



331 N. Thoman Street | Crestline, Ohio 44827
419-683-2015 | stjosephcrestline.org

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

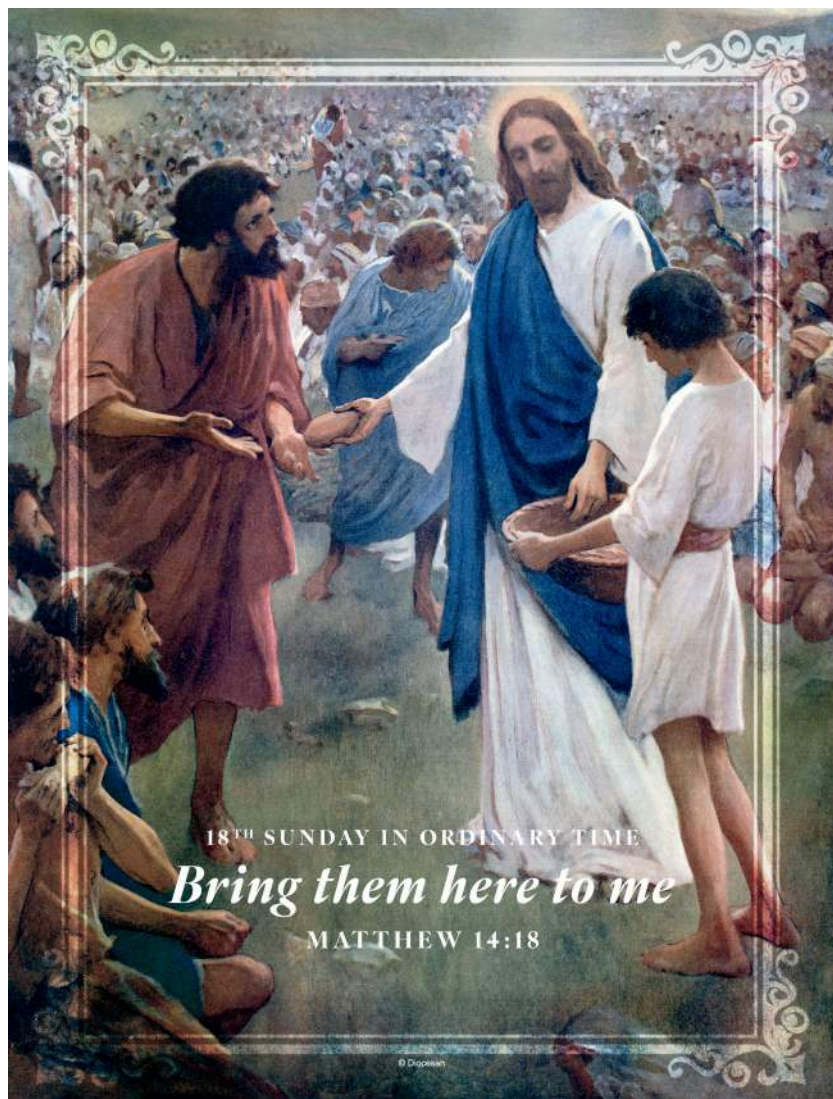


SACRED HEART of JESUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

~ Bethlehem • Founded 1833 ~

5742 State Route 61 S. | Shelby, Ohio 44875
(419) 683-4598 | sacredheartbethlehem.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00am to 3:00pm



18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Bring them here to me

MATTHEW 14:18

Parish Personnel and Contacts

Serving Both Parishes

Father Jeff Smith Pastor
jsmith@toledodiocese.org | 419-683-2015

Deacon Steven Vogt Deacon
svogt@ncool.net | 419-564-6331

Joann Palm Business Manager
jpalm@stjosephcrestline.org
419-683-2015 (SJ) | 419-683-4598 (SHJ)
Monday & Tuesday - Sacred Heart (SHJ)
Wednesday - Friday - St Joseph (SJ)

Katherine DiLullo OCIA Coordinator
419-961-3494

Kim Legge OCIA Coordinator
419-689-3033

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Diane Bemiller Parish Secretary
dbemiller@shelbysacredheart.org | 419-683-4598

St. Joseph Parish

Bonnie Cochran Parish Secretary
bcochran@stjosephcrestline.org | 419-683-2015

Lisa Simmons Pastoral Assistant
lsimmons@stjosephcrestline.org | 419-683-2015

Stephen Marek Maintenance Committee Moderator
419-683-3671

Ben Hocker Cemetery Manager
419-565-7925

St. Joseph Convocation Center Rental

Please contact Amy Tesso at 419-683-1284 or
email atesso@stjosephcrestline.org

Letter From the Pastor

Greetings Parishioners,

It seems like we always get the word out to you during the busy holiday season.

So, I thought I would send this message now ... in the spirit of the approaching school year.

★ Did you know you can donate \$750 or \$1,500 to our schools and it cost you nothing? ★

This is through an Ohio SGO (Scholarship Granting Organization) which lets you help a child attend a Catholic school without increasing your Ohio taxes.

