



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

## Parish Staff & Contacts

**Father Jeff Smith** Pastor  
[jsmith@toledodiocese.org](mailto:jsmith@toledodiocese.org)  
419-683-2015

**Joann Palm** Business Manager  
[jpalm@stjosephcrestline.org](mailto:jpalm@stjosephcrestline.org)  
419-683-2015

**Bonnie Cochran** Parish Secretary  
[bcochran@stjosephcrestline.org](mailto:bcochran@stjosephcrestline.org)  
419-683-2015

**Lisa Simmons** Pastoral Assistant  
[lsimmons@stjosephcrestline.org](mailto:lsimmons@stjosephcrestline.org)  
419-683-2015

**Deacon William Horning (Retired)**  
419-683-3775

**Kim Legge** OCIA Coordinator  
419-689-3033

**Stephen Marek**  
Maintenance Committee Moderator  
419-683-3671

**Don Alt** Finance Council Moderator  
419-205-5763

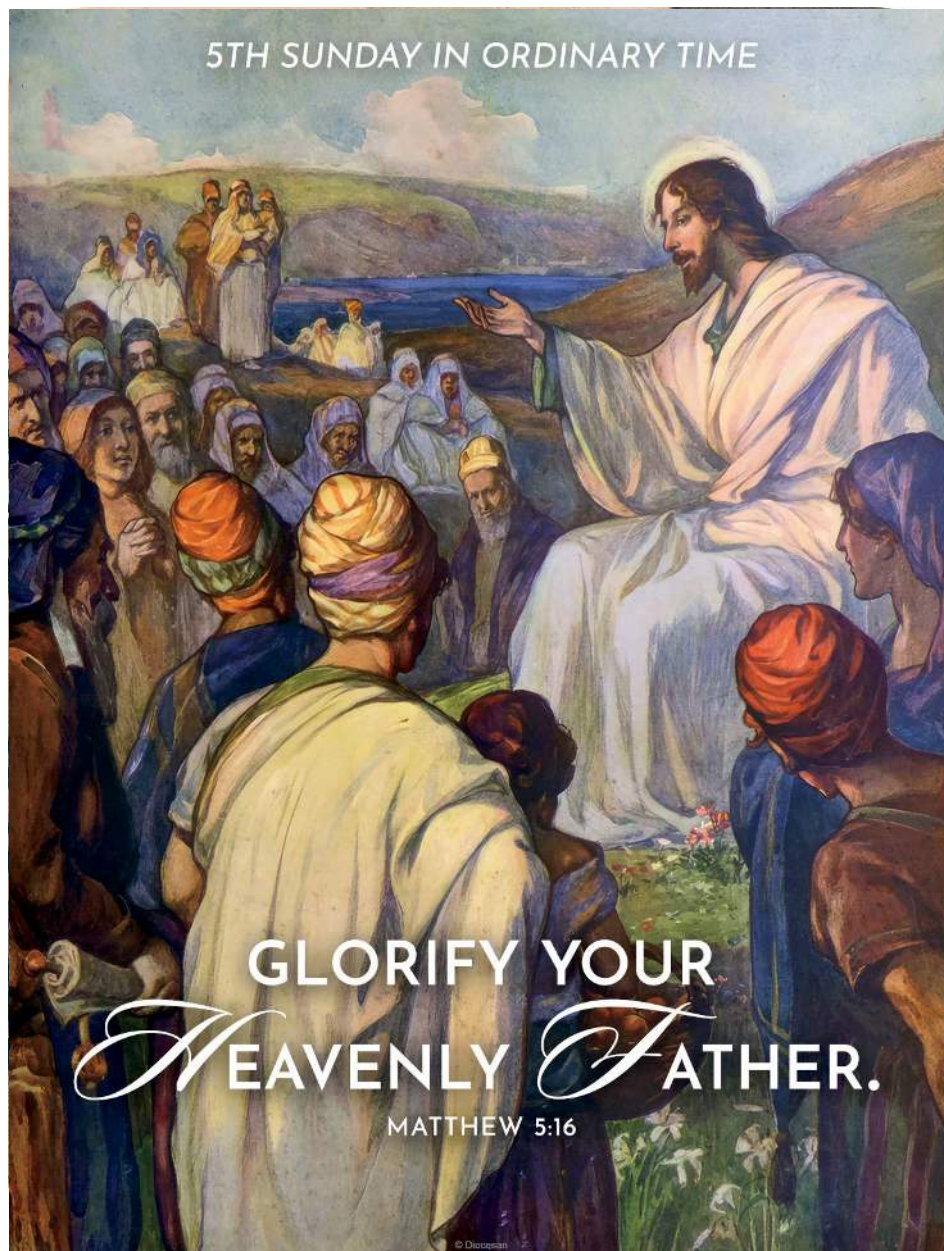
**Denise Belcastro**  
School Advisory Council Moderator  
419-543-1364

**Ben Hocker** Cemetery Manager  
419-565-7925

**Sean & Laura Beeson**  
Natural Family Planning Contacts  
419-569-5354

**Janice Link** 419-543-2298

**Bernadette Karasko** 419-529-6086  
Funeral Dinner Coordinators



## School Staff

**Sue Sanders** Elementary School Principal  
[ssanders@stjosephcrestline.org](mailto:ssanders@stjosephcrestline.org)  
419-683-1284

**Jenna Collene**  
Elementary School Secretary &  
Convocation Center Coordinator  
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419-683-1284

**Jonah Studer** Athletic Director  
[Jo55st@yahoo.com](mailto:Jo55st@yahoo.com)  
419-543-0119

### Address

331 N. Thoman Street  
Crestline, Ohio 44827

**Office** 419-683-2015

**Website** [stjosephcrestline.org](http://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](mailto:lsimmons@stjosephcrestline.org) or  
call the Parish Office.

## Letter From the Pastor

Greetings Parishioners,

This summer, we will be taking parish family photos at both parish locations on August 4th, 5th, and 6th as part of creating a new parish directory. One of the greatest blessings of parish life is that we do not merely attend the same church—we belong to the same family. And like any family, it helps to know one another by name. Sure, like me, you likely have Facebook. But in case I am reassigned elsewhere next year, I hope to remember you with the help of a parish directory. Those are just a couple of reasons to participate—and I do hope to receive a second term for another six years!

Regardless, if I'm here for only 1 more year or 7 more years... I warmly invite every household to take part. The directory will include a professional family photo and basic contact information, helping us build a stronger and more connected parish community. Please mark your calendar for one of the scheduled August photo days.

Why else should you participate?

- Build community – It is much easier to greet someone after Mass when you know their name and face.
- Welcome newcomers – A directory helps new parishioners feel at home more quickly.
- Create a keepsake – The directory becomes a meaningful snapshot of our parish family.

Whether you are a family of eight, a single parishioner, or a longtime member—you belong in the directory. Your participation helps make our parish more personal, more welcoming, and more truly a family.

