



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

CATHOLIC CHURCH  
414 E. NORTH BROADWAY COLUMBUS, OHIO 43214

PARISH OFFICE  
(614) 267-9241

SCHOOL OFFICE  
(614) 267-6579

[www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org)

# WELCOME

*to Immaculate Conception!*

Leading people to Jesus through Worship, Community, Service, and Devotion to Mary

## Celebration of Holy Mass

### SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

### DAILY MASSES

Monday: 8:30 a.m.  
Tuesday: 6:15 p.m.  
Wednesday - Friday: 8:30 a.m.

### HOLY DAY MASSES

8:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m., or as announced

## Reconciliation

Tuesdays: 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.  
Fridays: Following the 8:30 a.m. Mass, 9:15 - 9:45 a.m.  
Or by appointment

## Sacraments

### BAPTISM

For detailed information related to preparation and scheduling, please contact the Parish Office at (614) 267-9241, or at [icoffice@iccols.org](mailto:icoffice@iccols.org).

### MARRIAGE

Couples should inquire at least 12 months in advance of the intended date. A marriage preparation program is required. For information, contact Elizabeth DeLuca at (614) 267-9241, ext. 608 or at [edeluca@iccols.org](mailto:edeluca@iccols.org).

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK & PASTORAL MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND

If there is an emergency need for Anointing of the Sick, please call the parish office. If you get the voicemail message, press "1" and leave a message on the sacramental emergency line. For pastoral care needs, please contact the Parish Office at (614) 267-9241, or at [icoffice@iccols.org](mailto:icoffice@iccols.org).

### FUNERAL & BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Family of the deceased loved one should contact the Parish Office at (614) 267-9241, or at [icoffice@iccols.org](mailto:icoffice@iccols.org).

### OCIA

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the formation program of inquiry, discernment and instruction for adults. If you are interested in learning more about our faith and becoming Catholic, please contact Mary Ann Rivera at (614) 267-9241, ext. 605 or at [marivera@iccols.org](mailto:marivera@iccols.org).


### PARISH

 [immaculateconceptioncolumbus](https://www.instagram.com/immaculateconceptioncolumbus)

 [@ICColumbus](https://www.facebook.com/ICColumbus)

### SCHOOL

 [icschool\\_cbus](https://www.instagram.com/icschool_cbus)

 [@ICRamsColumbus](https://www.facebook.com/ICRamsColumbus)

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75; Mk 4:35-41  
4:00 p.m. Timothy Davis †

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32  
8:30 a.m. For the Little Family  
11:00 a.m. For the People of  
Immaculate Conception Parish

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Heb 11:32-40; Mk 5:1-20  
8:30 a.m. James Grimm †

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Heb 12:1-4; Mk 5:21-43  
6:15 p.m. Rosemary Steinbauer †

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Mk 6:1-6  
8:30 a.m. Dick Brehm †

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Mk 6:7-13  
8:30 a.m. The Repose of the Soul of  
Andrea Kathryn Palazzo †

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Heb 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29  
8:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the  
IC Women's Club

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Mk 6:30-34  
4:00 p.m. For the People of  
Immaculate Conception Parish

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11 or 1 Cor 15:3-8, 11; Lk 5:1-11  
8:30 a.m. Frances, Robert, and Bill Greely †  
11:00 a.m. Robert Knight †

† Deceased

## PASTORAL STAFF

*Pastor* Fr. Matthew Hoover ..... icoffice@iccols.org  
*Permanent Deacon* Rev. Mr. Christopher Campbell ..... ccampbel@cducation.org  
*Weekend Assistant* Msgr. Anthony Frecker  
*Pastoral Care Coordinator* Peggy O'Donovan .....ext. 606 | podonovan@iccols.org

## FAITH FORMATION

*Music Ministry* Adam Fehrenbach ..... ext. 607 | musicdirector@iccols.org  
*Evangelization and Faith Formation* Mary Ann Rivera .....ext. 605 | marivera@iccols.org  
*Evangelization and Faith Formation for Youth* Veronica Dannemiller ..... vdannemiller@iccols.org

## PARISH OFFICE STAFF Phone: 614-267-9241

*Parish Business Administrator* John Bernard .....ext. 602 | jbernard@iccols.org  
*Ministry Coordinator* Elizabeth DeLuca .....ext. 608 | edeluca@iccols.org  
*Administrative Assistant* Karen Cannell .....ext. 601 | icoffice@iccols.org  
*Facilities Manager* Jason Stallkamp  
*Communications and Social Media Director* Tom Berryhill .....ext. 604 | tberryhill@iccols.org

## SCHOOL STAFF Phone: 614-267-6579

*Principal* Colleen Kent .....cokent@cducation.org  
*Office Manager* Marina Hachwa .....mhachwa@cducation.org  
*Preschool* School Office .....mhachwa@cducation.org  
*School Age Child Care* John Bernard .....jbernard@iccols.org

## PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES

*Faith-Based Counselor* Mary Ann Jepsen .....jepsen.ma@gmail.com, 614-309-2270  
*Planned Giving Liaison* Kelly Noll .....knoll@gbq.com, 614-352-1655

## ADVISORY COUNCILS

*Finance Council Chairman* Andy MacKinnon ..... amackinnon@horizon10.com  
*Parish Council President* Rich Viertel .....parishcouncil@iccols.org  
*School Board President* Jonathan DeLuca .....jondeluca1229@gmail.com

