

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

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

*Rev. Gianluca Rosa, MCCJ, Parochial Vicar*

*Rev. Samuel Yacob, MCCJ, Parochial Vicar*

*Rev. Miguel Torres, 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, September 8:** *Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalms 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; James 2:1-5; cf Matthew 4:23; Mark 7:31-37*

9 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church For: Melvin Greer (SI)  
By: Linda Knight  
11 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church For: John Thompson (D)  
By: Chris Nachtrab

**Monday, September 9:** *Memorial of Saint Peter Claver. Priest: 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Psalms 5:5-6, 7, 12; John 10:27; Luke 6:6-11*

**Tuesday, September 10:** *Tuesday of the Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Psalms 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; John 15:16; Luke 6:12-19*

**Wednesday, September 11:** *Wednesday of the Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time: 1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Psalms 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17; Luke 6:23ab; Luke 6:20-26*

**Thursday, September 12:** *Thursday of the Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time: 1 Corinthians 8:1b-7, 11-13; Psalms 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24; 1 John 4:12; Luke 6:27-38*

**Friday, September 13:** *Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27; Psalms 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12; 17:17b, 17a; Luke 6:39-42*

**Saturday, September 14:** *Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross: NM 21:4b-9; Psalms 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; John 3:13-17*

**Sunday, September 15:** *Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Isaiah 50:5-9a; Psalms 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; James 2:14-18; Galatians 6:14*

9 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church For: Daniel Rancifer (SI)  
By: SJCC  
For: Ashley Toney (SI)  
By: SJCC  
11 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church For: Robert Baskin (AD)  
By: Ron and Debbie Weitz

**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.



Come have a snack with St Joseph St Vincent de Paul conference team and learn about how to be a part of this ministry.

St Vincent de Paul Society needs you. Many neighbors need help and St Vincent DePaul needs volunteers like you. This ministry is very rewarding.

The Date is September 15th after 9am and 11:00 mass.

Gwen Dukes is SVDP Conference President. Contact Linda Knight 513-344-3907 for more information.

**Twenty-third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
September 8, 2024**



## **Ephphatha: Be Opened**

**My Brothers and Sisters  
in the Risen Lord**

This Sunday we encounter a powerful moment in the Gospel of Mark (7:31-37) when Jesus heals a deaf man with a speech impediment. The word Jesus utters, "Ephphatha," meaning "Be opened," resonates deeply, calling us to open our hearts, minds, and spirit to God's grace and transformative power.

In this passage Jesus takes the infirmed man aside from the crowd, touches his ears and tongue, and looks up to heaven before commanding, "Be opened." This intimate act of healing reflects the personal relationship Jesus seeks with each of us.

The command "Ephphatha" is not just a literal interpretation for us to behold – the physical miracle of healing. If we dive deeper into its symbolism, this event is a profound invitation for all of us to open ourselves to the fullness of life that Christ offers.

We live in a world where noise and distractions can deafen us to God's voice. Our spiritual ears can become clogged with worries, doubts, and the relentless demands of everyday life.

Jesus's call to "Be opened" urges us to steer away from the distractions in our lives, discomforts that might challenge our views, and our innate self-centeredness that seems so valued in our modern culture. Let us begin to listen more deeply and

**(Continued on next page)**

## Liturgical Ministries for Sept. 8 and Sept. 15

*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.*

attentively to the word of God.

Reflecting on this passage, we must consider what areas of our lives need opening.

Are our hearts hardened by past hurts, making it difficult to forgive and love fully? Are our minds closed to new insights and understandings of our faith, clinging instead to rigid interpretations that limit our spiritual growth? Are our spirits weighed down by fear and anxiety, preventing us from embracing the peace that Christ offers?

Jesus desires to heal our inner wounds and to restore our ability to communicate with him. Moreover, "Ephphatha" calls us to be open to the needs of others. Like Jesus, we are invited to reach out to those who are marginalized, to those who feel voiceless or unheard. Our acts of kindness and compassion can become instruments through which God's grace flows into the world.

As we reflect on this Gospel passage, let us pray for the grace to be truly open. Let us ask the Lord to touch the areas of our lives that need healing, to open our ears to his word, our minds to his truth, and our hearts to his love.

And may we, in turn, become instruments of his grace, bringing healing and hope to those around us. May the words of Jesus,

"Ephphatha," inspire us to live out our faith with courage, compassion, grace, and a profound sense of connection to God and to each other.

*"I always begin my prayer in silence, for it is in the silence of the heart that God speaks. God is a friend of silence. We need to listen to God because it's not what we say but what He says to us and through us that matters."*

—St. Teresa of Calcutta

Yours in Christ,  
Father Rudy

### **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.

### **Acolytes**

#### **September 8:**

9 a.m.

Liz Berry, Ron Hitzler

11 a.m.

Howard Tribble, Nate Powers,

#### **September 15:**

9 a.m.

Liz Berry, Ron Hitzler

11 a.m.

Howard Tribble, Nate Powers

### **Announcers**

#### **September 8:**

9 a.m.

Deacon Dennis Edwards

11 a.m.

Bill Ware

#### **September 15:**

9 a.m.

Deacon Dennis Edwards

11 a.m.

Bill Ware

### **Catechists**

#### **September 8:**

11 a.m.

Catechists: Joyce Edwards, Gayle Burton, Peggy Nachtrab, Patricia Charlton and Michael Townsend

#### **September 15:**

11 a.m.

Lead Catechists: Joyce Edwards, Peggy Nachtrab and Patricia Charlton

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

#### **September 8:**

9 a.m.

Willia Green, Anne Shaffer

11 a.m.

