

Catholic Retreats in the Ignatian Tradition
 †Sacraments †Silence †Spiritual Direction

"Come and See" (Jn 1:46) our Lord again and again as you immerse yourself into the silence of an Ignatian Weekend Retreat. Through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignace of Loyola, experience the "peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding". (Phil 4:6)

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CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS

100 E Eighth Street Cincinnati, OH 45202

Clergy Communications is a monthly publication of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

ACTION REQUIRED

CRS RICE BOWLS – PLEASE TURN IN

Lent has ended and so has Rice Bowl! If you have not already, please designate a date, time and location for your community to turn in their CRS Rice Bowl donations. Send all collected funds to **Catholic Relief Services, Attn: CRS Rice Bowl, PO Box 5200, Harlan, IA 51593-0700**. Please email [Jillian Foster](mailto:jillian.foster@crs.org) with any questions or concerns.

CRS COLLECTION RESOURCES

The Catholic Relief Services Collection will be taken up across our archdiocese the weekend of April 13 - 14. Your generous support from the pulpit, in your bulletin, newsletter, and social media, as well as through posters throughout your facilities, contributes to the collection's success and to an enhanced global solidarity among your parishioners.

Collection resources: [Archbishop's letter](#), [a bulletin insert](#), [Parish Resource Guide](#), a [Prayer card](#). For more resources and materials in Spanish check out [this resource site](#). The National Collections Office of the USCCB will send promotional information as well. Email [Jillian Foster](mailto:jillian.foster@crs.org) with questions.

TORNADO RELIEF COLLECTION

If your parish has held a voluntary special collection to help those impacted by the recent tornadoes and severe storms in the northern part of the archdiocese, please send the proceeds by May 3, 2024, to: Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Attn: Finance Office, 100 East Eighth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. Please mark in the memo line: **Tornado Relief**.

NEW RITUAL BOOK:

HOLY COMMUNION AND WORSHIP OF THE EUCHARISTIC MYSTERY OUTSIDE MASS

The new ritual book *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass* has been approved for use no later than December 1, 2024. This replaces the older ritual book for adoration, exposition, Eucharistic processions, distribution of Holy Communion outside Mass, etc. [Learn more on the ODWS website](#).

OPTIONAL

PRIESTS' SPRING RETREAT

The Priests' Spring Retreat will be at the **Spiritual Center of Maria Stein** from **Monday, April 22 through Friday, April 26, 2024**. Reverend Basil Cole, OP, will be the retreat director. A flyer was mailed. To register, please contact [Sarah Frohmler](mailto:Sarah.Frohmler@dioceseofcolumbus.org) (513.263.6651).

PRIESTS' ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The Priests' Anniversary Dinner will be at the **Bergamo Center, Dayton, May 6, 2024, beginning with prayer at 5:00 p.m.** The classes to be honored will be 1964, 1974, 1984 and 1999.

PRIESTS: ARCHBISHOP SCHNURR'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – SAVE THE DATE

This year Archbishop Schnurr will celebrate his fiftieth anniversary as a priest. The priests of the archdiocese will be able to celebrate and congratulate him on **Sunday, August 4** at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology. There will be evening prayer, social and dinner, which will begin at 4:00 p.m. More information to follow this summer.

SAVE THE DATE! 59TH ANNUAL MELCHIZEDEK OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Priests and Deacons of the Archdiocese are invited to play in this year's Melchizedek Open, which will be held at the Pipestone Golf Club, 4344 Benner Road, in Miamisburg, Ohio, on **Monday, July 22, 2024**. Save the date! Registration is at noon with a Shotgun Start at 1:00 p.m. As usual, following the outing (and for non-golfers), there will be a cash bar social, beginning at 6:00 p.m., followed by a meal. It's a great way to build fraternity. If you have any questions, please email [Deacon Tim Helmick](mailto:Deacon.Tim.Helmick@dioceseofcolumbus.org) or call him at 513.535.7869. [Click here to download registration form for the outing.](#)

EMBER DAY

The seminarians of the Archdiocese are hosting a day of discernment for high school boys to pray and discuss discernment, priesthood, and seminary. The day will also include food and games. The event is called Ember Day and will take place on **Friday, June 7** at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and **Saturday, June 8** at Sacred Heart of Jesus, McCartyville from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. [Click here](#) for more information. Also, see bulletin entry on page 7.

If you would like a poster for the event, please go to https://catholicaoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ember-day-2024_final.pdf.