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – FEBRUARY 8 & 9, 2025

MASS TIMES	4:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Paul Duffy MaryAnn Grossman	Jean Durbin Molly Dodane	Karen Cannell Margaret Williams
LECTORS	Scott Reing-Hurley	Tim Geraghty	Charles Kielkopf
ALTAR SERVERS	Lila Hatem Maren Henderson Nate Henderson Eric Hirsch	James Krzyzewski Vince Krzyzewski Jocie Miller Sammie Miller	Emerson Sloan Joe Snapp Sam Snapp Elise Stratton
GREETERS	Joyce Francis Christine Sapp Jeanne Stoker	Mike Demko Bobby Clark Michele Sapp	Anne Campbell Sleeper Family Heather Vaca-Guzman Daniels Family
WELCOME DESK	Patty Conway	Diana Marie Winkler	Anne Campbell



## SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS

One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead (a spiritual work of mercy). 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 with only one Intention per Mass. Mass Intentions are scheduled by calling the Parish Office at (614) 267-9241, emailing [icoffice@iccols.org](mailto:icoffice@iccols.org), or mailing your request to the Parish Office. We will do our best to honor the dates and times requested, but no day/time can be guaranteed. **Currently, we are scheduling Mass Intentions through August 2025.**

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SANCTUARY LAMPS

The Sanctuary Lamps in the church burn constantly to proclaim the real presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle. For the month of February, the three Sanctuary Candles were donated by **Ryan Schwieterman**. Thank you for your generosity.

## ROSARY AT THE GROTTTO

Please join us every Sunday evening to pray the Rosary at the IC Marian Grotto at 8 p.m. All are welcome! Questions? Please contact [peterjmccann64@gmail.com](mailto:peterjmccann64@gmail.com).

## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

## IN OUR PARISH

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

We welcome **Scottlyn Joann Smith**, the daughter of Dominic and Cailey Smith, to the church and to our parish. Scottlyn was baptized on January 26, 2025. We also welcome **Lyvia Layne Davis**, the daughter of Eric and Lindsay Davis, to the Catholic Church. Lyvia was baptized on January 26, 2025.

### MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Ministry Schedules are available on the parish website. To see the schedule for Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, Welcome Desk volunteers, Altar Servers, or Lectors, go to [iccols.org](http://iccols.org)>Parish Life>Organization Schedules.



### IN NEED OF PRAYER? THE IC PRAYER MINISTRY IS READY TO PRAY FOR YOU!

We believe in the power of intercessory prayer! According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, *"Since Abraham, intercession-asking on behalf of another – has been characteristic of a heart attuned to God's mercy."* (CCC 2635) If you would like the Immaculate Conception Prayer Ministry to offer prayers for you or someone you know, please call Peggy O'Donovan in the Parish Office at (614) 267-9241, ext. 606. Prayer intentions will be sent to the prayer ministers using first names only, unless we have permission to use the full name. If you'd like to be part of this prayer ministry, please contact us.

### CATHOLIC TIMES SUBSCRIPTIONS

February is the month when Annual Subscription Renewals traditionally begin for the print edition of *The Catholic Times*, the information source for the Diocese of Columbus. An online system is now in place to make the process easier for new subscriptions and renewals. Simply visit *The Catholic Times* website, [catholictimescolumbus.org](http://catholictimescolumbus.org), and use the subscribe tab at the top of the homepage to sign up for a new subscription, a renewal or a gift. Please consider a subscription to keep up on the events in the Diocese, especially during these eventful times.

## CARPOOLING TO THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Columbus Catholic Women's Conference is on Saturday, February 15. We are hoping that you can come and be refreshed and renewed. If you need a ride or are willing/want to carpool to the Conference, please call the Parish Office at (614) 267-9241, and we will facilitate.



### ANOINTING OF THE SICK SERVICE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AFTER MASS

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will take place on Saturday, February 8, immediately after the 4 p.m. Mass. Following the closing prayer, those in need of this healing sacrament will be invited to come forward to receive the Anointing. Anyone in need of this Sacrament due to illness, upcoming serious surgery, ongoing treatment for an illness, or disability caused by advanced age is encouraged to attend this Mass. The Rite of Anointing tells us there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament.



### ITALY PILGRIMAGE JUBILEE YEAR 2025 WITH FR. MATT AND FR. DANIEL COLBY

**Only 5 spots left!** – This once-in-a-lifetime Pilgrimage in June 2025, led by Fr. Matt Hoover and Fr. Daniel Colby, includes the serene countryside of Assisi, the famous vineyards of Montepulciano, the hilltop city of Orvieto and the amazing city of Rome! In Rome, you will attend a Papal Audience, experience the beauty of the Sistine Chapel and Vatican Museums, travel back in time in the catacombs, and partake in the solemn act of walking through the Holy Doors during this Jubilee Year. For amazing trip details and registration information, please call or email Peggy O'Donovan in the Parish Office at [podonovan@iccols.org](mailto:podonovan@iccols.org). (Pictured – Pope Francis, after knocking on the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican December 24, 2024, waits for aides to open it as he inaugurates the Holy Year 2025. (CNS photo/screen grab, Vatican Media)

### LOST & FOUND

Have you lost a hat, glove, reading glasses, sunglasses, umbrella, rosary, child's book, toy or lovey, etc.? Please check the lost and found area in the ushers' room at the back of the church. Unclaimed items will eventually be donated.

