

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, July 5: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Zechariah 9:9-10; Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14; Romans 8:9, 11-13; Matthew 11:25; Matthew 11:25-30

10 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Rev. Louis Okot (SI)
By: SJCC
For: Rev. Samuel Yacob (SI)
By: SJCC

Monday, July 6: Monday of the 14th Week in Ordinary Time: Hosea 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22; Psalm 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Timothy 1:10; Matthew 9:18-26

Tuesday, July 7: Tuesday of the 14th Week in Ordinary Time: Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13; Psalm 115:3-4, 5-6, 7ab-8, 9-10; John 10:14; Matthew 9:32-38

Wednesday, July 8: Wednesday of the 14th Week in Ordinary Time: Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Psalm 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mark 1:15; Matthew 10:1-7

Thursday, July 9: Thursday of the 14th Week in Ordinary Time: Hosea 11:1-4, 8e-9; Psalm 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16; Mark 1:15; Matthew 10:7-15

Friday, July 10: Friday of the 14th Week in Ordinary Time: Hosea 14:2-10; Psalm 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-13, 14, 17; John 16:13a; 14:26d; Matthew 10:16-23

Saturday, July 11: Memorial of Saint Benedict, Abbot: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; 1 Peter 4:14; Matthew 10:24-33

Sunday, July 12: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23; Matthew 13:1-9

10 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church

For: Rev. Jan Schmidt (SI)
By: SJCC
For: Rev. Len Wenke (SI)
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.

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 5, 2026

**Come to me
and I will give
you rest**

My Brothers and Sisters
in the Risen Lord,

Today we live in a world where truth is debatable, technological pace distracts us, and society seems broken, bent, uncertain, and unable to unite.

In many respects, a sense of sadness surrounds us these days, as some of us operate out of fear, loneliness, hopelessness, and an unwillingness to offer ourselves to others or even in service to our Lord.

We look inward for answers, remain in our self-imposed boxes, and often project negativity about any new concept that might improve our lives. It is a shame we cannot get out of our own way, yet there is a way forward for all of us.

Today is the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, yet the Gospel today is anything but "ordinary"; it is a scriptural masterpiece, as Jesus, in simple narrative, invites us to "come" to him to heal our weary hearts:

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light"
(Matthew 11:28-30).

These verses, often recited at funerals and investitures, call us to discipleship, armed with all he has taught us during his time on earth. Jesus alone will place a yoke upon
(Continued on next page)

us that will lighten the overwhelming load of suffering and anxieties we face. In seeking him, we will find solace and a way to strengthen our souls. Jesus's words are simple, yet because our lives seem so complex and challenging, these words are difficult to embrace, adapt, and embody. If we are truly disciples of Christ, we must carry his grace and mercy with us wherever we go and be aware of opportunities to show his presence both in our lives and to those who cross our paths each day. Jesus is "God with us" every day of our lives (Matthew 1:23).

"And many times, in the face of a burden of life or a situation that saddens us, we try to talk about it with someone who listens to us, with a friend, with an expert. . . . This is a great thing to do, but let us not forget Jesus. Let us not forget to open ourselves to him and to recount our life to him, to entrust people and situations to him. Perhaps there are 'areas' of our life that we have never opened up to him and which have remained dark, because they have never seen the Lord's light. Each of us has our own story. And if someone has this dark area, seek out Jesus; go to a missionary of mercy; go to a priest; go. . . . But go to Jesus, and tell Jesus about this. Today he says to each one: Take courage; do not give in to life's burdens; do not close yourself off in the face of fears and sins. 'Come to me!'"

—Pope Francis

Yours in Christ,
Father Len

*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 July 5 and 12

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

July 5:

10 a.m.

Liz Berry, Ron Hitzler

July 12:

10 a.m.

Kenneth King, Ron Hitzler

Announcers

July 5:

10 a.m.

Mike McCoy

July 12:

10 a.m.

Mike McCoy

Catechists

July 5:

10 a.m.

