

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. Louis Okot, MCCJ, Pastor
Deacon Dennis Edwards
Mrs. Shon Hubble, MM, Music Ministry*

MASS:

Sunday: 10:00 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 22: First Sunday of Lent: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Matthew 4:4b; Matthew 4:1-11

10 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

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

Monday, February 23: Monday of the 1st Week of Lent: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15; 2 Corinthians 6:2b; Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday, February 24: Tuesday of the 1st Week of Lent: Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Matthew 4:4b; Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 25: Wednesday of the 1st Week of Lent: Jonah 3:1-10; Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Joel 2:12-13; Luke 11:29-32

Thursday, February 26: Thursday of the 1st Week of Lent: Esther C:12, 14-15, 23-25; Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Psalm 51:12a, 14a; Matthew 7:7-12

Friday, February 27: Friday of the 1st Week of Lent: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Ezekiel 18:31; Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday, February 28: Saturday of the 1st Week of Lent: Deuteronomy 26:18-19; Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; 2 Corinthians 6:2b; Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday, March 1: Second Sunday of Lent: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:5; Matthew 17:1-9

10 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Gregory Thompson (AD)
By: Mary Partee
For: Juanita Robinson (AB)
By: Shirley Robinson

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.

The First Sunday
of Lent
Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026

In the Wilderness with Christ

My Brothers and Sisters
in the Risen Lord,

When we become blinded by what we want for ourselves, tempted by excess we know is not good for us, or focused only on a worldly vision of happiness, we can lose our balance and our sense of who we are meant to be.

In those moments, we also risk losing sight of the nourishment that only faith and a living relationship with God can provide.

Our restless longings and reliance solely on ourselves can quietly become an invitation to abandon the very person God calls us to be.

Today, on the First Sunday of Lent, Matthew's Gospel brings us into the wilderness with Jesus.

Led by the Spirit, Jesus fasts for forty days and nights and is then confronted by the devil.

What unfolds is not simply an ancient story but a profound revelation of how temptation works and how it can be overcome.

In the wilderness, Jesus faces three temptations that mirror the struggles of every human heart.

The first temptation appeals to physical hunger. The devil urges Jesus to turn stones into bread.

Jesus responds with words from Deuteronomy: "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Jesus reminds us that our deepest hunger is spiritual.

We may satisfy our material needs and still feel empty.

When life becomes difficult, do we turn first to God in prayer and trust, or do we exhaust ourselves trying to fix everything on our own?

Lent invites us to remember what truly sustains us.

(Continued on next page)

Liturgical Ministries for Feb. 22 and March 1

The second temptation challenges Jesus to test God's protection by throwing himself from the temple.

Even here, the devil quotes Scripture, twisting it for his own purpose. Jesus responds again with Scripture: "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."

Faith does not demand constant proof or dramatic signs. True trust rests in God even when outcomes are uncertain and answers are not immediate.

The third temptation is perhaps the most seductive. Jesus is offered all the kingdoms of the world in exchange for worship. Power, control, and recognition are placed before him.

Jesus firmly replies, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only." In this moment, Jesus reveals himself as the true King, not one who seeks domination but one who serves God alone. Unlike Israel's failures in the wilderness, Jesus remains faithful, showing us what obedience rooted in love looks like.

Throughout each temptation, Jesus relies not on his own strength but on the Word of God. Scripture becomes his defense, his anchor, and his guide. When the devil departs, angels come to minister to him, reminding us that faithfulness, even in struggle, is never unnoticed by God.

As we begin this Lenten journey, let us see it as a time of renewal and recommitment. Make room for prayer, reflection, and generosity of heart. Listen for the quiet voice of God that has sustained you through life's joys and trials. Be attentive to those around you who may need your compassion, your patience, or your presence. Above all, turn to God each day for the grace you need. Live this Lent with intention, humility, and trust.

Give us grateful hearts, O Father, for all your mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others. Bless, O Lord, your gifts to our use and us to your service. Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the universe, for you give us food to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

— Book of Common Prayer
Yours in Christ,
Father Louis

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

Feb. 22:

10 a.m.

