.

The whole family is thankful for the community they have found at St. Joseph's Parish and School. They've made friends they know will be there with them through the ups and downs and look forward to continuing to meet people and make memories.

"We always feel welcome at the parish and enjoy seeing other school families at Mass," Ashley says.

# Financial Reports

## ST. JOSEPH AMHERST STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE CHURCH, SCHOOL & CEMETERY

	Balance at June 30,	
	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CHECKING, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS		
Checking Account Balances	\$ 419,551.56	\$ 451,705.54
Savings and Investment Account Balances	940,056.39	849,573.28
<b>TOTAL CHECKING SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>1,359,607.95</b>	<b>1,301,278.82</b>
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	-	-
OTHER ASSETS	-	150.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,359,607.95</b>	<b>\$ 1,301,428.82</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES		
Payable to Diocese of Cleveland	\$ 8,049.72	\$ 2,405.84
Other accounts payable and accrued expenses	-	20,486.00
<b>TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES</b>	<b>8,049.72</b>	<b>22,891.84</b>
INCOME RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	141,564.20	118,174.19
EMPLOYEE WITHHOLDING	(827.62)	(1,018.12)
DEFERRED RESTRICTED SUPPORT	149,266.27	202,240.27
LOANS, NOTES AND MORTGAGES PAYABLE	-	200,000.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>298,052.57</b>	<b>542,288.18</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>		
FUND BALANCE BEGINNING OF FISCAL YEAR	759,140.64	412,184.80
Net Surplus (Deficit) for Fiscal Year		
Parish	288,703.24	308,194.58
School	(19,196.50)	(34,847.81)
Cemetery	32,908.00	73,609.07
Net surplus (deficit) for fiscal year	302,414.74	346,955.84
<b>FUND BALANCE, END OF FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>1,061,555.38</b>	<b>759,140.64</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 1,359,607.95</b>	<b>\$ 1,301,428.82</b>



# ST. JOSEPH & NATIVITY

## ST. JOSEPH AMHERST STATEMENT OF CHURCH REVENUE AND EXPENSES

	Actual Year Ended June 30,		Budget Year Ending June 30,
	2023	2022	2024
<b>CHURCH REVENUE</b>			
Offertory Collections	\$ 873,558.19	\$ 875,753.78	\$ 875,000.00
Other Collections	10,403.53	13,452.90	12,500.00
Donations & Bequests	226,508.54	174,684.60	100,000.00
Net Bingo Proceeds	-	-	-
Net Fund Raising Income	-	-	-
Income from Parish Programs	13,459.26	14,365.45	12,600.00
Investment & Endowment Income (Loss)	52,691.19	(65,224.52)	50,000.00
Rental Receipts	-	-	-
Contributions from Parish Organizations	(1,443.94)	(8,757.99)	500.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	162,426.05	23,246.03	75,000.00
Designated Collections	19,583.16	20,783.03	20,000.00
Extraordinary Receipts	-	250,656.00	24,000.00
<b>TOTAL CHURCH REVENUE</b>	<b>1,357,185.98</b>	<b>1,298,959.28</b>	<b>1,169,600.00</b>
<b>CHURCH EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries, Benefits, & Taxes	372,215.79	416,154.33	385,825.00
Rectory & Household	3,583.67	3,773.91	3,600.00
Parish Office & Administration	60,548.08	68,758.12	48,900.00
Altar, Sanctuary, & Liturgical	25,696.12	16,751.93	19,000.00
Community Outreach	2,776.18	-	2,500.00
Religious Education	4,636.81	6,250.26	5,075.00
Stewardship & Evangelization	54,642.12	45,908.85	50,000.00
Utilities	45,420.57	50,230.00	46,000.00
Insurance & Property Taxes	28,508.87	28,962.02	28,800.00
Maintenance, Repairs, & Plant Operating	13,124.52	19,847.34	14,200.00
Diocesan Assessments	97,410.00	93,432.00	100,000.00
Payments to Other Schools	-	-	-
Designated Collections	19,583.16	20,783.03	20,000.00
Capital Expenditures	184,736.85	55,061.39	100,000.00
Intra Parish Transfers & School Support	155,600.00	164,851.52	95,825.00
Extraordinary Expenses	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,068,482.74</b>	<b>990,764.70</b>	<b>919,725.00</b>
<b>NET CHURCH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 288,703.24</b>	<b>\$ 308,194.58</b>	<b>\$ 249,875.00</b>

