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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

MISSION SUNDAY AND MISSIONARY CO-OPERATION PLAN (MCP) COLLECTIONS

The Mission Office is grateful to all parishes that have already sent in their **Mission Sunday** donations and parishioners' envelopes and those from the **Mission Co-operation Plan (MCP)**. When mailing these in, **please note for which year these donations were given, 2024 or 2025**.

We thank those parishes who have reviewed their records to find donations that had not been mailed to our office. If your parish has not, please do so and mail them directly to the **Mission Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, 100 E. Eighth St., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202** as they need to be properly recorded in the national Mission Office for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith.

NOTE: The Missionary Cooperation Plan begins each year in January, so please be sure your donations are in from this past year to keep the confusion of recipients to a minimum. Any questions, please contact MCP Coordinator [Melonise Knight](#) (513.263.6681).

YOUR RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS SUNDAY COLLECTION IS REQUESTED

Men and women religious, here and across the nation, are grateful for your support. Please mail your parish's donations as soon as possible, made payable to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati/RFR. Mail to: Office for Consecrated Life, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Attn. Maria Reinagel, 100 E. Eighth St., Cincinnati, OH, 45202. Questions or comments? Contact [Laura Lantrip](#) (513.263.3362). Thank you!

OHIO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

Ohio's minimum wage increased 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 over 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 were 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.

OHIO & FEDERAL COMBINATION POSTER

All locations, regardless of size, are required to post the Federal & State Poster. It is your responsibility to have this poster displayed in a public location.

You can find companies that sell a combination poster. One location we have used is [All in One Posters](#) (714.521.7720). The cost is \$30.95. A laminated poster is \$33.95.

OPTIONAL

PRIESTS' WINTER/SPRING RETREAT 2026

The Winter/Spring Retreat for the priests of the archdiocese is scheduled for February 2-6, 2026 at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein, Maria Stein, OH. Reverend Matthew Summe, LC is the presenter. A flyer will be mailed with more information. Questions? Contact the Priestly Formation Office at 513.263.6651 or email [Sarah Frohmiller](#).

FOLLOW ARCHBISHOP CASEY!

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

- Instagram: [@archbishopcasey](#)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/archbishopcasey](#)

Please use the sample Bulletin Entry on page 8 to help spread the word.

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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

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 be at 10:00 a.m. and 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, St. Luke Church
1440 N Fairfield Rd., Beavercreek, OH 45432
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 \(ncea.org\)](#).

IMAGE LIBRARY NOW 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.

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!

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](#).

REIGNITE – A RETREAT FOR PARISH AND APOSTOLATE STAFF

A retreat by evangelists, for evangelists. Join us for a two-day retreat to relax, recharge, and reignite your relationship with Jesus on Monday and Tuesday, January 26-27, 2026 at The Spiritual Center at Maria Stein, Maria Stein, OH. We want to give you the opportunity to make time for rest (literally, there's a nap time), prayer, reflection, and friendship to help you be renewed for ministry. Take a break in the middle of the school year to join other evangelists from across the archdiocese and beyond. [Learn more and register here](#).

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 for 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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

RITE OF ELECTION

AND CALLING OF THE CANDIDATES TO CONTINUING CONVERSION

This important Lenten ritual on Sunday, February 22 is for catechumens preparing for full initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion) at the Easter Vigil 2026. Also invited are those baptized Christians who are seeking to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church this Easter and have been preparing alongside the catechumens. (Please remember that non-Catholic Christians may be received into full communion any time during the year.) You can find basic information about this annual liturgical celebration on the website of the [Office for Divine Worship & Sacraments](#). Registration is open January 12-31.

LEADERSHIP VIDEOS

A new video resource center has been created, featuring brief video clips on topics for parish leaders to build skill, enhance parish leadership, and create more effective teams. Each clip includes questions for discussion and links to related resources for further exploration. Topics include managing pressure and stress, instilling discipleship culture in Families of Parishes, partnering more effectively together in ministry and more. Check out these videos on the [website of the Center for Parish Vitality](#).

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 soon but, in the meantime, you can find general information and the tools necessary to begin this work [here](#) so you have a head start on the process. Contact the [Office for Pastoral Planning](#) with questions or concerns.

START TIME FOR EASTER VIGIL 2026

The Roman Missal specifies that the Easter Vigil “must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall...”. In the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the Easter Vigil for 2026 should begin **no earlier than** 8:45 p.m., and preferably at 9:00 p.m.

PREPARING UPCOMING LITURGIES (SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD AND WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY)

You'll find [resources on the ODWS website](#) to assist you in preparing for the Sunday of the Word of God (January 25) and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

CELEBRATING THE FAMILY OF PARISHES' PATRON ON A SUNDAY

Celebrating important local feasts (including patron of the parish, dedication of the parish church, etc.) is important to a faith community. Some of them can be observed on a Sunday, enabling more of the faithful to participate. Learn more about how and when to celebrate the patron of your Family of Parishes with [guidance available from the Office for Divine Worship & Sacraments](#).

