

*For to us a  
Child is born,*



*to us a Son  
is given.*

*-Isaiah 9:6*

## *Mary Queen of Heaven Family of Parishes*

*St. Ann*

2900 W. Galbraith Rd.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239

513-521-8440

*St. Bernard of Clairvaux*

7130 Harrison Ave.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

513-353-4207

*St. James the Greater*

3565 Hubble Rd.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

513-741-5300

*St. Margaret Mary*

1830 W. Galbraith Rd.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239

513-521-7387

[www.maryqueenofheaven.com](http://www.maryqueenofheaven.com)



## CLERGY

Fr. Jim Wedig, Pastor  
[wedigjm@yahoo.com](mailto:wedigjm@yahoo.com)  
 Fr. Bryan T. Reif, Parochial Vicar  
[info@stjameswhiteoak.com](mailto:info@stjameswhiteoak.com)  
 Fr. Reynaldo S. Taylor, Parochial Vicar  
[info@stjameswhiteoak.com](mailto:info@stjameswhiteoak.com)  
 Deacon Tim Crooker  
[tcrooker@stjameswhiteoak.com](mailto:tcrooker@stjameswhiteoak.com)  
 Deacon Don Naiman  
[stbernard@stbernardtc.org](mailto: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 22 – Late Advent Weekday

8:30 a.m.	Daniel Noe	St. James
8:30 a.m.	Louis Herzog	St. Bernard
6:45 p.m.	Steve Pleasants	St. Ann
	No Mass	St. Margaret Mary

### Tuesday, December 23 – Late Advent weekday

8:30 a.m.	Joe Oldendick	St. Ann
8:30 a.m.	John Weber	St. James
12:00 Noon	No Mass	St. Bernard
6:00 p.m.	Sister Parish, Our Lord of Hope in Lima, Peru	St. Ann
	No Mass	St. Margaret Mary

### Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m.	People of Mary Queen of Heaven	St. Ann
3:00 p.m.	People of St. James	St. James
3:30 p.m.	People of St. Bernard	St. Bernard
3:00 p.m.	People of St. Margaret Mary	St. Margaret Mary
5:00 p.m.	People of St. James	St. James
10:00 p.m.	People of St. Bernard	St. Bernard

### Thursday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 a.m.	People of Mary Queen of Heaven	St. Ann
10:00 a.m.	People of St. James	St. James
10:30 a.m.	People of St. Bernard	St. Bernard
	No Mass	St. Margaret Mary

### Friday, December 26 – St. Stephen

8:30 a.m.	Walter I. LaFary	St. James
12:00 Noon	Repose of the Souls of the Bucher Family	St. Bernard
	No Mass	St. Ann
	No Mass	St. Margaret Mary

### Saturday, December 27 – St. John

3:00 p.m.	Ed Klayer	St. Ann
4:00 p.m.	Agnes Werdman	St. Bernard
4:30 p.m.	Tim Cavanaugh	St. James
	No Mass	St. Margaret Mary

### Sunday, December 28 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

8:00 a.m.	People of St. James	St. James
8:30 a.m.	Joseph Nader & the Intentions of the Nader Family	St. Bernard
9:00 a.m.	Helen Spitznagel	St. Ann
10:00 a.m.	Mary Grace Coddington	St. Margaret Mary
10:00 a.m.	St. James Memorial Fund	St. James
10:30 a.m.	David Bryant	St. Bernard
11:30 a.m.	Patrick Thompson	St. Ann

## IN SYMPATHY

Mary, Queen of Heaven extends prayers and sympathy to the family of :  
 Judy Haas