Nate Powers, Howard Tribble

March 1:

10 a.m.

Nate Powers, Howard Tribble

Announcers

Feb. 22:

10 a.m.

Mike McCoy

March 1:

10 a.m.

Mike McCoy

Catechists

Feb. 22:

10 a.m.

Lead Catechists: Peggy
Nachtrab, Patricia Charlton, Mark Patel

Eucharistic Ministers

Feb. 22:

10 a.m.

Willia Green, Anne Shaffer

March 1:

10 a.m.

Willia Green, Anne Shaffer

Lectors

Feb. 22:

10 a.m.

Bruce Seidel, Jan Seidel

March 1:

10 a.m.

Bruce Seidel, Jan Seidel

Ushers' Roster

Robert Johnson and Robin Walker (lead ushers), David Stein, Willia Green, Yolanda and James Roper, Stan Carlross, 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 tchurch@stjosephcincinnati.org

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

Parish/Community News

Liturgy and Life

Often, fear is at the root of our temptations. We fail to act with charity because we are afraid of being exposed as unwise. We want power, wealth, and honor because we fear that somehow without them our loves will be without value.

Jesus was able to turn away from these temptations because he knew who he was: the see ourselves as beloved children of God, we have nothing to fear.

How can you love fearlessly this Lent? What do you need to do to say yes to living in God's light? Who needs your mercy?

Determine how you can act mercifully to a family member or coworker.



The Holy Family

Church staff

Please call the parish office
at 513-381-4526

Fax number: 513-381-5244

Email: church@stjosephcincinnati.org

Feast of St. Joseph

We will celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 22nd at 10 a.m. Mass. Immediately after Mass we will share a meal in Fr. Rivers Hall. Please invite your family and friends to join us for Mass and the meal. All are welcome!

Lenten Fish Fry

St. Joseph will host Lenten fish fry fundraisers: March 6th and March 20th. Dinners will consist of two pieces of fish, bread, two sides for \$15. Desserts and drinks will be sold separately.

Please join us for fellowship and good food.

Our New Pastor

St. Joseph Catholic Church joyfully welcomes are new pastor Rev. Louis Okot, MCCJ. Fr. Louis will celebrate Mass with us on Sunday, March 8th at 10 a.m. Mass.

We will have a meet and greet immediately following Mass. Please plan to join us for Mass and the reception.

2026 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA)

Archbishop Robert Casey sends his thanks to everyone from St. Joseph, Cincinnati who has supported the 2026 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

If you have not yet made your pledge, please consider doing so this week. For more information or to donate online, please visit CatholicAOC.org/CMA. Thank you!

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.

- Rev. Louis Okot, MCCJ, Pastor
- Mr. Dennis Edwards, Deacon
- Mrs. Shon Hubble, Music Minister
- Ms. Mary Roberson, Business Manager (ext. 13)
- Mrs. Jean Brown, Receptionist (ext. 10)
- Mrs. Dionne Johnson, Parish Council chairperson
- 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
Hogue, Susie: Hillebrand Nursing & Rehab center
Hurst, Rev. Paul: Bayley Place
Richards, Kathy: Chamberlain Healthcare
Royston, Patty: Clovernook

Homebound/Sick; shut-ins

Edwards Joyce
Hill, Hestella
Mason, Pam
Moye, Claudia
Randolph, Mary Ann
Cowherd, Diane
Robinson, Shirley
Jones, Emma

Prayer List

Cheeks, Newton
Irby, Frances
Menefield Family
Reed, Margaret
Walker, Shelly
Monika Cure

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.

Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise forever. 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.catholicac.org/beacons-of-light-info-sessions.org/Beacons-of-Lights Beacons of Light - Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Sunday Collection Feb. 15, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$2,171.00
Ash Wednesday	\$25.00
Christmas Appeal	\$50.00
E-Offering	\$1,122.74
St. Vincent dePaul	\$169.00
Sunday Saints	\$200.00
Other	\$1,084.00
Total	\$4,821.74

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.

