

# ST. STEPHEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH

44 Britton Street, West Salem, Ohio 44287



## Parish Contact Information

Address: 44 Britton Street  
Phone: 419-853-4946  
Email: [info@ststephen.ws](mailto:info@ststephen.ws)

## Presbyteral Moderator:

Fr. Rod Kreidler  
[pastor@stedwardashland.org](mailto:pastor@stedwardashland.org)

## Parochial Vicar

Fr. Jim Winings  
[jwinings@stedwardashland.org](mailto:jwinings@stedwardashland.org)

## Parish Life Coordinator

Deacon Pete Foradori  
[deaconpete@ststephen.ws](mailto:deaconpete@ststephen.ws)

## Parish Secretary

Denise Behary  
[secretary@ststephen.ws](mailto:secretary@ststephen.ws)

## PSR Director

Stephanie Arnold

## Organists

Patricia Foradori  
Laura Fryman

## Maintenance

Ron Boehm  
Logan Garman

## Parish Council

Christina King  
Danielle Stieglmeyer  
Robert Williams

Marlene Zeigler  
Christy Johnson  
Tom Kilner

## Finance Council

Sharon Gebura  
Jim Linn  
Todd McKee

Joyce Smith  
Joe Dempsey

## Baptism of Children:

Please contact the parish office before the birth of your first child to prepare for this sacrament.

## Baptism of Adults

(Order of Christian Initiation of Adults or OCIA)  
The process for becoming a Roman Catholic for adults and older children who have not been baptized or have been baptized in a different tradition. If you or someone you know is interested in learning about the Catholic Faith, please contact the parish office.

## First Communion

Celebrated every year after the children have completed sacramental preparation.

## Confirmation

Celebrated every other year for those in the eighth and ninth grades.

## Marriages

Please consult with the Priest or Deacon at least six months before the desired date is set.

## Holy Orders

Contact the parish office for information about the priesthood or the diaconate. We will also provide information about vowed religious life for men and women.

## Anointing of the Sick

As needed, and as requested.

## Social Media

Please find us on Facebook or on our website: [ststephen.ws](http://ststephen.ws)

## Our Family of Ministry

### St. Edward Ashland

[stedwardashland.org](http://stedwardashland.org)  
419-289-7224

#### Weekday Mass:

Mon, Tue, Thu, & Fri  
8:00am (7:35am Rosary)  
Wednesday 1:15pm

#### Weekend Mass:

Saturday Vigil 4:30pm  
Sunday 8:30am, 11:00am

**1st Saturday:** 8:00am  
(7:35am Rosary)

#### Confession:

Saturday 3-4:00pm

### St. Stephen West Salem

[ststephen.ws](http://ststephen.ws)  
419-853-4946

#### Weekday Mass:

Mon & Thu 8:00am  
Wednesday 4:00pm

#### Weekend Mass:

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm  
Sunday 10:30am

#### Confession:

Saturday 3-3:45pm

#### Adoration:

Wednesday 1-8:00pm

### St. Peter Loudonville

[loudonvillecatholic.org](http://loudonvillecatholic.org)  
419-994-4396

#### Weekday Mass:

Tuesday 8:00am  
Friday 12:00noon

#### Weekend Mass:

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm  
Sunday 9:00am

#### Confession:

Saturday 4-4:30pm

#### Adoration:

2nd Monday of Month  
7-8:00pm

### Ashland University Newman Center

[ashlandcatholic.org](http://ashlandcatholic.org)  
[nccm@ashland.edu](mailto:nccm@ashland.edu)  
419-289-5481

\*\* Located in the Lower Chapel on campus,  
only when college is in session.

#### Weekend Mass:

Sunday 4:30pm  
(except 9/21, 10/19 & 11/30)

#### Confession:

Sunday 4-4:30pm

#### Newman Nights:

Wednesday 7-8:30pm

#### Adoration:

Wed 8:45-9:45pm

# Third Sunday of Advent

## December 14, 2025

### A Word from Fr. Jim:

Every year, the Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. It's the one Sunday in Advent when the color rose replaces purple. Many people may wonder, where does the phrase Gaudete Sunday come from? And why do we shift from purple to rose?

Each Sunday of the year has its own unique set of prayers and texts that guide the celebration of Mass. The first of these prayers is known as the introit, a short scriptural verse that serves several purposes:

- it begins the celebration
- unites us as a community
- focuses our minds on the mystery of the season
- and accompanies the procession

In most parishes in the United States, the introit is usually replaced by an opening hymn that carries the same message. For Gaudete Sunday, that message comes from Philippians 4:4-5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near."

