

# MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN FAMILY OF PARISHES

ST. ANN  
2900 W. GALBRAITH RD,  
CINCINNATI, OH 45239  
513-521-8440

ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX  
7130 HARRISON AVE  
CINCINNATI, OH 45247  
513-353-4207

ST. JAMES THE GREATER  
3565 HUBBLE RD  
CINCINNATI, OH 45247  
513-741-5300

ST. MARGARET MARY  
1830 W. GALBRAITH RD.  
CINCINNATI, OH 45239  
513-521-7387

[MARYQUEENOFHEAVEN.COM](http://MARYQUEENOFHEAVEN.COM)

PREPARE  
THE WAY  
FOR THE LORD; MAKE STRAIGHT  
IN THE DESERT A HIGHWAY  
FOR OUR GOD.

THE SEASON OF

Advent  
2025



HOPE ◦ PEACE ◦ JOY ◦ LOVE



## CLERGY

Fr. Jim Wedig, Pastor  
wedigjm@yahoo.com  
Fr. Bryan T. Reif, Parochial Vicar  
info@stjameswhiteoak.com  
Fr. Reynaldo S. Taylor, Parochial Vicar  
info@stjameswhiteoak.com  
Deacon Tim Crooker  
tcrooker@stjameswhiteoak.com  
Deacon Don Naiman  
stbernard@stbernardtc.org

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Fr. Bryan T. Reif, Director of Worship  
513-741-5300  
Deacon Tim A. Crooker  
Director of Church  
513-741-5325  
Zoltan Marczi, Music Director  
513-741-5317  
Cindy Withrow  
Director of Love In Action/Stewardship  
513-521-8440  
Barb Yoder, Director of Evangelization  
513-353-4207  
Gina Perkins, Director of Communications  
513-741-5300  
Brenda Stier  
Business Manager of St. James Campus  
513-741-5320  
Scott Dover,  
Business Manager of St. Bernard Campus  
513-353-4207  
Jenni Petrey  
Business Manager of St. Ann/  
St. Margaret Mary Campuses  
513-521-7387

## A PRAYER FOR MARY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN FAMILY OF PARISHES

For our Family of Parishes, that our four parishes may, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, work in a spirit of collaboration with one another as we together strive for holiness, and embrace the Mission of Christ to proclaim the Gospel to all, let us pray to the Lord...

## BECOMING CATHOLIC

We welcome you and your questions about the Catholic Faith. The Journey in Faith to become Catholic is a process known as the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). Please contact Deacon Tim Crooker for inquiries.

## NEW PARISHIONER OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the Parish Office if you have had a change of address or phone number, or if a member of your family has gone into a nursing facility or moved out of the household.

## PRIEST'S MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, December 15 – Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m.	Janet Meyer	St. James
8:30 a.m.	Roch Fredette	St. Bernard
6:45 p.m.	Annette Russel	St. Ann
	No Mass	St. Margaret Mary

### Tuesday, December 16 – Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m.	Stacey Farrell	St. Ann
8:30 a.m.	John Specht	St. James
12:00 Noon	Paul Bien	St. Bernard
6:00 p.m.	Clergy of Mary Queen of Heaven	St. Ann
	No Mass	St. Margaret Mary

### Wednesday, December 17 – Late Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m.	Sr. Marie Werdman	St. Bernard
8:30 a.m.	Ken & Linda Kennel	St. James
	No Mass	St. Ann
	No Mass	St. Margaret Mary

### Thursday, December 18 – Late Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m.	Gerry Glassmeyer	St. Ann
12:00 Noon	Joann Ebbeler	St. Margaret Mary
	No Mass	St. Bernard
	No Mass	St. James

### Friday, December 19 – Late Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m.	Ryan Schmutte	St. James
12:00 Noon	John & Betty Westover	St. Bernard
	No Mass	St. Ann
	No Mass	St. Margaret Mary

### Saturday, December 20 – Late Advent Weekday

3:00 p.m.	Special Intention of Theresa Kappes	St. Ann
4:00 p.m.	Lou & Carol Lauber	St. Bernard
4:30 p.m.	People of St. James	St. James
	No Mass	St. Margaret Mary

### Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:00 a.m.	Paul Krekler	St. James
8:30 a.m.	John Reverman	St. Bernard
9:00 a.m.	Larry Hoffman	St. Ann
10:00 a.m.	Ralph Sterwerf	St. Margaret Mary
10:00 a.m.	Jerry Bucher	St. James
10:30 a.m.	Pat Lohbeck	St. Bernard
11:30 a.m.	James Breen	St. Ann

## IN SYMPATHY

Mary, Queen of Heaven extends prayers and sympathy to the families of :  
**Mary Lezzoni, John Specht**

*May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*



## MARRIAGES

Arrangements should be made through the Parish Office at least six months before any other planning. Pre-Cana Conference, FOCCUS, Engaged Encounter or Equivalent, programs are required.

## BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

The Sacrament of Baptism for children age seven and younger is celebrated each month at St. James (4th Sunday, 11:30 a.m.); St. Bernard (2nd Sunday, 10:30 a.m.); and as scheduled at St. Ann & St. Margaret Mary. Parents are required to attend a Parent Information Session prior to scheduling a Baptism. These sessions on Baptism are held the second Thursday of each month at St. James or by appointment at St. Bernard & St. Margaret Mary. St. Ann has Baptism preparation classes during Mass+ on the third Sunday of the month.



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**REJOICE!** Today is Gaudete Sunday, meaning rejoice. We commemorate it by using a rose candle on our Advent Wreath. It is more, however, than a word. This is the beginning of the 'second' season of Advent. We are rejoicing because we know how close Christmas, the Mass of our Savior, has come. The readings this week express the intimacy and nearness of Christ's presence. Once, God offered a gift through a king named Ahaz. Ahaz refused the gift. We do the same many times, sometimes without even realizing it. The gift is offered to us once again. May this be a year in which we receive Him in new and astounding ways. Once through the prophets, now through His Son, all God's promises are made real. I know that many of us have already attended many Christmas parties, but liturgically, this week is when the party really begins. Although many trees have already been decorated and many Christmas lights have already been lit, now is the time to fully realize their light. Below is a short prayer you can use to bless a Christmas tree in your home.

**CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING:** Lord our God, we praise You for the light of creation: the sun and the moon and the stars of night. We praise You for the light of Israel: the Law and the prophets and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise You for Jesus Christ, Your Son: He is Emmanuel, God with us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of Your love. Lord God, let Your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives us be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

As part of the Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish Family, we have established the following protocol for Sacramental Emergencies.

### WHAT IS A SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCY?

Sacramental Emergencies are if someone is in imminent danger of dying and wishes to receive the sacraments before passing. This also may include those who are under someone's care and are unable to request the sacraments themselves—including but not limited to, emergency infant Baptism or last rites of someone with dementia. If someone either has a chronic illness or is not in imminent danger, please schedule an anointing. It is suggested that the sick person receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at the beginning of any serious condition—not at the end. **If you are in need of a priest or have a Sacramental Emergency after hours, please call 513-369-9820.**

## VOCATION CHALICE

### St. Ann

December 13th – Deb Weaver at 3:00 p.m.  
December 21st – Cindy Withrow at 9:00 a.m.  
December 28th – Claudia Sajnog at 11:30 a.m.

### St. Margaret Mary

December 14th – Angela Schoner & John Rich

**Please prayerfully consider participating in this ministry to pray for Catholics to answer the call to a vocation as priests, or religious such as brothers and sisters.**



### WEATHER ALERT

When School is delayed or cancelled because of the weather (inclement weather or temperature), **MASS IS CANCELLED!** We follow school closings or delays for Northwest Schools.

## LITURGY/CONFESIONS

### St. James

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Friday 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 8:00/10:00 a.m.  
Reconciliation: Friday 9:00-10:00 a.m.

### St. Ann

Monday 6:45 p.m.  
Tuesday 8:30 a.m.  
Wednesday No Mass  
Thursday 8:30 a.m.  
Friday No Mass  
Saturday 3:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00/ 11:30 a.m.  
Reconciliation: Monday & Thursday 5:00-6:30 p.m.

### St. Margaret Mary

Monday-Wednesday No Mass  
Thursday 12:00 Noon  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

### St. Bernard

Monday 12:00 Noon  
Tuesday 12:00 Noon  
Wednesday 8:30 a.m.  
Thursday No Mass  
Friday 12:00 Noon  
Saturday 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30/10:30 a.m.  
Reconciliation:  
Saturday 3:00-3:30 p.m.