Here's how it works:

1.) You donate money to an approved SGO through (<https://www.dotsgo.org>) to either St. Joseph school in Crestline or Sacred Heart school in Bethlehem.

2.) Ohio gives you a state tax credit for your donation—up to the annual limit allowed by law (currently up to \$750 for an individual or \$1,500 for a married couple filing jointly).

3.) You turn the tax credit into your tax person.

Sound to good to be true? - Here is how it works.

- Say you owe \$800 in Ohio state income tax.

- You donate \$750 to an approved SGO.
- You claim the \$750 Ohio tax credit.
- Now you owe only \$50 in Ohio state income tax.

On the flip side... if you had already paid enough taxes through paycheck withholding, reducing what you owe can also increase your state tax refund.

Just something to plant in your head early and something that can incredibly assist our schools! Both our principals will be firing reminders about this to you throughout the year.

In Christ,

Fr. Jeff

Scripture Readings

For the Week of August 2, 2026

Sunday	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 55:1-3; Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18; Rom 8:35, 37-39; Mt 14:13-21
Monday	Jer 28:1-17; Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102; Mt 14:22-36
Tuesday	Memorial of Saint John Vianney, Priest Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29, 22-23; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
Wednesday	Jer 31:1-7; Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13; Mt 15:21-28
Thursday	Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9
Friday	Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7; Dt 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41; Mt 16:24-28
Saturday	Memorial of Saint Dominic, Priest Hb 1:12—2:4; Ps 9:8-9, 10-11, 12-13; Mt 17:14-20
Sunday	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Rm 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline to include items in the bulletin is Monday by 9:00 am before the desired Sunday publication. To submit items for the bulletin, please email lsimmons@stjosephcrestline.org and dbemiller@shelbysacredheart.org. You may also call the St. Joseph Parish Office at 419-683-2015.

Men's Group Meeting

Wednesday, August 12

St. Joseph Parking Lot

8:00 to 10:00 pm

This group is open to any man from any parish. No preparation or prior study necessary. We meet the second Wednesday of each month. Communications are through the Signal app. If you would like to be added to the group on the app or if you have any questions, please email Fr. Jeff at jsmith@toledodiocese.org

Hope to see you there!

Panther Volleyball Coach(s) Needed

Do you have the knowledge of volleyball?

Would like to share your knowledge with girls in 4th-6th grades about the fundamentals of volleyball?

Please contact Jonah Studer @ 419-543-0119 for more details.



Mass Schedule & Intentions

Tuesday · August 4

6:30 pm Mass at Sacred Heart
John Metzger & Richard Vogt

Wednesday · August 5

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart
Rev. Stanley Szybka

Thursday · August 6

5:30 pm Confessions at St. Joseph

6:30 pm Mass at St. Joseph
Lindsey & Lisa Anatra

Friday · August 7

8:30 am Mass at St. Joseph
For the Souls in Purgatory

7:30 pm Adoration at Sacred Heart

Saturday · August 8

3:30 pm Confessions at Sacred Heart

4:30 pm Mass at Sacred Heart
For the People of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Parishes

Sunday · August 9

7:00 am Mass at St. Joseph
Bexley Hiler; Pat Cornocchione

8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart
Rhonda & Jim Borgelt

10:30 am Mass at St. Joseph
Richard Brandeburg



Don't Miss Out!

PARISH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE AT THE CHURCH. EVERY FAMILY RECEIVES A FREE 8X10 FAMILY PORTRAIT AND A PRINTED DIRECTORY! CALL THE OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION!



Save the Date for Purse BINGO



Saturday, October 24
St. Joseph Convocation Center

More details to follow.
Hope you can join us!

Please Schedule Your Photo Session Soon!

Photo sessions at St. Joseph take place this week! You can still schedule a session online!

When you choose to schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to the Universal website (www.ucdir.com) and click on the box to the right that says, "Photography Appointment Scheduling Login."

- **For a session at St. Joseph (August 4 - 6)**, enter: oh2929a in the Church Code field and enter: member-SJ in the Church Password field.

- **For a session at Sacred Heart (August 11 - 13)**, enter: oh2929b in the Church Code field and enter: member-SH in the Church Password field.

Then simply follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment. Please call the St. Joseph Parish Office at 419-683-2015 if you have any questions.

We hope to have many parishioners photographed for the best possible directory. Remember, this is a terrific opportunity for a professional portrait at a convenient location.

Please schedule your photo session soon!

Weekly Offering

From July 26, 2026

Total Offertory Collection	\$6,526.60
Sunday Envelopes	 \$3,340.00
Loose Checks (All Categories) ...	\$1,345.00
Loose Currency	 \$468.10
Online Giving (All Categories)	\$291.50
Votive Lights	 \$47.00
School Support	 \$180.00
Parish Maintenance	 \$550.00
Church Building Maintenance	 \$255.00
Caritas	 \$45.00
Altar Candles	 \$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 join us as we pray a Holy Hour on Tuesdays in St. Joseph Church at 11:00 am. Please come and pray the Rosary and other prayers for our beloved country. 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.