HUMAN RESOURCE TRAINING FOR FAMILY LEADERSHIP TEAMS: MAY AND JUNE 2024

"How do I hire the best candidate for my Family of Parishes? How do I grow and develop my employees to their greatest potential for service in our Family of Parishes? How do I help them move on gracefully from our Family when that time has come?" These are the principal questions and topics that our archdiocesan Human Resources team will address at our next workshop for pastors and Family of Parish directors. Choose a location nearest you and register all managers and supervisors from your Family of Parishes for \$24 TOTAL. [Register online with the Center for Parish Vitality.](#)

2024: YEAR OF PRAYER

Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be marked as a Year of Prayer. The Holy Father announced its launch on January 21, on the fifth annual celebration of the "Sunday of the Word of God". The Pope wrote: "From now on I am happy to think that the year preceding the Jubilee event, 2024, will be dedicated to a great 'symphony' of prayer. First of all, to recover the desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and adore him." In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee, therefore, all are invited to promote

the centrality of individual and community prayer during this year. The Vatican has made some [useful resources](#) available to help people to better understand and rediscover the value of prayer, including at Mass, Exposition, and other liturgies.

WITH ZEAL AND PATIENCE: WORSHIP COMMISSION WORKSHOP

TUES., APR. 16 (DAYTON), THURS., APR. 18 (ONLINE), MON., APR. 22 (CINCINNATI)

Join other parish worship leaders – pastors, directors of worship, liturgy coordinators, worship commission chairs and members, sacristans, directors of music, et al. – for our annual workshop on the role of the worship commission. This year, our focus will be not only on the basic best practices for any worship commission, but especially on formation and role of a Family worship commission. [Learn more and register on the ODWS website.](#)

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS: JULY 17-21, 2024, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Join thousands of fellow disciples from across the U.S. and beyond for this event, including prayer, workshops, concerts, and more. The National Congress is a centerpiece of the multi-year Eucharistic Revival initiated and led by the U.S. Catholic Bishops. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is **not** organizing a trip or buying a block of tickets, but Families of Parishes, schools, or other groups may certainly do so. Registration is available for the entire event or for just individual days. [Learn more and register.](#) Also, see the bulletin entry on page 7.

CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITAL

The Social Action Office is working with the Catholic Conference of Ohio to bring Catholics from across Ohio to the Statehouse to meet with elected officials and advocate for abolishing the death penalty and other policies that respect life, focus on the poor and vulnerable, and recognize families as the central social institution of society. The event is free to attend and lunch will be provided. Please join us! [Click here for details and register.](#)

ARE YOUR PARISHES' 2023 MISSION DONATIONS IN?

Has your parish sent in your past 2023 Missionary Co-op Plan (MCP) collections? Also, some parishes have not mailed in their parishioners' donations and envelopes from World Mission Sunday (WMS) of October 2023. **Please check with your staff and have them clearly indicate which past mission donations are for the MCP group OR for WMS of last year.** Please mail them **soon** to: Mission Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E. Eighth St., Cincinnati, OH 45202.

Our fellow Catholics in 1,150 mission dioceses and missionary organizations appreciate your spiritual and financial support to carry on God's work of love and compassion in some very difficult and hostile locations and situations. If you have any MCP or WMS questions, please email [Melonise Knight](#) or call her at 513.263.6681.

HAVE EXTRA MASS STIPENDS?

Missioners from our archdiocese are very grateful for any extra Mass stipends you may have to help support their ministries. For more information and/or to mail them to us, email [Melonise Knight](#) or call her at 513.263.6681.

NEED SUBSIDIES FOR MISSION OR PARISH TWINNING TRIPS?

Thanks to some donors, the Mission Office has limited funds to help defray costs for such trips. For subsidy applications, email [Dr. Mike Gable](#), Mission Office Director, or call him at 513.263.6680.

MAY I HAVE LUNCH WITH YOU AND YOUR STAFF OR WITH YOUR DEANERY MEETING?

Having served in parishes in the U.S.A. and overseas, I understand how developing a “missionary instinct” can unite a community of faith. I would very much like to discuss this with pastors and their leadership teams, perhaps over lunch. Please email me, [Dr. Mike Gable](#), Mission Office Director, or call me at 513.263.6680.