This QR code will take you to site to create an account to make electronic donations to St. Joseph Catholic Church.



From the Archdiocese

Come and See Live-in Weekend at the Josephinum Seminary: March 20-22 the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus will be hosting a “Come and See” live-in weekend for young men interested in learning more about college seminary and the priesthood in general. The live-in includes presentations on community life and seminary formation. If you are interested, contact the Director of Vocations, Fr. Michael Willig, at vocations@catholicaoc.org or 513.263.3390.

Bethany Brunch: The next Bethany Brunch will take place on Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m.-noon at St. Monica-St. George Parish Newman Center, Cincinnati featuring the Nashville Dominican Sisters. These gatherings are designed to support young women as they listen for God’s call and to connect them with faithful religious sisters. RSVP link: <https://tinyurl.com/BethanySeries25>.

Solemn Vespers: The Sacred Music Institute at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary & School of Theology will be hosting Solemn Vespers today and Sunday, March 22 in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great, each beginning with an organ recital at 6:30 p.m. followed by Solemn Vespers at 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, April 12, MTSM will host its annual Eastertide Choral Mass, featuring an organ recital at 6:30 p.m. with Mass beginning at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. For more info, please visit www.athenaeum.edu/smi.

Archbishop Casey to celebrate Irish Mass March 15: Archbishop Robert Casey will celebrate the annual Mass honoring our Irish forebears (and his) on Sunday, March 15, 10 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. The Mass will be preceded at 9:45 a.m. by a prelude by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick glee club and feature a processional with bagpipes and other Irish instruments, and will be followed by refreshments and additional songs by the glee club in the undercroft.

Follow and Pray with Archbishop Robert Casey: Archbishop Casey has launched his own social media accounts! Follow him at: Instagram: [@archbishopcasey](https://www.instagram.com/archbishopcasey); Facebook: [facebook.com/archbishopcasey](https://www.facebook.com/archbishopcasey)

Catholic Day at Great American Ball Park on Sept. 5, 2026: Save the date for the second annual Catholic Day at Great American Ballpark will be held on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026, which is the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. The Cincinnati Reds will host the Milwaukee Brewers that evening.

2026 Catholic Redhawk Gala on May 2, 2026: Save the date for the second annual Catholic Redhawk Gala benefitting the Catholic Newman Center at Miami University. Join us Saturday, May 2, 2026 at the Shriver Center on campus. For more information, visit CatholicRedhawk.com.

Consider Lay Missionary Ministry: There are dozens of Catholic lay missionary programs seeking volunteers ages 17-75 for short or long term to serve in the U.S.A. or overseas. For more information, contact the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Mission Office director, Dr. Mike Gable, at mgable@catholicaoc.org. You can check out: <https://catholicvolunteernetwork.org/begin/>.

Food for All: Nutritious, affordable food is not readily available to every person in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Hunger exists in our communities. Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio travels to where hunger is located in Adams, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Highland Counties. Interested in reducing hunger and food insecurity, volunteering at a mobile pantry or learning more about hunger in our area? Call April Hoak, Food for All coordinator at 513-672-3720 or email ahoak@ccswoh.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 via Zoom. Contact Patsy Bolden at 513-867-7072 or pbolden@ccswoh.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 household items. Volunteers are needed to pick up furniture and set up housing. For information, visit www.ccswoh.org or call our office at 513-241-7745.



THE KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER & LADIES AUXILIARY
COUNCIL & COURT 363 PRESENTS



**22nd
FEB
2026**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**FOLLOWING
10am
MASS**

PROGRAM

**KPC History Show • Soul Food Dinner • • Trivia •
Prizes & More**

African/Black History Attire Suggested

Special Guest Speaker

Erica Black-Johnson

Community United For Action (CUFA)

745 Ezzard Charles Dr. (Father River's Hall)

Cincinnati, OH 45203