Letter from the Principal

Dear St. Joseph Families,

The start of a new school year is just a few weeks away! Back-to-School Night will be held on Monday, August 17 at 6:00 pm. Families will have the opportunity to meet the staff, drop off school supplies and enjoy refreshments. Wednesday, August 19 will be the first day of school for students in Kindergarten-Grade 6. The first day of Preschool is Tuesday, September 1.

The staff is putting on finishing touches in the school, and classrooms are ready for the return of teachers and students. A fresh school building raises the excitement for a new school year! And many thanks to our Maintenance and Grounds Committee volunteers for keeping the school and parish grounds looking great!

Admissions continues to grow slightly, so we are very optimistic for surpassing our enrollment goal for the year. God is good all the time! There are still openings in all classrooms and as an Ed Choice Scholarship provider, **all students are eligible for a tuition scholarship**. Thank you for all your prayers and support.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Back-to-School Pancake Breakfast after both Sunday Masses on August 16 sponsored by P.A.W.S.

I am so grateful to serve St. Joseph Catholic School again this year as principal. I look forward to this new school year full of faith, academic learning, and growing together as a school community, partnered with our St. Joseph Parish.

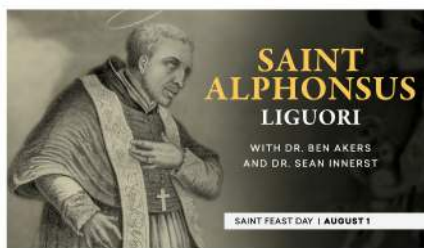
In His Name,
Sue Sanders
Principal

Saint Joseph School Staff

Sue Sanders	School Principal ssanders@stjosephcrestline.org 419-683-1284
Jenna Collene	School Secretary jcollene@stjosephcrestline.org 419-683-1284
Jonah Studer	Athletic Director Jo55st@yahoo.com 419-543-0119

School Advisory Meeting

Thursday, August 6 @ 7:15 pm in the Knights room.



formed
Forming Catholics for Life

St. Alphonsus Liguori | Catholic Saints

Born to a noble Italian family and known as the "Prince of Moral Theologians", St. Alphonsus Liguori was a great preacher, lawyer, bishop, theologian, and Doctor of the Church. In this episode of Catholic Saints, Augustine Institute professors Dr. Sean Innerst and Dr. Ben Akers discuss this holy man, drawing wisdom from his life and works to aid Catholics today.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

11:27 AM
07/23/26
Accrual Basis

St. Joseph Catholic Church
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2026

	<u>Jun 30, 26</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
11000 · CASH	445,898.91
13000 · ENDOWMENTS	58,457.61
Total Checking/Savings	<u>504,356.52</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>504,356.52</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>504,356.52</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
21000 · Accounts Payable	<u>18,807.19</u>
Total Accounts Payable	18,807.19
Credit Cards	
21500 · Credit Card	<u>1,597.72</u>
Total Credit Cards	1,597.72
Other Current Liabilities	
23000 · DESIGNATED COLLECTIONS	-65.00
24000 · Courtesy Exchange	1,605.00
25000 · Prepaid Tuition & Registration	2,640.00
27000 · PAYROLL LIABILITIES	<u>-1,129.23</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>3,050.77</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>23,455.68</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>23,455.68</u>
Equity	
32000 · Net Assets	464,092.16
Net Income	<u>16,808.68</u>
Total Equity	<u>480,900.84</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>504,356.52</u></u>


7-24-26

11:19 AM
07/23/26
Accrual Basis

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Profit & Loss by Class

July 2025 through June 2026

	Parish	School	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
41000 · STUDENT RECEIPTS	0.00	189,887.28	189,887.28
42000 · STUDENT SERVICES REVENUE	-352.63	30,703.73	30,351.10
43000 · Mandated Services Reimbursement	0.00	20,008.63	20,008.63
51000 · CHRISTMAS & EASTER COLLECTION	12,636.50	0.00	12,636.50
52000 · OTHER COLL'S & INITIAL OFFERING	75,627.80	17,525.23	93,153.03
53000 · Stipends & Stole Fees	2,255.00	0.00	2,255.00
54000 · PARISH ACTIVITIES GROSS RECEIPT	2,262.25	0.00	2,262.25
55000 · GIFTS & DONATIONS-OPERATING	17,966.50	42,298.93	60,265.43
56000 · OTHER INCOME	3,113.47	7,818.91	10,932.38
57000 · SUNDAY & HOLYDAY COLLECTIONS	181,079.57	394.25	181,473.82
Total Income	294,588.46	308,636.96	603,225.42
Expense			
61000 · SALARY EXPENSE	103,564.79	223,671.77	327,236.56
62000 · PAYROLL TAXES & FRINGE BENEFITS	26,420.68	90,956.27	117,376.95
63000 · ADMINISTRATIVE/OFFICE EXPENSES	18,818.45	18,459.59	37,278.04
64000 · PARISH OPERATIONS	33,608.53	650.37	34,258.90
65000 · INSTRUCTIONAL EXPENSE	0.00	2,402.83	2,402.83
66000 · STUDENT SERVICES EXPENSE	137.04	48,311.86	48,448.90
67000 · MARKETING & FUNDRAISING EXPENSE	3.58	12,804.32	12,807.90
68000 · BUILDING EXPENSE	40,439.71	39,853.44	80,293.15
69000 · OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	15,424.01	0.00	15,424.01
Total Expense	238,416.79	437,110.45	675,527.24
Net Ordinary Income	56,171.67	-128,473.49	-72,301.82
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
71000 · GIFTS & DONATIONS-NONOPERATING	16,470.00	46,836.34	63,306.34
72000 · OTHER INCOME-NONOPERATING	48,876.07	2,098.99	50,975.06
Total Other Income	65,346.07	48,935.33	114,281.40
Other Expense			
81000 · CAPITAL EXPENSES	7,240.49	17,847.25	25,087.74
82000 · GIFTS & DONATIONS- NONOPERATING	0.00	61.73	61.73
83000 · OTHER EXPENSE - NONOPERATING	21.43	0.00	21.43
Total Other Expense	7,261.92	17,908.98	25,170.90
Net Other Income	58,084.15	31,026.35	89,110.50
Net Income	114,255.82	-97,447.14	16,808.68

