

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, May 3: Fifth Sunday of Easter: Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:6; John 14:1-12

10 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Vanessa Walker (AD)
By: Robin Walker

Monday, May 4: Monday of the 5th Week of Easter: Acts 14:5-18; Psalm 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16; John 14:26; John 14:21-26

Tuesday, May 5: Tuesday of the 5th Week of Easter: Acts 14:19-28; Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21; Luke 24:46, 26; John 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 6: Wednesday of the 5th Week of Easter: Acts 15:1-6; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; John 15:4a, 5b; John 15:1-8

Thursday, May 7: Thursday of the 5th Week of Easter: Acts 15:7-21; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10; John 10:27; John 15:9-11

Friday, May 8: Friday of the 5th Week of Easter: Acts 15:22-31; Psalm 57:8-9, 10 and 12; John 15:15b; John 15:12-17

Saturday, May 9: Saturday of the 5th Week of Easter: Acts 16:1-10; Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 5; Colossians 3:1; John 15:18-21

Sunday, May 10: Sixth Sunday of Easter: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:23; John 14:15-21

10 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Lillian Waton (SI)
By: Linda Knight
For: Eliza Julius (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 Fifth Sunday of Easter May 3, 2026

The Way, the Truth and the Life

My Brothers and Sisters
in the Risen Lord,

In this modern world, we are bombarded every day with thousands of messages others employ to help us navigate our lives. Emails, text messages, commercials, print media, websites, and many other forms of mass communication are meant to resonate within us and offer us roadmaps for success and fulfillment.

Whether they give us hope just momentarily or for a lifetime, these man-made forms of communication help guide our paths, so we better know where we are going and how to get there.

Yes, as human beings, we feel more confident and resolute if we are shown the way.

It is the Fifth Sunday of Easter and in John's Gospel today we are given the only roadmap that should really matter for us all: "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

This moment in Jesus' life is at the final moments of the Last Supper, with Jesus speaking to his disciples, as he reaches the climax of his time on earth and anticipates the promise of his resurrection.

This Gospel is often read at funeral Masses because his farewell words, "do not let your hearts be troubled" are meant to give comfort and peace to his soon-to-be aggrieved apostles who will feel lost without his physical presence in their lives.

This Gospel is full of the grace
(Continued on next page)

and promise given to us by the one who loves us most.

Simple expressions with complex ramifications, they express the sole path to move us forward.

We must listen to these words, believe in their essence, and frame our lives accordingly.

And yet, like Philip, we are hesitant and cling to uncertainty – Dear Lord, how do we get there; how do we find the way?

We want that map that specifically defines our salvation and path to heaven.

Yet the roadmap is there for our taking: “Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves... I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these...”

Jesus promises, through his mission here on earth, we need look no further than Him – his life, his works, his words, his death, and his resurrection—all lead us to salvation. He knows the way, let him guide you to make your dwelling within him.

But how to reach Paradise? What is the way? Here is the decisive phrase of Jesus. Today he says: “I am the way” [John 14:6]. To ascend to heaven, the way is Jesus: it is to have a living relationship with Him, to imitate Him in love, to follow in His footsteps... the way of humble love, of prayer, of meekness, of trust, of service to others. It is to go ahead every day asking: “Jesus, what do you think of my choice? What would you do in this situation?”

(Pope Francis, 2020)

Yours in Christ,
Father Louis

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

Liturgical Ministries for May 3 and 10

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

May 3:
10 a.m. Howard Tribble, Nate Powers

May 10:
10 a.m. Liz Berry, Ron Hitzler

Announcers

May 3:
10 a.m. Mike McCoy

May 10:
10 a.m. Mike McCoy

Catechists

May 3:
10 a.m. Lead Catechist: Peggy
Nachtrab

Eucharistic Ministers

May 3:
10 a.m. Vanessa Rozier, Rob Harris

May 10:
10 a.m. Anna Shaffer, Willia Green

Lectors

May 3:
10 a.m. Edna McCoy, Chris Nachtrab

May 10:
10 a.m. Anne Shaffer, Mark Patel

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

Parish/Community News

Liturgy and Life

We have the opportunity to create a house where all belong in our Church today.

What can you do to make sure that all people feel safe, secure, and welcome at St. Joseph?

What can you specifically do to help create this inclusion in our church? Take your ideas and find ways to implement them. Do not be afraid to talk to our pastor, parish council and other parishioners as you share the vision of welcome for our church.

Black Candidates for Sainthood

Mother Mary Lange
Saturday, May 30th 10 a.m.

