



*A Member of the St. Juan Diego Deanery
Sister Parish with Sacred Heart of Jesus*

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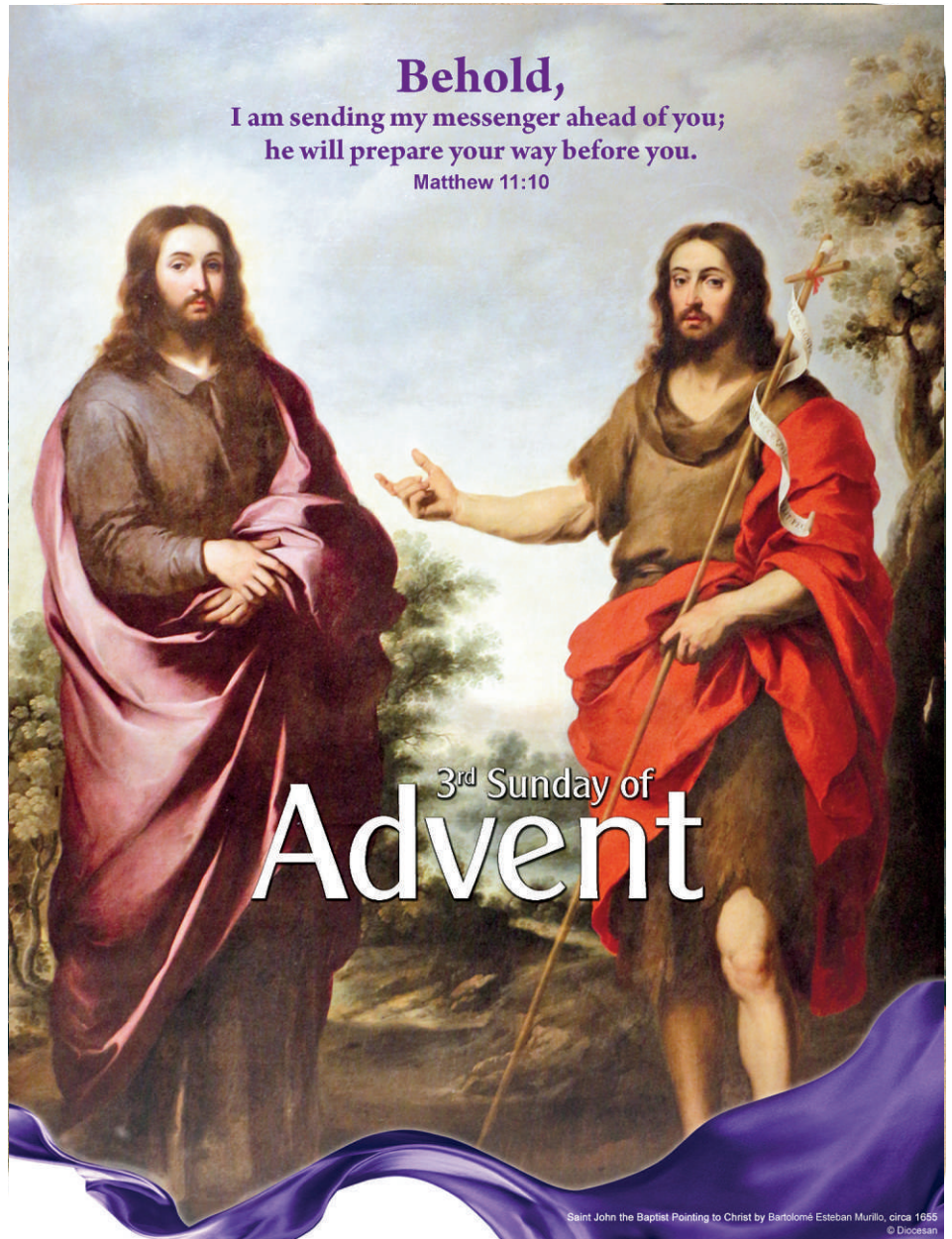
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Office 419-683-2015

Website stjosephcrestline.org

Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8:00am to 1:00pm

Bulletin Deadline

Monday by 9:00am before the
desired Sunday. To submit items for
the bulletin, please email
lsimmons@stjosephcrestline.org or
call the Parish Office.