9A
7-24-26

Sacred Heart of Jesus News

Weekly Offering

From July 26, 2026

Total Offertory Collection\$2,180.00

Regular Offertory \$1,525.00

Online \$655.00

Heart of Bethlehem \$125.00

Thank You !

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



Letter from the Principal

Dear Followers of Christ,

As I start my 24th year as Principal at Sacred Heart School, it never ceases to amaze me how blessed we are. We have many individuals and families that take ownership of our church and school. I say a heartfelt thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped make Sacred Heart Festival a success! There were so many individuals that went above and beyond working hard for our students. Your hard work did not go unnoticed. We are truly blessed with the number of volunteers that make the fourth Sunday of July a priority every year!

You are invited to help us celebrate the gift of a Catholic Education on Wednesday, August 12th from 6pm-7pm at our Open House. This is a great time to come and meet your child's teacher(s), see the classrooms, drop off school supplies, fill out free and reduced lunch forms and pay fees.

We are blessed to have the opportunity to offer 3yr old preschool through 8th grade at Sacred Heart School. Did you know that you can receive up to 100% - \$650 towards tuition through EdChoice, EdChoice Expansion and JPS State Scholarships for students' kindergarten – 8th grade? There is **NO** cap on income to apply for the EdChoice Expansion scholarship. **Please contact me directly for the forms to apply for this scholarship @ Lmyers@shelbysacredheart.org**. What an awesome opportunity for our families to choose Catholic Education at Sacred Heart School from 3 yrs. old through 8th grade!

Our first day of school is Monday, Aug. 17th. We are preparing for a year of knowledge and faith. How blessed are we? Thank you for entrusting us. At Sacred Heart School, the staff's partnership with you is very essential in educating and forming the Catholic faith in our students.

I respectfully ask you to keep our students, staff and Sacred Heart Community in your continuous prayers. Thank you for your continuous support of our students and staff. How many schools have the honor of teaching and demonstrating to their students the importance of keeping Christ in the center of their lives? I am pleased to say that not only are we able to share this mission, but we also provide outstanding academics!

In God We Trust,

Lisa Myers, Principal

Sacred Heart of Jesus School Staff

Mrs. Lisa Myers School Principal
Lmyers@shelbysacredheart.org
419-683-4680
419-683-1697

Mrs. Jessica Rietschlin School Secretary
jrietschlin@shelbysacredheart.org
419-683-4680
419-683-1697

Jonah Studer Athletic Director
Jo55st@yahoo.com
419-543-0119

New Telephone Numbers for Sacred Heart



Please be aware that telephone numbers at Sacred Heart have changed.

Parish Office: 419-683-4598

Sacred Heart School: 419-683-4680 or 419-683-1697

Vocations Cross

Please contact the Parish Office to sign up for the monthly Vocations Cross. Need volunteers for September and beyond. Thank you!



<i>Check Ministry Pro for updates.</i>	<i>Saturday, August 8 4:30 pm</i>	<i>Sunday, August 9 8:30 am</i>
<i>Music Minister</i>	Sean Beeson	Folk Group
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Luke Davies Weston Vogt	Oliviah Stilwell Thea Jordan
<i>Offertory</i>	Barry & JoAnn Claytor Family	Jeff & Kelly Vogt Family
<i>Extraordinary Ministers</i>	Joanne Claytor Tammy Lucius Doug Lucius	Steve Vogt Marti Keller Laura Nold Cheryl Rietschlin
<i>Ushers</i>	Mark Vogt Steve Gosser	Jeff Vogt Roger Niese
<i>Lector</i>	Jo Ann Krausman	Diane Metzger
<i>Counters</i>	Steve Metzger, Laura Nold, Sheila Vogt	
<i>Tues., August 4 6:30 pm</i>	Eucharistic Minister: Steve Vogt	
<i>Wed., August 5 8:30 am</i>	Lector: Kate DiLullo; Server: Aubrey Timmons	



Mass in Latin

Saturday, August 15 • 10:00 a.m.