In Christ,  
Fr. Jeff

## Scripture Readings

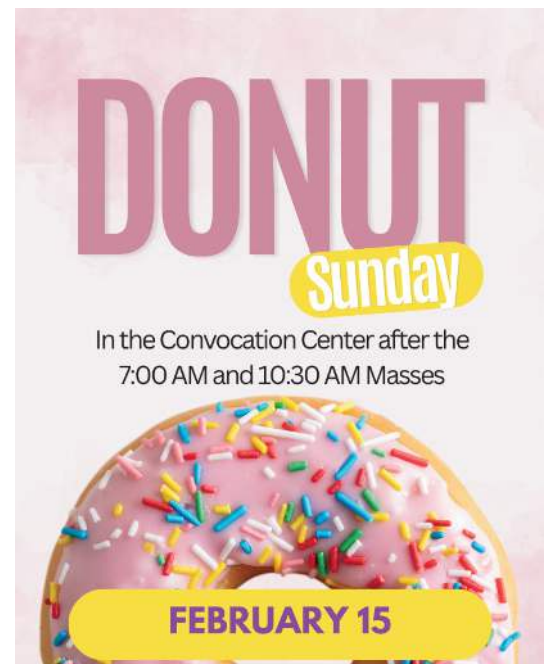
*For the Week of February 8, 2026*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16
<b>Monday</b>	1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin</b> 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11; Mk 7:1-13
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 Kings 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Kings 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40; Mk 7:24-30
<b>Friday</b>	1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19; Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15; Mk 7:31-37
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Memorial of Saints Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop</b> 1 Kings 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22; Mk 8:1-10
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 or Mt 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

## High School PSR



Please join Steve & Sheila Vogt at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. The dates are as follows: February 11 & 25; and March 4, 11, 18, & 25. Each session will begin at 7:00 pm and last approximately 1 hour. Hope to see you there!



## Megamoolah Mania 14



*Winner for January 2026  
Congratulations to  
Linda Brandeburg!  
(Seller: Adaline Burton)*



## Mass Schedule & Intentions

*Tuesday · February 10*

**6:30 pm Mass at Sacred Heart**  
Dave Metzger

*Wednesday · February 11*

**8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart**  
Lester Cochran

*Thursday · February 12*

**5:30 pm Confessions at St. Joseph**

**6:30 pm Mass at St. Joseph**  
For Lawmakers, Judges and Lawyers

*Friday · February 13*

**8:30 am Mass at St. Joseph**  
For Peace in the World

*Saturday · February 14*

**3:30 pm Confessions at Sacred Heart**

**4:30 pm Mass at Sacred Heart**  
Jeanne, Paul & Kathleen Gosser;  
Rodney Cole; Rhonda Borgelt

*Sunday · February 15*

**7:00 am Mass at St. Joseph**  
Sandy Burkhart

**8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart**  
John Metzger; Richard Vogt

**10:30 am Mass at St. Joseph**  
For the People of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Parishes

## We Have New Fish Fry Leaders

Sincere thanks and a hearty welcome to **Dave Horning** and **Nancy Cozad** as they join the Fish Fry Team in the shadowing role so that they can learn the ropes from Steve and Connie Marek, who are embarking on their tenth and final year as Fish Fry Leaders. Dave and Nancy see themselves as interim leaders who will see that our Fish Fry tradition stays strong until more permanent leadership surfaces. Nancy and Dave, we are thrilled and grateful to have you two!

## Accepting Fish Fry Donations

If you would like to support our Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry project with donations to go toward food and supplies, please put your cash or check donations in an envelope labeled "Fish Fry" and place it in the Sunday collection basket. Checks can be made out to Knights of Columbus Council 2642 or Saint Joseph School. Cash donations are also welcome at each of our six Friday Fish Fry events. Thank You!

## Ash Wednesday - February 18

**8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart**  
**10:30 am Prayer Service at St. Joseph**  
**6:30 pm Mass at St. Joseph**

<i>Check Ministry Pro for updates.</i>	<i>Sunday, February 15 7:00 am</i>	<i>Sunday, February 15 10:30 am</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Anna Langdon	Debby Ketcham
<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	Don Alt Adam Link Connie Marek	Dan Legge Dave Sharrock Steve Vogt
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Samantha Link Sydney Link	Claire Coffman Grace Coffman Gavin Parsons
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Larry & Ruth Karl Family	Matt & Sheila Bickert Family
<i>Ushers</i>	Doug DeNero Jerry Studer	Mark Schneider Chris Wozniak

## Volunteers Needed for Fish Fry Fridays

Our six Friday Fish Fry dates are **February 20 & 27 and March 6, 13, 20, and 27**. If you have worked Fish Frys in the past, I have your number and will be in touch. **If you have never worked our Fish Frys but would like to get involved, please text or call me at (419) 631-1321 OR use reith.tressa@gmail.com to send me an email.** If you are not able to volunteer, we hope you will come and get meals for you and your family.

