

# OUR LADY OF THE HILLS

The Catholic Community of Adams and Highland Counties

## ST. MARY CHURCH

212 S. High St. • Hillsboro, OH 45133  
937-403-2510 • edbourdase@yahoo.com  
www.saintmaryhillsboro.org

Masses Sat. 5:30 p.m. Sun. 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.  
Tues. 9:15 a.m. Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

## ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH

204 S. Second St. • Greenfield, OH 45123  
937-981-2785 • stbenignus@gmail.com  
www.stbenignus.com

Masses Sat. 3:30 p.m. Sun. 12:00 p.m.  
Tues. 11:00 a.m. Fri. 12:00 p.m.

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

612 E. Mulberry St. • West Union, OH 45693  
937-544-2757 • secretary@holytrinity-ac.org  
www.holytrinity-ac.org

Masses Sat. 5:00 p.m. Sun. 11:00 a.m.  
Mon. 7:00 p.m. Wed. 9:00 a.m. Fri. 12:00 p.m.

## ST. MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN CHURCH

205 Wendell Ave. • Peebles, OH 45660  
937-544-2757 • secretary@holytrinity-ac.org  
www.holytrinity-ac.org

Masses Sun. 8:30 a.m.  
Tues. 9:00 a.m. Thurs. 9:00 a.m.

## FR. MIKE PARANIUK, PASTOR

937-403-2510 • edbourdase@yahoo.com

## FR. MARK BREDESTEGE, VICAR

937-637-8035 • fibredestege@holytrinity-ac.org



ST. MARY CHURCH • HILLSBORO  
ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH • GREENFIELD



**ST. MARY PROGRAM CONTACTS**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:**

*George Sakash*  
Phone: 937-205-0919

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

*Grand Knight, Jim Hehl*  
Phone: 937-661-4835

**RCIA:**

*Joyce Combs*  
Phone: 937-403-6708

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (GRADES PRE-K THROUGH 12TH)**

*Michelle Vanzant Salyer*  
Phone: 937-840-9932  
Email: stmarycre119@gmail.com

**CHOIR/MUSIC DIRECTOR:**

*Lynn Turner*  
Phone: 937-763-8522

**PRO-LIFE REPRESENTATIVE:**

*Mary Tamborski*  
Phone: 937-205-4458

**ST. MARY CHURCH OFFICE & ST. MARY PRESCHOOL:**

*Leah Salyer, Administrative Assistant & Beacons of Light*  
Office: 937-840-9932  
Cell: 937-205-3038  
Email: justleahatstmary@gmail.com

**ST. BENIGNUS PROGRAM CONTACTS**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:**

*Gene DeBruin*  
Phone: 937-981-2785

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:**

*Grand Knight, Bruce Bennett, Sr.*  
Phone: 740-463-3406

**RCIA:**

Phone: 937-981-2785  
Email: stbenignus@gmail.com

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:**

*Chyanne Collins*  
Phone: 740-572-2101  
Email: chyanecollins@gmail.com

*Bruce Bennett, Jr.*

Phone: 740-572-2085  
Email: bennettb@greatoaks.com

**CHOIR/MUSIC DIRECTOR:**

*Kristy Bockrath*  
Phone: 937-361-6590  
Email: krbockr@icloud.com

**LADIES AUX:**

*President: Paula Miller*  
Phone: 937-876-9883

**ST. BENIGNUS CEMETERY:**

Phone: 937-981-2785  
Email: stbenignus@gmail.com

**PRO-LIFE REPRESENTATIVE:**

*Mary Tamborski*  
Phone: 937-205-4458

**ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH OFFICE:**

Phone: 937-981-2785;  
Email: stbenignus@gmail.com

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**MAY 12, 2024**

**CONFESSION (RECONCILIATION): CONFESSION IS AVAILABLE BEFORE THE MASSES OR BY APPOINTMENT.**

**ROSARY EVERY SUNDAY AT 7:40 A.M. AT ST. MARY CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024 – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**8:00 a.m. St. Mary** Zachery Schmidt (Joyce & Bob Wendell)

**CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY AT 9:45 A.M. EVERY SUNDAY**

**BEFORE 10:00 A.M. MASS AT ST. MARY CHURCH**

**10:00 a.m. St. Mary** Mary Gross (Maryanne deMilliano)  
**Noon St. Benignus** Ramsey & Thompson Families (Bob Dye)  
**Fr. Mark Bredestege**

**TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024**

**9:15 a.m. St. Mary** Mary Ann Rajnish (Thomas Hovan)

**ROSARY EVERY TUESDAY AT 11:00 A.M. AT ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH**

**11:30 a.m. St. Benignus** Clark & Boulas Families (Ellen Clark)  
**Fr. Mike Paraniuk**

**ROSARY EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:30 P.M. AT ST. MARY CHURCH**

**3RD THURSDAY MASS EVERY MONTH IS DEDICATED TO PRO-LIFE**

**THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024**

**6:00 p.m.** Exposition at St Mary  
**6:30 p.m.** Recitation of the Rosary at St Mary  
**6:50 p.m.** Benediction at St Mary  
**7:00 p.m. St. Mary** Fr. Mike Paraniuk (*BirthDay Blessing*)  
(Our Lady of The Hills Family)  
**Fr. Mike Paraniuk**

**FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024**

**Noon St. Benignus** Sandy Powell (Ann Marie Gunderman)  
**Fr. Mike Paraniuk**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024**

**3:30 p.m. St. Benignus** Sandy Powell (Ann Marie Gunderman)  
**5:30 p.m. St. Mary** Chief Rudy Thomsen, Sr. (Gina Taylor)  
Isidro Salido, Fr. