

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 24:** Pentecost Sunday: Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

10 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Our Lady of Guadalupe (SI)  
By: SVDP- SJ Conf  
For: Nancy Jones (AB)  
By: Shirley Robinson

**Monday, May 25:** Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6, 7; John 19:25-34

**Tuesday, May 26:** Memorial of Saint Philip Neri, Priest: 1 Peter 1:10-16; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Matthew 11:25; Mark 10:28-31

**Wednesday, May 27:** Wednesday of the 8<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time: 1 Peter 1:18-25; Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; March 10:45; Mark 10:32-45

**Thursday, May 28:** Thursday of the 8<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time: 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12; JPsalms 100:2, 3, 4 and we are taking a cruise; Mark 10:46-52

**Friday, May 29:** Friday of the 8<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter: 1 Peter 4:7-13; Psalm 96:10, 11-12, 13; John 15:16; Mark 11:11-26

**Saturday, May 30:** Saturday of the 8<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter: Jude 17, 20b-25; Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6; Colossians 3:16a, 17c; Mark 11:27-30

**Sunday, May 31:** The solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity: Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; cf Revelation 1:8; John 3:16-18

10 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Deceased members of SJC-SVDP (SI)  
By: SVDP-SJ Conf  
For: Tyrone Williams (AD)  
By: Elizabeth Perry  
For: Jeffrey 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.

Pentecost  
Sunday  
May 24, 2026  
Come Holy Spirit

Do we really mean  
"Peace be with you?"

My Brothers and Sisters  
in the Risen Lord,

In the Christian tradition, Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of our Church, is the celebration of the Holy Spirit descending upon the apostles, Jesus' mother, Mary, and other followers of Christ who were gathered in an upper room following his death.

This story is told today in our first reading in the second chapter in the Acts of the Apostles.

I ask you to listen to the tone and language of this narrative because it describes fully the transformational power and strength that conjoin with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This power will assuage grief and move us forward in space and time, armed with the knowledge that God is within us – always.

This force has been given to everyone, then and now, as the spirit of truth, light, and faith is imbued in our hearts.

And yet, today, we reflect, as well, on the Gospel of John, and rather than "driving wind" and "tongues of fire," Jesus gives us another powerful message: "Peace be with you."

What beauty and elegance in these words – peace be with you.

It is a simple yet profound phrase, and if we truly embrace its meaning, we will be equipped well  
**(Continued on next page)**

to know a softer side of existence and an effective way to accept the vagaries of this world.

Human beings crave a sense of peace, and it is why we turn to the “cures” of the world to help us obtain it.

From the peace pipe to the peace sign to self-help books to physical calming techniques or exercise, we are on a never-ending road to find “calm” within ourselves and in our relationships with others.

Even at Mass we relive Christ’s words as we offer the sign of peace to those in our midst.

“Peace be with you,” we say, but is it a rote gesture on our part or is it something we have thought about and mean?

Think about it. Peace be with you, and to all of us, when imploring the Holy Spirit to guide our path and send us forth to proclaim the universal message of our Lord Jesus Christ and share his mission in the world.

*“Come, Holy Spirit, come. And from your celestial home, shed a ray of light divine. Come, Father of the poor.”*

*Come, source of all our store.  
Come, within our bosoms shine. You,  
of comforters the best; you, the soul’s  
most welcome guest; sweet  
refreshment here below.*

*In our labor, rest most sweet;  
grateful coolness in the heat; solace  
in the midst of woe. . .”*

– the beginning sequence of Veni,  
Sancte Spiritus

Yours in Christ,  
Father Louis

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

## Liturgical Ministries for May 24 and 31

*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 24:**

10 a.m.

Ron Hitzler, Liz Berry

**May 31:**

10 a.m.

Layla Walton, Ron Hitzler

### **Announcers**

**May 24:**

10 a.m.

Mike McCoy

**May 31:**

10 a.m.

Mike McCoy

### **Catechists**

**May 24:**

10 a.m.

Lead Catechist: Peggy  
Nachtrab

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

**May 24:**

10 a.m.

Mark Patel, Dave Stein

**May 31:**

10 a.m.

Anne Shaffer, Willia Green

### **Lectors**

**May 24:**

10 a.m.

Mike McCoy, Koffi Akahoun

**May 31:**

10 a.m.

Rachel Watkins, Manuela Akahoun

### **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](mailto:tchurch@stjosephcincinnati.org)

# Parish/Community News

## *Liturgy and Life*

On Pentecost, the new Church embarked on her mission: to go into the world, animated by the Spirit, and continue Christ's work on earth.

United by the Spirit and faith, they are compelled into action, their new identity explicitly disallowing them the protection and relative peace of isolation: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (Jn 20:21).

The same Spirit the disciples receive unites us and is alive in us; the same mission is laid on us, and the same faith compels us forward, despite our fear or discomfort.

What gifts do you bring to the Body of Christ?

Make a list of your gifts and how you use them. Pray to discern how these gifts may continue to be used to further Christ's work on earth, then do so.

How can you encourage others to use their gifts.



## *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*

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## *Black Candidates for Sainthood*

Mother Mary Lange

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Amusgrave@catholicaic.org) (513) 263-6691

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## *Announcement from Archbishop Casey*

Effective July 1, 2026, St. Joseph Parish will move from the Our Lady of Guadalupe Family of Parishes to the Cathedral Basilica Family of Parishes.

