

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets.

I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

- Matthew 5:17



February 15, 2026 | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*The Community of
Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross*

212 East Broad Street | 204 South Fifth Street

www.cathedralmusic.org | 614-224-1295 | www.sjchcc.org

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL:
The Mother Church of the Diocese of Columbus

212 East Broad Street
 Columbus, Ohio 43215
 Phone: 614-224-1295
 Fax: 614-224-1176
 www.saintjosephcathedral.org
 www.cathedralmusic.org

Office Hours

Office is located at the Cathedral
 Monday-Thursday:
 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Friday: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
 Closed Saturday, Sunday
 and major holidays

Liturgy Schedule

Sunday: 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.,
 and 5:15 p.m.
 Monday-Friday: 12:05 p.m.
 Masses on Holy Days of
 Obligation & Holidays:
 Will be listed in the bulletin
 as they occur.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation/
 Confessions**

Tuesday/Thursday:
 10:45-11:45 a.m.
 Sunday: 9:15-10:00 a.m.

**Exposition of the Blessed
 Sacrament with Confessions**

Wednesday: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

HOLY CROSS:

**The First Catholic
 Church in Columbus**
 204 South Fifth Street
 Columbus, Ohio 43215

Liturgy Schedule:

Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
 Saturday: 11:30 a.m.

Adoration & Confession:

Saturday following Mass

**SCHEDULING MASS
 INTENTIONS:**

One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead, and the greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. Mass stipends (offerings) are \$10.00 each; only one offering per Mass. All Masses are scheduled by calling the Parish Office. Contact the Cathedral Office at 614-224-1295.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

HOLY CROSS

Sunday, February 15 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Readings: Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37
 9:00 a.m. Deceased Priests of the Diocese

CATHEDRAL

Sunday, February 15 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Readings: Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37
 10:30 a.m. Soul of Richard Lumpe
 12:30 p.m. Soul of John Howell
 5:15 p.m. Community of St. Joseph Cathedral & Holy Cross

Monday, February 16

Scripture Readings: Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mk 8:11-13
 12:05 p.m. Soul of Richard Lumpe

Tuesday, February 17

Scripture Readings: Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21
 12:05 p.m. Soul of Helen Varda

Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday

Scripture Readings: Joel 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2;
 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
 12:05 p.m. Soul of Princess Jones

Thursday, February 19

Scripture Readings: Deut 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 9:22-25
 12:05 p.m. Soul of Richard Dawes

Friday, February 20

Scripture Readings: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
 12:05 p.m. Intention of Reipenhoff Family

HOLY CROSS

Saturday, February 21

Scripture Readings: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32
 11:30 a.m. Priests of the Diocese

**THE COMMUNITY OF
 SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS**

+ Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus
 + Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, Bishop Emeritus of Columbus
 + Most Reverend James A. Griffin, Bishop Emeritus of Columbus

PRIESTS

Very Reverend JCP Sullivan,
 Cathedral Rector

Reverend Joseph P. Thomas, OSB.,
 Parochial Vicar

PARISH STAFF

Business Manager: Mr. Michael P. Agriesti
 magriesti@columbuscatholic.org

Admin. Asst.: Ms. Carol Stollenwerk
 cstollenwerk@sjhcc.org

PT Admin. Asst.: Ms. Bobbie Meyers
 rmeyers@sjhcc.org

Director of OCIA and

Religious Education: Mr. Jake Neal
 jneal@sjhcc.org

**Director of Music & Organist, Diocesan Director
 of Music:** Dr. Richard K. Fitzgerald
 richardkfitzgerald@gmail.com

**Administrator of Wedding Policies
 and Procedures:** Mrs. Cathryn Geppert
 614-224-1295, ext. 2102
 weddings@sjhcc.org

Operations: Mr. Michael Pirik
 mpirik@columbuscatholic.org

THIS WEEKEND’S MINISTRY SCHEDULE
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 15, 2026

| | HCC 9:00 a.m. | SJC 10:30 a.m. | SJC 12:30 p.m. | SJC 5:15 p.m. |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| MC | | | | |
| Altar Servers | | Bonnie Maupin | Laura Battocletti | Cole Behrens |
| | | Benjamin Newton | | |
| | | Dan Jurgens | | |
| Lector 1 | | David Garick | Thom Gall | Josie Gonot |
| Lector 2 | | Ron Pizzuti | | Drew Mirgon |
| Eucharistic Minister | | Ann Pizzuti | Thom Gall | Josie Gonot |
| Hospitality/ Ushers | | Evelina Horner | Dewayne Hoover | John Strohmeier |
| | | Steve Horner | | Julie Strohmeier |
| | | Pam Jurgens | | Bruce Bezon |
| | | Timothy Ramage | | |

