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. Jan Schmidt, Pastor
Rev. Len Wenke, Pastoral Care
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, November 29: *First Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Psalm 85:8; Mark 13:33-37*

10 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church — For: all members of SJCC (SI) By: Anonymous

Monday, November 30: *Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle: Romans 10:9-18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Matthew 4:19; Matthew 4:18-22*

Tuesday, December 1: *Tuesday of the 1st Week of Advent: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10:21-24*

Wednesday, December 2: *Wednesday of the 1st Week of Advent: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29-37*

Thursday, December 3: *Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest: Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Isaiah 55:6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27*

Friday, December 4: *Friday of the 1st Week of Advent: Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 9:27-31*

Saturday, December 5: *Saturday of the 1st Week of Advent: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Isaiah 33:22; Matthew 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8*

Sunday, December 6: *Second Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Luke 3:4, 6; Mark 1:1-8*

10 a.m. Mass St. Joseph Church — For: Leona Richardson Sadler (AD) By: Leona Richardson
For: Christine Heatherman (AD) By: John Heatherman

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.

† St. Vincent de Paul Society of
Neighbors helping neighbors!

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.

First Sunday of Advent Nov. 29, 2026

Advent emphasizes how precious life's moments can be

Advent helps us discover that every moment of life is precious. Anyone who has lived with a life-threatening disease tells the same thing.

You watch every tick of the clock. Every hour is a gift.

You learn to cherish each moment and the people in your life.

The late Father Henri Houwen wrote that our lives are a continuing Advent, "the Lord is always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."

The readings for the first Sunday of Advent alert us to something that is about to begin.

A guest will arrive when we least expect. "Be watchful, be alert!" Jesus tells his followers. He does not want us to be caught off guard. The final word of this weekend's Gospel is direct: "Watch."

The Prophet Isaiah cries out -- rend the heavens and return for our sakes -- for we have wandered from your ways O Lord, our hearts are hardened. Return loving God for the sake of your servants. The prophet knows the power of God, and he waits.

In St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, we are reminded that God is faithful.

All the time God is good. Are we attentive to those in need especially in this challenging time when the world longs for justice and peace.

Are we actively playing a role that brings about God's kingdom?

May we watch this, Advent.

May we behold the beauty and wonder of God's presence in each second of our lives.

Have a blessed Advent!

Fr. Len

Disciple Maker Index (DMI)

Time is running out to complete the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey in order to strengthen St. Joseph and better prepare us for the future!

We need your perspective as a parishioner as we work to identify our greatest strengths and opportunities.

Complete the survey today and help St. Joseph thrive!

For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link, please visit https://survey.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/da143p .

If you're a parishioner, take the DMI survey today!

Paper surveys are also available for those who do not have the ability to complete the survey online.

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

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.

Nov. 29 Fifth Sunday

Acolytes: Liz Berry, Manuela Akahoun
Lectors: Rachel Watkins, Christa Akahoun
Catechist: Peggy Nachtrab
EMHC: Dave Stein, Willa Green, Anne Shaffer. Reginald Lee

First Sunday of Advent

Dec. 6 First Sunday

Acolytes: Howard Tribble, Nate Powers
Lectors: George Kinley, Bob Sanker
Catechist: Peggy Nachtrab
EMHC: Jerry Lanier, Willia Green
Anne Shaffer, Sharon Sanker

Second Sunday of Advent

Dec. 13 Second Sunday

Acolytes: Howard Tribble, Nate Powers
Lectors: George Kinley, Bob Sanker
Catechist: Peggy Nachtrab
EMHC: Jerry Lanier, Willia Green
Anne Shaffer, Sharon Sanker

Third Sunday of Advent

Dec. 20 Third Sunday

Acolytes: Nate Powers, Howard Tribble
Lectors: Jan Seidel, Bruce Seidel
Catechist: Peggy Nachtrab, Patricia Charlton
EMHC: Anne Shaffer, Willia Green, Denise Stockstill, Liz Berry

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Ushers' Roster

Robert Johnson and Robin Walker (lead ushers), David Stein, Willia Green, Yolanda and James Roper, Stan Carloss, 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

Night of celebration
*Faith * Fellowship * Fraternity*

The Men of Knights of Peter Claver Council 363 are hosting the 2026 New Year's Eve Party December 31, 2026, It will be held from 9 p,m. until 1 a.m. at Father Rivers Hall.
General admission is $60,

It is for a mature crowd of 30 & Up. Upscale attire is reqired. For tickets, contact Reggie Lee 513-652-7122 or Rob Harris 513-807-8501.

St. Joseph is hiring

St. Joseph Catholic Church is looking to hire someone to clean the church once a week. The person would also be available to open and close the church and clean after special events. The total time commitment would be four to six hours per week.

If you are interested, please see Mary Roberson or call the parish office and leave your name and number.

2026 Retirement Fund for Religious

A lifetime of service Deserves care in return. "Our ministries often face deep financial challenges. We rely on the generosity of donors; their giving isn't just helpful - it's vital," shares Brother Jordan Coonen, of the Dominicans in Chicago, IL. The Retirement Fund for Religious assists thousands of senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests with health care, housing, and daily needs. Please consider giving on Sunday, December 13th through the parish collection.

KPC Ladies Initiation

The Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary Court 363 will hold an initiation ceremony Saturday, Dec. 5. The faith-based organization is seeking actively practicing Catholic women who believe in serving God and the community. If interested, contact Grand Lady Gayle Burton, membership chairman Denise Stockstill or any KPC lady for more information.

Senior Luncheon and Bingo

Join us for the next Senior Luncheon on Sunday, December 13th immediately following Mass in Fr. Rivers Hall.