Province House of Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
699 E Columbia Ave. Reading, OH 45215
Contact Andrew Musgrave for more info
Amusgrave@catholicaic.org (513) 263-6691

Archbishop Casey in Telegraph

In honor of his one-year anniversary, The Catholic Telegraph sat down with Archbishop Robert Casey and posed questions to get to know him better.

He kindly shared a little bit about himself and his experience in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati so far.

Check out the full article in your copy of The Catholic Telegraph or on their website <https://www.thecatholictelegraph.com/celebrating-one-year-a-conversation-with-archbishop-robert-casey/106025>.

Rice Bowl Thank You!

Together, we changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl. St. Joseph Parish collected \$375.05. THANK YOU for being a part of this effort!

Senior Luncheon and Bingo

The next Senior Luncheon and Bingo will be on Sunday, May 17th in Fr. Rivers Hall immediately following Mass.

All are welcome to join our seniors for a time of food, fellowship and fun.

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. 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

Cure, Monika: St. Margaret Hall
Dysart, Richard: Covenant Village
Edwards, Stephanie: Glendale Place
Nursing Home
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

Prayer List

Cheeks, Newton
Irby, Frances
Menefield Family
Reed, Margaret
Walker, Shelly
Reed, Sandy

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.rg/Beacons-of-Lights Beacons of Light - Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Sunday Collection April 26, 2026

<i>Sunday Collection</i>	\$2239.00
<i>E-offering</i>	\$1698.04
<i>Sunday Saints</i>	\$200.00
<i>Other</i>	\$410.00
Total	\$4547.04

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

Hispanic Night at the Seminar: On Sunday, May 3, single men aged 18-35 are invited to the seminary for an evening of fraternity. The evening will include a tour of the seminary, talks, evening prayer and a dinner and social with the seminarians. All activities and presentations will be in Spanish. To register, go to: <http://catholicaoc.org/hispanic-vocation-night>.

Spring Andrew Dinners: • Wednesday, May 6, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Centerville
• Tuesday, May 12, St. Gertrude Parish, Madeira Andrew Dinners are meant for high school and college-age men. These events provide an opportunity for young men to learn about priesthood and seminary, speak with Archbishop Emeritus Dennis Schnurr and vocation director Fr. Michael Willig, and share a meal together. Register here: <http://catholicaoc.org/andrew-dinners>.

Ember Day Retreat June 5: Registration is open! Ember Day is a retreat for high school men aged 15-19. The day will include Mass with Archbishop Emeritus Dennis Schnurr, sports, talks, and food. It's an opportunity for high school boys to meet the seminarians and learn more about vocation, priesthood, and fatherhood. It will be Friday, June 5 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology. Hosted by the Cincinnati seminarians and vocation director Fr. Michael Willig. Register at <https://resources.catholicaoc.org/event/ember-day-june-5>.

Thank You: Thanks to your generosity, this year's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious totaled \$850,000 - a 35% increase from last year. A large portion of what our archdiocese contributes comes back to support religious communities right here at home.

Verso L'Alto Track Club: Verso l'Alto Track Club is a seminarian led initiative, sponsored by the archdiocese Vocations Office, to build a competitive Catholic men's run club in the Greater Cincinnati area. Inspired by the life of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, the club seeks to combine the pursuit of excellence in running and in faith. With over 30 members, the club meets for weekly run, competes in local races, and comes together periodically for intentional faith-based activities such as Mass, Adoration, or talks. For more information, go to <https://versolaltotc.wixsite.com/verso>.

Verso L'Alto Summer XC Race Challenge: On August 7, the Verso l'Alto Track Club and the archdiocese Vocations Office will be hosting the Verso l'Alto Summer XC Challenge, a two-mile race specifically featuring our Catholic high schools. The schedule will include High School Boys and Girls Races, as well as a Men's/Women's Open. Located at Corwin Nixon Park in Mason. Race website and registration can be found at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Mason/VersoAltoSummerXCChallenge>. Contact David Admits at atadamitisdavid@gmail.com for more details.

Follow and Pray with Archbishop Robert Casey: Archbishop Casey has launched his own social media accounts! Follow him at: Instagram: @archbishopcasey; Facebook: 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.

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. Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio travels to where hunger is located in Adams, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Highland Counties. Interested in helping. Call April Hoak, Food for All coordinator at 513-672-3720 or email ahoak@ccswoh.org

St. Joseph Catholic Church

First communion April 2026



Laila, Ryan, Sianna & Anyike



Deacon Edwards, Ryan, Anyike, Fr. DiFolco, Laila & Sianna



Family of Sianna & Anyike



Sarata celebrated with her School

text Thank You Peggy and Yolanda for leading the young people through this part of their spiritual journey

Congratulations Anyike, Laila, Ryan, Sarata and Sianna