MISSION IDEAS

Below are some ideas for promoting Evangelization & Mission in your OCIA, school, and Rel. Ed.:

- Invite the Mission Office to speak about lay mission opportunities, short- or long-term, in the U.S. or overseas.
- Pray for our missionaries and mission vocations with the World Mission Rosary. The rosaries are available at the Mission Office with prayer guides. Let us introduce them to your school or adults.
- Collect sacrifices, prayers, and funds for the Holy Father's Missionary Childhood Association and have your students become more aware of the children in our mission dioceses needing schools, clinics and orphanages. Contact [Dr. Mike Gable](#) (513.263.6680) locally or Alixandra Holden (aholden@pontificalmissions.org) at the national office, which has excellent educational materials.
- Invite a returned missionary or Catholics of various cultures like Vietnamese, Ugandans, Mexicans, Filipinos, etc. to share their inspiring insights about their heroes/saints, their Lenten/Easter customs, their love for Mary, Jesus and the Church. For example: religious and lay missionaries, like Jill Foster, are ready to inspire your school or adult programs about their mission work and other cultures.
- Consider parish twinning in the U.S. or overseas. Invite the Mission Office or other parishes to speak to your parish council.

For more information on any of these, contact [Dr. Mike Gable](#) (513.263.6680) at the Mission Office.

LENTEN DAILY PRAYER REFLECTION SERIES

The Office of African American Pastoral Ministries has created a Lenten daily prayer reflection series entitled, *Scripture and African American Sacred Song*. Participants are invited to enter into the holy season of Lent using the daily scripture readings and selected sacred songs. The reflection series is designed to provide another pathway for repentance and self-examination in preparation for celebrating the Easter Mysteries. Saint Paul wrote to the community of believers in Rome that Jesus, the One, "who indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised."

A link for the reflection series will be available on the African American Pastoral Ministries Office webpage sometime in January. For more information, contact [Deacon Royce Winters](#) (513.263.6640), Director, African American Catholic Ministries.

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 8.

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 8.

CMA 2026 – KEY WEEKENDS FOR THE APPEAL

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

All resources for the 2026 CMA are available at:

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

Use the password "cma2007"

CMA Resources will also be posted on the new Catholic Social Media platform.

CMA IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

https://resources.catholicaoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2026-Parish-Guide_General.pdf

CMA WEBINAR FOR PARISH STAFF

Webinar Date: Tuesday, January 6 at 2:00 p.m.

Who: Parish staff that help with the CMA

To Register: Email Carl Brown (cbrown@catholicaoc.org) in the CMA Office to receive the webinar link.

Bonus: Join the webinar for a chance to win a "Food Truck Lunch" for your whole team! *

(* You pick from 6 possible food trucks. Anyone can win, you just have to join the webinar.)

NEW IN 2026 – VIDEO FOR ARCHBISHOP'S CMA HOMILY

This year, **Archbishop Casey is recording the CMA homily for Announcement Weekend (January 17 & 18) 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>.

DEACON REASSIGNMENTS

Deacon John Russell Feldkamp, ordained on April 24, 2010, has been assigned to the Stella Maris Family of Parishes (New Richmond/ Amelia/ Withamsville). This assignment is effective January 1, 2026.

Deacon Michael Muse, ordained on April 27, 2019, has been assigned to St. Gertrude Parish, Madera. This assignment is effective January 1, 2026.

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.Michael.Willig@archcath.org) (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 cost includes 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.

CORRECTION – VOCATION POSTER

Please note the following correction to the recently distributed 2025-2026 religious vocation poster: **Brother Paul Pruski** was mistakenly listed as "Pauline." We regret the error and appreciate your understanding. No action is required.

CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS - INDEX 2025

The *Index* for the 2025 Clergy Communications is posted on the website: [click here](#).

BULLETIN ENTRIES

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

- Instagram: [@archbishopcasey](#)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/archbishopcasey](#)

WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE - World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated by the Church on **Monday, February 2, 2026**. Please pray for all those who have consecrated their life to God and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

(Optional parish bulletin announcement)

CORRECTION – VOCATION POSTER - The recent 2025-2026 religious vocation poster contained an error: **Brother Paul Pruski** was incorrectly listed as "Pauline." We apologize for the mistake and appreciate your support in promoting vocations.

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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.

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.

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.

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 Place Set Apart for Priests' Retreat & Renewal



*A quiet space for prayer, reflection,
and rest in the midst of ministry.*



Tabor Lodge



Melchizedek Village

The Transfiguration Center for Spiritual Renewal offers daytime retreat space for active and retired priests, providing a peaceful setting to step away and attend to prayer and renewal.

Located on quiet grounds near the Stillwater River, the Center includes chapel space, meeting rooms, and outdoor areas for walking and reflection—ideal for personal prayer, days of reflection, or small clergy gatherings. For those discerning a transition from active ministry, Melchizedek Village offers a quiet space to retire from active service.

Schedule a Visit or Learn More:

transfigurationcenter.com
(937) 698-7180



Transfiguration Center for Spiritual Renewal
3505 Calumet Rd. Ludlow Falls, OH 45339