



*Master, did you not sow
good seed in your field?*

*Where have the
weeds come from?*

-Matthew 13:27

July 19, 2026 / Sixteenth 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, July 19 – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Scripture Readings: Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

9:00 a.m. Soul of Fr. Jerome Stluka

CATHEDRAL**Sunday, July 19 – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Scripture Readings: Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

10:30 a.m. Soul of John "Jack" Schaffer

12:30 p.m. Community of St. Joseph Cathedral & Holy Cross

5:15 p.m. Soul of Matthew Schmidt

Monday, July 20 – Saint Apollinaris

Scripture Readings: Mic 6:1-4, 6-8; Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 12:38-42

12:05 p.m. Soul of Ralph Waring

Tuesday, July 21 – Saint Lawrence of Brindisi

Scripture Readings: Mic 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8; Mt 12:46-50

12:05 p.m. Souls of Bob & Carrie Kennedy

Wednesday, July 22 – Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene

Scripture Readings: Song 3:1-4b OR 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

12:05 p.m. Souls of Charles & Thomas Jones

Thursday, July 23 – Saint Bridget

Scripture Readings: Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11; Mt 13:10-17

12:05 p.m. Intention Eric Brumleve

Friday, July 24 – Saint Sharbel Makhlūf

Scripture Readings: Jer 3:14-17; Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; Mt 13:18-23

12:05 p.m. Souls of John, Christine & Brian Scianamblo

HOLY CROSS**Saturday, July 25 – Feast of Saint James, Apostle**

Scripture Readings: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Mt 20:20-28

11:30 a.m. Soul of Joann Bartosic

**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
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Director of OCIA and

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

Operations: Mr. Michael Pirik
mpirik@columbuscatholic.org

THIS WEEKEND'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ JULY 19

	HCC 9:00 a.m.	SJC 10:30 a.m.	SJC 12:30 p.m.	SJC 5:15 p.m.
MC				
Altar Servers	John Feher	Bonnie Maupin	Laura Battocletti	Cole Behrens
		Russell Howard		
		Dan Jurgens		
Lector 1	Jane Visocan	David Garick	Alex Strohmeier	Drew Mirgon
Lector 2		Michele Kenefic	Thom Gall	Janet Joseph
Eucharistic Minister		Michele Kenefic	Thom Gall	Josie Gonot
Hospitality/ Ushers		Steve Horner	JP Pacis	Ed Hueckel
		Evelina Horner	Cathryn Geppert	Janet Joseph
		Jim Thomas		
		Pam Jurgens		

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER

JULY:

For respect of human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life
in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.



ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL MUSIC

**The Choir is on Summer Break
and will return on Sunday, September 13th.**

*Funding for the Cathedral Music Program is provided in part
by a charitable gift from the Mirolo Charitable Foundation.*

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 & his Mother, Peggy Halley, Edith Ingram, Dr. Lianna Goetz, Brittany Grinder, Kim Haring, Ruth Harper, Chris and Anna Katanyuta, Denise Lager, Teresa Mallon, Denise McKinney, Sylvia Givens Moore, Colleen Olson, Kathy Perkins, Daryl Phillips, Marie Naseman, Maria Paras, Linda Pauley, The Pemberton Family, Maribeth Riepenhoff, John Ryan, Sarah Stollenwerk, Sandra Valencia, and James Worley

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://sjhcc.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.

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



BANNS OF MARRIAGE

The Community of St. Joseph Cathedral & Holy Cross happily announces the coming nuptials of Jacob Krokey & Rachel Harlow on July 25, 2026 and Ashton Sigler & Ariel Pelletier on August 1, 2026. The Weddings will be held at Saint Joseph Cathedral. Any known reason why these marriages should not happen should be reported to Rev. Jan Sullivan. Please keep them in prayer as they prepare for their wedding.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GROUP FOR MENTAL HEALTH HELD IN CATHEDRAL ON THE 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.

STRUCTURAL REPAIR NOTICE

Saint Joseph Cathedral will be undergoing structural repair and renovation in phases through October 2026. We will make every effort to minimize disruptions to the celebration of Mass and the sacraments. However, during this time, there may be scaffolding and other necessary equipment for the repairs inside and around the exterior of the Cathedral at Mass and sacramental celebrations. Holy Cross Church will remain unaltered during this time and the Sacrament of Marriage can be held there.

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 and 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 sjcministriescheduler@gmail.com.