Thank you!

~ Tressa Reith



## Living Christ Campaign Update

Total Pledged: \$307,175.02

Total Cash Due Parish: \$85,068.47

**Disbursement from Diocese in December 2025: \$1,695.17**

**Disbursement from Diocese in January 2026: \$1,667.17**

## The Terror of Demons: The Virtues of St. Joseph

*Thursday, March 19, 2026*

We hope you will be able to join us for an evening of faith, fellowship, fun, and learning more about our patron saint, St. Joseph.

We will start the evening off with Mass at St. Joseph Church, followed by a light meal in the Convocation Center. After the meal, we have invited John R. Wood, author of "Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission" to present "The Terror of Demons: The Virtues of St. Joseph".

Matthew Kelly from Dynamic Catholic states "I believe John is one of the great emerging Catholic voices of our time. John Wood has a passion that is contagious... make an effort to go and hear him speak!"

Please mark your calendars now for this special event. You won't want to miss it! More details to follow!

# a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools







DEANERY-WIDE

## *Eucharistic Mission*

February 9 - 12, 2026

St. Joseph Activity Center &  
Church, Galion

### **Monday**

Fr. John Miller

### **Tuesday**

Fr. Chris Mileski

### **Wednesday**

Fr. Jeff Smith

### **Thursday**

Fr. Chris Mileski

Each evening will begin at the Activity Center at 6:30pm with a light dinner followed by a presentation about Jesus in the Eucharist at 7:00. Following the presentation, we will move to the church for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 8:30pm.

