

A TOWER OF FAITH IN THE WEST END AND CUMMINSVILLE

# ***ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH***



*745 Ezzard Charles Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45203*

***Parish Phone:*** 513-381-4526

***Fax:*** 513-381-5244

***www.stjosephcincinnati.org***

*Rev. Rodolfo Coaquira-Hilaje, MCCJ, Pastor*

*Rev. Gianluca Rosa, MCCJ, Parochial Vicar*

*Deacon Dennis Edwards*

*Mrs. Shon Hubble, MM, Music Ministry*

**MASSES:**

*Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.*

## **OUR MISSION IS OUR FAITH**

*"You, however, are a  
chosen race, a royal  
priesthood, a holy  
nation, a people He  
claims for His Own  
to proclaim the  
glorious works.  
**(1 Peter 2:9)***

# Liturgical Calendar, Mass Intentions and Readings

**Sunday, April 7:** *Second Sunday of Easter/ Sunday of Divine Mercy: Acts 4:32-35; Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:29; John 20:19-31*

9 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church For: Our Lady of Guadalupe Family of Parishes (SI)  
By: SJCC  
11 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church For: Our Lady of Guadalupe Family of Parishes (SI)  
By: SJCC

**Monday, April 8:** *Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord: Is 7:10-14; 8-10; Psalms 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4-10; John 1:14ab; Luke 1:26-38*

**Tuesday, April 9:** *Tuesday of the Second Week of Easter: Acts 4:32-37; Psalms 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; John 3:14-15; John 3:7b-15;*

**Wednesday, April 10:** *Wednesday of the Second Week of Easter: Acts 5:17-26; Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 3:16; John 3:16-21*

**Thursday, April 11:** *Memorial of Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr: Acts 5:27-33; Psalms 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20; John 20:29; John 3:31-36*

**Friday, April 12:** *Friday of the Second Week of Easter: Acts 5:34-42; Psalms 27:1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 4:4b; John 6:1-15*

**Saturday, April 13:** *Saturday of the Second Week of Easter: Acts 6:1-7; Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; John 6:16-21*

**Sunday, April 14:** *Third Sunday of Easter: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Psalms 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9; 1 John 2:1-5a; cf Luke 24:32; Luke 24:35-48*

9 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church For: All St. Vincent DePaul volunteers of Our Lady of Guadalupe Family of Parishes (SI)  
By: SJCC  
11 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church For: All St. Vincent DePaul volunteers of Our Lady of Guadalupe Family of Parishes (SI)  
By: SJCC

**Requesting a Mass Intention:** *You may request a mass intention for a loved one or to commemorate an important occasion. A \$5 donation is offered along with the Mass intention request. To request a Mass, please call or stop by the parish office, or you may complete an envelope with your request and drop it in the collection box. A Mass intention is a lovely way to honor a friend, family member or an important event in one's life.*

**Check out these podcasts**



The National Black Catholic Congress offers several podcasts on its website.

**Your Questions Answered Ask Father Josh**

Each week Father Josh answers questions submitted by listeners about life, faith, morality and relationships

**For the Voices Unheard The Gloria Purvis Podcast**

Discover opinions, stories and experiences of individuals who have been marginalized in the Catholic Church and in society.



Please help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to bring the love and mercy of Jesus to those who feel left out and abandoned for indeed we are only doing "what we are obliged to do".

Have you considered answering the call to "help the poor find forgiveness and healing in their life" by joining the Society of St. Vincent dePaul? As a volunteer with SVDP, you can help others in a way that will fit into your busy life. Vincentians are volunteers who are people just like you from all walks of life -- those who want to help their community by giving their talent for the greater good. Gwen Dukes is SVDP president. Contact Linda Knight, 513-344-3907 for more information.

## Second Sunday of Easter/ Divine Mercy Sunday April 7, 2024



### Peace Be With You

My Brothers and Sisters  
in the Risen Lord

Often life does not turn out as planned, and sometimes it may even cause you to suffer a tremendous setback or unforeseen sorrows. Psychologists define this as an emotional/psychological trauma, and as human beings, its aftereffects can be devastating. These feelings can leave one struggling with fears, doubts, anxiety, and a disconnection from the world. Perhaps the perfect representation is the feeling of being locked in a dark room with no clue as to how to move in a forward direction and become part of the world once again.