PLEASE KEEP THESE PARISHIONERS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Darlene Acton, Tim Acton, John Ankrom, Ed Chong, Barbara Cicua, Christopher Clark, Dorothy Deems, Larry Edwards, Theresa Elliott, Peter Garrett's Mother, Peggy Halley, Edith Ingram, Dr. Lianna Goetz, Brittany Grinder, Kim Haring, Ruth Harper, Chris and Anna Katanyuta, Denise Lager, Teresa Mallon, Colleen Olson, Kathy Perkins, Daryl Phillips, Marie Naseman, Maria Paras, Linda Pauley, The Pemberton Family, Maribeth Riepenhoff, John Ryan, Susan Bateman Severs, Sarah Stollenwerk, Sandra Valencia, James Worley and Jennifer Young

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER

FEBRUARY: For children with incurable diseases.
 Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL MUSIC

OFFICE OF COMPLINE:
 We are pleased to resume presentations of Compline in 2025-2026. The Office will be sung by the Men of the Cathedral Choir on the following Sunday at 8:00 p.m.: April 12
Funding for the Cathedral Music Program is provided in part by a charitable gift from the Mirolo Charitable Foundation.

TAKING PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL AND HOLY CROSS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FELLOWSHIP SUNDAYS

Volunteers are needed to assist with coffee-making and setting up for Fellowship Sundays. Please contact Ed Hueckel at Emmett2381@yahoo.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We invite you to be part of the Beautiful Liturgies at St. Joseph Cathedral & Holy Cross. Consider joining the Liturgical Ministry Volunteers as altar servers, lectors, and hospitality ministers. Please fill out a form in the sacristy or email the form to JP at sjcministryscheduler@gmail.com.

PARISH INFORMATION

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION:

Welcome to Saint Joseph Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese of Columbus! We are glad that you are here and invite you to become part of our parish family to be nourished by both Word and Sacrament, and also to become involved in one or more of our parish ministries. To become a registered member, you can pick up a form by the main entrance of our historic church, visit our website, or contact us through the Parish Office. Welcome!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:
 Please contact Carol at the Cathedral at 614-224-1295.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:
 For those couples recently engaged, please review the new guidelines and procedures on our website at <https://sjchcc.org/sacraments/marriage>.
Contact: Mrs. Cathryn Geppert 614-224-1295, ext. 2102, or weddings@saintjosephcathedral.org

FUNERAL MINISTRY:
 For parishioners who have died, the family should contact the rector at St. Joseph Cathedral at 614-224-1295 before meeting with the funeral director.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:
 Those wishing Holy Communion in the Home due to illness, confinement or visits to a hospital or nursing center, please call 614-224-1295.

LOW-GLUTEN* HOSTS will be served at **All Masses**. Worshippers can receive low-gluten Holy Communion from the center aisle (please identify yourself to the Celebrant). *Contains less than 0.01% gluten content and meets the standard set by the Holy See and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

OFFICES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS:

For Diocesan Offices, please call 614-228-2457 during regular business hours or visit our website at www.columbuscatholic.org.

2025 REPORT OF ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL GIVING TREE GIFT CARDS***Deliveries and Report made by Kathleen Tourgeman***

I am pleased to report that 123 gift cards and \$26.00 in cash with a total value of \$5,966.00 were delivered to the Joint Organization of Inner-City Needs (JOIN) in December 2025 and early January 2026.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GROUP FOR MENTAL HEALTH HELD IN CATHEDRAL ON SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Are you or someone you know struggling with depression or other mental health maladies? Have you or a family member survived the loss of a loved one who took his/her own life? St. Dymphna, an Irish Virgin and Martyr, is the Roman Catholic patron saint for Mental Health and those troubled with mental and nervous disorders. The only North American shrine to St. Dymphna is in Massillon, Ohio. Official Church Patronage: *"against depression, epilepsy, for victims of incest, insanity, loss of parents, rape, trauma, PTSD, help for those afflicted with mental disorders, support for mental health professionals and mental health caregivers, psychiatrists, those afflicted by nervous disorders, neurological disorders, sleep disorders."*

A monthly Exposition of the relic of St. Dymphna and devotional prayer hour is held at St. Joseph Cathedral on the second Wednesday of each month, immediately following the 5:00-6:00 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Litanies and prayers for intercession will be led by Cathedral Lector Miss Josie Gonot, OP, who holds a Perpetual Membership at the National Shrine and is also an Associate of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Afflicted people of all faiths and their loved ones are welcome to beg the healing intercession of this young Irish martyr. Contact Miss Josie Gonot at 614-209-3337 with questions.