## BEQUESTS

A bequest to your parish is a way to honor your church and faith of your lifetime. A bequest, included in your will, is exempt from estate and inheritance taxes, and reduces the amount of the estate to be taxed. For more information, please call the Parish Office.

## MEN INQUIRING ABOUT THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

Any man who may be discerning a possible vocation to serve the Church as a Permanent Deacon should contact Deacon Mark Machuga, Director of the Office of the Diaconate, to discuss the discernment process, prerequisites and the formation cycle. Deacon Mark can be reached at 513-263-6641 or [deaconoffice@catholicaoc.org](mailto:deaconoffice@catholicaoc.org).

## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All bulletin announcements for Mary, Queen of Heaven must be approved by the appropriate director before submitting to Gina Perkins, Director of Communications, at [gperkins@stjameswhiteoak.com](mailto:gperkins@stjameswhiteoak.com). Announcements must be submitted by 10:00 a.m. Monday, two weeks prior to requested publish date. Please plan accordingly.



### ADVENT WREATH PRAYERS

#### WEEK THREE

**Reader 1:** The third week of Advent we remember the gift of Joy we have in Christ. We remember the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her – a child who would save and deliver all people. Joy is the gift we all receive from the unconditional love Christ has for us.

**Reader 2:** God wants us all to have joy. The angel who announced to the shepherds that Jesus had been born told them: “Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people – for to you is born this day, in the City of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” As we light this candle, we remember that Christ came to bring true and everlasting joy to all people. As we light this candle, we are reminded that Christ came to save all people. (Reader lights the first two purple candles and the pink candle on the Advent Wreath.) Family members share how they have experienced joy today.

**Reader 3:** Let us pray – Loving God, we thank You for the joy You bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord’s coming by helping us see that Christ came for every person we meet wherever we go. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

**All:** Amen.



### ADVENT

#### LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 14 at 6:00 p.m.  
St. James the Greater Church

**COFFEE & DONUTS**  
**AT ST. JAMES CHURCH**  
Donut Sunday is **NEXT SUNDAY**,  
December 21st at St. James in the Church  
Hall after the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Masses.





It is the mission of the **EVANGELIZATION TEAM** to work with and for the community of Mary, Queen of Heaven to offer studies, speakers, classes and more, to assist the people of God in growing closer to our Lord. We welcome your ideas and participation. Contact Barbara Yoder, Director of Evangelization, at [yoder@stbernardtc.org](mailto:yoder@stbernardtc.org) or 513-353-4207, ext. 5.



### BIBLE STUDY – THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Join others in studying the Gospel of Luke making use of Ascension Press/Jeff Cavin's video and book study series. Barb Yoder will facilitate, and the meetings will take place on Thursday mornings, beginning January 15th, 10:00 a.m. for eight consecutive Thursdays at St. Bernard. The workbook can be purchased from [AscensionPress.com](http://AscensionPress.com). or by contacting Barb at the email or phone below. **Please register for the study** by email: [yoder@stbernardtc.org](mailto:yoder@stbernardtc.org) or call 513-353-4207, ext. 5.

### SAVE THE DATE – MQH SUMMER PSR PROGRAM – JUNE 1 THRU 12, 2026

### PRAYERS FOR OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Please take a few minutes to offer prayers for our Mary, Queen of Heaven candidates for Confirmation. The children are completing their preparation, will attend a retreat and then will be Confirmed at the end of January.

### CONFIRMATION PRAYER

*Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people,  
so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent.  
Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice.*

*Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfillment  
the good work that You have begun in them.  
As we prepare these children for Confirmation,  
make each of us an instrument of Your love.*

*Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others,  
and to be patient with what we do not understand.  
Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example.  
We pray that You will continue to guide us and sustain us.  
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

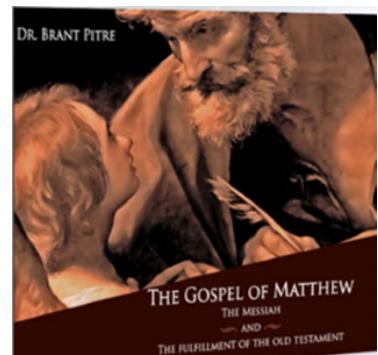


**ST. MATTHEW'S GOSPEL** was considered the most influential and popular book among the early Christian community. In this series, Dr. Pitre will explain why that is the case and how for the early Jewish Christians, in particular, St. Matthew clearly makes the case for how the long-awaited hopes of the Jewish people are being fulfilled in Jesus. In this series, you will cover topics such as:

- Who wrote the Gospel of Matthew
- Why the long genealogy at the beginning of Matthew, which many Christians today simply gloss over, is of vital importance to the Gospel of Matthew's message
- How the Gospel of Matthew clearly makes Jesus out to be a new and greater Moses, David, Solomon, and Isaac
- The shocking paradoxes of the Sermon on the Mount and the implications of them for our spiritual life
- Aspects of Jesus' infancy, public ministry, and last days in Jerusalem that show Him to be the long-awaited fulfillment of what the priests, prophets, and kings of old hoped for.