It is the Second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. Every year on this occasion, we read a passage from the Gospel of John (20: 19-31) because it is one of the most celebrated accounts of Jesus's appearances to his disciples following his death and resurrection. Our excerpt today describes in poignant, symbolic terms what it means to be a Christian and how faith can move mountains in this sad and lonely world. It is especially fitting to hear these words in the week following Easter as we wind down from celebrations and return to more ordinary activities. Yes, give thanks to the Lord, for God is with us, offering love, peace, and guidance everlasting.

**(Continued on next page)**

Today we find the apostles cowering behind locked doors in the aftermath of Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus enters the room bringing with him a profound sense of peace and its beautiful expression—Shalom. His presence immediately transforms their fear and doubt into joy, and reminds us that through his resurrection, mankind has been recreated from darkness and chaos into light, reminiscent of the creation story in Genesis. The locked door opens, peace and joy enter the room, and Jesus breathes onto them the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus's message is clear and concise—go forth to all people in his name. Yes, Christianity begins in this once locked, fearful room, and through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, our fears, doubts, and the darkness of this wounded world can find refuge. Only Jesus can bring light to the dark places and compassion to our locked hearts.

Another powerful concept in this Gospel concerns the apostle Thomas, who is a symbolic representation of the human tendency to doubt when faced with uncertainty. Through Thomas, John teaches us that we must try to pay attention to the glimmers as well as moments of clarity of his presence in our lives—especially in difficult moments. We must remember Jesus is with us always to help guide the way. Light versus darkness—it's a choice we all must make. And “blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” and proclaim, “My Lord and my God!”

*“We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. . . We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song! We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love. . .”*

—Pope John Paul, 1986  
Yours in Christ,  
Father Rudy

Collections for March 31, 2024 are unavailable due to holiday printing times

**Live Stream**  
Sunday Mass from our Website:  
[www.stjosephcincinnati.org](http://www.stjosephcincinnati.org)  
Every Sunday at 11 a.m. or watch the video at a later date.

# Liturgical Ministries for April 7 and 14

*If you cannot make your scheduled date, please arrange a sub in your place or call the church office at 513-381-4526. All ministers -- Please arrive 10 minutes before Mass, check at the Sacristy for attendance and any further instructions from the Pastor. Thank you.*

## Acolytes

**April 7:**  
9 a.m. Liz Berry, Ron Hitzler  
11 a.m. Howard Tribble, Nate Powers,  
**April 14:**  
9 a.m. Liz Berry, Ron Hitzler  
11 a.m. Howard Tribble, Nate Powers

## Announcers

**April 7:**  
9 a.m. Deacon Dennis Edwards  
11 a.m. Mike McCoy  
**April 14:**  
9 a.m. Deacon Dennis Edwards  
11 a.m. Mike McCoy

## Catechists

**April 7:**  
11 a.m. Catechists: Joyce Edwards, Gayle Burton, Peggy Nachtrab, Patricia Charlton and Michael Townsend  
**April 14:**  
11 a.m. Lead Catechists: Joyce Edwards, Peggy Nachtrab and Patricia Charlton

## Eucharistic Ministers

**April 7:**  
9 a.m. Willia Green, Anne Shaffer  
11 a.m. Bill Jefferson, Gail Smith  
**April 14:**  
9 a.m. Willia Green, Anne Shaffer  
11 a.m. Mark Patel, Sharon Sanker

## Lectors

**April 7:**  
9 a.m. George Kinley, Anne Shaffer  
11 a.m. Lee Wilson, Margo Aug  
**April 14:**  
9 a.m. Walt Connolly, Barbara Wright  
11 a.m. Edna McCoy, Peggy Nachtrab

## Ushers' Roster

9 a.m. Shirley Colbert, Willa Green, Stan Carloss, Thomas Penland  
11 a.m. Head Usher: Robin Walker, Marilyn Tribble, Joyce Taylor, Bill Ware, Reggie Lee, Ronald Garvin, Robert Harris, James R. Roper Jr., Yolanda Roper, Larry Jerdo

If you have a special announcement to share, please call the Parish Office or send your news to [church@stjosephcincinnati.org](mailto:church@stjosephcincinnati.org)

# Parish/Community News

## *Rice bowl donations*



Thank you for Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl donations. Your Lenten sacrifices help families around the world overcome the challenges of hunger and poor nutrition. Turn in your CRS Rice Bowl by Sunday, April 14. Leave the rice bowl at the usher's table.