Lead Catechist: Peggy
Nachtrab

Eucharistic Ministers

July 5:

10 a.m.

Willia Green, Anne Shaffer

July 12:

10 a.m.

Reggie Lee, Mary Richardson

Lectors

July 5:

10 a.m.

Barbara Wright, John Heatherman

July 12:

10 a.m.

Dave Stein, Anne Shaffer

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

Jesus is thanking God for giving him the "burden" of powerlessness and asking us to imitate him, trusting as a child, so we can discover that God's will is a weight we will gladly carry.

Children who live in poverty often become more food insecure in the summer months, look for ways to help these children in our community.

People of Hope Museum

Join us in celebrating stories of hope. Step inside the People of Hope Museum, a nationwide storytelling experience that brings to life more than 40 powerful video stories of neighbors helping neighbors through Catholic Charities agencies.

The museum is an immersive, retrofitted tractor-trailer museum, free and open to the public. The tour is coming to Cincinnati Thursday, July 16th 1-7 p.m. and Friday, July 17th 3-6 p.m. at the Freedom Way in front of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. The event is hosted by Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio.

Senior Luncheon and Bingo

Mark your calendar: Sunday July 12, August 9 and September 13 immediately following mass. All are welcome to join our seniors during this time of fun, food and fellowship. Senior Luncheon and Bingo is scheduled for the second Sunday each month.

Peter's Pence Collection

The Peter's Pence Collection is a worldwide collection that supports the work of the Universal Church, including the work of the Holy See and the charitable works of Pope Leo XIV. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Leo XIV to be a sign of hope to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous today. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence.

Pancake Cook-off Fund-raiser

The men of the Knights of Peter Claver are looking for five contestants to compete, showcase their talents and battle for the Pancake Champion Trophy July 19, 2026. To register or for more information, please contact any Knight from the Knights of Peter Claver today.

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. Jan Schmidt, Pastor
- Rev. Len Wenke, Pastoral Care
- 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

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
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

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

Prayer List

Checks, 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 Beacons of Light - Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Sunday Collection June 28, 2026

Sunday Collection	\$2579.00
E-offering	\$694.04
Sunday Saints	\$200.00
St. Vincent dePaul	\$20.00
Other	\$239.00
Total	\$3731.04

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

Ladies of Charity Treasure Mart: On Saturday, July 18, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., the Cincinnati Chapter of Ladies of Charity will host its 45th annual Treasure Mart at St. Gertrude Parish Center, 6543 Miami Avenue, Madeira. All funds raised provide critical support to the neediest of our neighbors throughout the archdiocese. Buyers will find great bargains, just in time for back-to-school shopping!

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.

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 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