That line raises a real question: *How can we be told to rejoice?*

In order for joy to be authentic, isn't there something that we need to be joyful about? Is it wrong to be joyful when life is difficult, when we struggle with sin, health, finances, anxiety, or the pain and uncertainty we see in our world?

Despite these objections, St. Paul is clear in his command to rejoice *always*, because the LORD is near. Christian joy is not a matter of pretending that everything is perfect. Scripture gives us the example of the psalmist, whose "heart rejoices in the precepts of the Lord" (Psalm 19:9) and who finds God's law "sweeter than honey" (v. 12). For Christians, our joy comes from a similar place: our relationship with Christ. We discover joy in following His commandments, in uniting our crosses with His, in sharing communion with others, and in trusting His mercy and forgiveness when we fall short.

And this brings us back to the color rose. Rose is simply purple mixed with white. It is a reminder that even in a season of waiting and repentance, God's light breaks through. This Gaudete Sunday reminds us that even while we wait for God's promises to unfold, we can live with a deep and steady joy, because Christ is near!

### Mass Schedule

<b>Saturday, December 13</b>	4:00pm	For the People
<b>Sunday, December 14</b>	10:30am	Roberta Dempsey +
<b>Monday, December 15</b>	8:00am	Carrie Daddona +
<b>Wednesday, December 17</b>	4:00pm	For the People
<b>Thursday, December 18</b>	8:00am	For the People
<b>Saturday, December 20</b>	4:00pm	For the People
<b>Sunday, December 21</b>	10:30am	Dianne Pochasa +

### **Additional Reconciliation Opportunity:**

Fr. Jim will be hearing Confessions on Wednesday, December 17 from 4:30-6:00pm. Advent is the perfect time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we prepare for the birth of Jesus!

### Readings for the Week of December 14, 2025

**Sunday**                      **Third Sunday of Advent**  
Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

**Monday**    Num 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9;  
Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday**    Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23;  
Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday**    Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8,17; Mt 1:1-17

**Thursday**    Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

**Friday**        Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

**Saturday**    Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

**Sunday**                      **Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

### The Week Ahead

#### **Saturday, December 13**

3:00pm Reconciliation  
4:00pm Mass  
7:00pm AA

#### **Sunday, December 14** **Third Sunday of Advent**

9:15am PSR  
9:30am Adult Advent Study  
9:45am Rosary  
10:30am Mass

#### **Offertory Counter Team 2**

#### **Monday, December 15**

8:00am Mass

#### **Tuesday, December 16**

#### **Wednesday, December 17**

1:00-8:00pm Adoration  
4:00pm Mass  
4:30-6:00pm Reconciliation  
5:30pm Meals & More

#### **Thursday, December 18**

8:00am Mass

#### **Friday, December 19**

#### **Saturday, December 20**

3:00pm Reconciliation  
4:00pm Mass  
7:00pm AA

#### **Sunday, December 21**

#### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:15am PSR  
9:30am Adult Advent Study  
9:45am Rosary  
10:30am Mass

#### **Offertory Counter Team 3**

# 2025 HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

## Christmas

St. Stephen, West Salem

Dec. 24 – Vigil Mass 4:00pm

Dec. 25 – 9:00am

St. Edward, Ashland

Dec. 24 – Vigil Masses 4:30pm, 10:00pm

Dec. 25 – 9:30am

Our Lady Help of Christians

Dec. 24 – Vigil Masses 5:00pm, Lodi

5:30pm, Litchfield

7:30pm, Seville

Dec. 25 - 9:00am, Litchfield

10:30am, Seville

11:00am, Nova

St. Francis, Medina

Dec. 24 –Vigil Masses 4:00pm, 4:30pm (Medina High School Performing Arts Center), 6:30pm, 10:00pm

Dec. 25—8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm

St. Mary, Wooster

Dec. 24 – Vigil Masses 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 12:00 midnight

Dec. 25 – 8:00am, 10:00am



## Solemnity of Mary

St. Stephen, West Salem

Dec. 31—Vigil Mass 4:00pm

Jan. 1 – 9:00am

St. Edward, Ashland

Dec. 31—Vigil Mass 4:30pm

Jan. 1 – 9:00am

Our Lady Help of Christians

Dec. 31 – Vigil Mass 5:00pm, Lodi

Jan. 1—9:00am, Litchfield

St. Francis, Medina

Dec. 31—Vigil Mass 5:00pm

Jan. 1—9:00am

St. Mary, Wooster

Dec. 31—Vigil Mass 5:30pm

Jan. 1 – 7:00am, 9:30am



**Solemnity  
of Mary**



**Please Remember the Sick in Your Prayers: Mighty and Everlasting God, the eternal salvation of those who believe in You, hear us on behalf of Your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the**