## *Church staff*

Please call the parish office  
at 513-381-4526  
Fax number: 513-381-5244  
Email: church@stjosephcincinnati.org

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## *Divine Mercy Sunday*

This weekend we celebrate the Sunday of Divine Mercy. God's greatest desire is to forgive us, pouring out His infinite mercy upon us so that we may be healed.

Women and men alike who have been involved in an abortion may feel deep grief, guilt, anxiety, depression, broken relationships and a sense of alienation from God and the Church. They may experience anniversary reactions to the date of the abortion or what would have been the baby's due date. For anyone struggling with this, the Church cares.

It is never too late to seek the Lord's mercy and healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Consider confidential, compassionate help from our diocesan abortion healing ministry. It is open to those of any faith or no faith, offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions. Go to <https://projectrachelohio.org> or call Project Rachel Help Line at 513-784-0531 for information.

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## *Old Palms*

If you want to dispose of your palms from last year, bring them on Sunday and put them in the box by entrance of the church.

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## *Bereavement Group*

Plans are in the works for a Bereavement Support Group at Little Flower Parish. If you have lost a loved one and want to join the group, or want more information, please contact Anita Bechtold at 513-708-3318 or adelunab@fuse.net. Your loss is important to us, as the Body of Christ.

**Listen to Sacred Heart Radio:** Sacred Heart Radio brings you the most sought-after Catholic speakers and authors at any time: on the radio at 740 AM and 910 AM, or online at [www.sacredheartradio.com](http://www.sacredheartradio.com). Listen live or scan our QR code for the free app to hear Sacred Heart Radio on your phone from anywhere.

- Rev. Rodolfo Coaquira-Hilaje, MCCJ, Pastor (aka Father Rudy)
- Rev. Gianluca Rosa, MCCJ, Parochial Vicar (aka Father Luca)
- Mr. Dennis Edwards, Deacon
- Mrs. Shon Hubble, Music Minister
- Ms. Mary Roberson, Business Manager (ext. 13)
- Mrs. Jean Brown, Receptionist (ext. 10)
- Ms. Lee Wilson, President of Parish Council
- Mrs. Gwen Dukes, President of St. Vincent dePaul
- Mrs. Vanessa Rozier, Grand Lady, Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary: 513-313-6900
- Mr. Reginald E. Lee, Grand Knight, Knights of Peter Claver, 513-652-7122
- SJCS Alumni Association: Mrs. Joan Smith Beason, 513-641-0763 or Mrs. Joyce Edwards, 513-281-0727

## *Sacraments*

**Baptisms:** If you have an infant to be baptized, please call our parish office or use church website,

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

**Marriages:** Schedule through church website

**Anointing of the Sick:** If you or a loved one is in the hospital or expecting surgery, call the parish office or use church website

**Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA):** Please call the parish office or check church website for more information





# Hear Our Prayer

*Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence. Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illnesses, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits. May these special people find lasting health and deliverances, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts. We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen.*

## Hospital/Nursing Home

Dysart, Richard: Covenant Village  
Hurst, Rev. Paul: Bayley Place  
Duffy, Rev. Patrick, Majestic Care of Fairfield  
Richards, Kathy: Chamberlain Healthcare  
Royston, Patty: Clovernook  
Schafer, Sandy: Brookwood Retirement  
Foster-Waller, Alberta: Mercy Health West Park  
Hogue, Susie: Hillebrand Nursing & Rehab center  
Brumfield, Bonnie, Mercy Health West Park

## Homebound/Sick; shut-ins

Blair, Diane  
Hill, Hestella  
Knight, Melda  
Mason, Pam  
Moye, Claudia  
Randolph, Mary Ann

## Prayer List

Byndon-White, Shirley  
Checks, Newton  
Ford, Walter  
Heatherman, Christine  
Irby, Frances  
Jackson, Elizabeth  
Knight, Linda  
Menefield Family  
Reed, Margaret