Most Pure Heart of Mary •

Shelby

Join us to pray for a continued increase
to religious vocations.

F.I.S.H. Ministries Wish List

Canned fruit (peaches, mixed fruit, pineapple), egg noodles, canned beef stew, canned chili, canned meats (Spam, tuna, chicken), peanut butter. All non-perishable food items are accepted. Thank you for your generous continued support!

Thank You, Sacred Heart Parish!

The Altar & Rosary Officers and Festival Committee sincerely thank everyone who helped make this year's Sacred Heart Festival another great success.

Whether you volunteered, donated, attended, purchased dinners, or supported the festival in any way, your efforts made a difference. Your continued support helps strengthen our parish and school.

A complete financial report will be shared with the parish soon. Thank you again for helping make this year's festival a success!

The Altar & Rosary Officers

Sacred Heart - August Birthdays



<i>James Dannemiller</i>	<i>August 1</i>
<i>Francis Keller</i>	<i>August 1</i>
<i>James Hicks</i>	<i>August 8</i>
<i>Robert Conley</i>	<i>August 9</i>
<i>Rosanne Conley</i>	<i>August 14</i>
<i>Joseph Wechter</i>	<i>August 14</i>
<i>Karl Sutter</i>	<i>August 15</i>
<i>Cheryl Rietschlin</i>	<i>August 19</i>
<i>Arinda Bell</i>	<i>August 20</i>
<i>Charles Weaver</i>	<i>August 20</i>

SUNDAYKIDZ

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Boat Crowd Heart Pity Cured
 Loaves Fish Blessing Satisfy Full

©Diocesan



Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

August 2026

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Crestline

Rev. Jeff Smith, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Although born into wealth, St. Bernard desired a life of simplicity, holiness, and austerity. Born in 1090 in Fontaines, France, he entered the monastery at Cîteaux in his twenties, followed by most of his family. Recognizing his holiness and noting the overcrowding of the monastery, the abbot sent St. Bernard to establish a new monastery in Clairvaux. St. Bernard went on to found monasteries for nuns, worked for the Holy See, and preached the Second Crusade.

More than the mission

No matter our age, we all need to hear these words: "I love you without measure." At the Transfiguration, the Father declared of Jesus, "*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased*" (Matthew 17:5). He means those words for us as well. Before all else, we are God's beloved children.

Significantly, the Father speaks these words before Jesus goes to the Cross, before His saving mission is complete. We often reverse that order, allowing our identity to depend on our accomplishments or faithfulness. We assume God will love us once we have fulfilled our mission. But the Gospel reveals the opposite. God's love is not earned but freely **given**. Our mission flows from our identity, not the other way around.

"For I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

Be Like Christ. Love Like Christ.

What does it mean to "be like Christ" in the context of our everyday lives? The key is to love as He loves. Here are five practical ways to love like Jesus.

Learn His pattern. The Gospels show us how Jesus responded to the sick, the brokenhearted, the marginalized, and even His enemies. Scripture provides the pattern, while prayer and the Sacraments provide the grace to live it. The more we immerse ourselves in Christ's life, the more naturally His way of loving becomes our own.

Cultivate His heart. Jesus describes Himself as "*gentle and humble of heart*" (Matthew 11:29). His humility comes from His complete obedience to the Father's will. His gentleness is strength under perfect self-control, expressed in His patience, mercy, and compassion, even toward those who rejected Him. As we imitate His way of love, our own hearts are slowly transformed as His.

Show genuine interest. Jesus often asked open-ended questions, not because He lacked the answers, but to draw people out. "*What do you seek?*" (John 1:38). "*What are you discussing*

with each other?" (Luke 24:17) Genuine love begins with genuine interest. Asking thoughtful questions communicates that people are seen, heard, and valued.

Choose the charitable interpretation. St. Theresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart wrote, "If the actions of our neighbors have a hundred sides, we ought always to look at them on the best side." Love resists rushing to judgment and gives others the benefit of the doubt, creating space for understanding rather than

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29).

suspicion.

Always act out of love. St. Paul exhorts us, "*Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God*" (1 Corinthians 10:31). Jesus lived every moment in perfect love for His Father and for us. Love was not merely one aspect of His life; it was the motive behind everything He did. Following Christ means allowing love to shape not only our greatest sacrifices but also our smallest daily actions.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Formula prayers are not a substitute for personal prayer but a time-tested way of entering into it and deepening it. When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, He gave them the Our Father (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4), a prayer to be prayed repeatedly. Scripture also contains many communal prayers, especially the Psalms, which

Why do Catholics pray formula prayers?

served as Israel's prayer book and remain the Church's today. By praying these inspired words, Catholics join generations of believers in worship. Whether at Mass or beside a hospital bed, formula prayers unite the faithful, expressing not only personal devotion but also the shared faith of the whole Church.

What to do when you don't feel like praying

Not feeling like praying is something even faithful Christians experience. In fact, seasons of dryness can be a normal part of spiritual growth. While they may have different causes, they do not necessarily mean something is wrong. Here are three ways to respond:

Pray about not wanting to pray. Bring your reluctance to God. You don't have to overcome your feelings before coming to Him. Honest prayer is still prayer, and God meets you with love exactly where you are.

