

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

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, February 23: *Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Corinthians 115:45-49; John 13:34; Luke 6:27-38*

9 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Our Lady of Guadalupe Parishes (SI)
By: SJCC

11 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Lillian Peterson (AD)
By: Shirley Robinson
For: Marcella Huffman (AD)
By: Shirley Robinson

Monday, February 24: *Monday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time: Sirach 1:1-10; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; 2 Timothy 1:10; Mark 7:14-29*

Tuesday, February 25: *Tuesday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time: Sirach 2:1-11; Psalm 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Galatians 6:14; Mark 9:30-37*

Wednesday, February 26: *Wednesday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time: Sirach: 4:11-19; Psalm 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175; John 14:6; Mark 9:38-40*

Thursday, February 27: *Thursday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time: Sirach 5:1-8; Psalm 1:1-4, 6; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Mark 9:41-50*

Friday, February 28: *Friday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time: Sirach 6:5-17; Psalm 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35; John 17:17b, 17a; Mark 10:1-12*

Saturday, March 1: *Saturday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time: Sirach 17:1-15; Psalm 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18; Matthew 11:25; Mark 10:13-16*

Sunday, March 2: *Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Sirach 27:4-7; Psalm 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Philippians 2:15d, 16a; Luke 6:39-45*

9 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: John Terry Larkin (D)
By: SJCC

11 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Juanita Robinson (AB)
By: Shirley Robinson
For: Greg Thompson (AD)
By: Dionne Johnson

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 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, 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 for giving their talent for the greater good. Gwen Dukes is SVDP Conference President. Contact Linda Knight 513-344-3907 for more information.

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 23, 2025**



Love Your Enemies

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

Conflict has always been part of human history. In Jesus' time, tensions ran high between the Jewish people and their Roman oppressors, a dynamic of domination and resentment that bred hostility.

In our modern lives, we see echoes of this strife in political disagreements, societal divisions, and personal disputes.

Families are torn apart by grievances, friendships are lost to misunderstandings, and even the simplest rivalries, such as those between sports teams, can escalate into animosity.

The reality of division feels inescapable, and yet, in Luke 6:27-38, Jesus offers a radical and unsettling command: "Love your enemies."

This is not mere tolerance, nor is it a theoretical exercise. Jesus calls us to love actively, with agape love – the self-sacrificial love that seeks the good of others even when it comes at great personal cost.

Loving your enemies means looking past your anger, your hurt, and your pride. Think of someone you truly dislike – someone whose actions or words have deeply wounded you.

To love them as Jesus commands is not to excuse their behavior, but to seek their good despite it.

As Peter Kreeft reminds us, "The measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

(Continued on next page)

Liturgical Ministries for Feb. 23 and March 2

In loving others – especially those who challenge us most – we reflect the love God pours out on us.

Jesus' teaching embodies the Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

It challenges us to go beyond natural inclinations. What credit is it, Jesus asks, to love only those who love you? Anyone can do that. True Christian love demands more – it requires us to rise above the instinct to retaliate or harbor resentment.

Gandhi's words resonate here: "An eye for an eye only makes the whole world blind."

Without forgiveness and love, the cycle of harm continues endlessly.

Loving our enemies does not mean allowing injustice to persist unchecked, nor does it mean ignoring evil. Rather, it means breaking the cycle of hatred by responding to hostility with grace. Often, kindness can disarm even the fiercest opposition. By your good intentions and actions, you may diffuse a situation, soften a hardened heart, or grow seeds of peace.

This is not easy. In fact, it goes against our very nature as human beings. But with God's help, it is possible. Christ himself is the ultimate example, offering his life for all, even as he forgave those who crucified him.

Loving our enemies is not optional for Christians – it is central to the Gospel message. So, when you find this call difficult, ask for God's strength.

Trust that through his grace, you can live out this radical love. By doing so, you not only follow Christ's command but also allow his light to shine through you in a broken and divided world.