Letter From the Pastor

Greetings Parishioners,

Today is Gaudete Sunday. So, I ask you to Gaudete! (Rejoice!) Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent in the Christian liturgical calendar. The name "Gaudete" comes from the Latin word meaning "Rejoice", and it originates from the entrance antiphon of the Mass for that day.

Here are some unique aspects of this day:

- Theme of Joy: While Advent is typically a penitential season marked by reflection and preparation, Gaudete Sunday shifts the tone to joy, as the faithful anticipate the nearness of Christ's coming at Christmas.
- Liturgical Color: The usual Advent color is violet or purple, symbolizing penance. On Gaudete Sunday, the Church may use rose (pink) vestments instead, reflecting a lightening of the penitential mood. It is one of only two Sundays in the liturgical year (the other being Laetare Sunday in Lent) when rose vestments may be worn.
- Placement in Advent: Gaudete Sunday occurs roughly halfway through Advent, and serves as a moment of encouragement. The waiting is almost over; the light of Christ is near.
- Liturgical Elements: The readings, prayers, and music of the day emphasize rejoicing and hope. For example, the first reading from Isaiah often includes proclamations of joy, and the Gospel frequently highlights the role of John the Baptist in

preparing the way for the Lord.

Now that we are in the thick of Advent, we are indeed preparing. We prepare for the three comings of Christ:

1. Christ's Coming in History (The First Coming)
In Bethlehem, in the Incarnation.
2. Christ's Coming in Mystery (The Present Coming):
Here and now — in grace, in the sacraments, and in daily life.
3. Christ's Coming in Majesty (The Final Coming):
At the end of time — the Second Coming, when Christ will return as King and Judge.

As we prepare for Jesus, please remember: you can request confession at nearly any time, as long as you give me a couple of hours' notice. During these confession times, it feels less rushed than during a typical penance service. I enjoy these confessions a little more and appreciate being able to offer them at times that suit you best. (Please feel free to reach out if you would like to meet.)

In Christ,
Fr. Jeff

Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 14, 2025

Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11
Monday	Num 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab; 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday	Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Thursday	Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Friday	Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Saturday	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Retirement Fund for Religious

They gave their lives in service - now they need your help. For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation - it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for the Religious.

A Charlie Brown Christmas

Tuesday, December 16 at 6:30 pm in the Convocation Center

Please join us for an evening of joy and laughter as our students perform this beloved story!



**Megamoolah Mania 14
Winner for November
2025**

**Congratulations to
Mike Anatra!**

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Tuesday · December 16

6:30 pm Mass at Sacred Heart
John Young

Wednesday · December 17

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart
Pope Francis (Heavenly Birthday)

Thursday · December 18

5:30 pm Confessions at St. Joseph
6:30 pm Mass at St. Joseph
Rev. Robert Kill; Rev. James Risacher

Friday · December 19

8:30 am Mass at St. Joseph
For the People of St. Joseph and Sacred Heart Parishes

Saturday · December 20

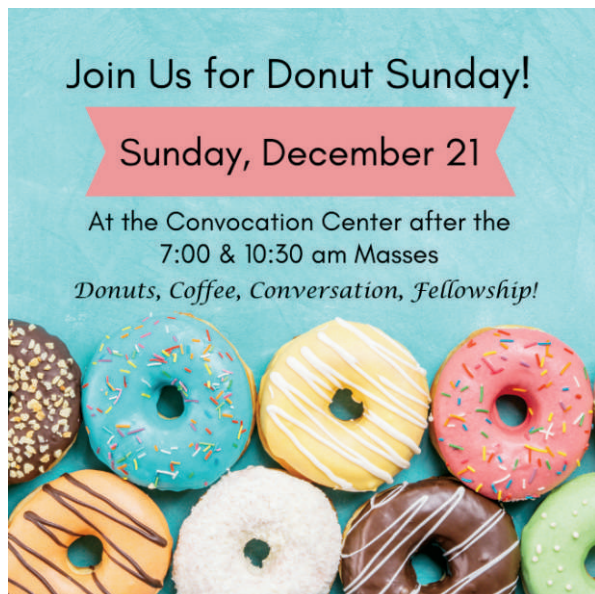
3:30 pm Confessions at Sacred Heart
4:30 pm Mass at Sacred Heart
Lawrence & Mary Alice Biglin, Yogi & Mark; Rhonda Borgelt