**ST. JOSEPH AMHERST  
STATEMENT OF SCHOOL REVENUE AND EXPENSES**

	Actual Year Ended June 30,		Budget Year Ending June 30,
	2023	2022	2024
<b>SCHOOL REVENUE</b>			
Tuition & Fees (Includes Tuition Assistance)	\$ 673,329.27	\$ 562,990.29	\$ 1,041,440.00
Government Assistance	64,374.12	67,621.76	64,500.00
Donations & Bequests	6,968.79	9,210.00	6,000.00
Net Fund Raising	40,893.40	38,423.63	40,000.00
Net Pre-School & Latchkey	32,781.81	(6,835.26)	21,650.00
Other Student Receipts	68,088.63	116,229.39	68,000.00
School Support from Parish	155,600.00	164,851.52	95,825.00
Interest & Endowment Income	-	-	-
Rent Revenue	-	-	-
Other Misc Income	3,353.57	600.00	-
School Extraordinary Income	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,045,389.59</b>	<b>953,091.33</b>	<b>1,337,415.00</b>
<b>SCHOOL EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	873,704.73	778,588.96	944,065.00
Instructional	17,361.13	10,159.55	23,500.00
Library & Technology	431.37	3,812.88	1,100.00
Utilities	38,727.44	46,870.71	40,000.00
Maintenance, Repairs & Plant Operating	31,220.62	20,271.19	37,000.00
Insurance & Property Taxes	24,934.30	26,627.92	26,750.00
Student Services	43,715.26	63,593.11	56,000.00
Administration	31,509.08	26,925.12	37,250.00
Faculty Residence/Convent Costs	1,512.35	1,238.53	500.00
Capital Expenditures	1,469.83	9,851.17	2,000.00
Extraordinary Expenses	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,064,586.09</b>	<b>987,939.14</b>	<b>1,168,165.00</b>
<b>NET SCHOOL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (19,196.50)</b>	<b>\$ (34,847.81)</b>	<b>\$ 169,250.00</b>

**ST. JOSEPH AMHERST  
STATEMENT OF CEMETERY REVENUE AND EXPENSES**

	Actual Year Ended June 30,		Budget Year Ending June 30,
	2023	2022	2024
<b>CEMETERY REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 52,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 96,994.50</b>	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>
<b>CEMETERY EXPENSE</b>	<b>19,642.00</b>	<b>23,385.43</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>
<b>NET CEMETERY SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 32,908.00</b>	<b>\$ 73,609.07</b>	<b>\$ 30,000.00</b>



## NATIVITY B.V.M. CHURCH

South Amherst, Ohio

Fiscal Year - July 1 to June 30

### INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT AND RELATED INFORMATION

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	
Registered Households	271	296	
Registered Persons	865	889	
	<b>This Year</b>	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	<b><u>2022-2023</u></b>	<b><u>2021-2022</u></b>	<b><u>2022-2023</u></b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Offeratory Collections	\$134,188	\$130,803	\$134,550
Designated Collections	2,169	4,058	2,200
Interest & Investment Income	14,608	(15,684)	13,000
Steak Fry/Dinners to go	22,149	20,904	20,000
Rental Income	1,000	850	1,000
HOS Payments	16,576	20,222	12,000
Other Donations & Misc. Income	7,277	11,155	7,400
Maintenance and Upkeep Env	13,700	43,244	13,500
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$211,667</b>	<b>\$215,552</b>	<b>\$203,650</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Salaries - Clergy	\$23,015	\$22,064	\$23,900
Salaries - Lay	38,066	37,647	42,500
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	8,158	15,042	8,800
Office Expense	7,828	7,623	8,600
Household		0	0
Altar Supplies/Missalettes	6,108	6,531	6,850
Misc. Expense	4,364	2,086	5,850
Utilities	16,595	15,108	16,950
Maintenance & Supplies & Repairs	22,719	25,120	26,100
Property Tax and Insurance	12,863	11,638	13,550
Stewardship	9,760	12,957	12,000
Diocesan Assessments	22,120	22,048	22,500
Designated Collections	2,169	4,058	2,200
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>173,765</b>	<b>181,922</b>	<b>189,800</b>
<b>Net from Normal Operating</b>	<b>\$37,902</b>	<b>\$33,630</b>	<b>\$13,850</b>
Capital Expenses			13,850
Upper Church Roof Replacement	0	55,710	
Total Capital Expenses	0	55,710	13,850
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$173,765</b>	<b>\$237,632</b>	<b>\$203,650</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenses</b>	<b>\$37,902</b>	<b>(\$22,080)</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Year End Balances</b>	<b>June 30, 2023</b>	<b>June 30, 2022</b>	
Checking/Savings Account Bal.	\$102,325	\$78,635	
Investments	\$122,592	\$108,033	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$224,917</b>	<b>\$186,668</b>	



