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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

PLEASE MAIL IN WORLD MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION & ENVELOPES

Please mail your Mission Sunday donations and your parishioners' **envelopes and/or names** as soon as possible to: **Mission Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E. 8th St., Cincinnati, OH 45202.**

REMINDER for Missionary Co-op Plan (MCP): Please do **not** send these collections to the missionary organizations since our local archdiocesan Mission Office must record these donations for Vatican records. Instead, **please mail in any remaining MCP collections to the same address, per above.** Please indicate **which year** the funds were collected, 2024 or 2025. New MCP selections are made in January 2026, and we wish to not confuse these collections with last year's donations. Thank you so much for your hospitality and generosity to these visiting missionaries as many serve in very difficult mission situations.

Any questions or comments on either or both of these collections? Contact MCP Coordinator [Melonise Knight](#) (513.263.6681) or, if necessary, contact [Dr. Mike Gable](#) (513.263.6680).

OHIO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

Ohio's minimum wage is scheduled to increase to \$11.00 beginning January 1, 2026. The state constitution requires Ohio to raise the minimum wage each year based on the rate of inflation from a 12-month span. The state minimum wage is tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) for urban wage earners and clerical workers over the 12-month period prior to September. The CPI-W index increased by 3% over the 12-month period from September 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025. This means the state's current minimum wage of \$10.70 will jump to \$11.00 an hour.

Any questions, please contact [Rob Reid](#) (513.263.6611) or [Emily Niehaus](#) (513.263.3352).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Just a reminder that the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements are due by December 1, 2025. Each year, responsible individuals who hold decision making or policy setting positions, or who purchase equipment, supplies, or other goods, must sign the form. All Disclosure Statements must be kept in a confidential file at your location under lock and key.

If you have any questions regarding this reminder, please contact [Rob Reid](#) (513.263.6611).

Please [click here](#) for the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement.

OPTIONAL

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION – DECEMBER 9

The Advent Day of Reflection for priests of the archdiocese is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at the Transfiguration Center, Ludlow Falls. Reverend David Endres is the presenter and will speak on *The Church Fathers on the Incarnation: The Insights of John Chrysostom and Leo the Great*. Please email [Sarah Frohmler](mailto:Sarah.Frohmler@archdiococ.org) or call 513.263.6651 if you would like to attend.

PRIESTS' SPRING RETREAT 2026

The Priests Spring Retreat is scheduled for February 2-6, 2026 at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, Maria Stein, OH. Reverend Matthew Summe, LC is the presenter. More information to follow.

FOLLOW ARCHBISHOP CASEY!

Archbishop Casey has launched his own social media accounts. Follow him at:

- Instagram: [@archbishopcasey](https://www.instagram.com/archbishopcasey)
- Facebook: facebook.com/archbishopcasey

By following Archbishop Casey, you can pray with him throughout Advent as he has begun posting daily prayer reflections since Sunday, Nov. 30. Please help spread the word. See the sample Bulletin Entry on page 6.

NEW SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM FOR PARISH COMMUNICATORS

Last month, the Communications Office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati launched a powerful new tool **free of charge** for use by all Families of Parishes. Most Families are already onboard.

[Catholic Social Media](#), from Prenger Solutions Group, is a social media management platform designed specifically for Catholic parishes and dioceses. This tool enables the Communications Office to share content more efficiently and Families of Parishes to easily schedule and post that content to the Family and/or parish social media pages.

If you have not yet started using the Catholic Social Media platform, or would simply like a refresher, three one-hour online training sessions will be held in February, as follows:

- Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 2:00 PM
- Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 11:30 AM
- Thursday, Feb. 26 at 1:30 PM

If you are involved in creating and/or posting the social media for your parish or Family of Parishes, [please sign up for one of these sessions here](#). Contact archdiocese Social Media Coordinator [Taylor Motley](#) (513.263.3383) with any questions.

CENTER FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION APPRECIATION BANQUET

Join us for an evening of drinks, dinner, and fellowship! Saturday, February 7 at the Savannah Center, West Chester. Cocktail hour begins at 5:00 p.m.

The CNE Appreciation Banquet is our chance to celebrate and recognize the many fruits of evangelization across the archdiocese. All parish and apostolate staff are invited to attend for free and may bring one guest at no cost. This banquet includes the presentation of our annual Radiate Christ Awards given to Evangelists nominated by their peers and community. [Learn more and register here](#).

CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR WITH ARCHBISHOP CASEY

All are invited to join Archbishop Casey as he celebrates Mass for the Closing of the Jubilee Year on **Sunday, Dec. 28, 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains**. At the request of the Holy Father, a collection for the poor will be taken. Priests who wish to concelebrate should email [Father Jason Williams](#). Please utilize the Bulletin Entry on page 6.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

Catholic Schools Week is quickly approaching! We will be celebrating with Catholic schools across the United States during Catholic Schools Week (January 25-January 31, 2026). The NCEA theme this year is ***United in Faith and Community!***

Catholic schools benefit all year long from the religious guidance, prayers and support parishes provide. Many parishes join in the national Catholic Schools Week celebration by devoting a Mass to Catholic education. Schools start the week by inviting parishioners and community members to parish-centered events and school open houses that feature their outstanding academic programs, religious education, and service opportunities.

Catholic Schools Week Masses: We are planning three large Masses for Catholic Schools Week. Each of these Masses will include student representatives from area Catholic schools. All priests and religious are welcome to attend. The Masses are:

Cincinnati: Tuesday, January 27, 2026, Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains
325 W. Eighth St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Archbishop Casey will celebrate. Pre-Mass procession begins at 9:40 a.m.
Please arrive by 9:30 a.m.

Dayton Region: Wednesday, January 28, 2026, Church of the Ascension
2025 Woodman Dr., Kettering, OH 45420
Archbishop Casey will celebrate. Please arrive by 9:40 a.m.

Northern Region: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
9377 OH-119, Anna, OH 45302
Archbishop Casey will celebrate. Please arrive by 9:40 a.m.

If you are a priest and wish to concelebrate, [please RSVP here](#) by January 14, 2026.

Archbishop Casey's Broadcast: Archbishop Casey will be conducting the annual broadcast to Catholic high schools on Monday, January 26 at 9:30 a.m. He will be broadcasting from Elder High School. During the broadcast, Archbishop Casey will respond via teleconference to questions asked by students across the archdiocese. This broadcast is intended for all high school students to view with representative students from each school asking questions.

For the daily themes for Catholic Schools Week go to: [Catholic Schools Week \(ncea.org\)](#).

ORDER YOUR 2025-26 DIRECTORY & BUYER'S GUIDE

All orders for the 2025-26 *Archdiocese of Cincinnati Directory & Buyer's Guide* have shipped – but there is still limited availability. Parish and/or individual [copies can be ordered here](#). Thank you!

NEW IMAGE LIBRARY AVAILABLE FOR PARISH COMMUNICATORS

Over the past few months, the archdiocese Communications Office has built out a Digital Asset Management (DAM) system to house photos and other images using a platform called Canto. Canto serves as a central repository for what is currently over 9,000 photos, graphics, and other visual resources. Access to this platform, which is free of charge, will enable Families of Parishes to easily search, download, and use this content in their own communications.

One point person from each Family of Parishes should sign up here: [Canto Point Person List](#). The point person will then be emailed a link at which to register with Canto. **Each Family of Parishes will be assigned one login to be shared among the appropriate individuals in the Family.** Contact archdiocese Photography Coordinator [Mary Fleisher](#) (513.263.6637) with any questions.

CHILD PROTECTION REVIEW BOARD

Members of the Archdiocesan Child Protection Review Board are selected from various fields and walks of life to ensure a broad spectrum of representation on this consultative body to assist the Archbishop in evaluating matters related to the protection of children and application of the Decree of on Child Protection. Currently we are seeking new members of the board who are parents of school aged children. There are approximately four meetings a year, quarterly, typically on Monday mornings. Pastors are asked to consider whether there may be a parishioner who might be a good candidate for this position. For more information or to recommend a parishioner, pastors may contact Fr. Jason Williams, Chancellor, at chancellor@catholicaoc.org.

CRS RICE BOWL – ORDER/ADJUST MATERIALS

The time has come to prepare for Lent with Catholic Relief Services. You can **order or adjust your parish's free materials** by visiting www.crsricebowl.org, clicking the "Resources" tab, and selecting "Order Free Materials". You can also call 1.800.222.0025 or email crsricebowl@crs.org. If you do nothing, you will receive the same order that you received last year. For more information, please contact [Jillian Foster](#) (513.263.4124).

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY FOR PARISHES UPDATE

Archbishop Casey approved a change to the "Youth Religious Education Policy for Parishes" whereby students in parish religious education programs across the archdiocese are no longer required to take the annual Assessment of Religious Knowledge (ARK). ARK is now optional for students. ARK remains required for all volunteer catechists and ministry staff.

This decision DOES NOT affect Catholic schools. Questions? Contact [Shane Legg](#) (513.263.6675), Managing Director for Parish Evangelization.