Sharon Sanker, Mark Patel

#### **September 15:**

9 a.m.

Willia Green, Anne Shaffer

11 a.m.

Mary Roberson, Bill Jefferson

### **Lectors**

#### **September 8:**

9 a.m.

George Kinley, Dave Stein

11 a.m.

Pam Dyle, Bill Jefferson

#### **September 15:**

9 a.m.

Walt Connolly, Barbara Wright

11 a.m.

Jan Seidel, Bruce Seidel

### **Ushers' Roster**

9 a.m.

Robert Johnson (lead usher) David Stein, Willa Green, Yolanda and James Roper, Stan Carlross

11 a.m.

Robin Walker (lead usher), Reggie Lee, Ron Garvin, Rob Harris, Marilyn Tribble, Bill Ware

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

## *Liturgy and Life -- Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Undoubtedly, Jesus had good intentions when he restored the man's senses. However, one should not assume that all people who are deaf, blind or otherwise sensory impaired want to be "cured." Disability advocates contend that each person is created with unique gifts and abilities. Having a disability does not make someone "less than." Quite the contrary, disabilities can be a defining source of pride for many. Reach out to a local disability advocacy group to learn more about the disabilities present in your community.

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### *Two Anniversaries*

In the fall of 2024, two important anniversaries will highlight the great contributions of African American Catholics in the Church. These anniversaries include: the 40th anniversary of the publication of "What We Have Seen and Heard," a pastoral letter published in 1984 by the six black American bishops and the 20th anniversary of the death of black liturgical pioneer Father Clarence Joseph Rivers of Cincinnati. These anniversaries will be celebrated with two Masses, Monday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 24 at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica Saint Peter in Chains. More details will be provided in future bulletins.

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### *Confirmation classes*

Are you ready for Confirmation St. Joseph parishioners who are baptized Catholics, who have already prepared for and celebrated the sacraments of Reconciliation/Confession and Eucharist/First Communion, and who are at least 12 years of age by the celebration date of the confirmation, can prepare for the sacrament of confirmation in a parish-based preparation process. we are taking registrations now.

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### *First Holy Communion classes*

First Holy Communion Spring 2025 Should you wish to have your child make his/her First Holy Communion we are taking registrations now. This is for children who are in the second grade, are at least seven years old, who have been baptized, and who regularly attend Mass. Also, children should be able to understand and be able to receive the Body of Christ with faith and devotion. Registration forms are available at the usher's table.

**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.



### *Church staff*

Please call the parish office  
at 513-381-4526

Fax number: 513-381-5244

Email: [church@stjosephcincinnati.org](mailto:church@stjosephcincinnati.org)

- Rev. Rodolfo Coaquira-Hilaje, MCCJ, Pastor (aka Father Rudy)
- Rev. Samuel Yacob, MCCJ, Parochial Vicar
- Rev. Miguel Torres, MCCJ, Parochial Vicar
- 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, KPC 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  
Rebeck, Joan, Twin Oaks Senior Living

## **Homebound/Sick; shut-ins**

Blair, Diane  
Hill, Hestella  
Knight, Melda  
Mason, Pam  
Moye, Claudia  
Randolph, Mary Ann  
Lomax, Jennifer  
Cowherd, Diane  
Robinson, Shirley

## **Prayer List**

Byndon-White, Shirley  
Checks, Newton  
Ford, Bernard  
Heatherman, Christine  
Irby, Frances  
Knight, Linda  
Menefield Family  
Reed, Margaret  
Walker, Shelly

## **Prayer for Vocations**

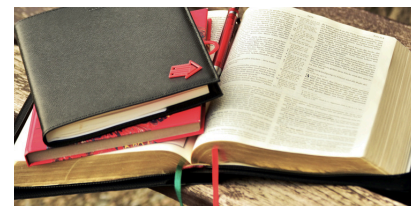
Almighty Father: You have created for us some definite purpose. Grant us the grace to know the path You have planned for us in this life and to respond with a generous "Yes." Make our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts fruitful ground for Your gift of vocations. May our young people respond to Your 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? 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).

***No figures are available for Sept. 1 collection because of the early publication time due to the Labor Day holiday.***

# From the Archdiocese

***Su Casa Hispanic Center Gala 2024:*** You are invited to "Shine the Light, Be the Light," Su Casa Hispanic Center's annual Gala Celebration. This year's event is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 27, at the historic Bell Event Centre.

Festivities begin at 6 p.m. and will include appetizers and drinks, followed by dinner, presentation, after party and dancing. The event will 'Shine the Light,' a beacon of empowerment, on the needs of the growing Hispanic/Latino community in Greater Cincinnati.

Su Casa Hispanic Center is a program of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio. Sponsorship and ticket information can be found at <https://trellis.org/sucasa2024>.

***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 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Tipp City. Celebrant: To be determined.
- Sunday, Sept. 8 at 11 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)

***Retrouvaille Program for Struggling Marriages:*** The Retrouvaille program is designed to help save marriages by offering hope and healing to married couples who are struggling with serious difficulties. It is structured in three phases, starting with a weekend led by married couples and a priest chaplain.

The techniques learned at the weekend are further developed during the second phase, which is a series of six successive Saturdays.

The final phase includes ongoing monthly small group gatherings with other couples who have attended the Retrouvaille program.

Interested couples should contact Mark & Nancy Kleespies at 513-382-5365 (Mark) or 513-706-2779 (Nancy).

***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. Volunteers are needed to pick up furniture and set up housing, as well as mentor refugee youth. For more information, 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.

***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 [defirst@aol.com](mailto:defirst@aol.com) or at 513-741-3070.