MYTHS, MESS, and MASTERY

Dr. Stuart Bassman, Psychologist and Mr. Daniel Bassman, LPCC will hold a presentation for all clergy and anyone interested in assisting those who have been abused by a member of the Catholic church. It will take place in the St. Susanna Room (basement of church) at St. Susanna Church, 615 Reading Road, Mason, OH 45040. The talk will be on **Thursday, June 6, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. - 12 :00 p.m.**

Abstract: Services that focus on the synthesis of research and clinical practice are vital in providing efficacious change for the men and women who have been victims of childhood sexual abuse. This presentation will address what processes have been helpful in being a catalyst in changing one’s inner life as well as providing meaningful applications and fulfilling experiences. Initially, it will focus on the **myths** regarding childhood sexual abuse, including grooming behaviors and delayed disclosures. Subsequently, it will address the **mess** that follows from not recognizing the adverse consequences and impairments that result from childhood sexual abuse. The presentation will conclude by looking at the **mastery** that could arise from moving from being a victim to a survivor and a thriver. At the end of the talk, there will be time for questions.

Please contact Teresa Maley, Coordinator of Ministry to Survivors of Abuse for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, at 513.263.6623 to register.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

PERMISSION FOR ALIENATING PROPERTY

The Code of Canon Law requires that the permission of the diocesan bishop be obtained for alienation of the stable patrimony of a public juridic person when the value of such exceeds \$25,000. Such permission can only be granted with the consent of the Archdiocesan Finance Council and of the College of Consultors of the Presbyteral Council (see [canons 1291-1294](#)). **Consent of these bodies is sought only at regularly scheduled meetings. In order for an item to be included on the agenda for consideration, the necessary materials must be sent to the Chancellor no later than three weeks prior to the date of the meeting.** The Archdiocesan Finance Council will meet on May 22, 2024 and August 28, 2024. The Presbyteral Council will meet on May 6, 2024; September 9, 2024; and October 21, 2024. Please contact Fr. Jason Williams (chancellor@catholicaoc.org or 513.263.3342) early when considering selling a property, so as to know how best to proceed.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULING 2024-2025

Parishes submitted requests for confirmation scheduling during the 2024-2025 academic year in early March. Those parishes whose confirmations will be celebrated by the Archbishop should already have received notice by email and postal mail of the assigned date and time. For those confirmations which will rotate to be celebrated by the local Deans next cycle, the respective Dean has been sent the scheduling request information you submitted. If he has not already done so, he will be reaching out soon to the parish confirmation contact or pastor to settle on a date and time that is mutually agreeable to both the parish and the Dean’s schedule. Thanks for your assistance and understanding with this scheduling process.

SENIOR CLERGY LUNCHEON – CANCELLED

A total solar eclipse will take place on Monday, April 8. Due to the path and timing of the total solar eclipse, traffic concerns, and for those wanting to view the eclipse, the Senior Clergy Luncheon scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2024 at the Bergamo Center, Dayton, **HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**

SACRED OILS: CUSTODY AND CARE

You can find guidance on proper custody and care of the sacred oils [on the ODWS website](#).

MENTAL WELLNESS MINISTRY

Mental Wellness Ministry pilot parishes are working diligently to kick off ministry in their Family of Parishes. The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers supports our pilot ministry through training and resources. Our desire to expand this ministry throughout the archdiocese after the pilot period remains in our prayers. Please pray for the volunteers and for all those who live with mental illness, those who support loved ones, and community members.

The Pope asks us to pray for the new martyrs. Some saints who were martyred lived with a mental illness. Examples are Saint Oscar Romero who lived with obsessive compulsive disorder, Blessed Rutilio Grande who lived with schizophrenia, and Saint Mark Ji Tianxiang who lived with addiction. These martyrs demonstrate that mental illness does not prevent a person from living a life of great holiness and heroic love of God and neighbor. We pray that these saints inspire us to, in the words of Pope Francis, "Never tire of bearing witness to the Gospel, even in times of tribulation". (Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers <https://www.catholicmhm.org/click-to-pray>)

ONBOARDING

If you have hired a new business manager or other employee with human resources responsibilities, please notify [Rob Reid](#) (513.263.6611) and he will be happy to come to your location and provide an archdiocesan HR orientation and onboarding. The HR topics covered would include: HR Website Navigation, FMLA and Leaves of Absence, Policies and Procedures, Hiring Issues, Harassment and Discrimination, Termination, HR Best Practices.

Likewise, if you have hired or appointed someone to have overall responsibility for Communications for your Family of Parishes, please notify [Jennifer Schack](#) (513.263.6618) so that Jennifer can provide that person with an overview of the resources and collaboration opportunities available.

GUIDELINES FOR NON-RENEWAL/REDUCTION-IN-FORCE

To ensure proper procedure is followed, the Department of Human Resources wants to remind all Schools of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati considering a reduction in force or non-renewal of staff to [review the guidelines that are in place](#).