### DONATIONS FOR WILDFIRE VICTIMS

Wildfires are currently ravaging Los Angeles and other areas of California. Please help families recover after the fires pass. Make an emergency donation to Catholic Charities USA today to help provide lifesaving resources. **100% of your gift** will be sent where it's needed most! Catholic Charities USA is the official domestic relief agency of the U.S. Catholic Church, providing critical support to devastated communities, before and after disaster strikes.

**GIVING LINK:**Go to <https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>

### ARE YOU MOURNING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE?

Please join us for the winter/spring session of Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry, sponsored by the Northland/North High Deanery. The five-week session will be held in Marian Hall at IC from 2-4 p.m. on the following Sundays: February 16, February 23, March 2, March 9 and March 16. REGISTER NOW by contacting Debbie Kennedy at [kennedydeborah@yahoo.com](mailto:kennedydeborah@yahoo.com) or by calling Debbie at (614) 937-0516. Come and be comforted.

*Who is the King of Glory?  
It is the Lord.*

# TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

## Fiscal Year 7/1/2024-6/30/2025 • Offertory Report 1/26/2025

	1/26/2025	YTD 2024/2025
Recorded Envelopes/Checks	\$ 20,771	\$ 758,535
Loose Cash	\$ 1,203	\$ 28,165
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 21,974	\$ 786,700
Weekly Operating Expenses	\$ 27,000	\$ 810,000
Weekly Overage/(Shortage)	\$ (5,026)	\$ (23,300)
Families Receiving Envelopes		839
Envelopes Received		107
Families on EFT		384



Manage your electronic contributions online! Visit [www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org) and click "Offertory & Stewardship" under the Giving menu. Alternatively, text "Give" to (614) 953-6436, or scan the QR code to the left. Thank you for your financial support of our Catholic faith here in our parish. We are grateful for your generosity.

*"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21)*

## SOCIAL CONCERNS

### OPEN SHELTER MEAL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025

The Open Shelter meal for homeless and marginally housed individuals is this Monday, February 3, 2025. We need donations of sloppy joes, mac & cheese, cookies, lunch-size chips, snacky desserts, bottled water and sturdy, clean to-go containers (can be recycled ones). Cash donations are welcome. Arrangements can be made to pick up your donations on that Monday or earlier in the week or weekend, if Monday by 10 a.m. is not a convenient drop-off time. Please contact Cheryl Costello at (614) 774-8879 to coordinate. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

### WALK YOUR FAITH – THE I.C. BREAD SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM INVITES YOU – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 7-8:30 P.M., ROOM A

Come to An Evening to "Walk Your Faith" and Examine the Issues of Low-Income Housing and Fair Rental Practices, Some Current Solutions and Future Efforts. Questions? Contact [ICbread43214@gmail.com](mailto:ICbread43214@gmail.com) or MaryAnn at (614) 530-5872.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### JOIN US TODAY

*Now accepting Applications*

2025-2026 Academic Year  
Preschool to Grade 8



Apply Today!



Immaculate Conception School

*As a Catholic community, we form disciples of Christ through faith, academics, and character*

and she would be happy to schedule a school tour for you.

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Applications Are Open for the 2025-2026 School Year!

We are excited to announce that our applications are open for the 2025-2026 school year. If you are considering a spot in our Preschool program, please complete an online application as soon as possible. These classes do tend to fill up quickly.

If you're considering applying to IC School for 2025-26 and would like to come in and learn more before applying, please email our admissions director, Mrs. Katie Lewis, at [klewis@cducation.org](mailto:klewis@cducation.org)

### METANOIA: A JOURNEY WITH CHRIST



**INTO CONVERSION**  
Mondays, March 3- April 7 at 7-9 p.m. in Marian Hall;  
Tuesdays March 4- April 8 at 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Marian Hall.



If you are planning to attend the Lenten Bible study, scan the QR code to purchase the book "Metanoia".

### PRAY FOR PRIESTS

To find the Pray for Priests February list, go to the Our Lady of Peace's website at <https://www.olp-parish.org/pray-for-priests>.

## Immaculate Conception Athletic Association



### SPRING SPORTS SIGN UPS



**SOCCER**  
grades K - 3



**SOFTBALL**  
grades 4 - 8



**BASEBALL**  
grades 4 - 8



**TRACK & FIELD**  
grades 4 - 8

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



Scan the QR Code or visit [ic.doodle.com](http://ic.doodle.com) for more information

Please note that practices and competitions may take place at a location outside of Immaculate Conception

Need assistance? Have a question? Email [icathleticshelp@gmail.com](mailto:icathleticshelp@gmail.com)

IC Rams Spring Sports Registrations are now open! Parish children in Grades K-8 are eligible to play IC sports. **Parents** – Interested in being a head coach this spring? Save the dates below for "Play Like a Champion" coaches training classes: Saturday, March 1, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at St. Catharine of Siena, March 8, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at St. Catharine of Siena, Saturday, March 22, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (location TBD.)

