



THE SEASON OF LENT + PRAYER + FASTING + ALMSGIVING



**IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
414 E. NORTH BROADWAY  
COLUMBUS, OH 43214

PARISH OFFICE  
(614) 267-9241

SCHOOL OFFICE  
(614) 267-6579  
[www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org)

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

### Sacraments

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

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 or at [edeluca@iccols.org](mailto:edeluca@iccols.org).

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND 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 AND 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.cbuc](https://www.instagram.com/icschool.cbuc)

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

\*Painting: The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise by Benjamin West (National Gallery of Art)

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7**  
*Mic 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32*  
 4:00 p.m. For the People of  
 Immaculate Conception Parish

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8**  
*Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42*  
 8:30 a.m. Chith Nouanesengsy †  
 11:00 a.m. Margaret Hoenig †

**MONDAY, MARCH 9**  
*2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Lk 4:24-30*  
 8:30 a.m. For the Buck Family

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10**  
*Dan 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35*  
 6:15 p.m. Jimmy Clark †

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11**  
*Deut 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19*  
 8:30 a.m. David Fersch †

**THURSDAY, MARCH 12**  
*Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23*  
 8:30 a.m. For the Intention of  
 Tom & Carol Britt

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13**  
*Hos 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34*  
 8:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members  
 of the IC Women's Club

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14**  
*Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14*  
 4:00 p.m. Janet Vana Rummel †

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15**  
*1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41*  
 8:30 a.m. For the People of  
 Immaculate Conception Parish  
 11:00 a.m. Danny Fuchs †

† 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* Odee Dammarell..... ext. 606 | rdammarell@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

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*Facilities Manager* Jason Stallkamp  
*Communications and Social Media Director* Tom Berryhill ..... ext. 604 | tberryhill@iccols.org

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

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*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* Danielle Culbertson.....danielle.w.culbertson@gmail.com

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – MARCH 14 & 15 2026**

| MASS TIMES                     | 4:00 p.m.  | 8:30 a.m.  | 11:00 a.m.                                       |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</b> | Don Muenz<br>Christine Demko                                       | Ann & Pete Eichel  | Karen Cannell<br>Margaret Williams               |
| <b>LECTORS</b>                 | Michelle Lang  | Amanda Torgerson   | Charles Kielkopf                                 |
| <b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>           | Eric Hirsch<br>John Hoffman<br>Cecilia Keller<br>James Kirkpatrick | Amanda Ruschau<br>Owen Smith<br>Lucas Watson<br>Jack Zilly               | Elise Stratton<br>Alberto Suarez<br>Maleah Young |
| <b>GREETERS</b>                | Hatchel Family<br>Schools Family<br>Colleen Kent                   | Walter Family<br>Sue & Sophia Ruschau<br>Suzanne Smith<br>Martha Bowling | Sleeper Family<br>Daniels Family<br>Lyden Family |
| <b>WELCOME DESK</b>            | Patty Conway   | Tara Hummer  | Anne Campbell                                    |

**MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

Ministry schedules are available on the parish website. To see complete schedules, go to iccols.org>Parish Life>Organization Schedules.

## 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 2026.**

## 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 **March**, the three Sanctuary Candles were donated by the **Mahler Family**. Thank you for your generosity.

## LIVESTREAMED MASSES

Immaculate Conception Parish livestreams 8:30 a.m. Sunday Masses and 8:30 a.m. Wednesday and Friday morning Masses for individuals who are unable to come to church. Go to [www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org) and scroll down to "Mass Schedule," then "See the Mass." Livestreamed Masses are archived and can be experienced at a later time.

## LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS

Using low-gluten hosts is an available option at Immaculate Conception. If you require low-gluten hosts, please stop off in the Sacristy before Mass and talk to the priest or deacon.

### THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR MARCH

#### For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

## IN OUR PARISH



### NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome our new parishioners to Immaculate Conception Parish: **Allison Gill; Nicole, Scott, and Nell Adair; Sixto J., Mary Helen, Sixto D., Maria, and Sixto S. Manrique; Shayla, Henry, Sedona, and Odessa Loe.** We invite and encourage you to join us as we pray, work, and play together and hope that you find a welcoming and spiritual home here at Immaculate Conception.

### DIOCESAN 40 DAYS OF ADORATION

During Lent, the Diocese encourages parishes to have a day of Adoration. To see the complete Adoration schedule, go to <https://columbuscatholic.org/event/40-days-of-Adoration/>. Times vary, so please be sure to check with the respective parishes for the most up-to-date Adoration times. Some options this week are: Buckeye Catholic at OSU on March 9, St. Andrew on March 10, St. Mary in Delaware on March 13, and St. Matthew in Gahanna on March 15. Our additional day of Adoration at IC is Wednesday, March 25. Seek the Lord wherever He is found.



*If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.*



## Lenten Parish Mission

### Immaculate Conception Church

THE LOVE OF GOD & THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST

SUNDAY, MARCH 8  
7:00-9:00 PM

*For the Lord is a Sun & Shield*

MONDAY, MARCH 9  
7:00-9:00 PM

*Indeed Our God Is a Consuming Fire*

HOLY MASS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 10  
6:15 PM

PARISH PENANCE SERVICE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11  
7:00 PM

**Dave VanVickle**

## ONE MORE DIRECTORY PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

If you missed your photo appointment, want to have your photos retaken, or if you simply changed your mind – and would like to have your photo taken – you will get your chance on Wednesday, March 25. Photographers will be in Room A of the rectory from 2-9 p.m.

### To sign up:

- Go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com)
- Click on **Photography Session Signup**
- Enter **oh2915** in the Church Code field
- Enter **photos** in the Church Password field
- Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have five or more in your family, please use two consecutive time slots.
- If you need help registering, contact Tom Berryhill at [tberryhill@iccols.org](mailto:tberryhill@iccols.org) or call the Parish Office.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS



## FRIDAYS 7:30 P.M.



## JOIN US AS WE MAKE THE PARISH GROUNDS BEAUTIFUL

Come join the IC Garden Ministry as we have our first gardening session of the year, Saturday, March 14, 9 to 11 a.m. We'll be cleaning beds and recovering from winter.

Bring hand tools, gloves and water. We will meet at the Grotto on the east side of the rectory. This is a great volunteer opportunity for students and their parents. The Garden Ministry meets as a group the Second Saturday of each month in the growing season. Questions? Contact Chris Atzberger at [tatzberg@columbus.rr.com](mailto:tatzberg@columbus.rr.com); Janet Wilks at [jwilks123@gmail.com](mailto:jwilks123@gmail.com); or Carol Rodock at [carol.rodock@gmail.com](mailto:carol.rodock@gmail.com)

# TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

## Fiscal Year 7/1/2025-6/30/2026 • Offertory Report 3/1/2026

|                              | 3/1/2026  | YTD 2025/2026 |
|------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Recorded Envelopes/Checks    | \$ 26,530 | \$ 905,941    |
| Loose Cash                   | \$ 1,202  | \$ 32,655     |
| TOTAL RECEIVED               | \$ 27,732 | \$ 938,596    |
| Weekly Operating Expenses    | \$ 27,000 | \$ 945,000    |
| Weekly Overage/(Shortage)    | \$ 732    | \$ (6,404)    |
| Families Receiving Envelopes |           | 835           |
| Envelopes Received           |           | 122           |
| Families on EFT              |           | 365           |



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)*

## ST. GABRIEL RADIO DEACON CORNHOLE CHALLENGE:

### MARCH 18-20

Deacon Chris Campbell is stepping up to the boards, warming up, and giving it his best shot to support local Catholic radio, AM 820. You can give him a head start right now with an early online gift at [StGabrielRadio.com](http://StGabrielRadio.com). Every early donation means extra tosses for our deacon when the tournament kicks off March 18, 19, and 20!



## CRS RICE BOWLS ARE AT THE DOORS

How do your Rice Bowl donations help people live better lives?

One thousand days: From conception to a child's second birthday, every day is vital for their development. But in rural Ghana, poverty prevents access to essential health and nutrition services, causing children to miss critical milestones. This can lead to serious health issues, academic struggles and limited job opportunities in adulthood. In Walewale, Ghana, Catholic Relief Services is partnering with the Sisters of Charity of St. Anne at the Our Lady of Rocio Clinic on a project to help children up to 3 years old live happy and healthy lives by improving early childhood development. They provide mothers and children with health education services and early childhood development activities. Today, programs teach caregivers new ways to support their families, offers mental health services for moms, empowers communities through savings groups and strengthens families to build a brighter future together. Your Rice Bowl box, with your donations, may be turned in on Palm Sunday weekend or go to [iccols.org](http://iccols.org)>Give Now>Drop Down box>Rice Bowl.

## SOCIAL CONCERNS

### YWCA FAMILY SHELTER DINNER – MARCH 20

Immaculate Conception is providing dinner for the YWCA Family Shelter Friday, March 20. Food donations are needed. Volunteers are also needed to help in the preparation and boxing of meals at the Family Center. For more information, or to sign up for food donations or time, go to [iccols.org](http://iccols.org), Quick Links, YWCA Shelter Dinner Signup.



This Lent, come and watch a powerful movie on being a witness of love, and learn more about someone who laid down their life for another. In *Triumph of the Heart*, St. Maximilian Kolbe manages, through his life and death, to become a witness and conduit of God's love, even in a death camp built by hate. It is no surprise that he was later canonized as a saint by Pope John Paul II. Above all, *Triumph of the Heart* is a story about the power of love. It's love for their families and comrades that sustains these men and gives them

the ability to die with dignity. Maximilian Kolbe's words to them are as true today as in those dark days of 1941, "Love is the realest thing. No one can take that from us. Even now."

**Suggested for those ages 13+.**



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry



## Fridays during Lent!

(February 20 - March 27)

5:00 - 7:30 p.m. in Marian Hall



### MENU

Fried or Baked Fish, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Vegetable, and Roll. Complimentary Beverages, Adult Beverages & Dessert Available.

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Sign up to volunteer or donate desserts at: [bit.ly/IC-Fish-Fry](http://bit.ly/IC-Fish-Fry)



## NEW THIS YEAR

← Reserve a table \$200  
Event Sponsor \$500 →  
(includes table, signage & announcement)



Our dine-in is Green, utilizing reusable plateware and utensils and recycling all waste. The meal is delicious, a great cause, and it's a lot of fun!

## PRAY FOR PRIESTS IN MARCH

Please join Our Lady of Peace Parish in praying for a different priest or seminarian of our diocese each day of the month. The calendar for March can be found at [www.olp-parish.org](http://www.olp-parish.org).

## ST. TIMOTHY NIGHT OF GIVING:

### HAWAIIAN NIGHTS

Join us from 7-11 p.m. Friday, April 10 in the St. Timothy gym (1070 Thomas Lane) for a "lei'd" back evening of food, fun and dancing as we raise funds to benefit the arts and literacy programs at St. Timothy School! Admission is \$25 per person, and a cash bar will be available. More information at <https://sttimisevents.com/event/night-of-giving/>. See you there!

## CANCER PRAYER SERVICE

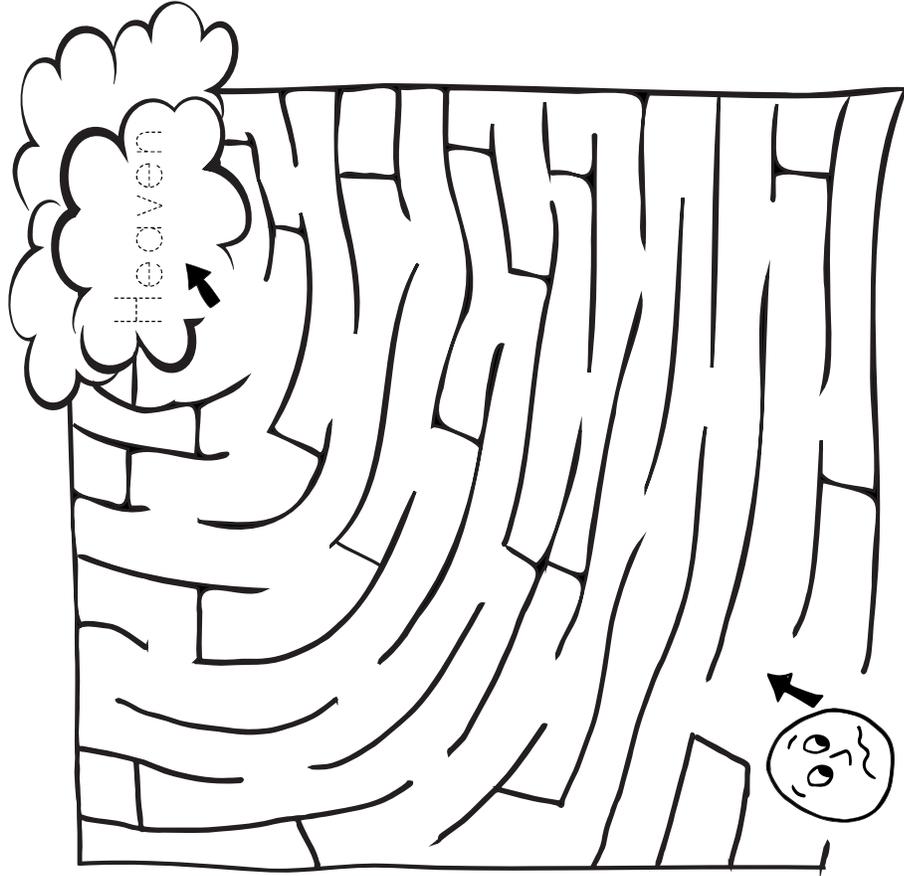
### AT THE SHRINE

The Maria Stein Shrine is pleased to be able to offer the St. Peregrine Relic for prayer and veneration. Three times per year a prayer service is held for those who are on a journey with cancer, whether it be as a patient or as a caregiver. The next service will be held on Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m. in the Shrine's Adoration Chapel. This event is free and open to the public. All who have been affected by cancer are encouraged to attend. The Shrine is located at 2291 St. John's Road in Maria Stein. For more event information, visit [www.mariasteinshrine.org](http://www.mariasteinshrine.org). For those battling cancer, you can submit your name or a loved one's name for prayer. Please contact Caleb Gaier at [c.gaier@mariasteinshrine.org](mailto:c.gaier@mariasteinshrine.org) or call (419) 925-4532.

# Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity

Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity were best friends.  
They learned about God together and  
became Christians.

God asks us to choose good friends.  
Ask them to pray for your friends.



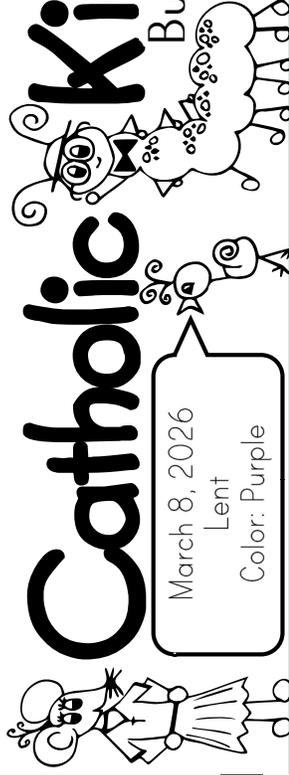
# Catholic Kids

Bulletin

March 8, 2026

Lent

Color: Purple



WOIFPWTDAYWPYOURPWKI

BPWYOURPWHARTS

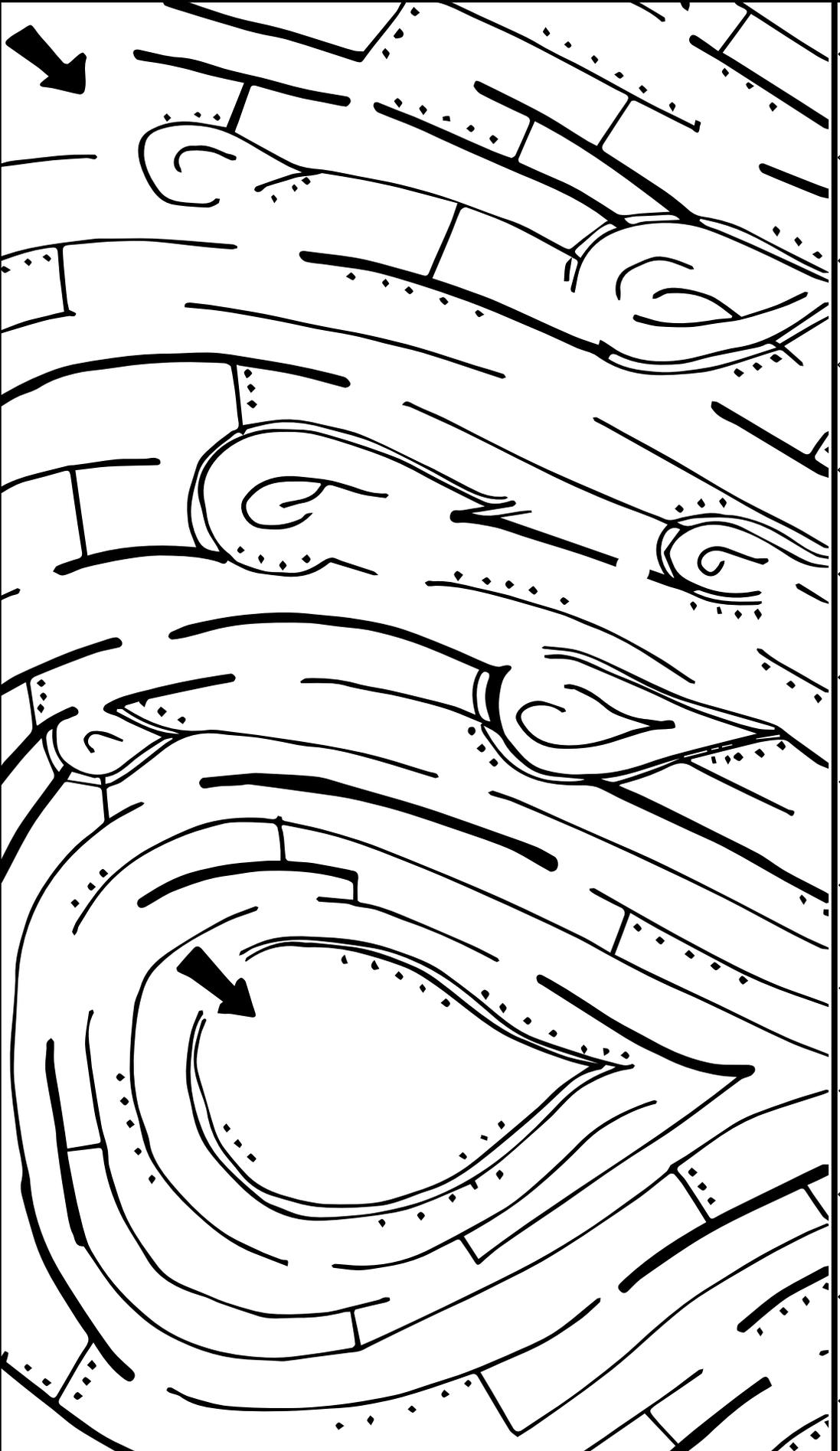
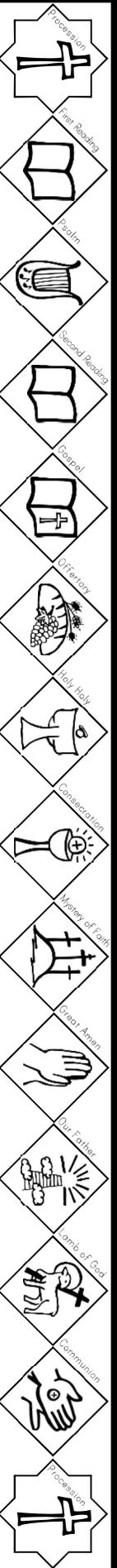
BKHEAROWHISPWVO