## Prayer for Vocations

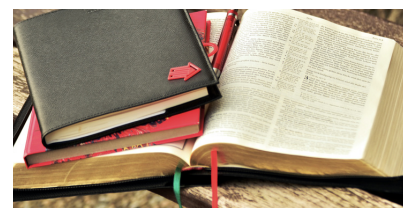
Almighty Father: You have created for us some definite purpose. Grant us the grace to know the path You have planned for us in this life and to respond with a generous "Yes." Make our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts fruitful ground for Your gift of vocations. May our young people respond to Your call with courage and zeal. Stir among our men a desire and the strength to be good and holy priests. Bless us with consecrated religious and those called to a chaste single life, permanent deacons, and faithful husband and wives who are a sign of Christ's love for His Church. We commend our prayer for vocations to You, Father, through the intercessions of Mary our Mother, in the Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Prayer for Protection

St. Joseph, you are the faithful protector of and intercessor for all who love and venerate you. I have special confidence in you, for you are all-powerful with God and will never abandon your faithful servants.

I humbly invoke you and commend myself with all who are dear to me to your protection and intercession. Do not abandon me or them during life and assist me and them when we die.  
Amen.



## Zoom Bible Study Mondays at 6:15 p.m.

Be a part of our Mondays evenings -- all are welcome to join us. Zoom can be used on your computer, your tablet or even your smartphone.

**To get logged in:**  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3386881613>. Meeting ID: 338 681 613. If only able to join by phone, call 312-626-6799. Meeting ID: 338 681 613. (Please log in about 5-10 minutes ahead of time.)

## My eOffering

Our electronic giving program is an easy way to send your offerings online. We are offering this service as a convenience, so you no longer have to write checks or remember to bring cash with you on Sunday. Simply log into myEOffering through the SJCC website [www.stjosephcincinnati.org](http://www.stjosephcincinnati.org). Online giving has many benefits to our parish, especially during these difficult times. It is safe, secure and easy to manage.

## Beacons of Light Information Sessions

Want to learn more about Beacons of Light and how this process will enable your parish to continue to fulfill the mission of the Church in the 21st century? Parish leaders - e.g. council and commission members, staff members, ministry leaders, et al. - are particularly invited to participate in a Beacons of Light Information Session to hear from archdiocesan leadership and ask questions. Sessions will be offered in each of the six deaneries with a few online options as well. Go to [www.pathway.catholicaoc.org/beacons-of-light-info-sessions](http://www.pathway.catholicaoc.org/beacons-of-light-info-sessions).

# From the Archdiocese

**Ember Days 2024:** Ember Days are run by seminarians for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. This event is for high school boys to learn about prayer, discernment, seminary, and the priesthood. Ember Days 2024 are on Friday, June 7 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology in Cincinnati and Saturday, June 8 at Sacred Heart in McCartyville. More information will soon be available at [www.cincinnati vocations.org](http://www.cincinnati vocations.org).

**The National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21 in Indianapolis:** Join thousands of fellow disciples from across the U.S. and beyond for the event which will include prayer, workshops, concerts, and more. The National Congress is a centerpiece of the multi-year Eucharistic Revival initiated and led by the U.S. Catholic Bishops. Groups or individuals may register for the entire event or for just a day. For more information, go to <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/>

**Workshop on Grief:** On May 9, the Office for Consecrated life will host the annual IMAR (Intercongregational Ministry to Aging Religious) Workshop, featuring Sheila Munafa-Kanoza on the topic of grief. This workshop is for those who work with our aging religious, especially those serving in our 14 regional health care centers such as Mount Notre Dame, the Sisters of Charity and the St. Charles Senior Living Community, to name a few. To register go to <http://tinyurl.com/IMARGrief> or contact Maria Reinagel at [mreinagel@catholicaoc.org](mailto:mreinagel@catholicaoc.org).

**Wedding Anniversary Certificates:** Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2024? 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, or 75 years ... Request a certificate signed by Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr by visiting the Archdiocese of Cincinnati web page at: <https://bit.ly/3IgyXfv>. Questions? Please contact the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Marriage & Family Evangelization Office at [cnc@catholicaoc.org](mailto:cnc@catholicaoc.org).