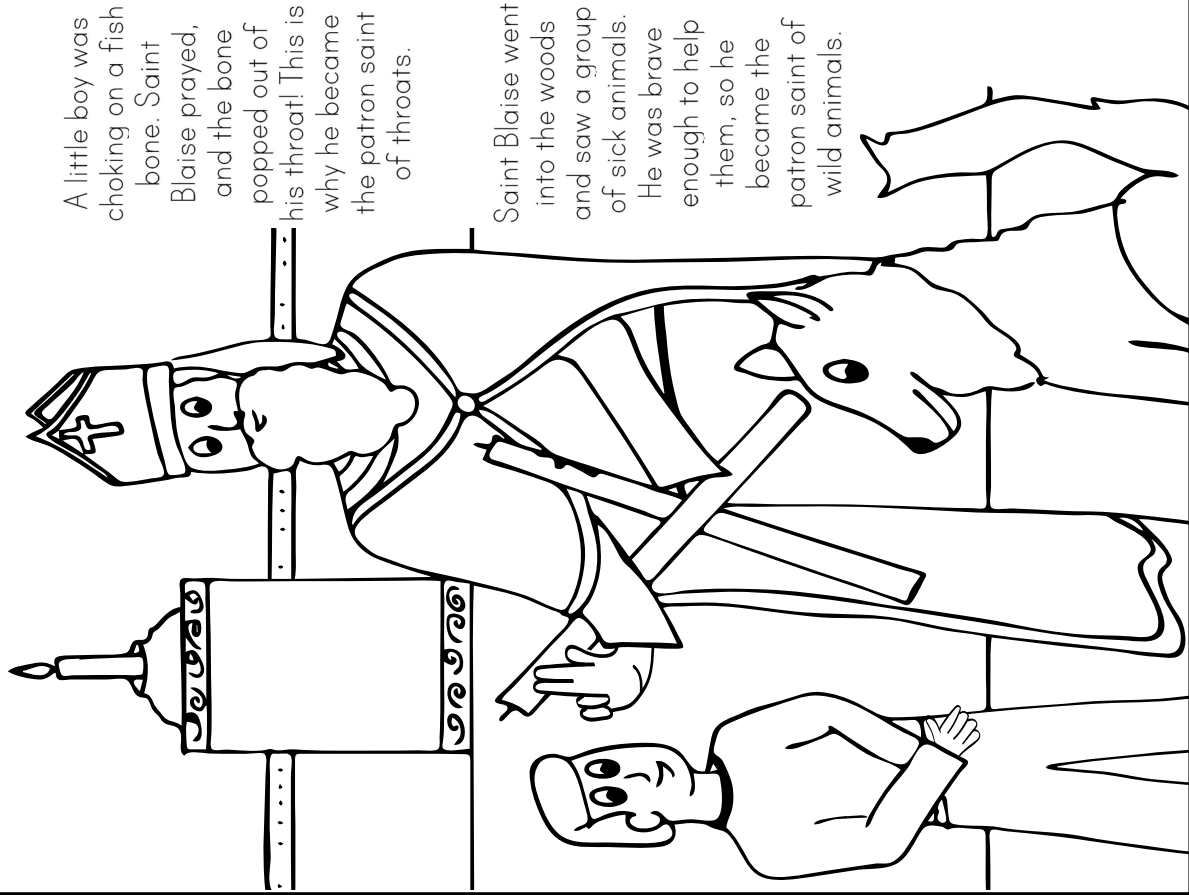
**Columbus Saints Lacrosse – Registration open!**  
**Info for BOYS** – Open to 7th & 8th Grade boys; No experience necessary; Visit <http://www.columbussaintslacrosse.com/> for more information and to register.

**Info for GIRLS** – Open to 7th & 8th Grade girls; No experience necessary; for more information, questions, and to register, contact Brett at [bcolema6@att.net](mailto:bcolema6@att.net) or call/text (614) 561-4813.

General questions about IC Parish sports? Want to get involved? Email [icathleticshelp@gmail.com](mailto:icathleticshelp@gmail.com).

# Saint Blaise

Saint Blaise is the patron saint of throats and wild animals.

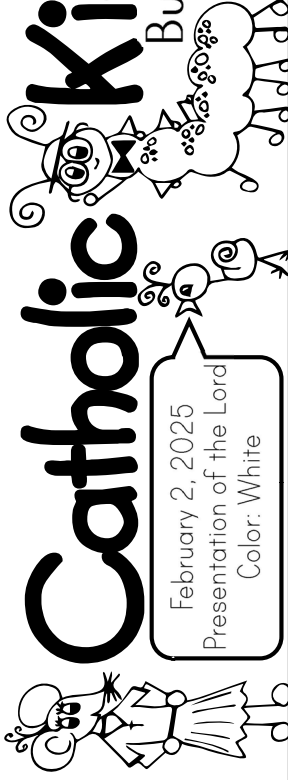


A little boy was choking on a fish bone. Saint Blaise prayed, and the bone popped out of his throat! This is why he became the patron saint of throats.

Saint Blaise went into the woods and saw a group of sick animals. He was brave enough to help them, so he became the patron saint of wild animals.

# Catholic Kids Bulletin

February 2, 2025  
Presentation of the Lord  
Color: White



JKW H O E I S P T H I S O K I N G O K W I J

B W A O F P W L G L O R Y P A I

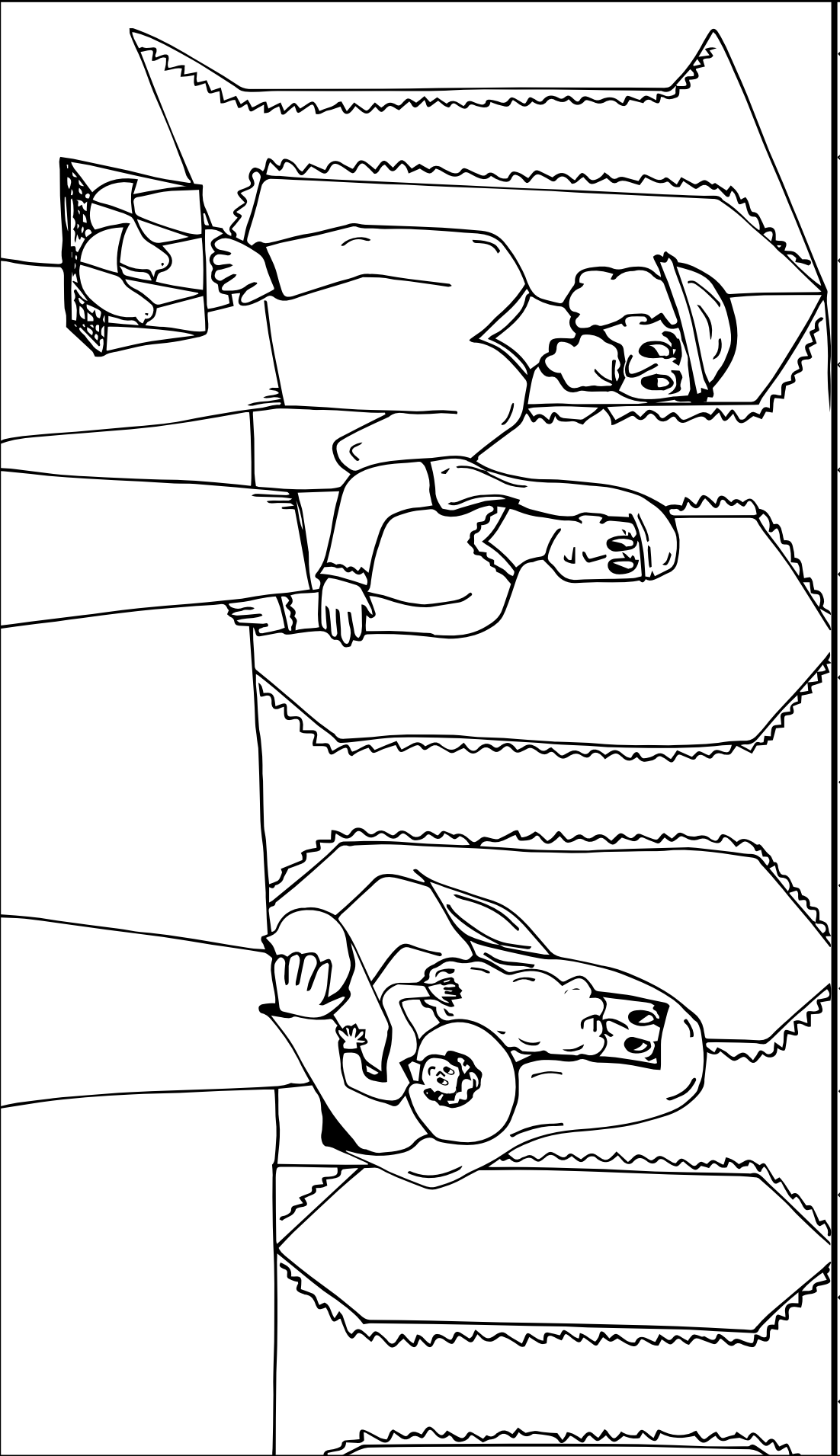
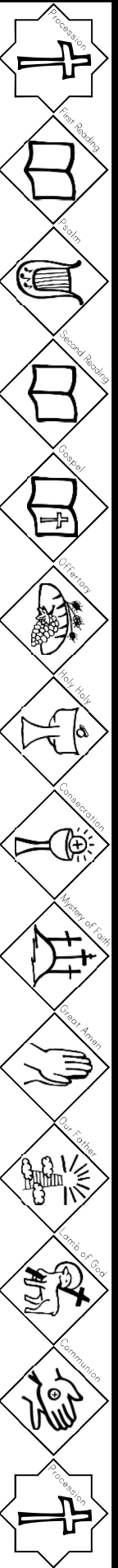
W K A T H E O A L O R D P W K I

Who is this  
king of  
glory? It is  
the Lord!

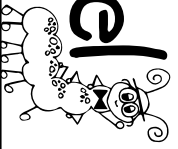
W A O K I T O A P I S P W K T H I E H P L E A



There is a special Mass on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate Saint Blaise. You can receive a blessing for your throat in honor of Saint Blaise.



# Gospel



When Jesus was a baby, He was presented in the temple.  
A man named Simeon recognized that Jesus was the Son of God.



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

February 2025

Immaculate Conception Church

Fr. Matthew Hoover

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Jerome Emiliani

St. Jerome led a wayward life while a soldier until he was captured in battle and turned back to God. Soon after returning to Venice, he began studying for the priesthood and was ordained in 1518. With the devastation from the war came famine and plague. At his own expense, St. Jerome cared for the victims left behind, especially the children. For this purpose, he and some companions founded the Clerks Regulars of Somasca, in Somasca, Italy.