**CELEBRATING CONFIRMATION AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL IN 2026**

To ensure young people in our community receive the extra needed support of the sacramental life when faced with the many challenges living the Catholic life and proclaiming faith in Jesus Christ, Bishop Fernandes has lowered the age of Confirmation in the Diocese of Columbus. Beginning in 2026, Confirmation will be celebrated in the Fourth grade, or at age 9. To prepare young people in our parish to receive so great a gift, the Cathedral and Holy Cross will be offering Confirmation preparation to our registered parishioners, between the ages of 9 and 17, beginning in the spring of 2026. For more information, please contact Jason Spoolstra at jspoolstra@columbuscatholic.org.

ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL AND HOLY CROSS BIBLE STUDY

St. Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Church has resumed Bible Study in the Undercroft.

- Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Please call the Parish Office for additional information and to register at 614-224-1295.

**CALLING ALL ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL AND HOLY CROSS COMMUNITY**

What: A Time for Reflection and Training of St. Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Community Liturgical Ministers

When: Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. till after 11:30 a.m. Mass + Lunch

Where: Holy Cross Catholic Church 204 S. 5th Street, Columbus 43215

Speaker: Rev. Fr. Nicola Ventura

IN, AROUND AND NEAR THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS**HAVE APPRECIATED STOCKS? HERE'S YOUR SMARTEST YEAR-END GIFT**

Our parish has a financial future, and you can help secure it. The St. Joseph Cathedral Parish Endowment Fund provides perpetual income that goes beyond weekly offerings. The best way to give is to transfer appreciated stock to this fund, which The Catholic Foundation manages. You'll skip capital gains taxes, get the full charitable deduction, and maximize every dollar for our parish. For more information on stock transfers or other ways you can support St. Joseph Cathedral through year-end giving, please contact Christy Steffy, Development Officer at The Catholic Foundation, at 614-443-8893, ext. 1100, or CSteffy@Catholic-Foundation.org.

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON – FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026 – 2026 CATHOLIC MAN OF THE YEAR

Join us Friday, March 6 at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a luncheon honoring the 2026 Catholic Man of the Year. The Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, will present the 2026 Catholic Man of the Year. We will hear remarks about and from the Catholic Man of the Year. Please plan on joining us. The Catholic Foundation is sponsoring the CMOY luncheon. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, contact Dave Kilanowski at dkilano@aol.com. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and our program. No reservations are necessary. \$12.00 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! **There will be no luncheon on Good Friday, April 3, 2026. Our next luncheon is Friday, May 1, 2026. Our speaker will be Chuck Janes from Kairos Prison Ministry giving a talk entitled, "Transforming Lives and Communities." Please mark your calendar to attend!**

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” +Saint Benedict, from the Rule of Saint Benedict (73:3)

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family + Jesus, Mary and Joseph

“Let us familiarize ourselves with certain texts of sacred scripture that invite us to unite ourselves constantly with the divine will: ‘Lord, what will You have me do?’ ”

+SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

Monday, February 16 ~ Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 8:11-13 The Pharisees came forward and began to argue with Jesus, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. He sighed from the depth of his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Amen, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." Then he left them, got into the boat again, and went off to the other shore.

Meditation: The people of Jesus' time expected that the coming of the Messiah would be accompanied by extraordinary signs and wonders. The religious leaders tested Jesus to see if he had a genuine sign from heaven to back his Messianic claims. False messiahs in the past had made extraordinary claims to attract their followers, such as claiming that they could cleave the Jordan River in two or cause the walls of Jerusalem to fall. Jesus knew the hearts of those who came to test him. They were more interested in seeing signs and supernatural phenomena than they were in hearing the word of God. Simeon had prophesied at Jesus' birth that he was "destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that inner thoughts of many will be revealed" (ref. Luke 2:34-35). Jesus gave them no sign except himself and the ultimate proof of his divinity when he rose from the dead.