PREPARING UPCOMING LITURGIES (ADVENT, CHRISTMASTIDE, WORLD DAY OF PEACE, AND SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD)

You'll find [resources on the ODWS website](#) to assist you in preparing for the seasons of Advent and Christmastide (including sample texts, chant notation, penance services, etc.) in both English and Spanish. You'll also find resources to help you prepare the World Day of Prayer for Peace (January 1) and the Sunday of the Word of God (January 25).

RITE OF ELECTION

AND CALLING OF THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

You can find basic information about this annual liturgical celebration on the [website of the Office for Divine Worship & Sacraments](#).

PREPARING FOR NEXT STEPS IN BEACONS OF LIGHT

As part of the Beacons of Light pastoral planning process to best arrange our many resources – human, financial, physical – to better pursue the God-given mission of sharing the Gospel throughout our archdiocese, we are encouraging all Families of Parishes to begin completing financial and deferred maintenance assessments to support a comprehensive Family Unity Discernment process that will begin in Spring 2026. More details will be available in January but, in the meantime, you can find the tools necessary to begin this work [here](#) so you have a head start on the process next year.

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.

SAVE THE DATE! CATHOLIC DAY AT GREAT AMERICAN BALLPARK ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

We will hold our second annual Catholic Day at Great American Ballpark on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026, which is the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. The Cincinnati Reds will host the Milwaukee Brewers that evening. More details will be announced soon. Please utilize the Bulletin Entry on page 7.

SAVE THE DATE! 2026 CATHOLIC REDHAWK GALA ON SATURDAY, MAY 2

Save the date for the second annual Catholic Redhawk Gala benefitting the Catholic Newman Center at Miami University. Be part of the exciting work of campus ministry at Miami! Join us Saturday, May 2, 2026 at the Shriver Center on campus. For more information, visit [CatholicRedhawk.com](#). Please utilize the Bulletin Entry on page 7.

2025 CMA UPDATE – \$7 MILLION IN PLEDGES

Congratulations and thank you! Pledges to the 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) have now exceeded \$7 million! As of November 20, just over \$7.02 million has been pledged to the appeal from 19,721 households. Of the amount pledged, \$6.82 million has been received in pledge contributions.

So far, 89 parishes have exceeded their CMA goal in contributions – which means a total of over \$700,000 will stay at these parishes for their own local needs (50% of over-goal contributions stay at the parish).

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".

CMA 2026 – SAVE-THE-DATES

- **Announcement Weekend:** January 17 & 18, 2026
- **Commitment Weekend:** January 31 & February 1, 2026

NEW IN 2026 – VIDEO FOR ARCHBISHOP'S CMA HOMILY

This year, **Archbishop Casey is recording the CMA homily for Announcement Weekend (January 17th & 18th) as a video.** Please plan ahead if you are able to set up a device to play this video in your church. The homily will also be available as a digital audio file and via CD.

2026 CMA GOAL: \$6 MILLION

The overall goal for the 2026 CMA is \$6 million. See the Archbishop's letter to priests with this announcement at the link below:

<https://resources.catholicaoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2026-CMA-RGC-Letter.pdf>.

AVAILABLE TO PREACH AT YOUR PARISH AND/OR SCHOOL

Fr. Michael Willig wants to preach on vocations in as many parishes and schools as possible each year. Father will take a normal Sunday Mass schedule and any confession times you regularly offer on the weekends. Please call or email [Fr. Michael Willig](mailto:Fr.MichaelWillig) (513.263.3390) to set up a weekend.

AN EASTER SEMINAR FOR PRIESTS AND SEMINARIANS - APRIL 5-8, 2026

Midwest Theological Forum is offering an Easter Seminar for priests and seminarians from April 5-8, 2026 at Shellbourne Conference Center in Valparaiso, Indiana. This Easter Seminar provides an opportunity for prayer, fraternity, and formation. Dr. John Bergsma will speak on The Dead Sea Scrolls. To learn more, call 630.541.8519 or visit www.theologicalforum.org/easter-seminar.

THE INSTITUTE FOR PRIESTLY FORMATION

The Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) is offering two silent retreats for diocesan priests this summer at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. The dates are June 7-12, 2026 and June 10-17, 2026. Applications need to be in by April 1, 2026. The costs include the retreat fee, meals and lodging. Contact the IPF office by calling 888.528.5668 or email ipfprograms@priestlyformation.org to request more information or to register.

BULLETIN ENTRIES

FOLLOW AND PRAY WITH ARCHBISHOP CASEY - Archbishop Casey has launched his own social media accounts! Follow him at:

- Instagram: [@archbishopcasey](https://www.instagram.com/archbishopcasey)
- Facebook: facebook.com/archbishopcasey

By following Archbishop Casey, you can pray with him throughout Advent as he has begun posting daily prayer reflections since Sunday, Nov. 30.