If today you  
hear his voice,  
harden not  
your hearts.

VOICEPWLHARDENSOANOTPEO



Are you saying extra prayers for  
Lent? Lent is a time to grow  
closer to God, and prayer can  
help you do that.



# Gospel

A woman gave water to Jesus, and He taught her about the living water that leads to eternal life in Heaven.



### One Minute Meditations

#### St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

Born in Mayorga, Spain, in 1538, St. Turibius studied law at the University of Salamanca. Known for his prudence and integrity as a judge, St. Turibius was nominated by King Philip II to be archbishop of Peru. After witnessing the need of the faithful in Lima, St. Turibius agreed and was ordained. He spent his office reforming the Peruvian diocese of corruption, founded schools, seminaries, and hospitals, and worked to protect the rights of the natives.

#### Lent is about love

Lent can feel discouraging. After all, we give up things we like and focus on suffering. Yet, in Holy Week, for which Lent is the preparation, we see God’s response to us in our sins. He meets us in our mess. He returns our rejection with freely offered love, our selfishness with radical self-gift, and our suffering with unfathomable mercy. We give up things for Lent because Love gave Himself up for us.

“[Our Lord] is thinking about you and not only about you but about every hair of your head: this is an article of faith and you must not have the slightest doubt about it... you have no cause to doubt that he is looking upon you with love...” — St. Francis de Sales, *Selected Letters*

### Create space for grace

Lent is not just a season of temporary sacrifice, but a call to lasting conversion. Consider choosing disciplines that reshape daily habits and create space for grace. Here are five meaningful ways to begin redirecting your path:

**Practice trust.** “Which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life?” (Matthew 6:27). Concern is human, but persistent worry bears little fruit. When anxiety rises, turn it into prayer, “Jesus, I trust You, I place this moment and its outcome in Your hands.” Trust grows through repetition.

**Refocus your heart.** Lasting fulfillment does not come from appearance or possessions, but from knowing God and resting in His love. Keep a daily record of blessings received. Review it often.

**Create quiet.** St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “God is the friend of silence.” Silence begins by turning off what

competes for attention. Place screens in another room. Silence notifications. Turn to God in the silence.

**Give rather than acquire.** Learn to distinguish between wants and needs. Limiting spending to what is truly necessary challenges the habit of

“Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving.”  
St. Augustine

seeking comfort or status in possessions. When we forgo nonessential purchases and redirect those resources to others, we cultivate detachment, strengthen generosity, and put our security in God.

**Choose mercy.** Resentment binds the heart; forgiveness frees it. On the Cross, Christ chose mercy. This Lent, choose the same path toward healing and peace.

### Why Do Catholics Do That? Why do Catholics practice prayer, penance, and almsgiving during Lent?

Prayer, penance, and almsgiving are grounded in the prophets’ call to genuine conversion. Joel urges the people to return to God with their whole hearts, not merely with outward gestures. Isaiah makes clear that the fast God desires feeds the hungry and shelters the poor, linking worship with justice. Jesus deepens this teaching in

Matthew 6. He assumes His followers will pray, fast, and give alms, but warns against practicing them for recognition.

When done in secret, these disciplines purify motives, reshape desire, and free us from attachment to possessions and approval. Properly embraced, they train the heart to seek lasting treasure in God rather than passing reward.