**help of Your mercy, so that, being restored to health, they may render thanks to You in Your Church.**

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Christopher Adamson, Nikita Arnold, Ron Boehm, Ed Brazis, Pat Brown, Kerry Cullin, Jim Emmert, Laura Fryman, Sandra Green, Richard Guenther, Ingrid Hankinson, Joan Johnson, Carol Jones, Margie Keep, Kay Kelling-Owen, Laurel King, June Kost, Lois Norton, Jaimie Packard, Mia Preston, Betty Ross, Heather Smith, and those on our prayer board.

**Collection Report**

**December 7, 2025:**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offertory:	\$2,358.00	\$2,020.00	\$338.00
Parish Use Only	\$655.00	\$960.00	-\$305.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,013.00</b>	<b>\$2,980.00</b>	<b>\$33.00</b>
Immaculate Conception	\$166.00		

**Happy Birthday!!!**

**Be sure to wish a “Happy Birthday” to the following members of our parish!!**



- Evan Croft (December 15),
- Joe Dempsey (December 15),
- Mary Howard (December 16),
- Carol Haburay (December 17), Karen Thomas (December 17),
- Philip Boehm (December 18), Patricia Fisher (December 19),
- Trevor Kusa (December 19), Tom Mole (December 19),
- Gayle Stoll (December 21)

**Church Decorating:**

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm. Join us for fellowship and help us prepare for the birth of our Savior.

**Sunday Grief Support Group:**

The Catholic Cemeteries Association’s next Sunday Grief Support Group will be on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**In-person will meet at 3:00pm, virtual at 5:00pm.** In a welcoming and supportive setting, find fellowship among others who share their experiences and understand the pain of loss. Meetings are being held on the third Sunday of the month, at no charge to you. Please join us for an hour of listening, healing, and finding comfort with others who understand. For details, call Renee at 216-930-4866 or visit:

[www.cleccem.org/Events](http://www.cleccem.org/Events)

**In-Person Locations:**

- All Saints, 480 W. Highland Rd., Northfield
- All Souls, 10366 Chardon Rd., Chardon
- Calvary, 10000 Miles Ave., Cleveland
- Holy Cross, 100 E. Waterloo Rd., Akron
- Holy Cross, 14609 Brook Park Rd., Brook Park
- St. Joseph, 32789 Detroit Rd., Avon

**Virtual—Please register:**

<https://cleccem.org/Information/Bereavement.aspx>

**Meals & More Bakers this week:**

Black River Ruritan Club



**Eucharistic Adoration**

**Wednesday, 1:00-8:00pm**

*"Our Redeemer ever present in the most Blessed Sacrament, extends His hands to everyone. He opens His heart and says, 'Come to Me, all of you.'"*



- St. Raphael Kalinowski



**First Saturday Devotion:** The next First Saturday Devotion will be at 3:00pm on Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone is invited to attend. Crissy King is organizing the endeavor. She has pamphlets available with more information. She also can be reached at 216-308-1434.

**Adult Advent Study:**

Larry Smith will be leading an adult Advent study on the Sundays of Advent: December 14 and 21, from 9:30-10:15am in the church. We will utilize the Advent Magnificat book for the study. Please join us to enhance your Advent journey.

**Second Collection This Weekend:**

There will be a second collection this weekend for the Retirement Fund for Religious. **They gave their lives in service—now they need your help.** For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they receive the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation—it’s a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.



**New to the Parish?**

We welcome all newcomers to our parish and encourage everyone to register and get involved. If you need to register or update your information, clip the form below from the bulletin, complete the information, and drop it in the offertory basket. Someone from the office will reach out to you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am new to St. Stephen: \_\_\_\_\_ Updating Info \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to  
St. Stephen Parish



From:  
Deacon Pete and  
Patricia Foradori

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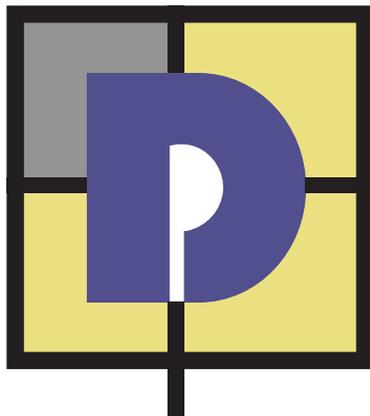
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