Yours in Christ,
Father Rudy

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

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

February 23:

9 a.m. Liz Berry, Ron Hitzler
11 a.m. Nate Powers, Howard Tribble

March 2:

9 a.m. Liz Berry, Ron Hitzler
11 a.m. Nate Powers, Howard Tribble

Announcers

February 23

9 a.m. Deacon Dennis Edwards
11 a.m. Mike McCoy

March 2:

9 a.m. Deacon Dennis Edwards
11 a.m. Mike McCoy

Catechists

February 23:

11 a.m. Lead Catechists: Joyce Edwards, Peggy Nachtrab, Patricia Charlton, Gayle Burton and Michaela Townsend

Eucharistic Ministers

February 23

9 a.m. Willia Green, Anne Shaffer
11 a.m. Joyce Edwards, Mark Patel

March 2:

9 a.m. Willia Green, Anne Shaffer
11 a.m. Mark Patel, Reggie Lee

Lectors

February 23:

9 a.m. Barbara Wright, John Heatherman
11 a.m. Bruce Seidel, Jan Seidel

March 2:

9 a.m. George Kinley, Anne Shaffer
11 a.m. Robert Sanker, Mary Richardson

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

Parish/Community News

Liturgy and Life

Jesus instructs us to "be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (LK 6:36).

By the many examples given, it is clear that living mercy is a challenge that calls us beyond our comfort zone. Thankfully, so that we might be merciful.

God has already gifted us with grace. Ask God to show you where you are being called to show mercy to others.

Choose to act on a work of mercy that stretches you beyond your comfort zone.

Fellowship and Black History Program

The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary Council/Court 363 will host fellowship today. The group will present a Black History Program, in addition to the meal. Come dressed to impress as prizes will be awarded for the Best African Attire. Fellowship will begin immediately after the 11 am. Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Holy Day Mass

The Holy Day Mass for Ash Wednesday, March 5 will be held at 6 p.m. At St. Joseph Catholic Church. Please join us.

The Church in Central America and Eastern Europe

Next week, Wednesday March 5, 2025, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that are still struggling to recover from former communist rule.

It also aids communities throughout the region that are affected by the war in Ukraine. Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, renovations, and seminary formation. Your contribution restores the Church and builds the future in this region.

Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week. You can find more information at www.usccb.org/ccce. #iGiveCatholicTogether also accepts funds for this collection if you prefer to donate online.

Volunteer opportunities

We need people to assist with sacramental recordkeeping. We need someone with clear/legible handwriting. The records are still maintained in handwritten form and will need to be legible for many years to come. Please contact the parish office to volunteer.

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.



Church staff

Please call the parish office
at 513-381-4526

Fax number: 513-381-5244

Email: 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. Gayle Burton, Grand Lady, KPC Ladies Auxiliary: 513-301-8151*
- *Mr. Robert Harris, Grand Knight, Knights of Peter Claver, 513-807-8501*
- *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

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
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
Cowherd, Diane
Robinson, Shirley

Prayer List

Cheeks, Newton
Irby, Frances
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.)

Beacons of Light Information

The Beacons of Light website remains the primary source of information about the pastoral planning process underway in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The website is: 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. rg/Beacons-of-Lights Beacons of Light - Archdiocese of Cincinnati

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. Online giving has many benefits to our parish, especially during these difficult times. It is safe, secure and easy to manage.

Sunday Collection February 16, 2025

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Sunday Collection | 1116.00 |
| My Eoffering | 613.04 |
| Sunday Saints | 200.00 |
| St. Vincent dePaul | 120.00 |
| Other | 200.00 |
| Total | 2249.04 |

From the Archdiocese

Jubilee Year 2025: The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has launched a web page with information for the Jubilee Year 2025. Visit <https://catholicaoc.org/jubilee-2025> to learn about the Church's celebration of an Ordinary Jubilee every 25 years, obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence and pilgrimage sites within the archdiocese.

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage: Experience the grace of the Jubilee Year by joining Archbishop Dennis Schnurr on pilgrimage to Italy. Visiting the Eternal City offers a uniquely Catholic experience, where visitors can simultaneously take in ancient Rome, medieval Rome, and the grandeur of modern Papal Rome. The city offers one breathtaking experience after another, with awe-inspiring religious sites, world-class museums, splashing fountains, delightful piazzas, and exquisite art and architecture at every turn. This pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, Florence, Siena, Orvieto, and Monte Cassino will carry you on an unforgettable journey of Italian culture, history, art, and culinary delights. For more information or to register go to: <https://stcharlespilgrimages.com/schnurr>.

Welcome Week March 28-30: Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology in Cincinnati is hosting a welcome weekend for men ages 18-35 who are interested in learning about discernment and priesthood. The weekend begins Friday evening and concludes Sunday morning, March 28-30. Attendees will spend the night at the seminary and participate in community liturgies as well as prayer, social time, and talks about discernment and seminary life. Register using this link: <https://resources.catholicaoc.org/event/welcome-weekend>.