The Appeal

Rooted in Christ, Growing in Mission

2026

As we continue The 2026 Annual Appeal, "Rooted in Christ, Growing in Mission," we thank you for your generosity and faithful support. Because we are firmly rooted in Christ, our parish and Diocese continue to grow in faith and reach outward in mission.

Through The Appeal, we support four vital areas of ministry:

- Social Doctrine
- Education and Faith Formation
- Evangelization
- Vocations

Together, these ministries strengthen our Church and serve those most in need.

Our parish goal this year is \$61,816.15.

Please prayerfully consider a gift according to your ability.

The 2026 Appeal continues! You may give using the provided envelope or securely online at columbuscatholicgiving.org/appeal. Together, rooted in Christ, we can bear lasting fruit for our Church and our world.

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 July is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus

"Safeguard the warmth of the family, because all the warmth of the world will not make up for it." +SAINT SHARBEL (CHARBEL) MAKHLŪF

Monday, July 20 ~ Sixteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time
Optional Memorial: Saint Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr

Holy Gospel: Matthew 12:38-42 Some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Jesus, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." He said to them in reply, "An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights. At the judgment, the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and there is something greater than Jonah here. At the judgment the queen of the south will arise with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and there is something greater than Solomon here."

Meditation: It was characteristic of the Jewish people to demand "signs" from God's messengers to authenticate their claims. Jesus faulted them for one thing: spiritual adultery. The image of adultery was often used in the scriptures for describing apostasy or infidelity towards God. When the religious leaders pressed Jesus to give proof for his claims, he says in so many words that he is God's sign and that they need no further evidence from heaven than his own person. The Ninevites recognized God's warning when Jonah spoke to them, and they repented (Jonah 3:5). And the Queen of Sheba recognized God's wisdom in Solomon (1 Kings 10:1-9). Jonah was God's sign and his message was the message of God for the people of Nineveh. Unfortunately the religious leaders were not content to accept the signs right before their very eyes. They had rejected the message of John the Baptist and now they reject Jesus as God's Anointed One (Messiah) and they fail to heed his message. 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" (Luke 2:34-35). Jesus confirmed his message with many miracles in preparation for the greatest sign of all – his resurrection on the third day.

Prayer: Direct your faithful, Lord, in the way of eternal salvation, which the Bishop Saint Apollinaris showed by his teaching and martyrdom, and grant through his intercession, that we may so persevere in keeping your commandments as to merit being crowned with him. 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: The Lord Jesus through the gift of his Holy Spirit offers us freedom from sin and ignorance and he gives us wisdom and understanding so that we may grow in knowledge of God and his ways. Do you thirst for God and for the wisdom which comes from above? James the Apostle says that the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity (James 3:17). A double-minded person cannot receive this kind of wisdom. If we wish to be wise in God's ways, then we must humble ourselves before him, like attentive students who wish to learn, and submit our heart and mind to his will for our lives. The single of heart and mind desire one thing alone – God who is the source of all wisdom, goodness, truth, and knowledge. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with the wisdom which comes from above and to free your heart from all that would hinder God's loving action in your life.

Tuesday, July 21 ~ Sixteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time
Optional Memorial: Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Matthew 12:46-50 While Jesus was speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers appeared outside, wishing to speak with him. Someone told him, "Your mother and your brothers are

standing outside, asking to speak with you.” But he said in reply to the one who told him, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

Meditation: God offers us the greatest of relationships – union of heart, mind, and spirit with himself, the very author and source of love (1 John 4:8,16). God's love never fails, never forgets, never compromises, never lies, never lets us down nor disappoints us. His love is consistent, unwavering, unconditional, and unstoppable. Nothing can deter him from ever leaving us, ignoring us, or treating us unkindly. He will love us no matter what. It is his nature to love. That is why he created us – to be united with him and to share in his love and unity of persons (1 John 3:1). God is a trinity of persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and a community of love. That is why Jesus challenged his followers and even his own earthly relatives to recognize that God is the true source of all relationships. God wants all of our relationships to be rooted in his love.

Prayer: O God, who for the glory of your name and the salvation of souls bestowed on the Priest Saint Lawrence of Brindisi a spirit of counsel and fortitude, grant, we pray, that in the same spirit, we may know what must be done and, through his intercession, bring it 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: Jesus is God's love incarnate – God's love made visible in human flesh (1 John 4:9-10). That is why Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep and the shepherd who seeks out the sheep who have strayed and lost their way. God is like the father who yearns for his prodigal son to return home and then throws a great party for his son when he has a change of heart and comes back (Luke 15:11-32). Jesus offered up his life on the cross for our sake, so that we could be forgiven and restored to unity and friendship with God. It is through Jesus that we become the adopted children of God – his own sons and daughters. That is why Jesus told his disciples that they would have many new friends and family relationships in his kingdom. Whoever does the will of God is a friend of God and a member of his family – his sons and daughters who have been ransomed by the precious blood of Christ.

