

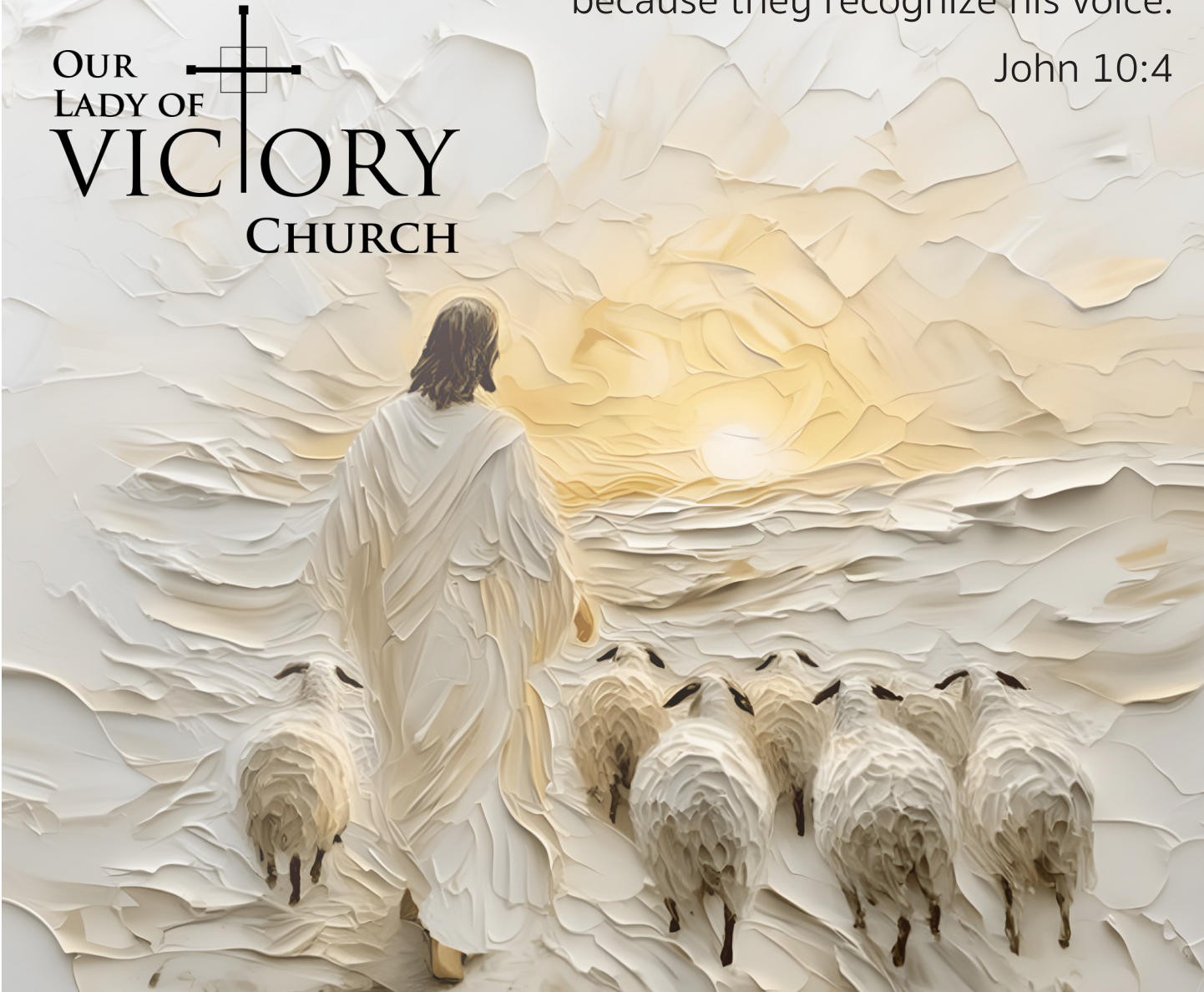
He walks ahead of them and

*the sheep follow him*

because they recognize his voice.

John 10:4

OUR  
LADY OF  
VICTORY  
CHURCH



1559 Roxbury Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43212  
Parish Office 614-488-2428  
Fax 614-488-0507  
Email: [office@ourladyofvictory.cc](mailto:office@ourladyofvictory.cc)  
[www.ourladyofvictory.cc](http://www.ourladyofvictory.cc)

**MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday 5:00 P.M. (Confessions 4:00-4:30 P.M.)  
Sunday 8:00 A.M. • 10:00 A.M.  
11:30 A.M. (Maronite Rite)  
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 8:30 A.M.  
Wednesday 12:00 P.M. ( followed by Confessions)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS • Monday-Friday, 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

## PARISH STAFF

### CLERGY

Rev. Jacques Kik, *Pastor*  
614-488-2428 [jkik@ourladyofvictory.cc](mailto:jkik@ourladyofvictory.cc)

Msgr. Anthony Missimi, *Retired*

Deacon Rob Joseph, *Deacon*  
614-486-0777 [rob@catholicdeacon.cc](mailto:rob@catholicdeacon.cc)

### OFFICE STAFF 614-488-2428

Marisa Mentel, *Administrative Assistant*  
[office@ourladyofvictory.cc](mailto:office@ourladyofvictory.cc)

Kim Gutheil, *Accountant*  
[businessmgr@ourladyofvictory.cc](mailto:businessmgr@ourladyofvictory.cc)

Charliebelle Youssef, *Bookkeeper/ Social Media*  
[cyousef@ourladyofvictory.cc](mailto:cyousef@ourladyofvictory.cc)

Jesse Oddi, *Facilities Manager*  
[facilitiesmgr@ourladyofvictory.cc](mailto:facilitiesmgr@ourladyofvictory.cc)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8

614-486-7678 [religioused@ourladyofvictory.cc](mailto:religioused@ourladyofvictory.cc)

Krista Joseph, *Director*

Pat Fulcher, *Administrative Assistant*

### MUSIC

Mark Voris, *Music Director*  
[mvoris@ourladyofvictory.cc](mailto:mvoris@ourladyofvictory.cc)

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, April 25 – St. Mark

5:00 p.m. + Francis & + Frances Metzdorf  
(Joseph Murray)

### Sunday, April 26 – St. Pedro de San Jose Betancur

8:00 a.m. + Lena Derick (Kati & Chris Russell)

10:00 a.m. + Antonio "Tony" Polletta  
(Jackie Polletta)

11:30 a.m. People of the Parish

### Monday, April 27 – St. Louis Mary Grignion de Montfort

8:30 a.m. + Deacon Richard Baumann  
(Connie Leach)

### Tuesday, April 28 – St. Peter Chanel

8:30 a.m. + Marcia Bohley (Rob & Kathy Luikart)

### Wednesday, April 29 – St. Catherine of Siena

12:00 p.m. + Steve Tarini (Nancy Tarini)

### Thursday, April 30 – St. Pius V

8:30 a.m. + Rosemary Studer (The Kellers)

### Friday, May 1 – St. Joseph the Worker

8:30 a.m. + Michael Stone (Matt Berry)

### Saturday, May 2 – St. Athanasius

5:00 p.m. + Deceased Members of the Duffey Family  
(Tim & Colleen Duffey)

### Sunday, May 3 – Saints Philip & James

8:00 a.m. + Sharon Harris (Heidi & Art Varner)

10:00 a.m. + Lucille & + Terry Leach (The Leach Family)

11:30 a.m. People of the Parish

## GIFTS FOR GOD

April 14, 2026 to April 20, 2026

Envelopes	\$ 4,166.00
Loose Checks	\$ 2,367.00
Loose Cash	\$ 1,437.00
Online Giving	\$ 3,936.32
Easter / Palm Sunday	\$ 170.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,076.32</b>
Less Diocese 10% Assessment	\$ 1,207.63
<b>Net Parish Collection</b>	<b>\$ 10,868.69</b>
Special Collections	\$ 40.00
Church in Central & Eastern Europe	\$ 1,613.00

## MASS ATTENDANCE

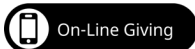
April 18 / April 19 – 791

Saturday 5:00 p.m. – 176

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 187; 10:00 a.m. – 290; 11:30 a.m. – 138



Thank you for your contributions. Please consider online giving. This is a safe, secure, and flexible way to manage your giving. To sign up, go to the church website: [www.ourladyofvictory.cc](http://www.ourladyofvictory.cc), Our Sunday Visitor at <https://www.osvhub.com/ourladyofvictory/funds>, or use the QR Code shown here.



**HOSPITALITY!!** Next Sunday, May 3rd, after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses. All are invited to come and enjoy some tasty treats and some fellowship. We especially invite new parishioners and those who have not attended in a while to come and enjoy.