Keep it simple. We value brief messages from those we love: "I love you," "Good luck today," or "Thinking of you."

Prayer can be that simple. The goal is relationship, not length. A heartfelt "God, help me," "Jesus, I trust in You," or "Come, Holy Spirit" is enough.

Choose presence over performance. Approach prayer the way you would spending time with a close friend. We don't cancel plans with someone we love simply because we're tired.

In the same way, keep showing up. God delights in your company (Proverbs 8:31). He is not looking for a perfect performance but for a heart that continues to seek Him, even when prayer feels dry or difficult.

from Scripture

Matthew 16:21-27, God's ways are not our ways

At first glance, this passage seems like bad news. Jesus predicts His own death, a revelation that must have stunned the disciples. They had just come to recognize Him as the long-awaited Messiah. Instead of leading a triumphant victory over Rome, Jesus spoke of suffering, rejection, and execution. To them, it looked like failure, not triumph.

Peter responded as many of us do when faced with suffering: he resisted the Cross. He wanted Jesus to avoid it and was sharply rebuked. Yet had Jesus turned aside, we would have remained

in our sins, separated from God. Instead, He freely embraced the Cross. He chose us. From the perspective of the Resurrection, what appeared to be defeat was in fact Christ's decisive victory over sin and death.

God desires our happiness, not merely our temporary comfort. He desires our eternal joy. The Christian life is not about avoiding the crosses God permits but embracing them with trust, as Jesus did. And we never carry them alone. Christ walks beside us, bearing the heavier end of every cross.

Q & A Can the Pope make mistakes if he's infallible?

Yes. The pope is human and, like anyone else, can make mistakes in his personal opinions, decisions, or everyday statements. Papal infallibility does not mean the pope is incapable of error. Rather, it means that, under specific conditions, the Holy Spirit preserves him from definitively teaching error in matters of faith and morals (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 891).

Papal infallibility applies only when the pope is:

Defining a doctrine of faith or morals. The teaching must concern divine revelation or truths closely connected to it. It does not apply to scientific claims, political views, interviews, homilies, or personal opinions. For example, in 1950, Pope Pius XII infallibly defined the dogma of Mary's Assumption into heaven.

Speaking ex cathedra ("from the chair"). The pope must speak in his official capacity as the successor of St. Peter and clearly intend to proclaim a doctrine that is binding on the entire Church. In *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII explicitly invoked his apostolic authority to "pronounce, declare, and define" the Assumption as a divinely revealed dogma.

Feasts & Celebrations

August 7—St. Cajetan (1547). St. Cajetan was born in Italy to a noble family. He went on to study civil and canon (Church) law at the University of Padua. He worked to reform the Church by founding the Theatines, a religious order modeled on the teachings of the Apostles.

August 9—St. Edith Stein (1942). Formerly Jewish, she was an atheist intellectual in Germany. After studying St. Teresa of Ávila, she converted to Catholicism, and became a Carmelite nun. Although her order tried to shelter her from the Nazis, she was taken to and executed at Auschwitz.

August 15—The Assumption of Mary. Declared a dogma of faith in 1950 by Pope Pius XII, the Assumption celebrates Mary's being taken up into Heaven body and soul at the end of her life. This feast highlights the Church's respect for the dignity of the body in view of our future resurrection. Note: This year, it is not a holy day of obligation.

August 24—St. Bartholomew (First Century). One of the Twelve Apostles and the son of Tolomai, Bartholomew is thought by some scholars to be the apostle, Nathanael, who went with Philip to see Jesus. After Jesus's Ascension, Nathanael spread Christianity to India and in Armenia, where he was martyred. He is the patron saint of Armenia and Belgium.

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Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



“Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales: an historic transition”

The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, who have served here in the Diocese of Toledo since 1943, have announced that they will unite their two provinces, Toledo-Detroit and Wilmington-Philadelphia, to form one North American Province in January 2027. They have selected Toledo native and St. Francis de Sales School Class of 1999 alumnus, V. Rev. Michael Newman, OSFS, to serve as its first provincial. Because this is such a significant moment for the Oblates, I asked the present Provincial Reverend Joseph Newman, OSFS, to share with us information about this transition. I'm so glad to offer here, Father Joe's message:

“In his Apostolic Letter Totum Amoris Est, Pope Francis reflected on the enduring relevance of St. Francis de Sales, noting that the gentleman saint taught “there was no better place to find God, and to help others to find him, than in the hearts of the women and men of his time.” Throughout their ministry in the Diocese of Toledo, the Oblates have faithfully embodied this vision. As they form a united province, they will continue their ministries in the Diocese of Toledo, committed to their patron's conviction that “God is the God of the human heart,” bringing Christ's gentleness, hope, and love to all they serve.

The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales were founded in France in 1875 by Blessed Louis Brisson, who was inspired by the life and Salesian teaching of Venerable Mother Marie de Sales Chappuis, a Visitation Sister. Faithful to the vision of

St. Francis de Sales, Bl. Brisson established a community dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel through gentleness, humility, optimism, and the universal call to holiness. Today, the Salesian spirit is alive in Toledo and throughout the Diocese, where the Oblates embrace and share their patron's vision to “Live Jesus.”