If you've ever wanted to learn more about main figures of the Old Testament and how and why they are relevant for setting the stage for Christ's coming, then this study on the Gospel of Matthew is for you!

**Sessions will take place on Sundays at St. Ann in the Trinity Room at 10:10 a.m. from November 30 through December 28. Even if you missed a session, each one offers insight into the Gospel.**





### STEWARSHIP AND THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – JOY

Good news, Christian stewards – we are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. Today's readings on this Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday are filled with reminders of God's final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples.

Such a day almost seems too good to be true, especially when we look around at the dire circumstances we face in our world at present. But by faith, we know this day is coming. Lest we grow weary as we await the glorious day of Christ's return, St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord." "Make your hearts firm ... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged."

This is excellent advice for us Christian stewards as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas when stress can make us and those around us less than our best selves. St. James reminds us that we can choose our response to both the great strains and the minor annoyances of life. In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude, "making our hearts firm" by practicing patience with others and refusing to give in to the temptation to complain.

We can choose to see and rejoice in God's presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us.



### MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN OUTREACH MINISTRY WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR GENEROSITY ON THANKSGIVING DAY.

We collected 21 boxes of canned goods and nonperishable food items which were donated to families in need at Community Matters, St. Boniface Church, and St. Joseph Church.

\$915.00 was also collected and donated to St. Vincent de Paul.



### YOUR GIFTS TO GOD

#### SUNDAY OFFERING – DECEMBER 7, 2025

St. Ann	Will be published in December 21st Bulletin
St. Bernard	Will be published in December 21st Bulletin
St. James	Will be published in December 21st Bulletin
St. Margaret Mary	Will be published in December 21st Bulletin



#### ONLINE GIVING

Contributions to all of our parishes in the Mary, Queen of Heaven Family (St. Bernard & St. James) are **NOW ALSO available** through our secure "[WeShare Link](#)." St. Ann & St. Margaret Mary are available through "Our Sunday Visitor." **You have the ability to make donations online through the use of a credit card or an electronic fund transfer (EFT) from your checking or savings account. You may set up a one-time or recurring donation** to St. James Church by clicking the "[Online Giving](#)" Tab on your parish website. It's an easy, convenient and safe way to make your Sunday offerings. When you have completed your donation, you will be emailed a receipt for our records. Your donation will be recorded and be part of your year-end donation letter.

If you have questions, contact the Parish Offices:

**St. Ann & St. Margaret Mary** – Jenni Petrey, 513-521-7387

**St. Bernard** – Scott Dover, 513-353-4207

**St. James** – Brenda Stier, 513-741-5300

We appreciate your support!



## EVENTS THIS WEEK

**Monday, December 15**

8:05 a.m. Rosary  
8:30 a.m. Mass  
8:30 a.m. Mass  
10:30 a.m. Mass  
11:00 a.m. Rosary Shepherds of Christ  
5:00 p.m. Confessions  
6:00 p.m. PSR  
6:00 p.m. OCIA  
6:00 p.m. CANA  
6:45 p.m. Mass  
6:45 p.m. MQH Confirmation Prep  
7:00 p.m. Music Ensemble  
7:30 p.m. Patriotic Rosary

**Tuesday, December 16**

- 8:30 a.m. Mass
- 8:30 a.m. Mass
- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study
- 10:30 a.m. Legion of Mary
- 12:00 Noon Adoration
- 12:00 Noon Mass
- 3:15 p.m. Children's Choir
- 5:00 p.m. Benediction
- 6:00 p.m. Caroling & Charity (Parking Lot)
- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Mass
- 7:00 p.m. Pageant Performance
- 7:00 p.m. Hispanic Ministry
- 7:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul
- 7:00 p.m. Growing Faith
- 7:00 p.m. St. Ann's Men's Group (TR)