Sunday · December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00 am Mass at St. Joseph
Lindsey & Lisa Anatra; Charles Marek; Deacon Joe Burkhart
8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart
Rosemary Sutter; Jeanne, Paul & Kathleen Gosser
10:30 am Mass at St. Joseph
Gladys Burkhart; Francis & Mariann Haines

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring
glad tidings to the poor.*

~ Isaiah 61:1



<i>Check Ministry Pro for updates.</i>	<i>Sunday, December 21 7:00 am</i>	<i>Sunday, December 21 10:30 am</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Nancy Cozad	Mark Schneider
<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	Don Alt Barbara DiPietro Connie Marek	Ann Coward Adrienne Ruhe Steve Vogt
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Adam Link Jake Rafferty	Max Ruhe Miles Ruhe Layla Strassell
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Cyril & Bonnie Cochran	Peggy Pauley
<i>Ushers</i>	Don Alt Curt Young	Dave Sharrock Lynn Whites

Mass Volunteers Needed for January 1

We have openings for two servers and one Eucharistic Minister for the 7:30 am Mass on Thursday, January 1. If you can help out, please call or text Kim Legge at 419-689-3033. Thank you.

St. Joseph Senior Citizen Luncheon

Please join us for some Christmas cheer at our next Sr. Citizen luncheon on **Tuesday, December 16 at 12:15 PM in the Convocation Center**. The cost is \$5.00, and the menu will be: Pasta with meatballs, salad, garlic bread, applesauce and dessert.

At this luncheon, students will entertain with songs from this year's Christmas program. **Please RSVP as soon as possible to the school office (419-683-1284).**



Gift Cards from SCRIP

Please remember our SCRIP program for your shopping and gift-giving needs this upcoming holiday season.

Information about SCRIP can be found on our school's website at stjosephcrestline.org/school-news or in the back of church.

Lindsay Mills is our program coordinator, and she can be reached at 419-961-4276 for assistance. Thanks for your support of our school.



Weekly Offering

From December 7, 2025

Total Offertory Collection	\$5,245.50
Sunday Envelopes	\$2,375.00
Loose Checks	\$420.00
Loose Currency	\$415.00
Online Giving	\$330.50
Votive Lights	\$81.00
School Support	\$635.00
Parish Maintenance	\$720.00
Caritas	\$10.00
Church Building Maintenance	\$35.00
Flower Fund	\$10.00
Retired Religious	\$30.00
Christmas	\$50.00
Immaculate Conception	\$134.00

Thank You !

To sign up for weekly or one-time online contributions, you can use the QR code or visit our parish website: <https://stjosephcrestline.org/announcements>.



Holy Hour

Please note: During these winter months, we will not be meeting in church on Tuesdays. Please continue to pray at home for our beloved country. We will resume sometime this coming spring. God bless us all and the USA.

Pray the Rosary With Us!

Every Sunday at 9:55 am in church before the 10:30 am Mass

Extra rosaries can be found in the narthex.