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CONSIDER LAY MISSIONARY MINISTRY - There are dozens of Catholic lay missionary programs seeking volunteers ages 17-75 for short or long term to serve in the U.S.A. or overseas. For more information, contact the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Mission Office director, Dr. Mike Gable, at mgable@catholicaoc.org. You can check out: <https://catholicvolunteernetwork.org/begin/>.

THANKS FOR YOUR WORLD MISSION SUNDAY DONATION TO THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES - Your generosity allows God's love to become real! Catechists, religious sisters, and priests serve in churches, schools, orphanages, and clinics in 1,100 mission dioceses in Africa and Asia. Also, young men are enabled to become priests and young women to become sisters so they can train Catholics to become self-sufficient and Christ-like leaders. If you wish to further support our 1,100 mission dioceses, please go to: www.givecentral.org/pontificalmissionsocieties.

POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS - A six week self-care class for family caregivers begins on **Thursday, January 8, 2026, 1:30-3:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church**, 1553 Kinney Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45231. Led by parish nurse Norah Bertschy and pastoral counselor Kristin Merrill, MS,MA,LPCC. Whether you need support right now or are just planning for the future, this program is for you. Join us as we support and learn from each other, discussing topics such as self-care, communicating with family, tools and resources for aging in place, and how to make tough caregiving decisions. Contact our CareLine at 513.869.4483, email can@ccswoh.org or visit <https://www.ccswoh.org/get-help/senior-caregiver-support-services/> for more information. Sponsored by the Caregiver Assistance Network, a program of Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio funded through the Council on Aging.

PARENTING CLASSES IN SPANISH - Parenting is a highly rewarding but very demanding job. Many parents find their responsibilities difficult. They need help. Catholic Charities offers a six-week course designed to help these parents increase their knowledge of child development, develop appropriate discipline skills, and otherwise improve the relationship with their children. Who should come? Parents with children under 12 years old, new parents, struggling parents, or any parent who wants to learn practical, effective parenting skills. The classes cover normal child development, realistic expectations, physical discipline alternatives, communication skills, problem-solving skills, coping skills, and stress management. The six-week sessions take place on Monday evenings from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and cost \$80.

Parenting Education Class in Spanish schedule: Mondays, Jan. 26 - March 2; Mar.16 - April 20; July 13 - Aug. 17; and Oct. 19 - Nov. 23. Classes take place 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Please contact Priscila Reyes for more details at 513.867.7076.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES SOUTHWESTERN OHIO OFFERS ESOL ENGLISH CLASSES - The next ESOL English classes start January 5, 2025, but you can sign up today. Interested students should register by completing the form at the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/mCP1VHQTrZ>. We offer morning classes on Mondays and Wednesdays and evening classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, both in-person and virtual modalities. Please refer questions to EducationServices@ccswoh.org or call 513.672.3750.

(Please use the Spanish version if needed)

Caridades Católicas del Suroeste de Ohio ofrecen clases de inglés ESOL - Las próximas clases empiezan el 5 de enero, ¡pero se puede inscribir hoy. Estudiantes interesados deben inscribirse rellenando el formulario en el siguiente enlace: <https://forms.office.com/r/mCP1VHQTrZ>. Ofrecemos clases en la mañana los lunes y miércoles y en la tarde los martes y jueves en persona y en línea (computadora). Por favor escriba a EducationServices@ccswoh.org o llame al 513.672.3750 con preguntas.

FOOD FOR ALL - Nutritious, 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, Hamilton 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.

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.



JESUIT
Spiritual Center
at MILFORD

SERVING ALL PEOPLE SEEKING GOD

For over 95 years, the Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford has enriched the spiritual lives of those seeking God with life-changing retreats rooted in the Ignatian spiritual tradition.



WHAT WE OFFER

YOUTH MINISTRY

Did you know that the Jesuit Spiritual Center is one of the only Jesuit retreat center in the United States with a dedicated Youth Ministry Team? Our team host retreats here on our campus, and they also travel as far as Atlanta and Gulf Shores to provide schools, parishes, and youth groups with exciting and custom-designed retreats.

SACRED SPACE

Our buildings are available to host as retreat spaces for your group. All people seeking a sacred environment to grow closer to God are welcome here.

ADULT RETREATS

We provide a variety of retreats, including guided weekends led by experienced retreat directors, themed retreats for various seasons of the spiritual life, and personally directed retreats ranging from one day to eight days.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Our team of spiritual directors, who are rigorously trained in the Ignatian spiritual tradition, are available to help you or someone you know discern how God is working in your life.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ATTENDING A RETREAT OR PARTNERING
WITH US TO FURTHER YOUR OWN MINISTRY? CONTACT US TODAY!**



(513) 248-3500



www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com



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