# LENT 2026



= a day of fasting and abstinence from meat



= a day of abstinence from meat

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>February</b> "Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer" ( <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> ).			<b>18 Ash Wednesday</b> Attend Mass and receive the cross of ashes — a sign of humility and repentance.	<b>19</b> Fast from social media for one evening each week.	<b>20</b> Remember to abstain from meat today. Pray for those who can't afford to have meat.	<b>21</b> Spend five minutes in silent prayer each morning or night during Lent.
<b>22</b> Stay after Mass and pray for a spiritually fruitful Lent.	<b>23</b> Pray the Morning Offering before checking your phone.	<b>24</b> "Peace begins with a smile" (Mother Teresa). Resolve to smile at everyone.	<b>25</b> Pray for one specific person by name today.	<b>26</b> Worry closes the heart. Replace it with trust, "Jesus, I trust in You."	<b>27</b> Even when things go wrong, be patient, starting with yourself.	<b>28</b> Fulfill a commitment or promise you've been putting off.
<b>I March</b> Read Matthew 17:1-9. Where does God want to transform your heart, prayer, and life?	<b>2</b> Today, pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, who always need our prayers.	<b>3</b> Read the daily Gospel and meditate on one line that stands out to you.	<b>4</b> Today, choose silence instead of complaining.	<b>5</b> Pray for Christians experiencing persecution. Pray for a conversion of heart for the persecutors.	<b>6</b> Return love for Love. Visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, where He waits in love.	<b>7</b> Avoid gossip and change the subject when it starts. If it's untrue, unkind, or confidential, don't say it.
<b>8</b> Read John 4:5-42. Where do you go when life feels messy? What if Jesus met you there?	<b>9</b> If your responsibilities permit it, choose one weekday this week to attend Daily Mass.	<b>10</b> Practice patience intentionally with one difficult person.	<b>11</b> Skip a meal and donate the money saved from fasting to the poor box.	<b>12</b> First thing today, tell God, "Thy Will be done!" — and really mean it!	<b>13</b> Give up a small luxury - drive-thru coffee, streaming, take-out meals - just for today for God.	<b>14</b> Do a hidden act of service without seeking thanks.
<b>15 Laetare Sunday</b> The priest wears rose for the halfway point of Lent. Enjoy a small treat to celebrate.	<b>16</b> Holy Week and Easter are busy times for parishes and ask how you can help.	<b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b> Pray for missionaries and catechists who, like St. Patrick, bring the faith to every corner of the world.	<b>18</b> Experience God's mercy and attend Confession this week.	<b>19 St. Joseph's Day</b> Say an extra prayer for your father. Don't forget the priests — spiritual fathers.	<b>20</b> Buy food or hygiene items for a local pantry.	<b>21</b> Take a mini-retreat. Reserve time to silence your phone, light a candle, and be with Jesus.
<b>22</b> Stay after Mass and pray for the intentions of the Pope and your bishop.	<b>23</b> Give the gift of a spiritual bouquet — a note recording prayers said for someone who needs them.	<b>24</b> Think before you speak, especially before responding in annoyance or anger. Recall the presence of God.	<b>25 The Annunciation</b> We celebrate Mary's "yes," which opened the way for Christ's coming. Pray the Rosary in her honor.	<b>26</b> Set out a box and fill it with gently used items, books, or clothes. When it's full, bring it to its destination.	<b>27</b> Abstain from recreational screen-use between 12:00pm and 3:00pm in honor of Jesus' final hours on the Cross.	<b>28</b> Visit a church or chapel for 10 minutes of quiet if possible.
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> Read Matthew 27:11-54, accompanying Jesus through His trial, Passion, and Death.	<b>30</b> This whole week, practice the Heroic Minute and get up the moment your alarm rings.	<b>31</b> Say grace slowly and intentionally, with gratitude, before meals today.	<b>I April</b> Today is the day, Judas plotted to betray Christ. Take time to seek forgiveness or to extend it, if needed.	<b>2 Holy Thursday</b> Visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Thank Him for the Eucharist, the Mass, and the Priesthood.	<b>3 Good Friday</b> Pray the Stations of the Cross. Your presence and love today consoled Him then.	<b>4 Holy Saturday</b> Thank God for His blessings this Lent. Consider which practices you will continue.

# Parents of Priests *Prayers for Priests*

PRAY FOR CLERGY, RELIGIOUS, OR THE SPECIAL INTENTION FOR EACH DAY

*Dear Lord, we pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry. We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words, "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5). May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse. May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross. May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love seeking nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls. Amen.*

## February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Pope Leo XIV	2 Bishop Daniel E. Thomas	3 Your Parish Priests	4 Parents of Priests	5 Rev. Maurice Tiell	6 Rev. David D. Tscherne	7 Increase of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
8 Rev. Christopher R. Turner	9 Rev. Daismon T. Varghese	10 Rev. Joseph R.T. Varghese	11 Rev. Msgr. Christopher P. Vasko	12 Rev. Vincente A. Vera	13 Seminarian Alexander Wahl	14 Deacons and Missionary Priests
15 Rev. Jeffery J. Walker	16 Bishop Dennis G. Walsh	17 Rev. Gary R. Walter	18 Seminarian Max Watson	19 Rev. Herbert F. Weber	20 Rev. Nicholas Weibl	21 Religious Brothers and Sisters
22 Rev. Joseph A. Weigman	23 Rev. Andrew J. Wellmann	24 Rev. George E. Wenzinger	25 Rev. David M. Whalen	26 Rev. Johnathon C. Wight	27 Rev. Scott S. Woods	28 Deceased Priests of our Diocese

*Saint John Vianney, patron of parish priests, pray for us.*



Diocese  
of Toledo



**WANT TO HELP OUR  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS?**



**GIVE \$750,  
GET \$750\***

IF FILING SINGLE IN OHIO

**GIVE \$1,500  
GET \$1,500\***

IF FILING JOINTLY IN OHIO

**Donors to the Diocese of Toledo  
Scholarship Fund can receive a State of  
Ohio tax credit on their tax return**

*\* A tax credit is different than a deduction. A tax credit is money back in your pocket on taxes you already owe. You can also designate which Catholic school you would like your donation to be directed! Consult your tax professional for questions regarding your eligibility.*