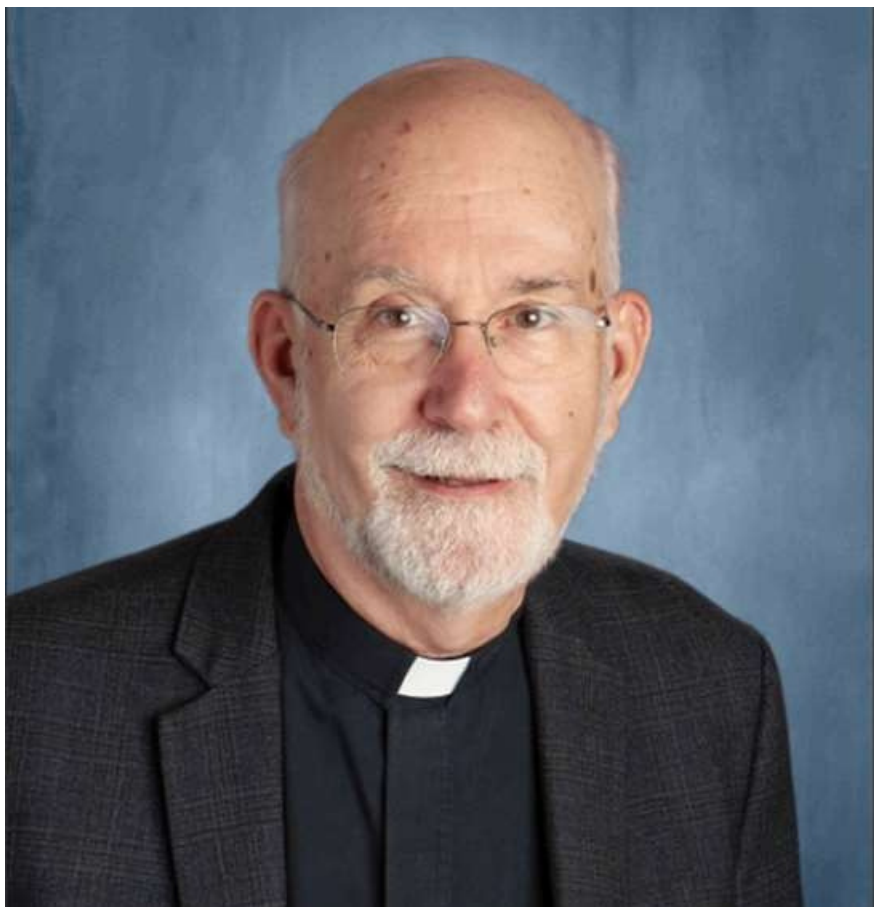
Catholic Day at Great American Ball Park on Sept. 5, 2026: Save the date for the second annual Catholic Day at Great American Ballpark will be held on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026, which is the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. The Cincinnati Reds will host the Milwaukee Brewers that evening.

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/>.

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.

Positive Parenting Skills Program: Join this 6-week parenting series offered through Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio, which is designed to strengthen family relationships and reduce everyday challenges. Learn positive discipline, boost your child's confidence, manage stress, and gain practical tools you can use at home right away. Because confident parents raise confident kids! Zoom classes are held each Monday evening all year round (excluding holidays). Email Patsy Bolden at pbolden@ccswoh.org for more information

Welcome Fr. Len Wenke



Reverend Len Wenke is a priest of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He has ministered in the Archdiocese for 47 years. His ministry as a priest has been filled with grace and opportunity.

A Cincinnati native, he was ordained to the priesthood on June 16, 1979. In his first assignment as a priest, Fr. Wenke served on the faculty and as chaplain at Carroll High School in Dayton, while a resident associate at St. Agnes Church, from 1979 to 1982.

Father Wenke went on to direct the archdiocesan Office of Youth Ministry, living at St. Ignatius Loyola Church in Monfort Heights and St. Agnes in Bond Hill, from 1982 to 1991. After serving briefly as temporary administrator of St. Matthias in Forest Park in 1991, he became executive director of the National Federation for Youth Ministry in Washington, D.C. He returned to Cincinnati to serve as pastor of St. Anthony, Madisonville, from July 1997 until May 2010. Father Wenke served as the director of Priests' Personnel Office from June 2007 until June of 2010. He served as the Director of Pastoral Services for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati from June of 2007 until June of 2016. He served as Parochial Administrator/ Pastor of Holy Family in Price Hill from 2012 until 2022. He served as Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish from 2016 until 2022. In addition, he served as dean for the St. Francis de Sales Deanery, as member of the Presbyteral Council / College of Consultors, ministered to the incarcerated and provided pastoral care to families at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Father Wenke most recently served as Parochial Vicar in the Bread of Life / Pan de Vida Family of Parishes (Dayton) that includes St. Anthony, St. Helen, St. Mary, Holy Angels and Immaculate Conception. In addition to his pastoral ministry, he has served on several non-profit boards in Cincinnati and Dayton. Parishioners note that Fr. Len is compassionate in times of need. He is an advocate for those who in need - especially those living on the margins of society.

We welcome Fr. Len to lead us and worship with us at St. Joseph.