Congratulations to **Georgia Kathleen Switzer**, daughter of Natalie and Brian Switzer, who was baptized on Sunday, April 19, 2026. *May God bless her today and always.*



PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

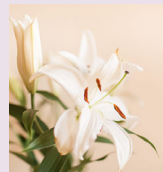
Sunday, April 26	8:00 a.m. – Mass 9:00 a.m. – <b>Baptism (C)</b> 10:00 a.m. – Mass 11:30 a.m. – Mass – Maronite Rite 5:00 p.m. – <b>Confirmation Rehearsal (C)</b>
Monday, April 27	8:30 a.m. – Mass
Tuesday, April 28	8:30 a.m. – Mass 12:00 Noon – Knitting Group (VH) 6:00 p.m. – <b>Confirmation (C)</b>
Wednesday, April 29	12:00 p.m. – Mass
Thursday, April 30	8:30 a.m. – Mass 7:00 p.m. – OCIA (VH)
Friday, May 1	8:30 a.m. – Mass 4:00 p.m. – <b>Wedding Rehearsal (C)</b> 6:00 p.m. – <b>Praying the Rosary (C)</b>
Saturday, May 2	11:00 a.m. – <b>Wedding Rehearsal (C)</b> 2:00 p.m. – <b>Wedding (C)</b> 5:00 p.m. – Mass
Sunday, May 3	<b>Hospitality after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses</b> 8:00 a.m. – Mass 10:00 a.m. – Mass w/ <b>Crowning of Mary (C)</b> 11:30 a.m. – Mass – Maronite Rite 3:30 p.m. – <b>Wedding</b>

PLC= Parish Life Center VH= Victory Hall C= Church



ANNOUNCING: THE APPEAL 2026

Our parish goal this year is \$72,952.  
Please give what you are able, and no gift is too small!  
**Thank you for your generosity.**



The Family of **Frances Benedetto** wants to thank Our Lady of Victory for the beautiful Funeral Mass and asks for your prayers for the repose of the soul of Frances.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2025-2026

### The Sacred Heart of Jesus

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life ~ John 3:16*

Religious Education – Pre-K through 5th grades

Class on Sunday, April 26th, 8:55-9:50 a.m. – **LAST DAY OF CLASS!!**

2nd graders attend class today to celebrate and bring in their religious gift items from their First Communion to be blessed by Father Jacques!

4th graders hear Deacon Rob talk to them about Altar Serving.

All grades follow their syllabus.

### Congratulations to our 2nd graders on their First Communion!

Forming Faithful Disciples – 6th-8th Grades – **LAST DAY OF CLASS!!**

Class on Sunday, April 26th, 8:55-9:50 a.m.

6th grade and 7th grade – Regular class

8th Grade Confirmation Prep

**Confirmation Rehearsal is Sunday, April 26th, 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Church.**

**Confirmation Mass is Tuesday, April 28th, 6:00 p.m. in the Church.**

All grades are bringing in donations of nonperishable food items on Sunday, April 26th for the Heart-to-Heart Food Pantry. The class that brings in the most items wins a FREE Ice Cream Cone coupon from Dairy Queen!



Please email Krista Joseph in the Religious Ed department if you are new to the parish and would like to register your children for religious education or if you have a child who missed their First Communion or their Confirmation. We have At Home studies for high school students who need to be confirmed. Contact us now to get started!

Krista Joseph, Director of Religious Ed  
Religioused@ourladyofvictory.cc or call 614-486-7678.

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

OLV continues to follow the Diocese of Columbus commitment to the protection and safety of children and the Safe Environment Program. The Safe Environment Program mandates that all Volunteers 18 years or older who would like to participate in parish programs or ministries who have been delegated care, custody, or control of children must complete this program. Information on the specific process and program registration can be found on the Our Lady of Victory website: [ourladyofvictory.cc](http://ourladyofvictory.cc) – located under the “Religious Ed” tab. You may also contact Pat Fulcher at [religioused@ourladyofvictory.cc](mailto:religioused@ourladyofvictory.cc) for this information.