Wednesday, July 22 ~ Sixteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene

Holy Gospel: John 20:1-2, 11-18 On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.”

Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the Body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken my Lord, and I don’t know where they laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” She thought it was the gardener and said to him, “Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni,” which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, “Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and then reported what he told her.

Meditation: How easy it is to miss the Lord when our focus is on ourselves! Mary Magdalene did not at first recognize the Lord because her focus was on the empty tomb and on her own grief. It took only one word from the Master, when he called her by name, for Mary to recognize him. Mary's message to the disciples, I have seen the Lord, is the very essence of Christianity. It is not enough that a Christian know about the Lord, but that we know him personally. It is not enough to argue about him, but to meet him. In the resurrection we encounter the living Lord who loves us personally and shares his glory with us. The Lord gives us “eyes of faith” to see the truth of his resurrection and victory over sin and death (Ephesians 1:18). The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our hope -- the hope that we will see God face to face and share in his everlasting glory and joy. Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls (1 Peter 1:8-9). Do you recognize the Lord's presence with you, in his word, in the “breaking of the bread” and in his church, the body of Christ?

Prayer: O God, whose Only Begotten Son entrusted Mary Magdalene before all others with announcing the great joy of the Resurrection, grant, we pray, that through her intercession and example we may proclaim the living Christ and come to see him reigning in your glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Saint Mary Magdalene has always been the example of great love and great forgiveness, one of those close to Jesus who grasped the truth of God's love for human beings and spent her life bearing witness to that love. So we might ask ourselves: How do I embrace the truth of God's love for me and for others? Through my actions and interactions with others, do I always bear witness to that same level of love?

About Saint Mary Magdalene: The feast of St. Mary Magdalene is considered one of the most mystical of feasts, and it is said that of all the songs of the saints, that of Mary Magdalene is the sweetest and strongest because her love was so great. That love was praised by Jesus Himself who said that because much was forgiven her, she loved much. She was from Magadala, a small fishing town on the Sea of Galilee. She was known to be a "great sinner" – a woman of the streets who heard Jesus speak of the mercy and forgiveness of God and changed her life completely. Her matter-of-fact witness to the Resurrection moved Peter and John to go and see for themselves: "I have seen the Lord and these things he said to me." Jesus had chosen her to bring the news to them and she simply told them what had happened. She has always been the example of great love and great forgiveness, one of those close to Jesus who grasped the truth of God's love for human beings and spent her life bearing witness to that love.

Thursday, July 23 ~ Sixteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time **Optional Memorial: Saint Bridget of Sweden, Religious**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:10-17 The disciples approached Jesus and said, "Why do you speak to the crowd in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand*. Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says:

You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted and I heal them.

"But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

Meditation: Saint Augustine of Hippo once said: "I believe, in order to understand; and I understand, the better to believe." Both faith and understanding are gifts of the Holy Spirit that enable us to hear God's word with clarity so we can know God better and grow in the knowledge of his love and truth. Jesus, however, had to warn his disciples that not everyone would understand his teaching. The prophet Isaiah had warned that some would hear God's word, but not believe, some would see God's actions and miracles, and remained unconvinced. Ironically some of the greatest skeptics of Jesus' teaching and miracles were the learned scribes and Pharisees who prided themselves on their knowledge of scripture and the law of Moses. They heard Jesus' parables and saw the great signs and miracles which he performed, but they refused to accept both Jesus and his message. How could they "hear and never understand" and "see but never perceive"? They were spiritually blind and deaf because their hearts were closed and their minds were blocked by pride and prejudice.

Prayer: O God, who guided Saint Bridget of Sweden along different paths of life and wondrously taught her the wisdom of the Cross as she contemplated the Passion of your Son, grant us, we pray, that, walking worthily in our vocation, we may seek you in all things. 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: There is only one thing that can open a closed, confused, and divided mind – a broken heart and humble spirit! The word disciple means one who is willing to learn and ready to submit to the wisdom and truth which comes from God. Psalm 119 expresses the joy and delight of a disciple who loves God's word and who embraces it with trust and obedience. "Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation" (Psalm 119:97-99). God can only reveal the secrets of his kingdom to the humble and trusting person who acknowledges their need for

God and for his truth. The parables of Jesus will enlighten us if we approach them with an open mind and heart, ready to let them challenge us. If we approach God's word with indifference, skepticism, and disbelief, then we, too, may "hear but not understand" and "see but not perceive." God's word can only take root in a humble and receptive heart that is ready to believe. If we want to hear and to understand God's word, we must listen with openness, humility, reverence and faith – nothing else will suffice. Do you believe God's word and do you submit to it with trust and reverence?