## The right time is now

When is the right time to proclaim the Gospel, live the faith with greater intention, and renew our commitment to God's plan? During a January Angelus address, Pope Leo said, "God is at work at all times; every moment is 'God's time'." The call to discipleship is not reserved for a future time when life feels more settled. It is meant for us today.

**God works in uncertain moments.** The Gospels show that Jesus did not wait for favorable conditions. Matthew records that His public ministry began after John the Baptist's arrest, a moment marked by instability and threat. Rather than withdraw, Jesus proclaimed, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*" (Matthew 4:17). What seemed like a setback became the starting point of His mission. If we postpone

necessary change until circumstances improve, we may never act. Every moment, even a difficult one, can become the moment of conversion because God is always at work.

**God draws close.** Jesus also chose an unexpected location. He began not in Jerusalem, the religious center, but in Galilee, a region known for cultural and religious diversity. His mission made clear that God's grace is not confined to a single place or people. As Pope Leo explained, the Gospel reveals a God who draws near to all. No environment is beyond His presence. In our own lives, this means that God's invitation unfolds in ordinary settings. He calls us to deeper friendship, lasting conversion, and faithful witness wherever we are.

### from **S**cripture

#### Matthew 26:14-27:66, God turns suffering into glory

In this passage, we read Matthew's account of the Passion, which begins with Judas agreeing to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and continues through the preparations for the Last Supper. At that meal, Jesus institutes the Eucharist, giving His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity to His disciples. The contrast is striking. While Judas pursues his own self-interest, Jesus gives Himself in total self-offering.

In Gethsemane, the contrast deepens. As Jesus endures profound anguish, He asks His closest companions to remain with Him in prayer. They fall asleep. Soon after, Judas arrives with an armed

crowd and identifies Jesus with a kiss. Jesus is then bound, falsely accused, mocked, and beaten. By the next day, He is scourged, condemned, crucified, and laid in the tomb.

Through these events, Matthew highlights Jesus' trust in the Father and His commitment to the Father's will. The Passion is not a sign of divine abandonment. It reveals the depth of God's mercy. In Christ's willing sacrifice, suffering becomes the means of redemption, grace is poured out, and death itself is conquered. Holy Week shows that God can transform even the darkest hour into the path to glory.

### **Q** Does repeated failure & change how God loves me? **A**

It can be discouraging to struggle with the same sins repeatedly. The pattern may feel discouraging. Yet discouragement should never become despair. The central truth of the Christian life is that when repentance is sincere and there is a real desire to improve, God always receives us. As Pope Francis said, "He does not tire in forgiving. We are the ones who tire in asking for forgiveness." His mercy does not diminish with repetition.

At times, God may permit ongoing struggles to deepen our humility. Repeated weakness can protect us from spiritual pride, which blinds us to our faults and keeps us from seeking grace. Humility, however, recognizes imperfection without losing trust. A humble person is not shocked by failure but returns to God with greater dependence.

If you feel anxious about Confession, whether for a new sin or a familiar one, remember the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son. He waits, watches, and runs to meet his child. This is how God receives us. In every sincere confession, we encounter not frustration, but mercy renewed.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**March 1 – St. David of Wales (c. 601).** St. David is the patron saint of Wales. He was born into Welsh nobility, but instead chose to become a priest. He was later consecrated a bishop. He is best known for founding an ascetic monastery, and ridding the area of the Pelagian heresy, which states that we must earn our salvation. He was known for his inspiring preaching, penitential life, and kindness to the poor.

**March 4 – St. Casimir of Poland (1483).** Born to King Casimir IV of Poland, St. Casimir became known for his piety and integrity at a young age. When

the prince was older and his father sent him to conquer Hungary, Casimir assessed the odds against winning the war and turned back out of concern for his troops. He resolved never to be involved in war again. He died of illness when he was twenty-five.

**March 19 – St. Joseph, Husband of Mary (1st Century).** Jesus' earthly father and husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

**March 29 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (1st Century).** On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when He was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

#### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
Publishers of *Growing in Faith™* and *Partners in Faith™*  
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax  
<http://www.infaithpublishing.com>

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

# FAITH FORMATION

Immaculate Conception Church

March 8, 2026

## What is the significance of the number 40 in Holy Scripture?

**No matter how excited and determined we are as Lent starts, the high of Ash Wednesday can start to slide away as the reality of the next several weeks sets in.**

***In the Bible, 40 is the number of preparation before something new. It marks a period of purification before renewal, of struggle before mission, of surrender before promise. Lent follows this ancient pattern.***

One of the earliest and most dramatic examples is the flood in Genesis. Rain fell for 40 days and 40 nights upon the earth. At first glance, this seems only like destruction. But the flood was also a cleansing. Corruption and violence had overtaken humanity, and through those 40 days the world was washed clean. When the waters receded, God established a covenant with Noah; and thus a new beginning emerged from this time of trial! The key here is that the 40 days were not meaningless suffering; they were preparation for renewal.