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

### MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Christmas falls on Thursday! Advent continues through Wednesday until 3 pm when we celebrate the first Christmas Vigil Mass. Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Ahaz is given a promise which he refuses. Paul is given a promise which he accepts. Joseph is given the promise of a child by the Holy Spirit. He believes. We are given the great promise "God is with us." Monday, we have the faith gift of Hannah and the rejoicing of Mary with Elizabeth. Tuesday, God speaks purification and Elizabeth and Zechariah share in wonderment with their neighbors. Wednesday, David is shown what is to be the House of the Lord and Zechariah rejoices in the imminence of fulfillment. All of this to Christmas Day, a moment among moments, a fulfillment of ... everything! In our celebration we simultaneously give witness to the very beginning of time, when "the Word was in God's presence and the Word was God," to the present voice of the Word calling us to be "begotten not by blood ...but of God," and to the future joy of the Good News when, "All the ends of the Earth will behold the salvation of our God." Through the gift of His Son, the Father fulfills every promise ever made to His people. Through the gift of His life, the Son offers every promise for the future. His is the one life in which all are invited to share, the one life which makes us one. His gift is what makes us Family. The seasons will unfold much more deeply if we are patient. Allow it to happen in its own time. Friday, the celebration of Stephen the first martyr, Saturday, John the apostle, Sunday, the Holy Family, Our family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph and God's family all of us bonded in the perfection of Love. It goes on and on and on, each step, each moment, all of it together in one triumphant "MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!"

### PRAYER

Father, never has Your love been so well expressed as in the gift of Your Son. We hold Him in our arms and struggle to understand the reality of what we hold. We seek to make Him a home, and find ourselves at home in Him. We speak His name and hear His blessing upon our lips. Father, we humbly thank You and bless You, always through His name, Jesus! Merry Christmas, Father.

### 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 21st – Cindy Withrow at 9:00 a.m.  
December 28th – Claudia Sajnog at 11:30 a.m.  
January 4th – Claudia Sajnog at 11:30 a.m.  
January 10th – Mary Ann Kramer at 3:00 p.m.

#### St. Margaret Mary

December 21st – Pam & Bill Windisch

**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.**

### 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 FOUR

**Reader 1:** The Fourth Week of Advent we remember the gift of Love we have in Christ.

The light of the candles is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us. Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's love in human form. The Bible says that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

**Reader 2:** Love is patient, love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, it does not gloat over other people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true. There is nothing that love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance. Love never ends. As we light this candle, we remember that we are called to love like Christ loves us. As we light this candle, we are reminded that we are called to show that love in the way we treat others. (Reader lights all the candles on the Advent Wreath.)

Family members share how they have experienced love today.

**Reader 3:** Let us pray – Loving God, we thank You for Your gift of love – shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by loving others as Christ loves us. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen



### 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.



### ALL OF THE CHOIRS AT ST. JAMES

will present a carol program before each of the Christmas Masses.

On Christmas Eve, the Music Ensemble will sing at 2:30 prior to the 3:00 p.m. Mass; the Children's Choir will sing at 4:40 prior to the 5:00 p.m. Mass. On Christmas Day, the Adult Choir will sing at 9:30 prior to the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

## CHRISTMAS

**Reader 1:** Today, we celebrate the gift of the Incarnation, Emmanuel, God with us. We celebrate the birth of Christ who is the Light of the World – a Light no darkness can extinguish. Christ's Light can enter any darkness and as members of the Body of Christ, we live in the Light of Christ.

**Reader 2:** "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) Jesus, the Son of God, chose to be born of Mary, to become human, one of us. He lived among us, experiencing our joys and hopes, our struggles and challenges. He came to bring us out of the darkness to which we had fallen and into God's wonderful, eternal Light. (Reader lights all the candles on the Advent Wreath and the white candle in the center—the Christ candle.)

Family members share how they experienced Christ this day.

**Reader 3:** Let us pray – Loving God, we thank You for Your mystery of the Incarnation – Emmanuel, God with us. Help us receive the Light of Christ in our hearts and share it generously and joyfully in our families and communities. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT





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 Cavins'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.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children, ages 4-9, are invited to pray and learn together at the Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays during **10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Bernard Church**. Children in Grades First through Fourth are invited to the Children's Liturgy of the Word at **St. James Church at 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays**.

### FAITH STUDY + VOLLEYBALL FOR GRADE 8-12

Beginning January 11, please join us for Faith & Volleyball. Faith study begins on January 11, 2026, from 6:15 p.m.-7:25 p.m. with dinner in the St. Joseph Hall, undercroft of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church, 7130 Harrison Avenue. Cincinnati, OH 45247. Volleyball is from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Come to either or both events. **All participants must complete an Archdiocese of Cincinnati form to participate in any event at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church**. Contact Pam at [pbevington@stjameswhiteoak.com](mailto:pbevington@stjameswhiteoak.com) to register.