Wedding Anniversary Certificates: Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2025? 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.

Catholic Sisters Week: CSW invites all to celebrate women religious from March 8 -14. Please consider how you might shine a light on Catholic sisters who have touched your life. Additional resources and information can be found here: Communicators for Women Religious: <https://c4wr.org/catholic-sisters-week/>. For more ideas, contact Maria Reinagel, Director of the Office for Consecrated Life, at mreinagel@catholicaoc.org.

Help Local Refugees: 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 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 or at 513-541-5560 or 513-598-8880, or Deacon Dennis Edwards at defirst@aol.com or at 513-741-3070.

Connected Through Christ: Connected Through Christ is a group for parents of children that suffer from gender dysphoria. Parents meet to share and discuss experiences regarding our children who say that they are transgender. The core values of Connected Through Christ are based on a Christian understanding of male and female as articulated in Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Meetings are held twice a month at a Cincinnati east side parish. Email cincycctc@yahoo.com if you are interested in joining the group.



SUPPORT THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE



RESTORE THE CHURCH BUILD THE FUTURE

Decades ago, the bishops of the United States established a program to aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe and help it rebuild after decades of communist oppression. The program is funded by an annual collection taken up in dioceses across the United States. That response continues today, even as the rebuilding Church faces the new challenges of war and the mass migration of refugees.

From the beginning of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the subsequent war, the Catholic Church has vigorously responded to the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe by offering shelter, food, medicine, and necessities — as well as spiritual support and comfort — to displaced persons and other war victims. Among those leading this charitable response are the consecrated religious sisters and brothers of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Whether by providing shelter and basic necessities to internally displaced persons who have fled their homes for safety in other regions of the country, or by helping priests provide pastoral and humanitarian support in areas where the fighting is most heavy, these sisters and brothers have truly shown Christ's mercy to those most in need.

For them, the human suffering of war is compounded by the unique challenges that wartime conditions present for them as consecrated religious. Questions of how religious communities balance ministry to the needy with the sisters and brothers' needs to live their vows of prayer and community under such extraordinary circumstances require thoughtful responses.

Aided by funding from the collection, the Patriarchal Curia of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church gathered sisters, brothers, and their superiors for the spiritual renewal of a pilgrimage as well as formation sessions to address the challenges facing their communities. Your support for the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe is a vital way for you to make a tangible difference in the lives of Catholics in Ukraine and more than 25 other countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

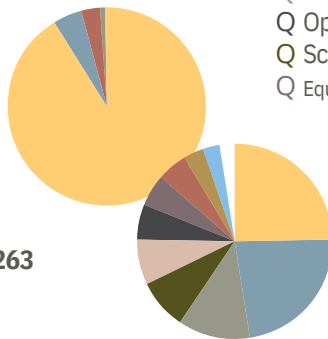
More information about collection and the range of projects it supports can be found at www.usccb.org/ccee.

2023 DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

Total Number of Grants Approved: 329
Total Amount Approved: \$8,755,833

EXPENSES

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Q Grants and Donations | 90.60% |
| Q Program Costs | 5.19% |
| Q Promotions and | |
| Fundraising Expenses | 3.23% |
| Q Administrative Expenses | 0.97% |
| Total Expenses | \$9,665,263 |



| PROGRAM AREA | GRANTS | AMOUNT | PERCENT |
|------------------------------------|--------|-------------|---------|
| Q Construction | 60 | \$2,201,384 | 25.14% |
| Q Emergency* | 7 | \$1,890,000 | 21.59% |
| Q Evangelization | 82 | \$1,346,352 | 15.38% |
| Q Operational Support | 31 | \$720,215 | 8.23% |
| Q Scholarships | 67 | \$573,407 | 6.55% |
| Q Equipment/Accommodation Purchase | 12 | \$473,431 | 5.41% |
| Q Seminary Support | 17 | \$383,579 | 4.89% |
| Q Social Aid | 20 | \$282,916 | 4.38% |
| Q Education | 11 | \$235,889 | 3.23% |
| Q Vehicle Purchase | 9 | \$220,122 | 2.69% |
| Q Multimedia | 13 | | 2.51% |

*Includes grants for urgent humanitarian and pastoral responses to the crisis in Ukraine.



Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS • 3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1194
202-541-3400 • FAX 202-541-3460 • WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS

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