We see the same pattern in the story of Israel's 40 years in the desert. After God freed His people from slavery in Egypt, they did not immediately enter the Promised Land. Instead, they wandered. The desert was a place of testing. Hunger exposed their complaints. Thirst revealed their fears. Hardship uncovered their longing to return to slavery rather than trust God. Yet it was in the wilderness that they learned dependence. God fed them with manna from heaven and water from the rock. He formed them into a people who knew His law and relied on His providence. The desert stripped away false security and shaped them into a nation ready to receive the promise. Forty years transformed former slaves into God's covenant people, fully prepared and on fire to do His will.

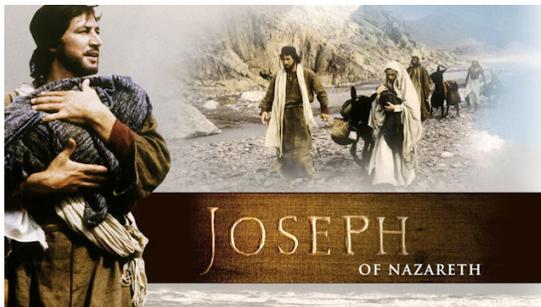
Then we come to Our Lord Himself.

Before beginning His public ministry, Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness. There, He faced temptation from the devil. He experienced hunger and isolation. Where Israel had failed in the desert, Christ remained faithful. He resisted the temptation to turn stones into bread, to test God, to grasp earthly power. After those 40 days of preparation through self-denial and union with the Father, He emerged ready to proclaim the Kingdom. His ministry was prepared in silence and sacrifice.

Other biblical moments echo the same meaning. Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai before receiving the Law. The prophet Jonah warned Nineveh that it had 40 days to repent before destruction. Again and again, 40 marks a merciful space: time to be purified, time to turn back, time to prepare for what God is about to do next.

This is why Lent lasts 40 days. The Church is not being arbitrary, but deliberately placing us within a biblical rhythm.  
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## MARCH MONTH OF ST. JOSEPH

*“Joseph shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the Guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men. Hence it came about, that the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, that He obeyed him and that He rendered to him, all those offices that children are bound to render to their parents. From this two-fold dignity flowed the obligation which nature lays upon the head of families, so that Joseph became the Guardian, the Administrator and the legal Defender of the Divine house, whose chief he was. And, during the whole course of his life, he fulfilled those charges and those duties. ... It is then, natural and worthy, that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the Family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover, with the cloak of his heavenly patronage, and defend the Church of Jesus Christ.*

***“In him the Old Testament finds its fitting close.***

***He brought the noble line of patriarchs and prophets to its promised fulfilment.***

***What the divine goodness had offered as a promise to them, he held in his arms.***

***Obviously, Christ does not now deny to Joseph that intimacy, reverence and very high honour which He gave him on earth, as a son to His father.***

***Rather, we must say that in Heaven, Christ completes and perfects, all that He gave at Nazareth.” – St Bernardine of Siena (1380-1444) (An excerpt from his On Saint Joseph [Sermon 2])anastpaul.org***

## SCHOOL NEWS & ACTIVITIES

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

**Stations of the Cross with the School** – Parents and parishioners are invited to join us on Fridays at 2 p.m. in the church, for Stations of the Cross.

**Scholarship Opportunities** – Scholarship applications are now open for students in Grades 6 through 8 for the 2026-2027 school year. Contact the school office for information.



**Now Enrolling for 2026–2027** – Families considering Immaculate Conception for Preschool–8th grade are encouraged to submit online applications as soon as possible. Scholarship deadlines for Kindergarten–8th grade are approaching, and space is limited. A few Preschool spots remain. Apply on our website today or schedule a tour. Contact our Admissions Director, Mrs. Katie Lewis, at (614) 267-6579 for more information.

**Referral Credit** – One of the best parts of our school is our families and we are grateful when you help us grow our community! For the 2026-2027 school year, we're offering a \$300 Referral Tuition Credit for any new family you refer who enrolls. Contact our Admissions Director, Mrs. Katie Lewis, at (614) 267-6579 for more information.

### BISHOP WATTERSON

**Bishop Watterson Men's Night 2026 – Called to Lead, Committed to Excellence**

Bishop Watterson's 2026 Men's Night will be held on Thursday, March 26 at 6:30 p.m. This year's theme is "Called to Lead, Committed to Excellence," with guest speaker Chris Garner '88. Garner is a veteran SEC football official and author of *Whistles and Wisdom: Lessons on Life and Leadership from an SEC Football Official*. Tickets are \$99 per person with proceeds benefiting the Msgr. Grimes Scholarship Fund for tuition assistance. Ticketing and sponsorship opportunities can be found at [bishopwatterson.com](http://bishopwatterson.com). All are welcome!