Prayer: O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Let us never forget that the Lord reveals himself and makes his presence known to us in many ways – in his word and in the "breaking of the bread" in the Eucharist, in his church – the body of Christ, in his creation, and even in the everyday circumstances of our lives. If we seek the Lord, we will surely find him. And we can be confident that he will give us whatever we need to understand and carry out his will. Most of all, the Lord assures us of his daily presence and the promise that he will never leave us. Saint Theresa of Avila's prayer book contained a bookmark in which she wrote: "Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you; all things pass: God never changes. Patience achieves all it strives for. Whoever has God lacks nothing, God alone suffices." Think about that for a moment, then ask yourself: Is God enough for you? If he is not, then this might be an area for you to work on during Lent.

Tuesday, February 17 ~ Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 8:14-21 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. Jesus enjoined them, "Watch out, guard against the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." They concluded among themselves that it was because they had no bread. When he became aware of this he said to them, "Why do you conclude that it is because you have no bread? Do you not yet understand or comprehend? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes and not see, ears and not hear? And do you not remember, when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many wicker baskets full of fragments you picked up?" They answered him, "Twelve." "When I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many full baskets of fragments did you pick up?" They answered him, "Seven." He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"

Meditation: The apostles set off in their boat across the Sea of Galilee only to discover that they forgot to bring enough food for their journey. What were they to do miles away from land and any place where they

could buy food and supplies? They were anxious of course, and this was right after Jesus had performed the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes where the disciples fed more than four thousand people (ref. Mark 8:1-9). Jesus knew the trouble in his disciples' hearts even before they could speak. Jesus dealt with their anxiety by first warning them to not fear what can harm the body rather than what can destroy the very heart and soul of their being.

Prayer: Impart to us, O Lord, in kindness the filial devotion with which the holy brothers venerated so devoutly the Mother of God and led your people to yourself. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: One might wonder why Jesus told his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod? To the Jewish person leaven was a sign of evil. It was a piece of dough left-over from a previous baking. In due course it fermented and this fermented dough became leaven. Fermentation was associated with decomposing rot. Jesus warned his disciples to avoid the evil influence of the Pharisees and of Herod who sought their own counsels rather than the will of God. As the apostles continued to worry about their lack of bread, Jesus reminded them of his miraculous provision of bread in the feeding of the four thousand. He then upbraided them for their lack of trust in God. "Do you still not understand?" It's easy to get preoccupied with the problems and needs of the present moment and to forget the most important reality of all – God's abiding presence with us and his abundant provision for our lives as well. Thus when you pray, do you pray with joyful confidence, "Father, give us this day our daily bread...?"

Wednesday, February 18 ~ The Beginning of Lent Ash Wednesday

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

Meditation: One might ask why Jesus singled out prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for his disciples. The Jews considered these three as the cardinal works of the religious life. These were seen as the key signs of a pious person, the three great pillars on which the good life was based. Jesus pointed to the heart of the matter. Why do you pray, fast, and give alms? To draw attention to yourself so that others may notice and think highly of you? Or to give glory to God? The Lord warns his disciples of self-seeking glory – the preoccupation with looking good and seeking praise from others. True piety is something more than feeling good or looking holy. True piety is loving devotion to God. It is an attitude of awe, reverence, worship and obedience. It is a gift and working of the Holy Spirit that enables us to devote our lives to God with a holy desire to please him in all things (Isaiah 11:1-2). The forty days of Lent is the annual retreat of the people of God in imitation of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. Forty is a significant number in the scriptures. Moses went to the mountain to seek the face of God for forty days in prayer and fasting. The people of Israel were in the wilderness for forty years in preparation for their entry into the promised land. Elijah fasted for forty days as he journeyed in the wilderness to the mountain of God. We are called to journey with the Lord in a special season of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and penitence as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Easter, the Christian Passover. The Lord gives us spiritual food and supernatural strength to seek his face and to prepare ourselves for spiritual combat and testing. We, too, must follow in the way of the cross in order to share in the victory of Christ's death and resurrection. As we begin this holy season of testing and preparation, let's ask the Lord for a fresh outpouring of his Holy Spirit that we may grow in faith, hope, and love and embrace his will more fully in our lives.