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This newsletter brought to you by the Catholic Communities of:

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

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Address Service Requested

## Fr. Tim O'Connor Serving Both Parishes

### Mass:

Monday, 9:00 a.m. - *St. Joseph*  
Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. - *Nativity of the BVM*  
Thursday, 7:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*  
Friday, 9:00 a.m. - *St. Joseph*  
Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*  
5:30 p.m. - *Nativity of the BVM*  
Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*

### Confession at St. Joseph:

*Thursday* - Individual Reconciliation 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
*Saturday* - Individual Reconciliation 11:00 a.m. - noon

### Eucharistic Adoration (Chapel) at Nativity of the BVM:

Monday-Friday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Activities and Events

### All Saints Day Masses for the Holy day of Obligation

*Note — there will be no Vigil Mass.*

*Wednesday, Nov. 1*  
9 a.m. at *St. Joseph Parish*  
12 noon at *Nativity Parish*  
7 p.m. at *St. Joseph Parish*

### Eucharistic Miracles Display

*Nov. 5-17*  
*Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. (closed during 11 a.m. Mass)*  
*Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.*  
*Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (closed during 4 p.m. Mass)*

### First Friday Rosary

*Friday, Nov. 3 — 11 a.m., NBVM Church and Hall*

### First Saturday Rosary

*Saturday, Nov. 4 — 9 a.m., St. Joseph Church*

### Hospitality Tuesday

*Tuesday, Nov. 7 — Following the 8 a.m. Mass, NBVM Church and Hall*

### Altar and Rosary Society Meeting/ El Salvadore presentation

*Tuesday, Nov. 7 — 6:30 p.m. meeting, 7 p.m. presentation*

### SJS Early Dismissal

*Thursday, Nov. 9 — 1:15 p.m.*

### No School

*Friday, Nov. 10*

### Day of Adoration/XLT at Nativity Parish

*Tuesday, Nov. 14 — 8 a.m. Mass and Adoration to follow until 7 p.m.*  
*XLT with Christina Dupré and Sanctuary, 7 p.m. — all from Nativity and St. Joseph Parish are invited*

### Men's Group

*Tuesday, Nov. 14 — 7 p.m., St. Joseph Social Hall South*

### Parent Club Meeting

*Tuesday, Nov. 14 — 7 p.m., School MPR*

### SJS Vitalant Bloodmobile

*Thursday, Nov. 16 — 4 p.m., SJS parking lot*

### Day of Adoration at St. Joseph/Taizé

*Vespers and Guest Speaker Trapper Jack*  
*Friday, Nov. 17 — 9 a.m. Mass and Adoration to follow until 7 p.m.*  
*Taizé Vespers and Speaker Trapper Jack, 7 p.m. — all from Nativity and St. Joseph are invited*

### Mercy Health Lab Draws

*Sunday, Nov. 19 — 8-10 a.m., St. Joseph Social Hall Lobby*

### No School Thanksgiving Break

*Monday, Nov. 20 to Friday, Nov. 24*

### Parish Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

*Wednesday, Nov. 22 to Friday, Nov. 24*

### Thanksgiving Day Mass

*Thursday, Nov. 23 — 9 a.m., Nativity Parish*

### Knights of Columbus meeting

*Tuesday, Nov. 28 — 7 p.m., School MPR*

### RCIA meetings

*Monday, Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27 — 7 p.m., Nativity Parish Hall*

### PSR classes

*Wednesday, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29 — 5:30 p.m., St. Joseph School (no class on Nov. 22)*

### Holy Ground Youth Group

*Sunday, Nov. 5 and 19 — 6 p.m., St. Joseph Social Hall (join us for 5 p.m. Mass before the meeting)*

### Vincentians Meeting

*Thursday, Nov. 9 and 30 — 9 a.m., St. Joseph Conference Room*

### Faithfully Fit Yoga Classes

*Tuesdays and Thursdays in November — 9:30 a.m., Nativity Parish Hall*