### MYSTICAL VISIONS OF ST. BRIDGET: A PRIVATE ISLAND RETREAT & MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE.



Join us for a spiritually enriching pilgrimage featuring time for prayer, reflection, and community. **This unique journey includes a private island retreat in Croatia and a visit to Medjugorje.**

For full details and registration, please visit:

<https://insidethevaticanpilgrimages.wetravel.com/trips/mystical-visions-a-private-island-retreat-medjugorje-with-fr-stash-inside-the-vatican-pilgrimages-8861714982>



# A Day of Shrines and Wines

One-Day Pilgrimage to Cincinnati, Ohio  
Presented by Cradling Christianity®



Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Bus Boards at St. Andrew Church at  
8:15 AM, Returns by 8:00 PM

This bus trip bound for Cincinnati pairs up a mini-retreat at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center with a wine-tasting event at Vinoklet Winery! Come feel the presence of God in your life at the Holy Spirit Center as you walk its halls, pray in the gardens, view beautiful artwork, experience the Jerusalem Encounter or simply sit with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration. Have lunch at the retreat center, Mass celebrated by Fr. John Puodziunas (*President of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land*), presentation by pilgrimage expert Cody Egner, and a variety of wines and cheeses at Vinoklet! Bring your friends (or make friends) as we enjoy a pleasant bus ride to Cincinnati and explore these interesting venues. It's sure to be a meaningful and memorable day!  
*This is NOT a fundraising event. There will be no solicitation for contributions.*

Cost is \$125 per Person

(Includes Bus, Tour Guides, Lunch, Wine Tasting, Gratuities)



Scan the QR code or visit [ffhl.org/regions/columbus/rsvp](https://ffhl.org/regions/columbus/rsvp)  
to register. Space is extremely limited – register early!  
Call Sharon Hess at (614) 204-5111 with any questions.



## SAVE THE DATE!

### ALL-CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL REUNION (PRE-1971 GRADUATES) ON JULY 17

A special "Reunion Luncheon" is being organized for those who graduated from a Columbus Catholic high school (since closed like: Holy Family, St. Mary of the Springs, St. Joseph's Academy, Aquinas, Holy Rosary, Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Victory, St. Mary's South, Father Wehrle) (or still open: St. Charles, Bishop Watterson, Bishop Hartley, Bishop Ready, and St. Francis DeSales) before 1971.

This special gathering will take place on **Friday, July 17, from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Valley Dale Ballroom**, site of so many past events and fond memories. Final details (cost, lunch activities, RSVP instructions) will be released in May via letter, email, social media, and parish bulletins.

**In the meantime, mark this date on your calendar!**

If you have suggestions on how to make this event even more special, email Katy Ryan Paolini at [katysma61@outlook.com](mailto:katysma61@outlook.com), Louis J. Fabro at [lfabro@scprep.org](mailto:lfabro@scprep.org), or Lou Nobile at [Ingolf57@att.net](mailto:Ingolf57@att.net). See you on July 17!



### CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

#### SPEAKER – CHUCK JANES

Please join us **Friday, May 1** at **St. Patrick Church** in downtown Columbus for a luncheon featuring a talk by Chuck Janes entitled, "Transforming Lives and Communities." Mr. Janes is with Kairos Prison Ministry.

Our sponsor for the May luncheon is Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. You can learn more about Kairos Prison Ministry International at <https://kairosprisonministry.org> and Kairos Prison Ministry of Ohio at <https://www.kairosohio.org>.

If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, contact Dave Kilanowski at [dkilano@aol.com](mailto:dkilano@aol.com). Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and our program. No reservations are necessary. \$12.00 covers the lunch and meeting.

**Bring a friend!**



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

# MULTICULTURAL HOLY MASS

*Vigil of Pentecost*

**SATURDAY, MAY 23 | 5:00 P.M.**  
St. Catharine Church  
Bishop Earl K. Fernandes will preside

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”  
Acts 2:4



Sponsor a Student. Transform a Life. Fuel the Church.

# BUCKEYE CATHOLIC SPONSOR SOCIETY

Learn how to support Catholic college students in Columbus!