**Wednesday, December 17**

8:05 a.m. Rosary  
8:30 a.m. Mass  
8:30 a.m. Mass  
6:30 p.m. MQH Pastoral Council  
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, December 18**

8:30 a.m. Mass  
9:00 a.m. Exposition  
11:00 a.m. Women's/Mom's Ministry  
12:00 Noon Mass  
5:00 p.m. Confessions  
6:45 p.m. Benediction

**Friday, December 19**

6:00 a.m.	Father's Ministry	St. James
8:05 a.m.	Rosary	St. James
8:30 a.m.	Mass	St. James
9:00 a.m.	Confessions	St. James
12:00 Noon	Mass	St. Bernard
7:00 p.m.	Rosary Guild	St. Ann

Saturday, December 20

6:45 a.m.	That Man Is You! (Marian Hall)	St. Bernard
3:00 p.m.	Mass	St. Ann
4:00 p.m.	Mass	St. Bernard
4:30 p.m.	Mass	St. James

## Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m.	Mass, Coffee & Donuts, after Mass	St. James
8:00 a.m.	Rosary	St. Bernard
8:30 a.m.	Mass	St. Bernard
9:00 a.m.	Mass	St. Ann
10:00 a.m.	Mass	St. Margaret Mary
10:00 a.m.	Mass, 3rd Grade Families attending Mass Coffee & Donuts after Mass	St. James
10:00 a.m.	Children's Liturgy of the Word	St. James
10:10 a.m.	Mass + Gospel of Matthw Part 4	St. Ann
10:30 a.m.	Mass	St. Bernard
10:30 a.m.	Children's Liturgy of the Word	St. Bernard
11:30 a.m.	Mass	St. Ann



## FROM THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE

With fall activities in full swing, we would like to remind all parish/school employees and volunteers of the requirements of the Decree on Child Protection. All employees and volunteers are required to have completed **The Archdiocese of Cincinnati: Protecting Children From Sexual Abuse – Archdiocese of Cincinnati Edition**. In addition, employees are required to complete an online background check, manual

In addition, employees are required to complete an online background check, including fingerprinting, and B4 form once prior to beginning employment. Ohio Department of Education licensees may have additional requirements, and school offices or athletic departments should be consulted if there are any questions. Volunteers are required to complete an online background check prior to volunteering with youth. Employees and volunteers are required to stay current in completing SafeParish™ quarterly bulletins.

Please make sure you are up to date on completing the quarterly bulletins or you will not be able to work/volunteer with youth until your SafeParish™ account is approved. Please direct questions regarding bulletin completion to your parish/school safe environment coordinator at [csajnog@saintannparish.org](mailto:csajnog@saintannparish.org) at St. Ann; [sandling@stbernardtc.org](mailto:sandling@stbernardtc.org) at St. Bernard; [gperkins@stjameswhiteoak.com](mailto:gperkins@stjameswhiteoak.com) at St. James; [jpetrey@stmargaretmaryparish.org](mailto:jpetrey@stmargaretmaryparish.org) at St. Margaret Mary.

## ST. ANN WEEKLY RAFFLE

**2025 Weekly \$100.00 Raffle Winner:** December 7th  
2025 – Thomas Paffe (Ticket # 0622)

## ST. BERNARD 250 CLUB WINNERS

## **November:**

1st Prize: Bradford & Denise King  
2nd Prize: Lisa Schneider

*Congratulations*



## ST. BERNARD SCHOOL NEWS

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT HIGHLIGHT

Students in **Kindergarten through 4th Grade** presented a joyful Christmas pageant, The Not-So-Silent Night, this past week. Their hard work and enthusiasm brought the story of Christmas to life and filled the evening with festive cheer. Wonderful job to all our young performers!

### 7TH GRADE EUCHARISTIC ADORATION STUDY & VISIT

Last week, **7th Grade students** explored the historical origins of **Eucharistic Adoration** during history class. They learned about its significance in the Church and the proper reverence and disposition to bring to this form of prayer. Students then had the meaningful opportunity to spend time in Adoration, putting their learning into practice.

### 8TH GRADE LITERATURE AND THEATER EXPERIENCE

The **8th Grade** recently completed their reading of *A Christmas Carol* and reflected on the powerful transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge. Through class discussion, students explored how Scrooge's journey reminds us that change is always possible – no matter our past, we can choose a new direction rooted in compassion and generosity. Afterward, they attended a performance of *A Christmas Carol* at **Playhouse in the Park**, accompanied by their **3rd Grade buddies**.