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## LENTEN EVENINGS OF REFLECTION

Hosted by the Bridgettine Sisters

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26th | 7:00 - 8:15 PM

Fr. Michael Hartge

*"Renewed in the Seasons of Lent and Easter"*

THURSDAY, MARCH 12th | 7:00 - 8:15 PM

Fr. Michael Donovan

*"Mysteries Unfold in the Easter Triduum"*

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### ECCLESIASTICAL NOTARY – OPEN POSITION

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus seeks to employ an Ecclesiastical Notary. This is a full-time position, with benefits, at the Diocesan Offices in Downtown Columbus. Free parking is available.

**JOB SUMMARY:** Under the direction of the judge, the Ecclesiastical Notary collects proofs for marriage annulment cases and assists the judge in processing the various cases according to canon law. The Ecclesiastical Notary is expected to use sound canonical and personal judgment in carrying out the duties of his/her office and other routine duties and responsibilities of the Tribunal. Familiarity with Catholic teaching on marriage is a necessity. The qualified candidate should possess excellent oral and written communication skills. Excellent data entry, computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft software applications is required.

**REQUIREMENTS:** The qualified candidate should be a Catholic in good standing in the Church, outstanding for good character, prudence, and doctrine. Qualified candidates should send a cover letter, résumé, and three references to Jonathan Kash, HR Director at [jkash@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:jkash@columbuscatholic.org).

### LAGHI CHAIR LECTURE AT THE JOSEPHINUM

The Pontifical College Josephinum's 2026 Pio Cardinal Laghi Chair Lecture will feature a presentation by Mary Healy, STD, Professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary (Detroit), best-selling author, and international speaker. She will present "Reclaiming the Kerygma in the Power of the Holy Spirit" on Tuesday, March 17, at 7 p.m. in the Jessing Center. Free admission and parking; reservations not required. For more information, visit [pcj.edu/lecture](http://pcj.edu/lecture). About the presentation: The present time is a critical moment for the Church. In a world wounded by the empty promises of the sexual revolution and wearied by divisions, there are signs of a new openness to faith, even among those far from God. Are we ready? In this talk, Dr. Healy will explain how the Church is called to rediscover the apostolic proclamation of the Gospel in all its purity and in a radical reliance on God.



**DAUGHTERS OF MARY DISCERNMENT RETREAT**

The Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus offer a "Come and See" Weekend in Steubenville, Ohio, March 27-29. This Discernment Retreat is for young women who are juniors in high school and up and are considering a possible call to the Religious Life. Take advantage of this opportunity to place your life before the Lord in preparation for Holy Week.

For more information or to register, please call (740) 346-2625.

Ohio Dominican University  
Salt & Light's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
**5K Run & Walk**  
Saturday, April 18  
1216 Sunbury Rd., Columbus  
Registration | 8 - 9:30 a.m.  
Kid Dash | 9:45 a.m.  
5K | 10 a.m.

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) for more information and to register!

The Salt & Light 5K is a fundraising race to support the ODU Campus Ministry group Salt & Light as well as a local nonprofit organization. This year we are partnering with Asia's Hope.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities, please email Cole Sherburne at sherburna@ohiodominican.edu.

Franked by the Dominican Sisters of Peace

The Salt & Light Campus Ministry at Ohio Dominican University is hosting its 3rd Annual Salt & Light 5K on April 18 at 10 a.m. This event supports Salt & Light's mission to foster faith, service, and community among students through service projects, worship nights, and retreats, while also benefiting Asia's Hope, a nonprofit dedicated to providing care and education for at-risk children in Southeast Asia. We invite the ODU and greater Catholic community to join us in supporting students and a meaningful global cause.



**SERRA, NOW MORE THAN EVER!**

NO PRIEST, NO EUCHARIST!

**GOD IS STILL CALLING!**

It is up to the whole church to amplify His Call! Are you interested in becoming more involved in promoting, encouraging, and praying for vocations? Serra Club is a lay apostolate that has been in our Diocese for over 40 years. We are looking for more members to stand alongside our priests, seminarians and women religious to support vocations for the Diocese of Columbus. We meet at the Jessing Center at the Pontifical College Josephinum on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 11:30 AM for Rosary, lunch, and a guest speaker. Please click on the QR CODE if you are interested!



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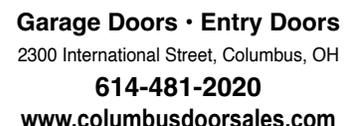
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