### STEWARSHIP AND THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – LOVE

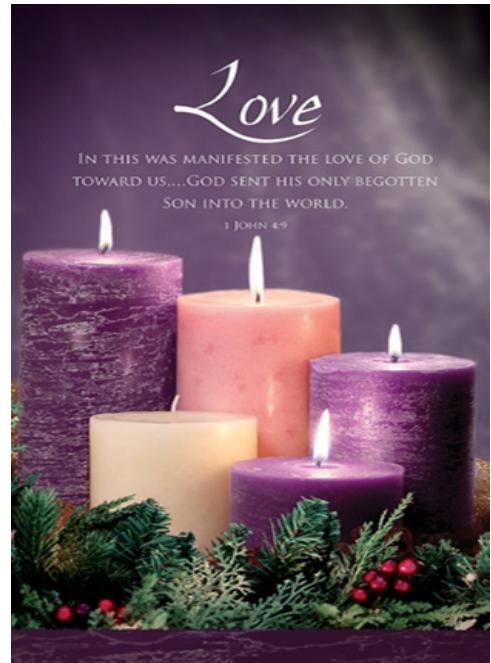
As our Advent preparations end and Christmas fast approaches, it is fitting that today's readings demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect and passionate love for each of us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day.

In response to such an overwhelming gift, what can we do except offer our lives as gift in return, embracing a stewardship way of life with all the love and strength we have to give?

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced this way of life in St. Joseph, as he obeys God's call to him through the message of an angel.

We never hear St. Joseph speak, but the Scriptures tell us he was always listening, attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit for his family. It was Joseph who found the stable where the baby Jesus would be born. No doubt it was Joseph who cleaned it up and prepared it for Mary and Jesus since we know that Mary was about to give birth. Joseph protected the family, guarded them, and tended to their safety, their comfort, and their well-being at the expense of his own plans and preferences. Though we do not hear any words from St. Joseph, his actions clearly show that he offered himself, his whole life, as a gift to his family through his strong guidance, protection, and service.

Let us imitate St. Joseph, then, as good stewards, giving our very lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God, who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ.



### BUNCO! LADIES NIGHT OUT FUNDRAISER IS ON JANUARY 31, 2026!

Rally your girlfriends and plan to attend this fun night of playing Bunco!, meeting new people and enjoying an array of appetizers, desserts, and drinks. There are 2 separate Split-the-Pot games, door prizes, and a basket raffle. Each Bunco ticket costs only \$25.00! Tickets will be available in the Gathering Space at St. Ann after weekend Masses beginning in January, or order them on the St. Ann website, [www.saintannparish.org](http://www.saintannparish.org). If you are new to Bunco!, it's easy to learn and fun for all. You can come with a group of friends or by yourself; players move throughout the rounds of play. It's a great way to meet your fellow parishioners and make new friends.

Proceeds raised benefit our JOY ministry. This ministry provides outreach for seniors and shut-ins across our parish family. We are looking for volunteers to help make this event a great success. If you are willing to donate toward our basket raffle or would like to help with setup, or serve during the event, please call Cindy at St. Ann, 513-521-8440 or email [info@saintannparish.org](mailto:info@saintannparish.org).



## YOUR GIFTS TO GOD

### SUNDAY OFFERING – DECEMBER 7, 2025

St. Ann	\$16,482.14
St. Bernard	\$15,661.50
St. James	\$32,987.00
St. Margaret Mary	\$ 6,482.14

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – DECEMBER 8, 2025

St. Ann	\$ 933.00
St. Bernard	\$ 880.00
St. James	\$ 1,067.00
St. Margaret Mary	\$ 840.00

### SUNDAY OFFERING – DECEMBER 14, 2025

St. Ann	Will be published in next bulletin
St. Bernard	Will be published in next bulletin
St. James	Will be published in next bulletin
St. Margaret Mary	Will be published in next 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 22**

8:05 a.m. Rosary  
8:30 a.m. Mass  
8:30 a.m. Mass  
11:00 a.m. Rosary Shepherds of Christ  
5:00 p.m. Confessions  
6:45 p.m. Mass  
7:00 p.m. Music Ensemble  
7:30 p.m. Patriotic Rosary