All are welcome to join the seniors for fun, fellowship and food. A small donation is requested.

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, Joyce: Deer Park Nursing Home
Edwards, Stephanie: Glendale Place Nursing Home
Hogue, Susie: Hillebrand Nursing & Rehab center
Hurst, Rev. Paul: Bayley Place
Richards, Kathy: Chamberlain Healthcare
Royston, Patty: Clovernook
Tribble, Gregory, Western Hills Retirement Home

Homebound/Sick; shut-ins

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

Prayer List

Anderson, Rachel
Cheeks, Newton
Irby, Frances
Menefield Family
Reed, Sandy
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.

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.)

Sunday Collection Nov. 22, 2026

Sunday collection	*$2430.00*
E-offering	*$198.32*
Sunday Saints	*$220.00*
St. Vincent dePaul	*$5030.00*
Other	*$2425.00*
Total	***$10303.32***

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.

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

From the Archdiocese

They Gave Their Lives in Service - Now They Need our Help: For decades, sisters, brothers, and religious order priests taught, prayed, and cared for those in need. Many now face retirement with little savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious ensures vital support for health care and daily living — so they can age with dignity.

Please support this collection through your parish or make a secure online gift at www.CatholicAOC.org/RFR. Online donors may also make gifts in memory or honor of a religious sister, brother, priest, or loved one. Checks payable to Archdiocese of Cincinnati/RFR may be mailed to: Office for Consecrated Life, Attn.: Maria Reinagel, 100 E. 8th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

Where is the Holy Spirit Leading Us: As part of Synod 2027, Archbishop Casey invites each of us to participate in a Conversations in the Spirit listening session. Participants will join others across our archdiocese in prayerfully considering what the Holy Spirit is asking of our Church at this time, thereby assisting Archbishop Casey as he establishes pastoral priorities for the future. Sessions are ongoing through Thanksgiving. Register today at https://catholicaoc.org/conversations.

Archdiocesan Choir: The Archdiocesan Choir serves the faithful of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati by leading them in sung prayer for our archdiocesan liturgies. The Archdiocesan Choir is open to all adult Catholics of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. For more information, contact the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains' music office at music@cathedralaoc.org.

Bethany Brunches will be held:
- Saturday, January 16, 2027, Mother of God Family of Parishes (Dayton/Kettering)
- Saturday, February 27, 2027, St. John Bosco Family of Parishes (west side of Cincinnati)

Bethany Brunches are open to women 16-35 (under 18 needs a chaperone). These events provide an opportunity to deepen one's relationship with Christ through prayer, fellowship, and spiritual conversation. Young women will have the chance to meet religious sisters, learn about consecrated life, ask questions about vocation and discipleship, and connect with other women of faith over brunch. Register here: https://tinyurl.com/Bethany26.

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

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/.

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.

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, Butler, 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.

ADVENT CALENDAR 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
The First Sunday of Advent Begin your Advent journey by blessing your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle and sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."	Today is the Feast of Saint Andrew, the first-called apostle and brother of Peter. Pray today for all those who help bring others to Christ.	What can you do this Advent to prepare your heart and life for the coming of Christ?	God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:9	Make plans to receive the gift of God's mercy in the Sacrament of Penance during this Advent season.	"We journey as if on a bridge that connects earth to Heaven, a bridge that the Lord has built for us. Let us always keep our eyes fixed on both shores, so that we may love God and our brothers and sisters with all our hearts in order to journey together and find ourselves one day united in the house of the Father." Pope Leo XIV, Homily November 29, 2025	Spend some time writing Christmas cards or sending Christmas greetings. Before bed, say a prayer of thanksgiving for all of the people who have enriched your life and strengthened your faith.

Between Hope and Its Fulfillment

IntoYour Hands *By:Archbishop Robert Casey*

In the month ahead we will celebrate Advent and Christmas. As we chant "O Come, O Come Emanuel," Advent days will teach us prayer and patience as we long for the coming of our Savior. When we finally sing out "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," Christmas days will call us to celebrate our Savior's arrival. Each of these seasons offer us necessary lessons in life. We live as an "in-between" people—between prayer and its answer and between hope and its fulfillment. Yes, the Son of God, Jesus, came into our humanity long ago. And, yes, that same Jesus will come again to lead us to the fullness of salvation. In between those two moments, we live in joyful expectation of finding Jesus in our midst every day.

The mother of Jesus, Mary, finds her way into our hearts to help us. In the month of December, we will celebrate her Immaculate Conception as well as her appearance to St. Juan Diego as Our Lady of Guadalupe. These moments reveal to us a Blessed Mother ready and willing to comfort her children in their longing. Just as any mother holds a crying child and gives it comfort, Mary takes us into her arms when we are hungry and upset. When we are uncomfortable with the current state of things and find ourselves longing for a better life and world, Mary's voice can be heard, "Am I not here, I, who am your mother?"

Together with that comforting mother's presence, St. Joseph, the dutiful husband of Mary, gives us an example of steadfast faith, hope, and love. Together with Mary, we also journey with Joseph on the way from hope to fulfillment. Joseph, with his steady heart and upright character, can teach us how to remain calm amidst the calamities that threaten our hope and push us toward despair.

The Holy Family lived life much like we do. Their experiences, whether as refugees seeking a home in Egypt or in the day-to-day routines of Nazareth, can instruct us today. In his marriage to Mary and in his role as foster father of Jesus, Joseph never had all the answers. He learned to trust and to hold onto his faith amid fear. The uncertainties he faced with Mary and Jesus did not move him to despair or despondency but establishes him as a model of hope for each of us.