**Are You Celebrating Your 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2024?:** Married couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2024 are invited to attend one of the following Golden Anniversary Masses: • Saturday, Sept. 7 at 4:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Tipp City. Celebrant: To be determined • Sunday, Sept. 8 at 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains, Cincinnati. Celebrant: Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr Registration is required to attend one of the Golden Jubilee Wedding Anniversary Masses. Please register online by completing the anniversary certificate request form linked here: <https://bit.ly/3IgyXfv>. Questions? Please contact the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Marriage & Family Evangelization Office at [cnc@catholicaoc.org](mailto:cnc@catholicaoc.org)

**Career Opportunities at Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio:** Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio continues to grow and serve more people in our community. If you or someone you know is seeking a career change, keep an eye on our career page at [www.ccswoh.org/careers2](http://www.ccswoh.org/careers2).

**Help Local Refugees:** With a large influx of refugees coming to Cincinnati, Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio Refugee Resettlement Services needs your help for the families we are receiving. We need donations of furniture and other household items (linens, dishes, pots and pans, etc.). Volunteers are greatly needed to pick up furniture and set up housing, as well as to serve as mentors for refugee youth. To find lists of needed items or to learn more about volunteering, visit [www.ccswoh.org](http://www.ccswoh.org) or call our office at 513-241-7745.

**Project Rachel:** A ministry of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati that serves anyone who has experienced the loss of a child due to abortion. Individuals can engage in this ministry for healing through one-on-one conversation with peers, consultation with a priest (including in Spanish), support groups, retreats for mothers who lost a child, and a day of reflection for anyone (father, grandparent, friend, etc.). Go to <https://projectrachelohio.org/> or call the Project Rachel Help Line at 513-784-0531 for information. Next retreat: March 8-10, 2024.

**Interested in the Catholic Faith:** Do you want to know more about the Christian Catholic faith? Are you thirsting for a good refresher review on the Christian Catholic faith? If so, we invite you to sign up for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. If you would like to join a group for this faith journey, baptized or not baptized, our series of weekly sessions will begin in the fall and run through spring. For more information, please contact Little Flower's Director of Faith Formation, Greg Niehaus at [gniehaus@littleflower-church.org](mailto:gniehaus@littleflower-church.org) or at 513-541-5560 or 513-598-8880, or Deacon Dennis Edwards at [dfirst@aol.com](mailto:dfirst@aol.com) or at 513-741-3070.



# DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The first Sunday after Easter

## THE HISTORY

Jesus began appearing to St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun, in 1931. The message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on her published diary recording the revelations she received from Jesus. St. Faustina died in 1938, at 33 years old, and was canonized by St. John Paul II in 2000.

## THE PROMISE

Our Lord Jesus said, "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates throughout which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet... Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy."

— Saint Faustina, Diary, 699

## WHY IS THIS PROMISE FROM JESUS SO WONDERFUL AND MERCIFUL?

### TEMPORAL PUNISHMENT AND SUFFERING:

The Catholic Church teaches that sin has two consequences, or punishments. (CCC 1472). The first is eternal punishment in which the soul loses heaven and is confined to an eternity in Hell. This punishment is remitted through the forgiveness of sins. The second is temporal punishment, in which a person must expiate, or make reparation for his sins. This temporal punishment remains even after sin is forgiven. This temporal punishment is known as Purgatory.

So, Jesus's amazing promise to St. Faustina amounts to offering all mankind the graces of a COMPLETE PARDON; an opportunity to have all temporal punishment, time in Purgatory, that which would be necessary before entrance into Heaven, completely removed!

### TO OBSERVE DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Sincerely repent of all of your sins. Place your complete trust in Jesus. Go to Confession, the Church permits up to 20 days before the Feast. Receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday. Venerate the image, such as a prayer before it, "Merciful Jesus, I trust in You!" Be merciful to others, through actions, words, and prayers.



### THE IMAGE

"I desire that this image be venerated throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I promise victory over its enemies, already here on earth, and especially at the hour of death...I Myself will defend it as My own glory."

### THE CHAPLET

"Pray unceasingly the Chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation."

### THE CONVERSION PRAYER

"If you say this prayer, with a contrite heart and with faith, on behalf of some sinner, I will give that soul the grace of conversion:

*'O Blood and Water that gushed forth from the heart of Jesus, as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You.'*

— Diary 186, 187

Know, My daughter, that this prayer is always heard and answered."

— Diary 1397

### SPREAD OF THE DEVOTION

"Do whatever is within your power to spread devotion to my mercy. I will make up for what you lack."

# JESUS I TRUST IN YOU