3rd Sunday of Advent

I B T H R E S H F W U
F N A P P A U C F A I
C S E P G V Y J X T G
L B A P T I Z E E E C
O M Y A U I R I X R S
A N W D S E S N P W A
K L A R J Y L T E W N
S Z G S J Y T J C H D
W Y E X X O Z M T E A
R I S J V O H M F A L
Y A C I H Y B N L T S

- John
- Baptist
- Cloaks
- Baptize
- Wages
- Expect
- Water
- Sandals
- Thresh
- Wheat



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Christmas Mass Schedule



Wednesday, December 24
4:30 pm - Sacred Heart
7:00 pm - St. Joseph

Thursday, December 25
8:30 am - Sacred Heart
10:30 am - St. Joseph



Stations of the Nativity

Our school students will gather in church on Friday, December 19 at 2:00 pm to pray the "Stations of the Nativity". All are welcome!



Living Christ
Diocese of Toledo

Campaign Update

Total Pledged:	\$307,175.02
Total Cash Due Parish:	\$79,962.84

Disbursement from Diocese in November 2025:

\$792.17



Protecting Our Youth

The Diocese of Toledo remains committed to ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people. If you have any knowledge of abuse that has been committed by a cleric, or any personnel of the Catholic Church, you are urged to report the abuse to your local police department, Children Services, and the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (419) 214-4880 or by mail at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

Saint Joseph Catholic Church

Crestline Assistance and Ministries Program (C.A.M.P.)

As C.A.M.P. prepares for the upcoming holiday season, we are reaching out once again to ask for your help. We aim to assemble and distribute even more Christmas boxes this year, and we cannot do it without your generous donations. Any support you can provide, whether it be monetary contributions, non-perishable food items, or volunteer time, would be greatly appreciated.

How You Can Help

- **Monetary Donations:** These help us purchase turkeys, canned goods, toys and other essentials. Please send any monetary donations to PO Box 426, Crestline, Ohio 44827.
- **Non-Perishable Food Items:** Canned goods, pasta, rice, juices and other shelf-stable products are always needed. Please contact Sue at 419-689-2708.
- **Volunteer Time:** Assisting with the assembly and distribution of boxes for Community Christmas.

Your involvement makes a significant impact on our community. Together, we can ensure that no family goes without the warmth and happiness that the holiday season should bring. Please contact Sue at 419-689-2708 if you are able to contribute in any way.

Thank you once again for your continued support and generosity!



This Week on Formed

Week of December 14, 2025



Adventus: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.



30 Minutes BC

30 Minutes BC creatively explores the profound emotions and intimate struggles of Mary and Joseph during the final 30 minutes before the birth of Jesus. As the clock ticks down, the couple navigates a whirlwind of hope, joy, and uncertainty, turning to God amidst it all.



Is Christmas Pagan? What Catholics Believe About Christmas

Dr. Michael Barber answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Christmas. Is Christmas a pagan holiday? Why is Christmas celebrated on December 25? What happened at the "first Christmas"? Find out the answers to these and more!

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE



Deanna Marie (Anatra) Assenheimer, 85, sister of Vic Anatra, died on Saturday, November 29, 2025, at home on her 57th wedding anniversary.



Rosemary Smarto, 94, wife of the late John Smarto, passed away on her birthday, Friday, December 5, 2025, at Mill Creek Nursing Home.

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

An Evening with the Sisters of Life

Saturday, December 20

*Resurrection Parish, 2600 Lexington Ave.,
Lexington*

5:00 pm Holy Hour with music led by Sisters

6:00 pm Mass with music led by Sisters

7:00 pm Social in Fellowship Hall with Sisters

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 21 at 3:00 pm

St. Peter Church, 60 S. Mulberry St., Mansfield

Presented as part of the St. Peter Music Series.

Healing Through the Eucharist Retreat

Saturday, January 3, 2026 - 9:00 am - 2:45 pm

*Sorrowful Mother Shrine, 4106 State Route 269,
Bellevue*

Start 2026 with a retreat on the most important food you will ever eat in this life; the Eucharist! We'll dive into the radical truth of the Most Blessed Sacrament that is the very Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus, and of which, Venerable Fulton Sheen said, 'the greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white host.' We'll also dive deep into considering the healing power of the Most Blessed Sacrament and how the Eucharist truly is the meal that heals! \$25 registration fee which includes lunch. Call to register and pay by December 22, 2025 - 419-483-3435, option 4.

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