Prayer: Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Do you hunger and thirst for God? Do you thirst for God's holiness? God wants to set our hearts ablaze with the fire of his Holy Spirit that we may share in his holiness and radiate the joy of the gospel to those around us. St. Augustine tells us that there are two kinds of people and two kinds of love: "One is holy, the other is selfish. One is subject to God; the other endeavors to equal Him." We are what we love. God wants to free our hearts from all that would keep us captive to selfishness and sin. "Rend your hearts and not your garments" says the prophet Joel (Joel 2:12). Use this Season of Lent to the fullest – embrace the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Holy Catholic Church. Undergo a conversion of mind and heart. Conform your will to God's; don't ask God to conform his will to yours, as so many foolishly try to do. With the help of the Holy Spirit, become humble, transform your minds and hearts to be lead in God's way of truth and holiness – it's the one and only way!

Thursday, February 19 ~ The Day After Ash Wednesday

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:22-25 Jesus said to his disciples: "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised." Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?"

Meditation: Quite simply, the cross of Jesus Christ leads to freedom and victory over sin and death. We then need to ask ourselves: "What is the cross which Christ commands me to take up each day as his disciple?" When my will crosses with his will, then his will must be done. The way of the cross involves sacrifice, the sacrifice of laying down my life each and every day for Jesus' sake. What makes such sacrifice possible and "sweet" is the love of God poured out for us in the blood of Jesus Christ. Paul the Apostle reminds us that "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5:5). We can never outdo God in giving, no matter how abundant we try. He always gives us more than we can expect or imagine. Are you ready to lose all for Christ in order to gain all with Christ?

Prayer: Prompt our actions with your inspiration, we pray, O Lord, and further them with your constant help, that all we do may always begin from you and by you be brought to completion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: We need to ask ourselves: "What will I give to God in exchange for freedom and eternal life?" In thinking about this question, are you ready to part with anything that might keep you from following him and his perfect plan for your life? Jesus poses these questions to challenge our assumptions about what is most profitable and worthwhile in life. In every decision of life we are making ourselves a certain kind of person. It is possible that some can gain all the things they set their heart on, only to wake up suddenly and discover that they missed the most important things of all. A true disciple is ready to give up all that he or she has in exchange for happiness and life with God. The life which God offers is abundant, everlasting life. And the joy which God places in our hearts no sadness or loss can diminish.

Friday, February 20 ~ The Friday After Ash Wednesday

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:14-15 The disciples of John approached Jesus and said, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast much, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."

Meditation: What kind of fasting is pleasing to God? Fasting can be done for a variety of reasons: – to gain freedom from some bad habit, addiction, or vice, to share in the suffering of those who go without, or to grow in our hunger for God and for the things of heaven. Basil the Great wrote: "Take heed that you do not make fasting to consist only in abstinence from meats. True fasting is to refrain from vice. Shred to pieces all your unjust contracts. Pardon your neighbors. Forgive them their trespasses." Do you hunger for more of God and for his holiness and for the abundant life he has to offer you?

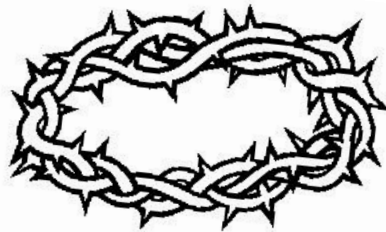
Prayer: Show gracious favor, O Lord, we pray, to the works of penance we have begun, that we may have strength to accomplish with sincerity the bodily observances we undertake. Through our Lord Jesus

Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Do you ever find yourself hungering for God? We must remember that hungering for God and fasting for his kingdom go hand in hand. When asked why he and his disciples did not fast Jesus used the vivid picture of a wedding celebration. In Jesus' time the newly wed celebrated their honeymoon at home for a whole week with all the guests! This was a time of great feasting and celebrating. Jesus points to himself as the bridegroom and his disciples as the bridegroom's friends. He alludes to the fact that God takes delight in his people as a groom delights in his bride (Isaiah 62:5). To be in God's presence is pure delight and happiness. But Jesus also reminds his followers that there is a time for fasting and for humbling oneself in preparation for the coming of God's kingdom and for the return of the Messianic King. The Lord's disciples must also bear the cross of affliction and purification. For the disciple there is both a time for rejoicing in the Lord's presence and celebrating his goodness and a time for seeking the Lord with humility, fasting, and mourning for sin. If we hunger for the Lord, he will not disappoint us. His grace draws us to his throne of mercy and favor. Do you seek the Lord with confident trust and allow his Holy Spirit to transform your life with his power and grace? If not, perhaps this is an area for you to work on during this Season of Lent.