Schools of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati strive to provide the highest level of instruction to all students. However, should economics, decrease in school enrollment, or other conditions necessitate a reduction or non-renewal of staff, school administrators will provide a standard and objective approach for reducing the size and/or composition of their teaching staff consistent with student educational needs and teacher reduction and non-renewal guidelines. A reduction in force report must be prepared by the school administrator and sent to the Director of Human Resources and the School Office Regional Director for review. Parishes considering a reduction in force of non-school employees should only send a report to the Director of Human Resources. A non-renewal of staff must be reviewed with the Department of Human Resources.

If you have any questions, please contact [Rob Reid](#) (513.263-6611) or [Meg Paul](#) (513.263.3341).

2024 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (CMA) UPDATE

As of March 21, \$5.3 million has been pledged so far toward the \$5.5 million goal. Updated totals for the CMA, including parish progress, and all resources can be found at:

<https://resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/stewardship-and-giving/cma-resources>

Use the password "cma2007".

For more information or questions about the CMA, please contact [Carl Brown](#) or call 513.263.6639.

CAMPAIGN FEASIBILITY STUDY

A campaign feasibility study is underway to explore how we can best address some pressing mission-critical needs here in our archdiocese while also providing significant financial support for Families of Parishes. This study aims to determine support for a potential archdiocesan-wide campaign that would focus on the following three areas:

- 1) **Support for Families of Parishes (50%)** - Provide funding to address capital improvements, programs, staffing needs, and/or other projects identified within the leadership teams of Families of Parishes.
- 2) **Capital Needs at Our Campus Ministry Locations (30%)** - Provide funding to address aging facilities and building expansions needed to meet the growth of this vital ministry at the University of Cincinnati, Miami University, and Wright State University.
- 3) **Cathedral Basilica (20%)** - Provide funding for several capital improvement projects, replacement of the organs, and overall safety, security, and restorative initiatives for the "mother church" of the archdiocese.

The study will take approximately 2 months to complete and will help us determine whether now is the right time to consider a campaign. No decision on a campaign has been made at this point.

[Click here to read the Study Announcement Letter from Archbishop Schnurr that was recently sent to all priests.](#)

Full Link to view the letter:

<https://resources.catholicaoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ArchbishopCampaignLtr-Priests-3-19-24.pdf>

For questions or more information, email [David Kissell](#), Director of the Stewardship Department, or call him at 513.263.3381.

CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (CMA)

The CMA is a national organization of physicians, nurses and other health care professionals that seeks to assist its members in living out their Catholic faith in the context of their family and professional lives. There are presently two Guilds in the archdiocese located in Cincinnati and Dayton. In this ever-confusing culture, the CMA is looking to make its presence known to all who are engaged in health care and are members of our Families of Parishes. [Please see the information available here](#) for insertion in bulletins and website content. The use of these materials and pulpit invitations to the members of our parishes who are working in these professions is strongly encouraged.

The Cincinnati Guild is looking for a priest chaplain. If you are interested, please contact [Fr. Jan Schmidt](#) at 513.263.6653.

SUMMER COURSES AT MOUNT ST. MARY'S SEMINARY & SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

If you have parishioners asking about how they may grow in knowledge and participate more fully in the life of the Church, please encourage them to take courses at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology. Two courses being offered this summer are Tribunal Training (taught by Dcn. Richard Hobbs at St. Mary of the Assumption in Springboro) and Introduction to Catholic Political Philosophy (taught by Prof. Ken Craycraft at main campus and online). Please see www.athenaeum.edu for information.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIESTS' RETREATS/SABBATICALS

Saint Meinrad Seminary & School of Theology offers private retreats and personalized sabbaticals for priests. For more information, call 812.357.6439, email smipp@saintmeinrad.edu or see the website at: <https://www.saintmeinrad.edu/priests-ongoing-formation/>. A flyer is available from the Priestly Formation Office if interested.

BULLETIN ENTRIES

EMBER DAY 2024 - If you know a boy in high school, please share with him an exciting opportunity sponsored by the seminarians of the archdiocese called Ember Day. The day will be a day of prayer, discussions, food, and fun. Ember Day will be held on Friday, June 7 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology and Saturday, June 8 at Sacred Heart, McCartyville. For more information and to register, please go to catholicaoc.org/vocations.

ATTEND THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS JULY 17-21 IN INDIANAPOLIS - Join thousands of fellow disciples from across the U.S. and beyond for this event, which will include prayer, workshops, concerts, and more. The National Congress is a centerpiece of the multi-year Eucharistic Revival initiated and led by the U.S. Catholic Bishops. Groups or individuals may register for the entire event or for just a day. For more information, go to <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/>.