**IT'S EASY TO DONATE:**

Visit: [www.dotsgo.org](http://www.dotsgo.org)

Call: 419-244-6711

E-Mail:

[lroehrig@toledodiocese.org](mailto:lroehrig@toledodiocese.org)



You can also send a check to:

Diocese of Toledo Scholarship Fund:

1933 Spielbusch Ave., Toledo, Ohio, 43604



## Weekly Offering

January 25, 2026 and February 1, 2026

**Total Offertory Collection .....\$8,804.63**

Sunday Envelopes .....	\$3,115.00
Loose Checks .....	\$1,745.00
Loose Currency .....	\$342.00
Online Giving (1/18, 1/25 and 2/1) .	\$1,134.63
Votive Lights .....	\$38.00
School Support .....	\$505.00
Parish Maintenance .....	\$890.00
Caritas .....	\$60.00
Church Building Maintenance .....	\$510.00
School Endowment .....	\$300.00
Altar Candles .....	\$80.00
Initial Offering .....	\$5.00
Church in Latin America .....	\$70.00
Black & Indian Missions.....	\$5.00
Central/Eastern Europe Churches.....	\$5.00

## 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.



## 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Salt  
Earth  
Light  
City  
Hidden  
Lamp  
Basket  
House  
Deeds  
Glorify



SUNDAYKIDZ

©Diocesan

## St. Joseph Senior Citizen Luncheon

**Tuesday, February 17 at 12:15 pm - Convocation Center**

Cost \$5. Menu: grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup, grapes, and cookie.

**Please RSVP to the school office at 419-683-1284 by Wednesday, February 11.**

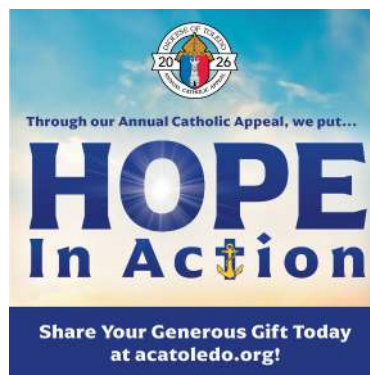


## Relic of St. Carlo Acutis

The Diocese of Toledo will host the Relic of the Heart of Saint Carlo Acutis during a **three-day visit at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral from Saturday, February to Monday, February 9, 2026.**

Msgr. Anthony Figueiredo, promoter of St. Carlo's cause, will offer catechesis and reflections drawn from his personal involvement in Carlo's canonization. The faithful are invited to venerate the relic, deepen their faith through prayer, and write prayer intentions that Msgr. Figueiredo will bring to the tomb of St. Carlo in Assisi.

See <https://toledodiocese.org/diocesan/heart> for more information on the events surrounding this visit.



## Annual Catholic Appeal

A letter from Bishop Thomas is being sent to you, asking for your gift and/or pledge to support the ministries of the Diocese of Toledo. This letter gives all registered parishioners an opportunity to contribute to the Annual Catholic Appeal themed Hope In Action. The ACA will be successful if every member of our parish carefully considers their circumstances and truly strives to give a significant gift. Please give prayerful consideration to your level of support to help

fund the essential ministries and services supported by the Appeal. To learn more, visit [acatoledo.org](http://acatoledo.org). Thank you!

**Saint Joseph Catholic Church**

## Job Opening at Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby

### Part-time Parish Life Coordinator.

The Parish Life Coordinator is a passionately Catholic missionary disciple who coordinates and oversees various activities in the life of the parish; as well as plans, executes, and assesses faith-based social activities. This position also coordinates parish fundraisers and volunteers. Qualifications include being an active, practicing Catholic who possesses an authentic and faithful understanding of Church teaching and is self-motivated, anticipatory, and collaborative in the workplace; and has experience in budgeting, recruitment, evaluation, and supervision.