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner. Prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2026



THE POINT OF LENT ~ A SPECIAL REFLECTION BY SAM GUZMAN

If we're going to have a good Lent, we have to realize that the heart of Lent is not resolutions but *repentance*. Jesus began his preaching of the Gospel by saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," and his message has been repeated by all the great saints through history. And what is repentance exactly? It is a return to God.

Human beings were made for communion with God and participation in his Divine life. Before the fall, this union with God was as natural as breathing, but now, it is a constant struggle. In fact, our hearts seem to have a gravitational pull to anything but God. We look for happiness and satisfaction in everything but him, and our hearts cling to sin like a magnet clings to steel.

Because our hearts are inclined toward selfishness and sin, restored communion with God requires a radical and painful reorientation. Aided by grace, we have to wrench away the magnets of our hearts and point them toward what they should cling to: God. This wrenching reorientation is what is known as repentance.

So how do we go about reorienting our hearts? Throughout history, three tools have been recommended by Mother Church and the saints to aid us in repentance: prayer, fasting (penance), and almsgiving. The most important thing to realize about them is that they are means to an end, not an end in themselves.

So often we start Lent focusing on all that we are going to do or give up. We focus on what we hope to *do*, rather than what we hope to *be*. It's like starting a strict diet and being proud of yourself for how much you will exercise and how little you will eat, rather than how much you hope to weigh at the end.

If we don't have the right attitude about prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we will get to Easter burned out and frustrated. We'll think Lent is a waste of time, and we'll grow discouraged at our lack of willpower. As we prepare for Lent, let's keep the focus where it was always supposed to be— on a heart of repentance and love.

LENT AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL AND HOLY CROSS



ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

with Blessing and Imposition of Ashes
Saint Joseph Cathedral
February 18, 2026
 Masses at 12:05 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Beginning the 40 Days of Adoration throughout the Diocese of Columbus
Saint Joseph Cathedral
Ash Wednesday
 Exposition after the 12:05 p.m. Mass
 Concluding with the 5:15 p.m. Mass

FRIDAYS IN LENT, JOIN US FOR VENERATION OF THE RELIC OF THE TRUE CROSS

From 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon.
Mass at 12:05 p.m.
 Followed by Stations of the Cross

PARTICIPATE IN OUR LENTEN 40 DAYS AND 40 CANS COLLECTION

To benefit Holy Family Soup Kitchen.
 A can a day during this season of preparation for Easter. Bring nonperishable food items to Mass with you on Sundays to benefit our neighbors who depend on **Holy Family Soup Kitchen** for food.



PARTICIPATE IN CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE'S ANNUAL RICE BOWL LENTEN PROGRAM

Catholic Relief Service is the international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States founded by the US Bishops in 1943. 25% stays locally, 75% supports vital relief around the world.

MAGNIFICAT LENTEN COMPANION AVAILABLE AFTER ALL MASSES (UNTIL ALL ARE GONE) BISHOP BARRON'S PRIEST, PROPHET, KING

“The better we understand Jesus, the better we understand ourselves. Who was Jesus, this great itinerant preacher whom many called Messiah? In *Priest, Prophet King*, you'll discover Jesus as the Anointed One; the ultimate priest, prophet and king foreshadowed throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. Using biblical insights and engaging stories, Bishop Barron affirms that we see Jesus most clearly through the lens of the Old Testament. Through the presentation of *Priest, Prophet, King*, you will better understand Jesus, become more familiar with Scripture, and realize your own priestly, prophetic and kingly mission.” Join us in the Cathedral Undercroft on Monday evenings during Lent to experience Bishop Barron's teaching and insights and grow closer to Jesus, our Priest, Prophet and King.

Monday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m.
Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 7:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE NOW FOR THE LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION AT HOLY CROSS “THE SACRED LITURGY: THE FONT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE”

Presented by Reverend Nicola Ventura for all Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross parishioners, Liturgical Ministers and prospective Liturgical Ministers
Saturday, February 21, at 9:00 a.m.
 Holy Cross Church, 204 South Fifth Street

VISIT OF FIRST-CLASS RELIC OF SAINT PADRE PIO TO THE CATHEDRAL

Wednesday, March 4

Veneration of the Relic begins with its reception at 10:00 a.m.
 Confessions from 10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
 12:05 p.m. Mass with Bishop Fernandes
 Opportunity to receive a blessing with the relic of Padre Pio after Mass.
 Veneration of the relic continues until 5:00 p.m.
 Confessions 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
 Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 6:00 p.m.