**Tuesday, December 23**

8:30 a.m.	Mass
8:30 a.m.	Mass
9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
10:30 a.m.	Legion of Mary (BMH)
Cancelled	Adoration
Cancelled	Mass
Cancelled	Benediction
6:00 p.m.	Spanish Mass
7:00 p.m.	Hispanic Ministry

**Wednesday, December 24**

Parish Offices are Closed

3:00 p.m. Mass  
3:00 p.m. Mass  
3:00 p.m. Mass  
3:30 p.m. Mass  
0:00 p.m. Mass

Thursday, December 25

### Parish Offices are Closed

9:00 a.m. Mass  
10:00 a.m. Mass  
10:30 am. Mass

St. James  
St. James  
St. Bernard  
St. James  
St. Ann  
St. Ann  
St. James  
St. Ann  
  
St. Ann  
St. James  
St. James  
St. Ann  
St. Bernard  
St. Bernard  
St. Bernard  
St. Ann  
St. Ann  
  
St. Ann  
St. James  
St. Margaret Mary  
St. Bernard  
St. Bernard

**Friday, December 26**

6:00 a.m. Father's Ministry  
8:05 a.m. Rosary  
8:30 a.m. Mass  
9:00 a.m. Confessions  
12:00 Noon Mass

**Saturday, December 27**

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 28–Feast of the Holy Family**

8:00 a.m.	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	St. James
10:00 a.m.	Children's Liturgy of the Word	St. James
10:10 a.m.	Mass+ Gospel of Matthew Part 5 (TR)	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
11:30 a.m.	Baptisms	St. James



## 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 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 14th, 2025 – Jim O'Shaughnessy (Ticket # 0726)



## ST. BERNARD SCHOOL NEWS



### ADVENT SCIENCE PROJECT

During Science Lab, 5th-8th grade students created Advent wreaths with the help of Mrs. Trimpe, a parishioner and mother of a 7th grader. Beforehand, students learned about the coniferous branches used and the meaning and importance of the Advent wreath. It was a meaningful hands-on way to prepare for the Advent season.

## ST. JAMES SCHOOL NEWS

### WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

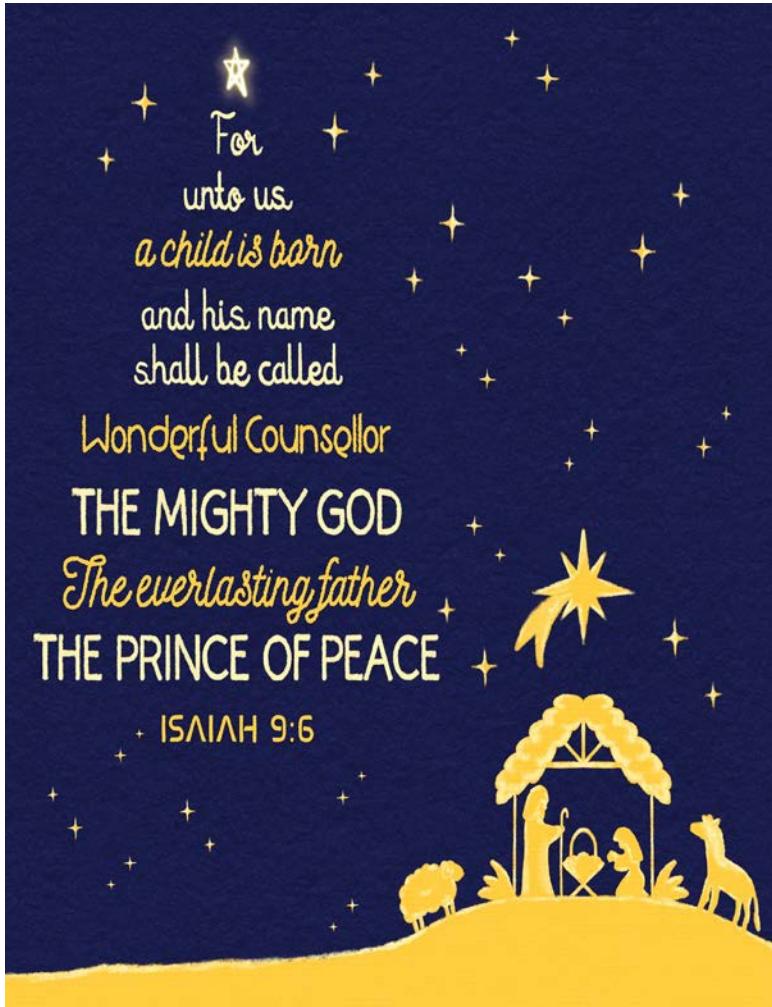
Welcome to our Third grade families! We are so glad you could join us for the special Second grade Family Mass!

### MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The students and staff of St. James School would like to wish all of you a very merry and blessed Christmas season!

### NO SCHOOL!

School will be closed Monday, December 22. We will see you again on Monday, January 5, 2026! We hope you enjoy your break!



**HIGH SCHOOL + GR. 8 FAITH STUDY**

**MQH**  **YDISCIPLE**

All sessions are from 6:15 - 7:25 p.m. Dinner will be served in the St. Joseph Hall, under St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church.

Study # 1	"The Invitation"
January 11	The Kind of People He invites
January 18	The Invitation
January 25	The Cost
February 15	You are not Alone
Study # 2	"Return"
February 22	Into the Desert
March 8	The Glory of God Revealed
March 15	Repentance and Renewal
March 22	The Father's Unfailing Love

Contact: Pam Bevington by 01/01/26 to reserve your spot for study 1 or study 2 or both, at [pbevington@stjameswhiteoak.com](mailto:pbevington@stjameswhiteoak.com). All participants need to fill out an Archdiocese of Cincinnati permission form to attend any event at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church, 7130 Harrison Ave. 45247. Volleyball will be held afterwards in the parish center from 7:30-8:30 pm.

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### **Sunday, December 21, 2025**

Isaiah 7:10-14  
 Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
 Romans 1:1-7  
 Matthew 1:18-24

### **Monday, December 22, 2025**

Late Advent Weekday  
 I Samuel 1:24-28  
 I Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd  
 Luke 1:46-56

### **Tuesday, December 23, 2025**

Late Advent Weekday  
 Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24  
 Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10, 14  
 Luke 1:57-66

### **Wednesday, December 24, 2025**

Late Advent Weekday  
 II Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
 Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29  
 Luke 1:67-79

### **Thursday, December 25, 2025**

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)  
 Isaiah 52:7-10  
 Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6  
 Hebrews 1:1-6  
 John 1:1-18

### **Friday, December 26, 2025**

Saint Stephen, the First Martyr  
 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59  
 Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc and 17  
 Matthew 10:17-22

### **Saturday, December 27, 2025**

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist  
 I John 1:1-4  
 Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12  
 John 20:1a, 2-8

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

THE LORD, YOUR GOD, IS IN  
 YOUR MIDST, *a mighty savior;*  
 HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU  
***with gladness,***  
 AND **RENEW** YOU IN HIS LOVE.  
 - ZEPHANIAH 3:17

## ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Saint of the Day: December 27  
 Patron Saint of Turkey

It is God who calls; human beings answer. The vocation of John and his brother James is stated very simply in the Gospels, along with that of Peter and his brother Andrew: Jesus called them; they followed. The absoluteness of their response is indicated by the account. James and John "were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him" (Matthew 4:21b-22).

For the three former fishermen – Peter, James and John – that faith was to be rewarded by a special friendship with Jesus. They alone were privileged to be present at the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus and the agony in Gethsemane. But John's friendship was even more special. Tradition assigns to him the Fourth Gospel, although most modern Scripture scholars think it unlikely that the apostle and the evangelist are the same person.

John's own Gospel refers to him as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (see John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2), the one who reclined next to Jesus at the Last Supper, and the one to whom Jesus gave the exquisite honor of caring for his mother, as John stood beneath the cross. "Woman, behold your son.... Behold, your mother" (John 19:26b, 27b).

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

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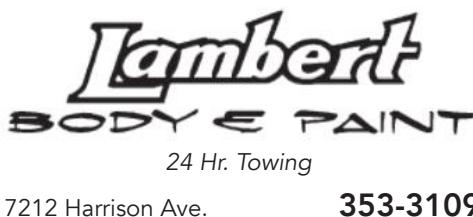


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