### Imitating Christ in the world

When Jesus said, *"I am the way"* (John 14:6), He meant for us to follow Him and live as He lived. He ate, slept, worked, and cared for friends and family, much like we do. Now, ordinary life, lived in union with Christ, can be an opportunity of grace for us.

*"All the feasts in the Church's calendar are events of remembrance and hence events of hope."*  
Pope Benedict XVI

## "I choose Heaven!"

Our time on Earth is but a fleeting moment compared to the vastness of eternity. Yet, we often prioritize earthly concerns over preparing for Heaven. Jesus reminds us of the right priority: *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you besides"* (Matthew 6:33). When we put God first, He faithfully provides for our every need.

**What are your true priorities?** Your daily routine is a reflection of your heart. Pause and consider: What consumes your time and energy? The things that dominate your schedule are the true indicators of your priorities. If they are pulling you away from God, it's time to reevaluate and make a change.

**Where do you turn for guidance?** When faced with decisions, do you seek advice from friends, social media, or colleagues, or do you turn

to prayer and Scripture? Aligning our choices with God's wisdom leads to lasting fulfillment and peace. Resolve to trust His direction over the fleeting opinions of the world. When we place our decisions in His hands, we can move forward with confidence.

**Do you trust God with your happiness?** God's promises assure us of His perfect plan: *"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe, plans to give you a future full of hope"* (Jeremiah 29:11). If trusting Him feels difficult, invite Him into your doubts and fears. Ask Him to reveal His goodness and faithfulness—He will answer, because He is always near.

Refocus your heart and trust God's plan for your life. Let go of distractions, realign your priorities, and step into the peace that comes from seeking Him first.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why are Catholics only baptized once?

The Catholic Church teaches that Baptism is the gateway to the Christian life, marking the beginning of our communion with God.

Through this Sacrament, we are adopted as God's children and permanently sealed as His own. Baptism transforms us into new creations, opening our hearts to

grace, strengthening us against sin, and deepening our love for God and others (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1121).

Because this sacred mark is everlasting, Baptism is received only once, signifying our eternal bond with God and call to holiness.

# Trusting God in unexpected moments

Imagine you're at a wedding celebration for your friends. The atmosphere is lively, the music is playing, and everyone is enjoying themselves—until you overhear a troubling conversation. The kitchen has run out of wine. Due to an oversight, the caterers didn't bring enough, and with all the stores closed, the situation seems hopeless. What now?

*"They have no wine"* (John 2:3). Moments of crisis can catch us off guard, but they don't have to shake us. When Mary encountered this dilemma at the wedding in Cana, she didn't panic or place blame. Instead, she turned to the one she knew could help—her Son, Jesus.

With confidence, she simply informed Him of the need, trusting fully in His ability to provide.

*"Do whatever He tells you"* (John 2:5). These profound words, Mary's last recorded in Scripture, offer us a powerful lesson. When we bring our problems to God, He often invites us to be part of the solution. Trusting Him means being open to His direction, even when it leads to unexpected actions. The servants at Cana likely didn't anticipate filling massive jars with water, yet their obedience led to an extraordinary outcome—the finest wine, far surpassing anything they could have imagined. With God, the impossible becomes possible.

## from **S**cripture

### Luke 6:27-38, The demands of merciful love

In this Gospel passage, Jesus challenges our natural sense of fairness by commanding us to *"love your enemies ... lend expecting nothing in return ... and forgive."* These teachings contrast with the Old Testament principle of *"an eye for an eye,"* which aimed to prevent excessive punishment, and the idea of exchanging favors as a sign of gratitude.

However, human justice can lead to destructive cycles of retaliation and diminish the sincerity of generosity. When giving is tied to expectations, it becomes difficult

to discern whether kindness is motivated by love or the hope of something in return.

Jesus invites us to embrace God's justice—one that surpasses human understanding. God's love is not conditional or transactional; it is generous, selfless, and freely given to all, regardless of merit.

As children of God, we are called to reflect His love by extending kindness, forgiveness, and generosity without expectation. In doing so, we move beyond human limitations and participate in God's perfect justice.

## **Q** What do icons offer **&** to our devotional **A** life?

Icons are a revered form of sacred art. These sacred images carry a deep historical and theological significance, rich in symbolism and spiritual depth. Recognizable by their distinctive "flattened" style, vivid colors, and frequent use of gold backgrounds, icons often depict significant events from the lives of Jesus, Mary, and the saints, offering a window into their mystical and spiritual dimensions.

At first glance, the stylized, two-dimensional nature of icons, coupled with the direct gaze of the figures, can feel unfamiliar or even challenging to engage with in prayer. It is often recommended to begin by spending just five minutes a day in quiet reflection before an icon, gradually increasing the duration over time. There is no need to rush—prayer with icons is a contemplative journey, and as we remain open and attentive, the Holy Spirit gradually unveils their deeper meaning to us.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**February 2 – The Presentation of the Lord.** In accordance with the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple forty days after His birth, and Simeon praised God for revealing the long-awaited Savior (Luke 2:29-32).

**February 10 – St. Scholastica (543).** Twin sister to St. Benedict, St. Scholastica established a community of religious women about five miles from her brother's monastery.