LENT AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL AND HOLY CROSS

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

Saturday, March 14

10:00 a.m.

Kennedy Ofezu and Anthony Whelan
Parishioners of Saint Joseph Cathedral
Masses of “First Preaching”

Sunday, March 15

10:30 a.m. with Deacon Kennedy Ofezu
12:30 p.m. with Deacon Anthony Whalen

Luncheon in honor of Deacons Ofezu and Whelan at 2:00 p.m. in Cathedral Undercroft.

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PATRONAL FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

Thursday, March 19

Veneration of the First-Class relic of the Mantle of Saint Joseph
begins at 10:00 a.m.

Confessions from 10:15-11:45 a.m.

Mass at 12:05 p.m.

Opportunity to receive a blessing with the relic after Mass
Parish Spaghetti Dinner in Undercroft of Cathedral beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The relic will be at the following parishes:

- Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster
- Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe,
- Star of the New Evangelization, Columbus
- St. Brendan, Hilliard
- St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus
- St. Michael, Worthington
- St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
- St. Thomas More Newman Center/
Buckeye Catholic, The Ohio State University

More detailed information will be coming soon



SAVE THE DATE

*St. Carlo Acutis Pericardium Relic
is coming to the Diocese of Columbus*

ST. CARLO ACUTIS RELIC IN COLUMBUS

Through February 18 – 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

The St. Carlo Acutis Pericardium Relic will be at several parishes in the Diocese of Columbus.
Further information and more details will be available closer to the event.

- Saturday, February 14**
Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster
- Sunday, February 15**
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus
- Monday, February 16**
St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Westerville

- Tuesday, February 17**
St. Brendan Parish, Hilliard
St. Michael Parish, Westerville
- Wednesday, February 18**
St. Thomas More Newman Center/
Buckeye Catholic



If your Offertory is not made electronically, please use your parish Offertory Envelope to thoughtfully, prayerfully choose your gift. In addition, filling out an envelope or electronic statement helps us keep track of who is actively registered at our parish.

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1. Visit our parish website at www.sjhcc.org and click the online giving link.
2. Create a secure account.
3. Schedule your recurring Sunday Offertory gifts.
4. Scroll down the alphabetical listing to **The Appeal** and make your recurring gift.

Your contribution supports the work and operations of Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross, our music and education programs. Please be generous in your support of these important endeavors. Your contribution can be made by sending a text message to 614-721-4184, or by scanning the QR code with your smartphone QR Scanner Application.





**THE COMMUNITY OF
ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL
AND HOLY CROSS**

2025 APPEAL REPORT

UPDATED JANUARY 12, 2026

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Diocesan Goal | \$ 61,733.03 |
| Total Pledge to-Date | \$ 75,996.00 |
| **Our Pledges Have Exceeded our 2025 Goal!** | |
| Total Pledges Exceeding Diocesan Goal | \$ 14,232.97 |
| Percent of parishioner participation | 19.3% |

OFFERTORY FOR SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL FEBRUARY 8, 2026

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Cathedral: | |
| Credit Card: | \$ 4,219.00 |
| EFT | \$ 1,311.37 |
| Mail-in | \$ 364.00 |
| Sunday Collection | \$ 3,644.00 |
| Subtotal | \$ 9,538.37 |
| % Diocese | (\$ 953.84) |
| Net to Parish | \$ 8,584.53 |

OFFERTORY FOR HOLY CROSS FEBRUARY 8, 2026

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday Collection | \$ 1,639.00 |
| Reg Mail-In | \$ 200.00 |
| Credit Card | \$ 165.00 |
| Repair | \$ 332.00 |
| Subtotal | \$ 2,336.00 |
| % Diocese | (\$ 233.60) |
| Net to Parish | \$ 2,102.40 |

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| <p>The Peanut Shoppe 4 E. Broad Street Columbus, OH 614-221-8837 peanutshoppe@columbusnuts.com</p> | <p>Dominican Sisters of Peace Come Be Peace with us! For more info, contact Sr. Ana Gonzalez, OP (475) 224-0519 (call or text) or ana.gonzalez@oppeace.org</p> | |
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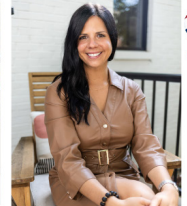
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