

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, March 23:** Third Sunday of Lent: Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:42, 15; John 4:5-42 or John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

9 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Our Lady of Guadalupe Parishes (SI)

By: SJCC

11 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Herbert Richardson (AD)

By: Leona Richardson

**Monday, March 24:** Monday of the Third Week of Lent: 2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Psalm 42:2, 3:43:3-4 Psalm 130:5, 7; Luke 4:24-30

**Tuesday, March 25:** Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4-10; John 1:14ab; Luke 1:26-38

**Wednesday, March 26:** Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Psalm 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; John 6:63c, 68c; Matthew 5:17-19

**Thursday, March 27:** Thursday of the Third Week of Lent: Jeremiah 7:23-28; Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Joel 2:12-13; Luke 11:14-23

**Friday, March 28:** Friday of the Third Week of Lent: Hosea 14:2-10; Psalm 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17; Matthew 4:17; Mark 12:28-34

**Saturday, March 29:** Saturday of the Third Week of Lent: Hosea 6:1-6; Psalm 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Psalm 95:8; Luke 18:9-14

**Sunday, March 30:** Fourth Sunday of Lent: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12; Psalm 34:2-3, 3, 4-5, 6-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:18; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

9 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Cora Williams (D)

By: SJCC

11 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Roderick Payne (D)

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 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.

Third Sunday  
of Lent  
March 23, 2025



## Faith and Disappointment

My Brothers and Sisters  
in the Risen Lord,

We live in a world filled with unexplainable calamities.

Natural disasters devastate entire communities, claiming lives without discrimination.

Disease afflicts the young and healthy alongside the old and frail. Acts of violence and injustice leave us questioning why such suffering exists.

In moments like these, it's natural to wonder, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Or, perhaps more painfully, "Why does God allow this?"

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus offers us the parable of the fruitless fig tree (Luke 13:1-9), a story that speaks to the mysteries of suffering and hope in the face of disappointment.

The fig tree's owner sees no fruit and is ready to give up, declaring the tree a lost cause.

Yet the gardener steps in with a different perspective. He doesn't judge the tree harshly, nor does he let frustration overwhelm him. Instead, he rolls up his sleeves, grabs a shovel, and gets to work.

Here's the remarkable part: it's not the tree that needs to change; it's the owner of the fig tree whose mind the gardener is trying to transform.

The gardener invites him — and us — to look at the tree with hope

**(Continued on next page)**

and patience. He calls us to trust that, even in barrenness, life can bloom again if nurtured with care.

The gardener's actions challenge us to adopt a practical, hands-on faith.

He doesn't waste time assigning blame or becoming self-righteous about why the tree hasn't borne fruit.

Instead, he dives into the muck, digging around the roots and fertilizing the soil.

His actions remind us that our response to life's challenges is what matters most.

When tragedy strikes, the question is not "Why did this happen?" but "What can I do?"

The gardener reminds us that faith is not about standing on the sidelines, paralyzed by fear or despair.

Faith is about action – getting involved, ministering to those in need, and trusting that God is working even when we cannot see the fruit.

Jesus also warns us not to blame the victims of tragedy or assume their suffering is due to sin.

He references the collapse of the Tower of Siloam and the Galileans killed by Pilate, urging us to see these events not as punishments but as reminders of life's fragility and the need for repentance.

Rather than cowering behind closed doors in fear of the next calamity, Jesus calls us to live boldly, trusting in God's care.

Each morning, we have a choice: to despair over what we cannot control or to face the day with faith. With the gardener by our side, we can say, "Whatever comes my way, I will stand firm. My joy will be magnified because I trust in God's goodness. My sorrow will be transformed because I walk with Christ."

Let us listen to the gardener's voice and embrace a faith that gets its hands dirty, transforming barren branches into vessels of God's grace. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Father Rudy

## Liturgical Ministries for March 23 and 30

*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

#### March 23:

9 a.m.

Liz Berry, Ron Hitzler

11 a.m.

Nate Powers, Howard Tribble and Layla Walton

#### March 30:

9 a.m.

Liz Berry, Ron Hitzler, Samuel Aukahon

11 a.m.

Nate Powers, Howard Tribble, Manuela Aukahon

### Announcers

#### March 23:

9 a.m.

Deacon Dennis Edwards

11 a.m.

Mike McCoy

#### March 30:

9 a.m.

Deacon Dennis Edwards

11 a.m.

Mike McCoy

### Catechists

#### March 23:

11 a.m.

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

### Eucharistic Ministers

#### March 23:

9 a.m.

Willia Green, Anne Shaffer

11 a.m.

Reggie Lee, Joyce Edwards

#### March 30:

9 a.m.

Willia Green, Anne Shaffer

11 a.m.

Reggie Lee, Sharon Sanker

### Lectors

#### March 23:

9 a.m.

Barbara Wright, John Heatherman

11 a.m.