**February 17 – The Seven Holy Founders (13th century).** Seven

Italian noblemen who withdrew from the immorality of the times to live in prayer, simplicity and penance. Their order, the Servants of Mary, was later approved by the Holy See in 1304.

**February 23 – St. Polycarp (155).** Bishop of Smyrna, Asia-Minor, Polycarp was a disciple of the apostle St. John the Evangelist, and a friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch. He faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to his religion. Before he was martyred, he thanked God for making him worthy of a martyr's death.

### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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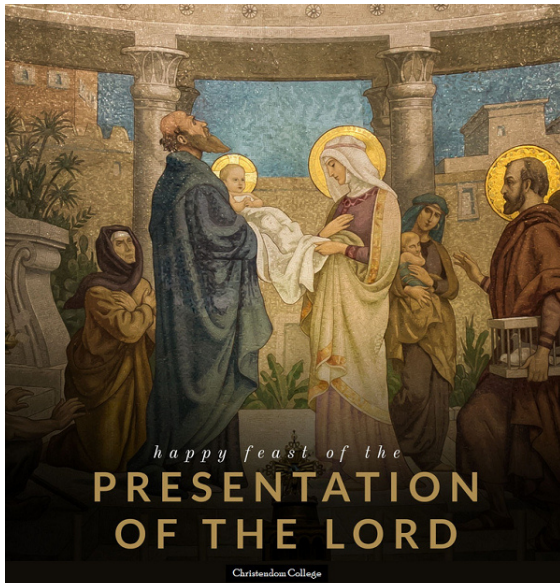
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)



# FAITH FORMATION

Immaculate Conception Church  
February 1, 2025



Today's feast is celebrated in our Church forty days after Christmas, marking the day that Mary and Joseph would have brought Jesus into the Temple. Though Mary was pure and free from sin from the moment of her conception, and though the Son of God did not need to be redeemed, Mary and Joseph fulfilled these ritual obligations. At the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple. It is in that holy encounter that Jesus' divinity is manifested by a human prophet for the first time. At His birth, the angels proclaimed His divinity to the shepherds, but in the Temple, Simeon was the first to understand and proclaim Jesus as the Savior of the World. He also prophesied that this salvation would be accomplished by a sword of sorrow that would pierce the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Anna, a prophetess, also came forward and "gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem" ([Luke 2:38](#)). Thus, these ritual acts were also a moment in which Jesus' divine mission was made manifest to the world.

## YEAR OF JUBILEE

The Vatican laid down some guidelines for how Catholics could receive the plenary indulgences announced by Pope Francis as part of the 2025 Jubilee Year:



Go to confession and get those sins forgiven.

Go to Mass and receive Communion.

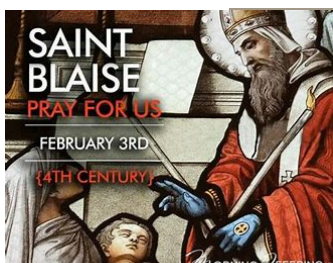
Truly repent. Pledge to be detached, with God's help, from all sin.

Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Once those first requirements are filled, do one of the indulgences devotions suggested by the pope, including: Make a pilgrimage to one of the designated churches in Rome or elsewhere. (Many are in Italy and the Holy Land, but the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., was the only national site designated by U.S. bishops.)

Perform an extraordinary work of mercy — give a generous gift to the poor, or visit a nursing home or prison. Participate in local devotions or visit a local cathedral, shrine, or other special church designated by your bishop for obtaining the Jubilee indulgence. [www.vaticannews.com](http://www.vaticannews.com)



Every year on Feb. 3, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Blaise. Since he is the patron saint of those who suffer from throat ailments (and the doctors who treat them), many parishes around the world offer the "blessing of throats" in his honor.

A bishop and eventual martyr, Blaise of Sebaste began his spiritual journey as a hermit. He was a physician and known to be a miracle worker. He practiced the medicine of his time and is included in the group of the "14 holy helpers" of the Catholic Church — called that because they are considered effective intercessors against certain ailments of the body and soul. EWTN



**TUBING AT SNOW TRAILS!**

On Sunday, February 9 High School Hangout is going tubing! Following the 11 a.m. Mass at IC, the group will head to Snow Trails and should return to Columbus between 4 and 4:30 p.m. – plenty of time before the Super Bowl! All high school students are welcome to attend. Students must be transported by parents or fellow students. Carpools will need to be coordinated and approved by parents, outside of the Hangout. **The first 10 people registered have a guaranteed spot paid for by the Hangout.** Scan the QR code to sign up.

**HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**New Scholarship Opportunity – The Nativity of Mary** – This Scholarship provides a four-year \$2,000 per year scholarship to any rising 9th Grade student (current 8th Grader) who will attend a Catholic High School in the 2025-2026 school year. The link to apply for the Nativity of Mary Scholarship can be found at <https://catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/the-nativity-of-mary-scholarship/>. The Nativity of Mary Scholarship was established for the propagation of the Catholic faith and devotion to Our Blessed Mother. A letter of recommendation, short essay on the applicant’s devotion to our Blessed Mother, and financial need will be used to evaluate the potential applicants. Provided the student remains in good standing and continues to attend a Catholic high school in the Diocese of Columbus, the scholarship will be renewed all four years until that student graduates.