The first Oblates arrived in the U.S. in 1893 to serve the Sisters of Divine Compassion in New York. The congregation's presence steadily grew, and by the 1940s, the American Province had extended its ministry into the Midwest, where Toledo emerged as a center of Oblate life and mission. Bishop Karl Alter invited the Oblates to come to Toledo in 1943 to teach at Central Catholic High School. The first Oblates

quickly gained a reputation for academic excellence, pastoral availability, and the distinctive Salesian approach to forming young people through gentleness, encouragement, and personal attention.

In 1953, the Oblates again answered the call to serve the Diocese of Toledo. At the invitation of Bishop George Rehring, they established St. Pius X Parish and became its first pastors while continuing their educational ministry. Later, the Oblates began ministry at Gesu Parish. Today, Fr. Craig Irwin, OSFS, serves as pastor of St. Pius X and Gesu, and the St. Pius rectory is home to the Oblate Novitiate, where future Oblates begin their formation.

The success of the Oblates' ministry at Central Catholic led Bishop Rehring to ask them to establish a Catholic college preparatory high school for boys. St. Francis de Sales High School was founded by the Oblates in 1955 and quickly became, and remains, one of the premier Catholic educational institutions in northwest Ohio. The school develops students academically, spiritually, socially, and physically in the spirit of Salesian Spirituality, guiding young men to know and love God and through St. Francis' invitation to "be who you are and be that well."



For generations, St. Francis de Sales School has fostered a brotherhood rooted in faith, tradition, and the commitment to transform boys into Christian gentlemen. The school continues to thrive with strong enrollment and an ambitious vision for the future. Led by Fr. Joe Newman, OSFS, President, the school is expanding athletic facilities, modernizing classrooms, and enhancing performing arts spaces. Alumni are leaders throughout the nation, embodying faith and Salesian values in their personal and professional lives.

The Oblates' commitment to forming young people extends beyond the classroom. For decades, Camp DeSales, located in the Irish Hills of Brooklyn, Michigan, has welcomed thousands of young people for retreats, camps, and faith-filled experiences. Among its signature programs are Salesian Leadership Camp (SLC) and Catholic Youth Camp (CYC), attended by students from parishes across the Diocese. Camp DeSales is also home to Charity on Fire, a community of full and part-time missionaries serving Catholic youth.

Another more recent Oblate apostolate for the youth of the Diocese of Toledo is Live Jesus Ministries, developed in partnership with the Diocese. This is an innovative approach to youth evangelization centered on small-group discipleship. Guided by trained adult mentors, young people regularly gather within their parishes to develop authentic friendships and meaningful relationships with Christ. Live Jesus Ministries is renewing youth ministry across the Diocese by forming young disciples who are rooted in Christ and equipped to share a lifelong relationship with Him.

While the Oblates staff St. Pius X Parish, Gesu Parish, and

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, their ministry extends well beyond these communities. Throughout the Diocese of Toledo, they generously assist parishes by celebrating Mass, administering sacraments, preaching missions, and collaborating with diocesan clergy. They also maintain a longstanding and cherished ministry with the Sisters of the Visitation, serving as their chaplains by celebrating daily Mass, administering the sacraments, and providing spiritual direction, continuing the rich heritage shared by the Visitation Sisters and the Oblates.

The establishment of one province has been more than an organizational undertaking; it has been a profound journey of spiritual renewal for the community led by V. Rev. Joe Newman, OSFS, Provincial, Toledo-Detroit Province, and V. Rev. Jack Kolodziej, OSFS, Provincial, Wilmington-Philadelphia Province. "This spiritual renewal asks us to open our hearts to the roots of our congregation, recall our mission, and respond once more to Fr. Brisson's directive 'To reprint the Gospel on our hearts, so the Savior will be seen walking again on earth.' This effort will not only renew our own hearts, but also impact the way we lead, minister, and live," said Fr. Newman. When, in January 2027, Fr. Michael Newman assumes the role of provincial for the new North American Province, he will lead this refounding and reconfiguration effort."

The formation of the new Oblate North American Province is a grace-filled moment for the Diocese of Toledo. As the Oblates renew their commitment to this local Church, they do so with confidence in the Holy Spirit and a renewed faithfulness to their mission. Rooted in the Salesian virtues of gentleness, humility, and joyful optimism, they will continue to accompany God's people and proclaim the Gospel. I am so very grateful for their fidelity to consecrated religious life and look forward to our continued partnership in the mission of Christ and His Church. May God richly bless them as they begin this new chapter among us.

+Daniel E. Thomas

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
July 14, 2026

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.