Fr. Jan Schmidt, rector of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains, will become your canonical pastor and Fr. Len Wenke will be appointed to serve as your Moderator for Pastoral Care.

The full announcement is available at the usher's table or from the parish office.

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## *Senior Luncheon and Bingo*

The next Senior Luncheon and Bingo will be held on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> in Father Rivers Hall immediately following 10 am Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

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](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

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  
Kinley Jr., Lawrence  
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](http://www.pathway.catholicac.org/beacons-of-light-info-sessions.rg/Beacons-of-Lights) Beacons of Light - Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

*The figures for the Sunday collection for May 17, 2026 are not available this week.*

## 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.

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



# From the Archdiocese

**Ember Day Retreat June 5:** 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 them 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>.

**Become an Extraordinary Minister Of Holy Communion:** Formation and training for new and veteran extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion will take place this spring. Some sessions will focus on ministry to the sick, hospitalized, and homebound, and all sessions will prepare you to serve as an EMHC. You can find more information and register at [www.catholicaoc.org/worship](http://www.catholicaoc.org/worship).

**40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration Family Retreat:** "The Eucharist is Our Peace and Unity." To help parish families grow more in love with the Eucharist, there will be 40 Hours of Adoration at Our Lady of Guadalupe Discipleship Center in Peebles, Ohio, June 5-7, 2026. Join us for Mass, confession, prayer, and teachings by Fr. Michael Willig and Deacon Tracy Jamison. Family and individual dorm rooms, some shared meals, and games will all be available. Cost: a donation of your choosing. Go to [presentationministries.com](http://presentationministries.com) for details and registration.

**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/VersoLAltoSummerXCChallenge>. Contact David Admits at [atadamitisdavid@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.

**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](mailto:mgable@catholicaoc.org). You can check out: <https://catholicvolunteernetwork.org/begin/>.

**Share Your Experience:** - Have you ever cared for a loved one with chronic illness or disability? Do you wish someone would have shared with you all the things you had to learn the hard way from your experience? Bring hope to those in need by volunteering with our Caregiver Assistance Network programs. We offer a monthly new volunteer training for Peer Mentors and Support Group Facilitators. We also have our annual leader training for Powerful Tools for Caregivers scheduled June 11-12, 2026. For more information, please contact Angie Homocelle at 513-672-3834 or email [can@ccswoh.org](mailto:can@ccswoh.org).

## The Sainly Seven: Black Catholics on the Path to Sainthood

# Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange

HOPE, DIGNITY, AND OPPORTUNITY IN A TIME OF INJUSTICE

BY TERESA PHILLIPS

Last month, we introduced the Sainly Seven—the seven current African American candidates for canonization. In April, the Archdiocesan Anti-Racism Task Force hosted the first of eight monthly events that will highlight one of those seven candidates. The final session in November will celebrate Black Catholic History Month. These sessions will be live-streamed to enable everyone to join the conversation and reflection. We featured the story of Venerable Pierre Toussaint last month, whose presentation occurred on the evening of April 23 at St. Susanna Parish in Mason.

We next explore the life and gifts of Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange (c. 1784–1882), on May 30 at the Province House of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (701 E Columbia Ave.). Mother Lange founded the first Catholic religious congregation for women of African descent in the United States: the Oblate Sisters of Providence, in Baltimore, Maryland. The Oblates were founded in 1829, when chattel slavery was very much in practice and congregations of white women religious would not accept women of color.

Born in Cuba around 1784, Elizabeth Clarisse Lange immigrated to the United States in the early 19th century, eventually settling in Baltimore where there was a large population of free people of color. However, schools for black children were scarce and discouraged. Thus, Lange began teaching children in her home, with her deep Catholic faith shaping her life's mission of both academic and religious education for the black population in Baltimore.

In 1829, through the encouragement and support of Sulpician priest Fr. James Hector Joubert, Lange founded the order and took the religious name Sr. Mary Lange. Founding



the Oblate Sisters of Providence was a dream come true for Mother Lange as she had for years felt the call to consecrate her life and work to God but did not see a way to do so. At that time, black men and women were not allowed to enter religious life in the American Church. Their mission was to educate black children, care for those in poverty, and provide spiritual support for the community.

At a time when both slavery and racial prejudice were deeply entrenched in American society, the congregation offered hope, dignity, and opportunity to free people of color. Their school, St. Frances Academy, is one of the oldest continuously operating Black Catholic schools in the country and still exists today.

Living nearly 100 years, Mother Mary Lange witnessed dramatic changes in American society, including the Civil War and the abolition of slavery. She died in 1882, leaving behind a vibrant religious community and lasting educational legacy. Her cause for sainthood was opened in 1991, and she was declared Venerable by Pope Francis in 2023. Her life is a powerful testimony to the transformative impact of education, faith, and courage in the face of injustice.

We invite all to join us at the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Motherhouse, Cincinnati on Saturday, May 30, from 10–11:30 am to learn more about this amazing woman. Livestream will be available on Zoom. ✦

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*Teresa Phillips is Director of the Office of Justice, Peace and Care of Creation for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.*