64 W. Lane Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43209    [buckeyecatholic.com/sponsorsociety](http://buckeyecatholic.com/sponsorsociety)

(614) 291-4674    [advancement@buckeyecatholic.com](mailto:advancement@buckeyecatholic.com)

## PURCHASE YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FUNDRAISER!



**2026 Charity Campaign SUPER CASH BONANZA**

OHIO STATE COUNCIL, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS & OHIO CHARITY FOUNDATION, INC.  
Hilton Columbus, 41 Easton, Columbus, OH

**DRAWING DATE**  
May 23, 2026

Make Checks Payable to: **Knights of Columbus**

(Enter Tickets to Local Council with Payment or Bank, Ticket to Payment to Christopher Burke, State Treasurer, 7238 Winterbark Ave, New Albany, OH 43054)

Donation: \$5.00

(All proceeds benefit the campaign)

OVER \$108,000 In Cash Prizes

1st Prize \$49,680 (Payable \$11,670 for 10 Years)  
2nd Prize \$18,780 (Payable \$3,696 for 5 Years)  
3rd Prize \$12,720 (Payable \$2,136 for 5 Years)  
4th Prize \$4,000  
5th Prize \$3,500  
6th to 9th Prizes \$1,500  
10th to 13th Prizes \$1,250  
14th to 17th Prizes \$1,000  
18th to 21st Prizes \$750  
22nd to 25th Prizes \$500

(Our ticket number(s) will be emailed to you within 48 hours)



## ATTENTION, HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND FAMILIES:

We would like to invite you to attend the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 7 for a “Blessing for the Graduate”!!

We will have a small gift and some mementos for you, and a reception with cake in the PLC during hospitality!

Please plan to join us!

To RSVP, please complete the Google form on our website by Sunday, May 24. Go to [www.ourladyofvictory.cc](http://www.ourladyofvictory.cc) to complete the form.

If you have any questions, please contact Krista Joseph at [religiously@ourladyofvictory.cc](mailto:religiously@ourladyofvictory.cc).

## SAVE THE DATES:



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026 OUR LADY OF VICTORY

June 8-11, 2026  
 5:30-8:00 P.M.  
 Theme: Rainforest Falls

An exciting jungle adventure filled with faith, fun, and friendship!

We are inviting **children entering Kindergarten through 6th grade** to join us for:

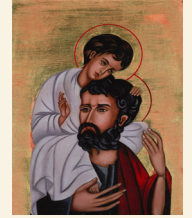
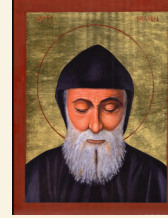
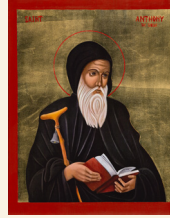
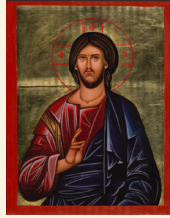
- Music & Worship
- Crafts    Games
- Bible Adventures    Dinner
- And so much more!

Mark your calendars and get ready to explore the beauty and wonder of God’s creation at **Rainforest Falls!**

Please use the QR code to register:



**ANNOUNCING NEW ICONS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!!**



In addition to the Our Lady Icon, we have additional Icons available for purchase. Other Icons include: Jesus, Mary and Jesus together, St. Anthony the Great, St. Charbel, and St. Joseph. These Icons are beautifully crafted and have been blessed. You are welcome to come to the Parish Office to see the Icons if you are interested in purchasing. The Our Lady Icon is \$100.00 and the others are \$150.00. We can accept cash or checks made payable to "Our Lady of Victory."

**THE BANNES OF MARRIAGE**



We are pleased to announce the following upcoming weddings at OLV. Any known reason these marriages should not happen should be reported to our Pastor, Father Jacques. Pray for these couples as they prepare to unite as husband and wife within the Catholic faith.

- Samantha Beery and Cameron Howard, May 2, 2026*
- Abigail Stratford and Troy Saylor, May 3, 2026*
- Emma Box and Clayton Harkey, May 15, 2026*

**JOSEPHINUM TOUR DAY IS MAY 2**



Learn about the fascinating history and unique mission of the only pontifical seminary outside of Italy as you explore the Pontifical College Josephinum. Tour Day on Saturday, May 2, will highlight founder Monsignor Jessing, the move to the "New Josephinum," the rich collection of the A.T. Wehrle Memorial Library, the restored Saint Turibius Chapel, and much more. Tours lasting approximately one hour will depart from the Jessing Center beginning at 10:00 a.m. Space is limited and online registration is required. Reserve your spot today at [pcj.edu/tourday!](http://pcj.edu/tourday!)