August 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Increase of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
2 Pope Leo XIV	3 Bishop Daniel E. Thomas	4 Your Parish Priests	5 Parents of Priests	6 Rev. Evarist Miku	7 Rev. Christopher M. Mileski	8 Deacons and Missionary Priests
9 Rev. Jeremy P. Miller	10 Rev. John A. Miller	11 Rev. Theodore J. Miller	12 Rev. John C. Missler	13 Rev. Kevin D. Moebius	14 Rev. Juan Francisco Molina	15 Deceased Priests of our Diocese
16 Rev. Joseph J. Mominee	17 Rev. James Morman	18 Rev. Msgr. Kenneth G. Morman	19 Rev. Richard E. Morse	20 Rev. Eric L. Mueller	21 Rev. John Murray	22 Religious Brothers and Sisters
23 Rev. Joseph. A Newman	24 Rev. Michael Newman	25 Rev. Arthur J. Niewiadomski	26 Rev. Andrew Norton	27 Rev. Richard E. Notter	28 Rev. David W. Nuss	29 Increase of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
30 Rev. Charles M. Obinwa	31 Rev. Thomas E. Oedy					



Diocese
of Toledo

<i>Check Ministry Pro for updates.</i>	<i>Sunday, August 9 7:00 am</i>	<i>Sunday, August 9 10:30 am</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Tracy Dzugan	Debby Ketcham
<i>Extraordinary Ministers</i>	Steve Marek Dave Horning Tracy Dzugan	Peggy Pauley Joann Palm Denise Belcastro
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Bryce Parsons Don Alt	Mayson Davis Natalee Davis Gavin Parsons
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Cyril & Bonnie Cochran	Peggy Pauley
<i>Ushers</i>	Doug DeNero Dave Horning	Matthew Ruhe Lynn Whites



2026-2027

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Richard Eugene "Rich" Rowlinson, 81, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, July 18, 2026. He was the father of Jennifer (Adam) Link, and the grandfather of Sydney and Samantha Link.



Richard "Rich" J. Brandeburg, 76, of Crestline, passed away on Thursday, July 24, 2026, at his residence. Rich was a member of St. Joseph Parish and husband to Linda.

St. Joseph Parish sends our sincere condolences to the Rowlinson, Link, and Brandeburg families.

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.

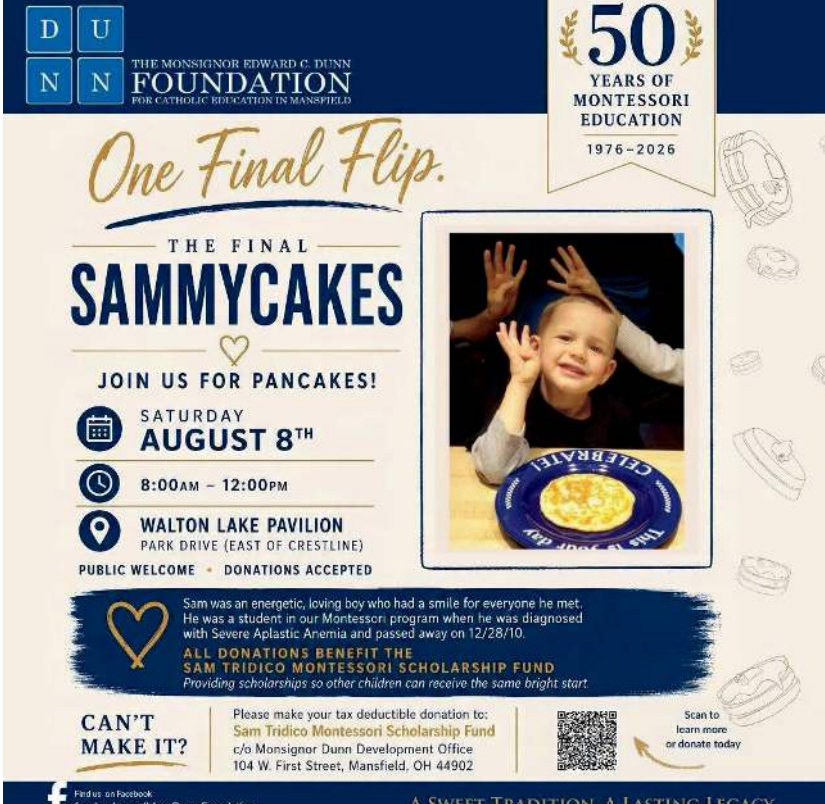
We Need You!

We are still looking for some volunteers who are willing to step up and be added to the church cleaning schedule. Do you have an hour, one Monday morning a month to help us out? Duties include dusting, vacuuming, and dry mopping. If you would like to volunteer, please call Bonnie at the Parish Office at 419-683-2015. "Many hands make light work!" Thank You!

Vocations Cross at St. Joseph



We would like to restart the Vocations Cross here at St. Joseph Parish. The purpose of this cross is to bring awareness for the need to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. Would you be willing to bring the Vocations Cross into your home for a month and pray for vocations? We will provide various prayers to help you in your prayer time. If you are interested in taking part in this important ministry, please call Bonnie at the St. Joseph parish office, and she will get you on the list. Thank you.



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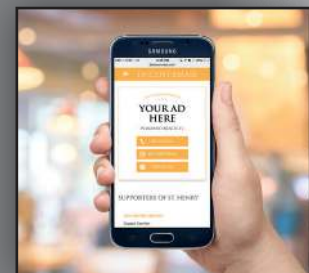
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