Bruce Seidel, Jan Seidel

#### March 30

9 a.m.

Christa Aukahon, Manuela Aukahon

11 a.m.

Bob Sanker, Mary Roberson

### 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

*Live Stream: Sunday Mass from our Website:*

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

*Every Sunday at 11 a.m. or*

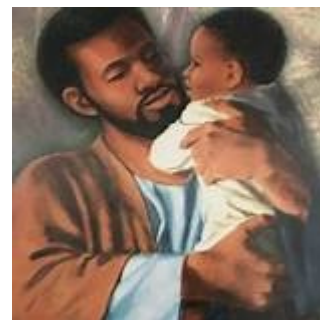
*watch the video at a later date.*

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*

Although not yet incorporated into the general calendar for the diocese of the United States, tomorrow is the feast day of St. Oscar Romero. This saint was the archbishop of El Salvador, a scholar-turned-prophet who was a voice of hope for the poor of his country. Because of his outspoken criticism of the economic system in El Salvador that left so many people in poverty, Romero was assassinated as he presided at Mass. Romero has been acclaimed as martyr and saint because of his fearless stand for social justice. To commemorate his death, watch the movie *Romero*. Let the archbishop's words and deeds challenge you to be an active agent for justice in your time and place.



## *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. 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*

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## *Save the Date: Sept. 13, 2025*

The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary Council/Court 363 are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their founding with a gala Sept. 13. The event will include dinner, dancing, fellowship and fun recognizing the group's years of progress. For more information, contact chairpersons Grand Lady Gayle Burton (513-801-8151) or Area Deputy Reginald Lee (515-652-7122).

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## *Confession Schedule 3/6-3/27/2025*

Confessions will be heard at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Tuesdays from 10 a.-noon and Thursday 6-8 p.m. Please enter and exit the church through the side door. The sanctuary is also open for prayer during the same schedule.

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## *Thank you*

Thanks to Fr. Phil Scher and a group of students from Summit Country Day High School, we recently cleaned out the church garage, which has freed up space for much-needed storage. We will be undertaking similar projects soon to secure and beautify the St. Joseph campus. If you are interested in helping out, or if you know of a group that might be interested in volunteering, contact Bob Sanker (513) 300-4896, or the church office.

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## *2025 Holy Week Mass*

The Mass Schedule:

**Palm Sunday, April 13:** 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

**Holy Thursday, April 17:** 6 p.m.

**Good Friday, April 18:** Noon

**Holy Saturday, April 19:** 8:45 PM

**Easter Sunday, April 20:** 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Please plan to join us for these Masses. If you would like to be a lector or acolyte during these Masses, please stop by the usher table or call the parish office to sign-up.

**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).

## *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  
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](http://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](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.

## Sunday Collection March 16, 2025

Sunday Collection	1939.50
Online Giving	603.04
Sunday Saints	200.00
Other	1247.00
St. Vincent dePaul	132.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>4122.04</b>

# From 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](mailto:cnc@catholicaoc.org).

**Catholics at the Capitol:** The Catholic Conference of Ohio is providing Catholics across Ohio the opportunity to meet with elected officials and advocate for policies that respect life, focus on the poor and vulnerable, and recognize families as the central social institution of society. The event is Tuesday, March 25, in downtown Columbus. It is free to attend, and lunch will be provided. We will help set up meetings with legislators and provide talking points. There will also be opportunities to attend Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral - all within walking distance! Visit <https://www.voterve.net/OHCATHOLIC/Events/8114/Register> to learn more and register by March 21. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Musgrave [amusgrave@catholicaoc.org](mailto:amusgrave@catholicaoc.org).

**Parenting Education Classes:** Need encouragement or support in learning new ways of relating to your children? Call Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio for information on our six-week Parenting Education Class that is offered every Monday (excluding holidays) via Zoom. Contact Patsy Bolden for more information at 513-867-7072 or [pbolden@ccswoh.org](mailto:pbolden@ccswoh.org).

**Formation and Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** Are you interested in becoming an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion to serve at Mass or to the sick, hospitalized, or homebound? Formation and training will be offered by the archdiocese in the coming months in Cincinnati, Dayton, and online. Learn more and sign up at [www.catholicaoc.org/worship](http://www.catholicaoc.org/worship).

**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](http://www.ccswoh.org) or call our office at 513-241-7745.

**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.

*The Knights of Peter Claver & Ladies Auxiliary*

# 25TH

## *Anniversary Gala*



### Save The Date



HOSTED BY COUNCIL/COURT 363

## *September 13, 2025*

**“INCLUDES DINNER, MUSIC,  
FELLOWSHIP, & FUN. CELEBRATING  
YEARS OF PROGRESS”.**

**Point of Contact:**

**Gayle Burton (513)-301-8151**

**Reginald Lee (513)-652-7122**