Friday, July 24 ~ Sixteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time
Optional Memorial: Saint Sharbel (Charbel) Makhlūf, Priest

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:18-23 Jesus said to his disciples: "Hear the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the Kingdom without understanding it, and the Evil One comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

Meditation: This parable of Jesus is a warning to those who hear and who preach the word of God. What makes us ineffective and unresponsive to God's word? Preoccupation with other things can distract us from what is truly important and worthwhile; letting our hearts and minds be consumed with material things can easily weigh us down and draw us away from the treasure that lasts for eternity. God's word can only take root in a receptive heart which is ready to hear what God has to say. One lesson is clear: the harvest is sure. While some seed will fall by the wayside and some fall on shallow ground and never come to maturity, and some be choked to death by the thorns; nonetheless a harvest will come. The seed that falls on good soil, on the heart that is receptive, will reap abundant fruit. Are you teachable and eager to learn God's truth?

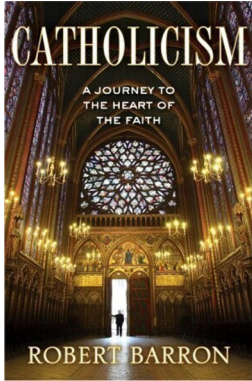
Prayer: O God, who called the Priest Saint Sharbel Makhlūf to the solitary combat of the desert and imbued him with all manner of devotion, grant us, we pray, that, being made imitators of the Lord's Passion, we may merit to be co-heirs of his Kingdom. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: The word "harden" means "to become hard, obstinate, and stubborn." When scripture speaks of hardening our hearts, it is referring to our becoming insensitive to the Word of God. When our heart becomes hard, then we set up a resistance to His Word. Many times without knowing it God's people become defiant to God's Word, and they resist any conviction God brings in their life. When they refuse to hear, they refuse to change, then they resist conviction. They have hardened their hearts to God's will and His way. These have closed their minds to anything God would speak to them. They want to follow their own will, and go their own way. In doing this, they allow God no access to their lives. The heart of a disciple is malleable, not hard, and is open to always receiving the Word. Is your heart malleable?

About Saint Sharbel (Charbel) Makhlūf: Joseph Makhlūf was born in 1828 at Beqa-Kafra, Lebanon. His family lived a strong faith, were attentive to the Divine Liturgy, and had a great devotion to the Mother of God. At the age of 23, Charbel (the name he chose when entering Novitiate) left his closely knit family to enter the Lebanese-Maronite Monastery called Notre-Dame de Mayfouk. Following studies and profession at St. Cyprian de Kfifane Monastery, he was ordained in 1859. For the next seven years, Charbel lived in the mountainous community of Anaya. After that he spent the next twenty-three years in complete solitude at Sts. Peter and Paul Hermitage near Anaya. He died there on Christmas Eve, 1898. Charbel had a reputation for his austerity, penances, obedience, and chastity. At times, Charbel was gifted with levitations during prayer, and he had great devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament. In all things, Charbel maintained perfect serenity.

Make a Pilgrimage: Visit the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon located in North Jackson, Ohio, just west of Youngstown. For information visit www.ourladyoflebanonshrine.com, or call (330) 538-3351.

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- *The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church*
- *The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist*
- *The Communion of Saints*
- *Prayer and the Life of the Spirit*
- *The Last Things*

UPCOMING DATES

ALL WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE UNDERCROFT
July 22, August 12, and August 26



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
of Columbus

Stations of the Cross

Outdoors at
Resurrection Cemetery

Friday, July 24
3 PM

9571 N. High St.
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Saints Simon and Jude Catholic Church Women's Group Annual Rummage Sale

Friday, July 31 and Saturday, August 1,
from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
at 9350 High Free Pike,
West Jefferson, Ohio.

If you would like information on donating
items for the Rummage Sale,
please visit our website at
<http://stsimonjude.org> and view
the latest bulletin for details.