### REGISTER NOW!

**Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year at St. Bernard School is now open!**

New families are encouraged to apply early, as classes fill quickly. Don't miss the chance to become part of our faith-filled, close-knit community. Begin the application process at: <https://stbernardtc.org/admissions>

### AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS HUGS DUFFLE BAG PROJECT

(Heritage Girls United Giving Service)

On December 21st, St. James's AHG troop will conduct its annual collection for children entering foster care. These children are removed from abusive or neglectful homes. Sadly, they leave their homes quickly with few personal belongings. The items we collect, as well as blankets made by our AHG troop, will be sorted into duffle bags and distributed to local agencies for children in need.

Please support this worthy cause by donating new items from the list below. Additionally, all monetary donations will be used to purchase items needed to complete duffle bags. Please make checks payable to AHG Troop 1843. Donations can be dropped off at St. James before all Masses on December 21st. Please look for collection bins labeled "AHG HUGS Donations" in the entry vestibules. Your help and generosity are truly appreciated.

#### Needed Items Include:

New toiletry items (toothbrushes, travel size: toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, lip gloss, etc.)

Novels, picture books, sticker books, journals

Crayons (24 count or less), markers, colored pencils

Small toys, playing cards (for both boys and girls of all ages)

Hair accessories, brushes, combs

Jewelry (for both older and younger girls)

Refillable water bottles



### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

#### SING-A-LONG!

Make plans to join us at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16 at St. Ann for an old-fashioned Christmas Caroling Sing-A-Long. Bring the family for festive fun. There will be homemade cookies and hot chocolate to add to the cheer.



Members of our Respect Life Ministry will be collecting baby items for PC West and Elizabeth New Life Center.

# CHRISTMAS

All Are Welcome

Sing-A-Long Carols

Hot Chocolate & Cookies

Tuesday,  
December 16

6pm  
St. Ann  
Church Lot

Caroling &  
Charity Event

Accepting  
Baby Items  
for  
Local  
Pregnancy  
Centers



## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### Sunday, December 14, 2025

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10  
Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

### Monday, December 15, 2025

Advent Weekday  
Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a  
Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9  
Matthew 21:23-27

### Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Advent Weekday  
Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13  
Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23  
Matthew 21:28-32

### Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Late Advent Weekday  
Genesis 49:2, 8-10  
Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17  
Matthew 1:1-17

### Thursday, December 18, 2025

Late Advent Weekday  
Jeremiah 23:5-8  
Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19  
Matthew 1:18-25

### Friday, December 19, 2025

Late Advent Weekday  
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a  
Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17  
Luke 1:5-25

### Saturday, December 20, 2025

Late Advent Weekday  
Isaiah 7:10-14  
Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6  
Luke 1:26-28

Access Daily Readings from  
the New American Bible,  
Revised Edition (NABRE) online at  
<https://bible.usccb.org>

PREPARE  
THE WAY  
FOR THE LORD; MAKE STRAIGHT  
IN THE DESERT A HIGHWAY  
FOR OUR GOD.



## ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

Saint of the Day: December 14

Patron Saint of Mystics

John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: "of the Cross." The folly of the cross came to full realization in time. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34b) is the story of John's life. The Paschal Mystery – through death to life – strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest.

Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely – to experience the dying of Jesus – as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God.

Yet, the paradox! In this dying of imprisonment John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, John's spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the Spiritual Canticle.

But as agony leads to ecstasy, so John had his Ascent to Mt. Carmel, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. As man-Christian-Carmelite, he experienced in himself this purifying ascent; as spiritual director, he sensed it in others; as psychologist-theologian, he described and analyzed it in his prose writings. His prose works are outstanding in underscoring the cost of discipleship, the path of union with God: rigorous discipline, abandonment, purification.

Read the full article: "St. John of the Cross" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-john-of-the-cross/> (Accessed November 16, 2025).

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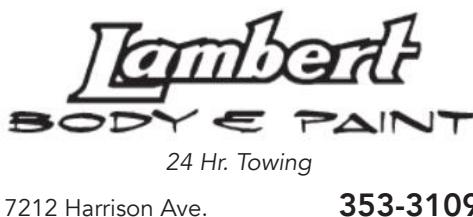


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