Estimated start date will be February 17, 2026. To Apply please send cover letter and resume to Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish, Attn: Father Chris Mileski, 29 West St., Shelby, OH 44875 or email at [fatherchris@stmaryshelby.org](mailto:fatherchris@stmaryshelby.org) by February 8, 2026.

## The Catholic Women's Club

The Catholic Women's Club will have their February luncheon and meeting on **Wednesday, Feb 11th at the Ontario Event Center. Social time at 11:30 and buffet lunch at 12:00 is \$19.** Our speaker is Jenny Zang from Flying Horse Farms. Collection will be fabric and batting for quilts. All women of the deanery are invited to attend, bring a friend, and enjoy time together. **If you need a reservation, call Cheryl Mears, Feb committee chairperson 419-512-1021 for details.**



## This Week on Formed

Week of February 08, 2026



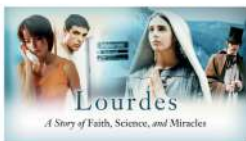
### Sts. Benedict and Scholastica

A pair of holy twins, a cave, and a group of naughty monks... this is the story of Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica.



### Beloved

Beloved uncovers the mystery and the meaning of the sacrament of marriage. What if marriage is more than you think it is? What if God has woven into the very fabric of your humanity a purposeful need and desire that can only be fulfilled in your marriage? Beloved invites all couples to experience firsthand the wonder, mystery, and joy behind that first "I do" ... whether you said it last year or many years ago.



### Lourdes: Story of Faith, Science,

The film follows a journalist, his ancestor who met Bernadette at Lourdes, and the story of a woman healed by Lourdes' waters, tracing three lives.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

## Pilgrimage Opportunity

The Tri-Parish group of the Mansfield area invites you to consider joining us on a trip to Italy October 12-23, 2026. We will spend several nights in each of Assisi, Florence, and Rome, visiting many basilicas, and other historical and faith-related sites. Mass will be celebrated each day, and we will have a local guide accompanying us throughout the trip. If the Holy Father is in Rome, we will attend the weekly papal audience. You can find additional information about this trip at [catholicfaithjourneys.com](https://catholicfaithjourneys.com) or by contacting Kathy Wilkinson at 419-989-8513 or by email to [kmadams58@gmail.com](mailto:kmadams58@gmail.com).

## The Catholic Women's Club Scholarship

The Catholic Women's Club of the St. Juan Diego Deanery offers a scholarship to a qualified Catholic girl in her Senior year.

She should graduate in 2026 from high school and plan to attend college or trade school. She does not need to be attending Catholic High School, or to attend a Catholic college to apply.

See your parish office, youth director, or the President of CWC, Brenda Starr-Jude for the application form and requirements.

**Submit the application by mail before April 8, 2026 to:**

Brenda Starr-Jude, President CWC, 182 Foxcroft Rd., Lexington, OH 44904

PH: 419-610-8251

# ADVENTURES IN MARRIAGE

## ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

422 WEST MANSFIELD STREET  
NEW WASHINGTON, OH 44854

MARCH 20	MARCH 21	MARCH 22
5:30-8:30 PM	5:30 PM-8:30 PM	1:00-3:00 PM

CHILD CARE  
PROVIDED

St. Bernard Catholic Church invites married couples to an Adventures in Marriage retreat weekend focused on strengthening relationships through faith, fellowship, and shared experiences. Childcare and meals are provided. Registration is required. Cost: \$50 per couple. For information and to register use the QR code or visit <https://www.livethelife.org/event-details/st-bernard-catholic-church-adventures-in-marriage-retreat>



# Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



## "We're Moving!"

We've all had that familiar life experience: making a move. It may have been the move after marriage into your first home, or after ordination into your first parish assignment. Perhaps the move was from one home to another, even one state or country to another. It may have been a move from high school to college, or from college to a first job, or from one job to the next.