OUR LADY OF VICTORY RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE presents **ANNUAL MEAT & SEAFOOD Fundraiser** BENEFITING BIRTHRIGHT OF COLUMBUS

QR Code: [www.ourladyofvictory.cc](http://www.ourladyofvictory.cc)

**SALE DATES** APRIL 4 - MAY 2

**ORDER DEADLINE** SATURDAY, MAY 2

ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE OR ONLINE AT [www.ourladyofvictory.cc](http://www.ourladyofvictory.cc)

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT BIRTHRIGHT OF COLUMBUS

**PAYMENT**  
All orders must be prepaid. Checks payable to: **Our Lady of Victory**

**ORDER DROP-OFF**  
Church office, collection basket, or online.

**PICK-UP** **MONDAY, MAY 18**  
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM **PLC**

*Thank you for supporting life and our community!*



**HELP OLV EARN POINTS EVERY TIME YOU SHOP AT KROGER!!**

OLV is now enrolled in Kroger's Community Rewards Program where **we will earn rewards every time you shop at Kroger.** Link your Kroger shopper's card:

1. Go to <http://www.kroger.com>.
2. Log into your Kroger account (or create a Kroger account.)
3. Go to "About Us" at the bottom of the page and choose "Community Rewards."
4. Enter our name: Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church or our number: WQ014.
5. Click "Enroll."

Kroger will donate to us annually based on how much spending is allocated to us. This does not interfere with or detract from the points you earn on your personal spending account at Kroger.

"Just as Columbus is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States, so too is our Diocese. Rooted in Christ, we are growing, not only in number, but also in mission!"

- **Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes**  
*Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus*



The Appeal

*Rooted in Christ, Growing in Mission*

2026

## WAYS TO GIVE

### ONLINE

Visit: [www.columbuscatholicgiving.org/appeal](http://www.columbuscatholicgiving.org/appeal) or scan the QR code.

### MAIL

Complete the pledge envelope and mail it to **The Appeal, 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215**. Please make checks payable to "The Appeal - Parish Name".

### AT YOUR PARISH

Place your pledge envelope in your parish's offertory and your parish leadership team will ensure it is sent to the diocese.

When giving through your parish, please make checks payable to "(Parish Name) - Appeal."

**QUESTIONS** about The Appeal? Please contact the Advancement Office at **614-241-2550** or [sroberts@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:sroberts@columbuscatholic.org)

**PARISHES THAT EXCEED THEIR PARISH GOAL  
WILL RECEIVE 100% OF EXCESS FUNDS**

**To learn more about The Appeal,  
the Miter Society giving levels,  
or to give, please scan.**



DIocese of  
**COLUMBUS**



**MITER SOCIETY**  
THE APPEAL  
DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

# Rooted in Christ, Growing in Mission

The Diocese of Columbus is experiencing extraordinary growth—welcoming new families, cultivating vibrant ministries, and responding to expanding needs across our communities. Truly, “a good tree bears good fruit.” (Mt 7:17) As we remain rooted in Christ, we are called to grow in mission. Your generous support nourishes the life of the Church so it can be sustained, strengthened, and continue to bear abundant fruit for generations to come.



Below are just a few **examples of the growth** our Diocese has experienced in the last few years. Your gift helps us ensure we can continue to **grow our mission throughout the Diocese** and reach our goal of **\$8.25 million**.

## EVANGELIZATION (\$3.1 MILLION):

Reaching out to our communities and spreading the Good News:

280,000 → 505,000

Catholics in our Diocese in 2019

Catholics in our Diocese in 2025

700 → 984

adults became Catholic in 2024 through the OCIA process

adults became Catholic in 2025 through the OCIA process

260 → 368

couples attended the 2024 Diocesan Pre-Cana Formation event

couples attended the 2025 Diocesan Pre-Cana Formation event

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION & FORMATION (\$1.1 MILLION):

Ensuring that our schools and religious formation programs provide the best foundation in faith and academics:

2,429 → 3,058

Confirmations in 2022

Confirmations in 2025

2,135 → 2,755

First communions in 2022

First communions in 2025

Our Catholic schools are at more than

90%

capacity; spurring a need to build new schools and expand existing ones

## VOCATIONS (\$2.8 MILLION):

Nurturing and supporting seminarians, priests, deacons, and religious men and women who are answering God's call:

17 → 43

men studying for the priesthood in 2022

men studying for the priesthood in 2025

\$55,000 → \$63,000

cost per seminarian in 2024

cost per seminarian in 2025

## SOCIAL OUTREACH (\$1.2 MILLION):

Addressing the needs of the poor, the marginalized, and those suffering in our Diocese:

All 23 counties of our diocese now offer miscarriage and post abortion healing programs

12 state prisons now offer weekly Mass, confessions, and pastoral care





**He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.”**

*(Jn 21:6)*

**Divine Liturgy**

Sunday at 11:30 am

Our Lady of Victory

1559 Roxbury Rd.

Columbus, OH

COLUMBUS, OHIO



**OUR LADY  
OF  
LEBANON**

MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**For donations &  
online giving, scan  
this code or visit  
our website:**



**venmo**

[www.ololcolumbus.org](http://www.ololcolumbus.org)

## New Testament Reading: Hebrews 13:18-25

Pray for us; we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you very soon.

Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been set free; and if he comes in time, he will be with me when I see you.

Those from Italy send you greetings. Grace be with all of you.

## The Gospel: John 21:1-14

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way.

Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.

Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."

They said to him, "We will go with you."

They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?"

They answered him, "No."

He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some."

So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea.

But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."

So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."

Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord.

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

## Saint Gemma Galgani (1878–1903) - Feast Day: April 11



Saint Gemma Galgani is one of the Church's most remarkable modern mystics, a young Italian laywoman whose short life was marked by intense suffering, deep humility, and extraordinary union with Christ. Though she lived quietly and died at only 25 years old, her spiritual legacy continues to inspire Catholics around the world—especially those who suffer physically or spiritually.

Gemma was born in Lucca, Italy, into a devout Catholic family. Her early life was shaped by loss: her mother died when Gemma was just seven years old, followed later by the deaths of her brother and father. These hardships plunged her family into poverty and forced Gemma into a life of sacrifice and responsibility at a young age. Rather than turning inward in bitterness, Gemma turned completely toward God.

From childhood, Gemma had an intense love for Jesus, especially for His Passion. She desired to become a religious sister, but persistent illness—including spinal meningitis and tuberculosis of the bones—made her unsuitable for convent life. Confined often to her bed, she embraced suffering as a means of sharing in Christ's redemptive love.

Gemma's spiritual life was extraordinary. She experienced visions of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and her guardian angel, with whom she spoke openly and simply. Most strikingly, beginning in 1899, Gemma received the stigmata, the wounds of Christ's Passion, which appeared weekly from Thursday evening until Friday afternoon. These wounds caused her great pain, yet she bore them quietly, asking God that they remain hidden.

Despite these mystical graces, Gemma was known for her humility and obedience. She sought no attention and often feared being deceived. Her holiness was not rooted in visions but in her unwavering love for God, her patience in suffering, and her total trust in divine will. She died peacefully on April 11, 1903, Holy Saturday, and was canonized in 1940 by Pope Pius XII.

The Spiritual Connection to Saint Padre Pio: Although Saint Gemma Galgani and Saint Padre Pio never met on earth, the Church has long recognized a profound spiritual bond between them. Both were mystics who bore the stigmata, both endured misunderstanding and scrutiny, and both lived lives hidden in suffering and obedience.

Padre Pio, who was born in 1887—just nine years after Gemma—held her in great esteem. He reportedly referred to her affectionately as “my sister Gemma” and spoke of her as a powerful intercessor. After her death, Gemma is said to have appeared to Padre Pio on several occasions, offering spiritual encouragement and companionship in suffering.

Their shared spirituality centered on deep participation in the Passion of Christ. Both saints understood suffering not as punishment, but as a mysterious gift—an opportunity to unite oneself completely with Jesus for the salvation of souls. Like Padre Pio, Gemma emphasized prayer, obedience, humility, and love of the Eucharist as the foundation of holiness.

Saint Gemma Galgani reminds us that sanctity is possible in ordinary life, even amid illness, disappointment, and hidden sacrifice. Her connection with Saint Padre Pio points to a beautiful truth: holiness transcends time, and the saints support one another—and us—in the journey toward God.

May Saint Gemma and Saint Padre Pio teach us to trust, to suffer with love, and to cling to Christ in all things.

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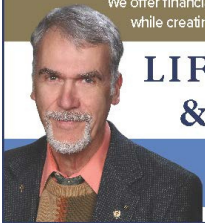
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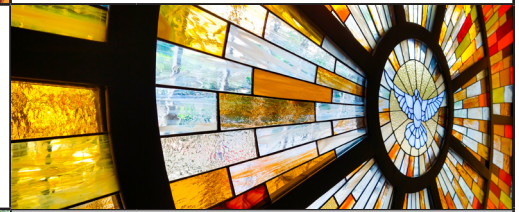
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