**New Scholarship Opportunity – The Hands and Feet of Christ Scholarship** – This Scholarship provides an \$800 scholarship to a student who will attend a Catholic High School in the 2025-2026 school year at any grade level. The link to apply for the Hands and Feet of Christ Scholarship can be found at <https://catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/the-hands-and-feet-of-christ-scholarship/>. A letter of recommendation from a community leader (clergy, youth minister, teacher, etc.) attesting to the applicant’s active involvement in his or her own Catholic faith formation and demonstrated financial need (via FACTS Tuition Assistance) will be used to evaluate the potential applicants. This is a single-year scholarship.

**The Catholic Foundation’s applications for scholarships are currently open with a deadline for submission of February 28.** For more information and to apply, please visit [www.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships](http://www.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships). If you have any questions about our scholarship process, please feel free to contact Dan Kurth, VP of Grants, at (614) 443-8893 or [dkurth@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:dkurth@catholic-foundation.org).



**WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

The Pope’s message for World Communications Day in this Jubilee Year of Hope reminds us to “share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts.” “The theme of World Communications

Day draws attention to the fact that today ‘too often communication is violent, aimed at striking and not at establishing the conditions for dialogue.’ It is therefore necessary ‘to disarm communication, to cleanse it of aggression.’ From television talk shows to verbal wars on social networks, there is a risk that the prevailing paradigm is that of competition, opposition, and the will to dominate.



For us Christians, ‘hope is a person, and He is Christ.’ And it is always linked to a community; ‘when we speak of Christian hope, we cannot disregard a community that lives the message of Jesus in such a credible way as to give a glimpse of the hope that it brings, and is capable of communicating the hope of Christ with deeds and words even today.’ Read more at the Vatican News website.

**CATHOLIC MEN’S LUNCHEON**

Please join us on Friday, February 7 at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a luncheon featuring a talk by Father Yokum, who is pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Chaplain for the Franklin County Sheriff’s Department, Grove City Police Department, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Fr. Yokum will present a talk entitled, “Pastoral Care for Law Enforcement Officers and their Families.” Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Fr. Yokum’s presentation. No reservations are necessary. \$12 covers lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! Our next meeting will be on March 7, 2025, when Bishop Fernandes will present the Catholic Man of the Year. Please mark your calendar to attend.



**OUR CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO MENTAL HEALTH**

As we face a growing mental health crisis in our society, what should we do?

As Catholics, we are called to respond to the signs of the times. Join in a public conversation on the topic and together create our local response.

**Friday, March 28, 2025**  
9:00 am – 2:00 pm


**St. Brendan the Navigator Church**  
4475 Dublin Rd. Hilliard, OH 43026

Daily Mass is available at 8:00 am in the main Church, followed by a light breakfast. Lunch is also included.

Space is limited, so please register at:  
[onecau.se/mentalhealthsummit](http://onecau.se/mentalhealthsummit)

Sponsored by: Catholic Social Services & the Catholic Diocese of Columbus



Seen

A Catholic Infertility Ministry Mini-Retreat


Join us for a Half-Day Retreat for those facing infertility, designed to support couples carrying the cross of infertility through prayer, reflection, and community.

**What to Expect:**




- Support and inspiring reflections
- Group sharing
- Prayer, Adoration, praise and worship
- Optional art walk
- Vendor displays during breaks
- Dinner

**Franciscan University**  
Stuebenville, OH

**February 8, 2025**  
2:00-8:00 p.m.



In collaboration with



**ARE YOU DISCERNING? "COME AND SEE..."**

Come to a Weekend Retreat with the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus. Discover the beauty of a life of total consecration to God in union with Mary. February 14-16, 2025 – Steubenville, Ohio – Register by phone at (740) 346-2625.

**Created for this moment**  
**February 15, 2025**  
**COLUMBUS CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE** | 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
 Ohio Expo Center – Kasich Hall

Carrie Schuchts Daunt

Sarah Swafford

Fr. John Riccardo

Mary Guilfoyle

Sr. Mercedes

Emcee: Jennifer Rice

columbuscatholicwomen.com

Music: The Vigil Project

**MANGIA! ST. TIMOTHY'S ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER**

One of the oldest (and most delicious) traditions at St. Timothy returns from 12 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday, March 2, with homemade marinara, meatballs, pasta and desserts. Dine in and be served by our fabulous staff of volunteers or visit our carry-out crew in the cafeteria. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$7 for children. All are welcome to this Lenten tradition! More information is at <https://sttimsevents.com/event/spaghetti-dinner/>.

**The 28th Annual CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE**  
**CALLED TO BE SAINTS**  
**MEN: ON MISSION**

**Saturday † February 22, 2025**  
**Kasich Hall † Ohio Expo Center**

Adoration 6:00am • Registration 7:00am  
 Conference 8:00am - 3:00pm

Dcn. Harold Burke-Sivers

Dr. Ray Guarendi

Mark Hartfiel

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


The DYNAMIC DEACON is in the House! Deacon Harold Burke Sivers is one of three featured speakers at this year's Catholic Men's Conference – Called to Be Saints | Men: On Mission – and he is sure to bring you out of your seat with his message of inspiration and evangelization! Go to [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y69u\\_muwkD](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y69u_muwkD) and watch his invitation video. To learn more or purchase tickets, go to [www.CatholicMensMinistry.com](http://www.CatholicMensMinistry.com).

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