Whatever the moves we've experienced, such transitions are never easy, and often marked by challenges. Statistics report that of the top causes of stress in one's life in a year, a major move ranks in the top five! As I write this column, "we're moving!" The long-anticipated sale of our Diocesan Pastoral Center to the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department has been finalized, as announced publicly in November, and as foreseen, our major move to a temporary location is underway. Diocesan and Catholic Charities services will not be interrupted while in our temporary space.

Our diocesan team had examined and evaluated several possible temporary locations, within the city

and beyond, seeking the most accommodating, suitable, economical and practical space we could find. Now we are delighted to announce that we are moving to our temporary space at the Fifth Third

Building - One Seagate in downtown Toledo, where our entire Pastoral Center staff will occupy just one floor, the 23<sup>rd</sup> floor. Our work from this temporary location, for which we have a two-year lease, will also come at significant cost savings! The Diocesan Pastoral Center has long served as the central

administrative and ministry offices for all our nineteen-county diocese.

But before I continue, a bit of history is in order. It was in 1957 that Bishop George Rehring sold the then existing diocesan offices elsewhere in the city to consolidate diocesan ministries at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, where the Pastoral Center has been located since. That building was enhanced and enlarged by Bishop James Hoffman in 2002 with a two-story addition connected to the seven-story building.





It was back in 2020, that a Pastoral Center Project Committee had been formed consisting of myself, several members of the Diocesan leadership team, and the Diocesan Real Estate Committee. The Project Committee engaged several professional consultants and conducted a needs assessment and feasibility study of the current Pastoral Center offices, concluding that the space was too large and expensive for present and future needs. This is mainly due to a 47 percent reduction in staff over a period of years, which resulted in a 60 percent occupancy of the current space. Recognizing the importance of responsible stewardship of diocesan properties and resources as provided by the people of God, it became clear that relocating the offices to a more effective and efficient space would be the most sensible path.

Additionally, it was determined that to remain in the existing space for an extended period, significant funds would need to be invested to address key maintenance projects. Recognizing the importance of always being good stewards of our properties and resources, as provided by the people of God, it became clear that relocating the offices to a more efficient space would be the most responsible path. Therefore, alternative options were studied and evaluated with an emphasis placed on existing diocesan owned and vacated properties.

After regular and ongoing consultation with the Diocesan Finance Council and College of Consultors, the Project Committee identified an area adjacent to Rosary Cathedral as the preferred new location for the Pastoral Center offices. This involves renovating and augmenting the already owned diocesan property located at the corner of Delaware Ave and Collingwood Blvd. It was agreed that a move to this

location will prove the most effective use of existing Diocesan assets, will result in substantial overall cost savings, will enhance the Rosary Cathedral campus and will enrich the surrounding neighborhood and community. Further updates will be shared as this new Pastoral Center project advances.



As already shared publicly, the source of funds for this project will come from a combination of the sale of the existing Pastoral Center property, Mareda sale proceeds, grants, gifts and other financing. Intentionally, no funds for this project will be from parish assessments, offertory or the *Living Christ* capital campaign.

So for us, just as for all of you when you've made a major move, there is a mix of excitement and apprehension, of enthusiasm and anxiety, of hopefulness and trepidation. During one of our recent monthly Pastoral Center staff gatherings, I recommended that we all keep in mind four important words which begin with "p" to characterize how we approach this transition. Those four words are: prayer, patience, prudence, and perseverance! In hindsight, I think it would have been helpful to add a fifth now popular "p" word: positivity! As you can see, much work has been accomplished, and there is much still to be accomplished! So do pray with me that our transition be blessed and that our temporary space may serve the needs of our diocese, because "we're moving"!

*+ Daniel E. Thomas*

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas  
Bishop of Toledo  
January 23, 2026



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