WELCOME REFUGEES TO CINCINNATI - Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio is the official refugee resettlement agency for southwestern Ohio, and we are welcoming hundreds of new families this year. As we set up housing for new arrivals, we need furniture and household items. We are particularly in need of couches and loveseats (non-pet and non-smoking preferable), dining room tables and chairs, end tables, lamps (table top or floor), pillows (must be new), and twin bedding (new or like-new). If you have items you would like to donate, please call us at 513.241.7745 to make arrangements.

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT - Are you concerned about an aging parent? Is your spouse depending on you more and more due to chronic illness? Have you found yourself caring for an adult child or a grandchild unexpectedly? Are you wondering how you came to be the caregiver for everyone in your family who needs help? Caregiver groups provide helpful resource information, understanding and encouragement. Consider joining a caregiver group so you can get the support you need! Call our Caregiver Careline at 513.869.4483, email can@ccswoh.org or visit <https://www.ccswoh.org/get-help/senior-caregiver-support-services/> to find a program near you. Sponsored by the Caregiver Assistance Network, a program of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio funded in part through the Council on Aging.

MASS FOR SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS - On Sunday, May 5 at the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Francis de Sales Church, Lebanon, Ohio, there will be a Mass for Survivors of Suicide Loss. All are invited to attend. Let us lift up our needs and prayers to ask for the intercession of St. Dymphna, Patron Saint of People Living with Mental Illness. St. Dymphna, we ask for your intercession for those living with mental illness and their families. Grant peace in their hearts and clarity of purpose. We remember all those who died by suicide. Creator of all, we entrust the souls of our loved ones and friends who died by suicide to Your Divine Mercy. We embrace all our families, friends, loved ones, parishioners impacted by suicide. May the Divine Healer bring them comfort. We pray for all those unnamed and unknown who died by suicide who have no one to pray for them.

FOOD FOR ALL - Nutritional, affordable food is not readily available to every person in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Hunger exists in our communities. Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio travels to where hunger is located in Adams, Brown, Clermont, Clinton and Highland Counties. Interested in reducing hunger and food insecurity, volunteering at a mobile pantry or learning more about hunger in our area? Call April Hoak, Food for All coordinator, at 513.672.3720 or email ahoak@ccswoh.org.

BECOME AN EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC) - Formation and training for new and veteran extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion will take place this spring. Some sessions will focus on ministry to the sick, hospitalized, and homebound and all sessions will prepare you to serve as an EMHC in your parish community. You can find more info and register at www.catholicaoc.org/worship.

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.

MINISTRY TO SURVIVORS OF ABUSE (REPORTING) - The Archdiocese of Cincinnati regards child abuse in all its forms as gravely sinful and criminal. Anyone who knows of or suspects child abuse by a legitimate member of the clergy or hierarchy, employee, or volunteer of the archdiocese should first report the abuse to the appropriate secular legal authority and then to Ms. Teresa Maley, Coordinator of Ministry to Survivors of Abuse of the Archdiocese, at 513.263.6623 or 1.800.686.2724 ext. 6623.

A RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Gift yourself time away from the busyness and demands of life as you immerse yourself in personal reflection and prayer. Embrace the silence and experience God's love and mercy.



JESUIT
Spiritual Center
at MILFORD



“Spirituality and Creativity in the Marriage Journey”

You are called to be a Sacrament of Christ's special love for His people. Rediscover your power to bless one another in your married relationship. As we follow a sequence of blessings for the various rhythms of the human journey together: beginnings, desires, thresholds, homecomings, states of the heart, callings, and beyond endings, may you be empowered to bless, heal and renew one another.

By taking the time to commit to this retreat together, you are making your primary vocation, your marriage, a priority in your life and a choice that will enrich you, your family and friends with much joy.



April 19 –21, 2024



\$620, includes private room and meals during **your** stay



Arrupe Building at the Jesuit Spiritual Center



To register:
online: jesuitspiritualcenter.com/retreats
email: reservations@jesuitspiritualcenter.com
phone: (513)248-3500 ext. 10



Learn more about JSC:
jesuitspiritualcenter.com/about/



Integrating Ignatian spirituality, psychology, and ethics, along with the tools of art, writing, and music, David and Carrie Nantais will invite retreatants to discover the riches of their own marital journey. Mimicking the flow of married life, the retreatants (in both private and shared prayer and discussion) will engage the creative processes in their spiritual life, weaving the insights from their prayer and reflections to make their relationships stronger and more fruitful.

5361 S. Milford Rd. Milford, OH 45150 | 513.248.3500 | www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com