JUBILEE of ANNIVERSARIES

A celebration of the Diocese of Columbus

Saturday August 22, 2026

5:00pm Mass

St. Joseph Cathedral

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A 4-Day Pilgrimage to St. Louis, Missouri

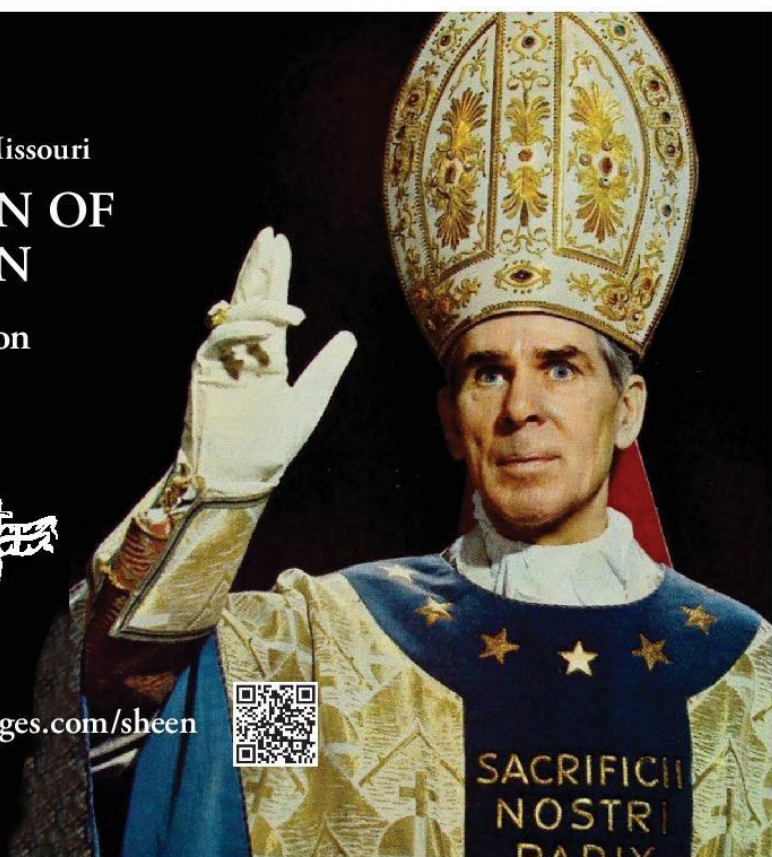
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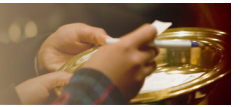
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3. Schedule your recurring Sunday Offertory gifts.
4. Scroll down the alphabetical listing and make your recurring gift.

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The Appeal
Rooted in Christ, Growing in Mission
2026

THE COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL AND HOLY CROSS 2026-2027 APPEAL REPORT UPDATED JUNE 30, 2026

DIOCESAN GOAL	\$ 61,816.15
TOTAL PLEDGE TO-DATE	\$ 48,905.15
(79.1% OF THE DIOCESAN GOAL)	
ADDITIONAL PLEDGES NEEDED TO MEET	
DIOCESAN GOAL	\$ 12,911.00
PERCENT OF PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION	12 %

OFFERTORY FOR SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

	July 5	July 12
Credit Card	\$ 1,181.00	\$ 4,298.00
EFT	\$ 1,516.67	\$ 0.00
Mail-in	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,679.00
Sunday Collection	\$ 2,081.00	\$ 2,320.00
Subtotal	\$ 4,978.67	\$ 8,297.00
10% Diocese	(\$ 497.87)	(\$ 829.70)
Net to Parish	\$ 4,480.80	\$ 7,467.30
Poor Box	\$ 53.00	\$ 186.00
2nd Collection for Missionary Sunday		\$ 1,280.00

OFFERTORY FOR HOLY CROSS

	July 5	July 12
Sunday Collection	\$ 1,127.00	\$ 1,301.75
Reg Mail-in	\$ 500.00	\$ 30.00
Credit Card	\$ 10.00	\$ 320.00
Repair	\$ 0.00	\$ 295.00
Subtotal	\$ 1,637.00	\$ 1,946.75
% Diocese	(\$ 163.70)	(\$ 194.68)
Net to Parish	\$ 1,473.30	\$ 1,752.07
2nd Collection for Missionary Sunday		\$ 183.47

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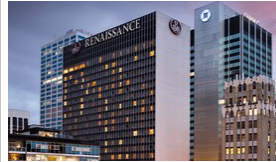
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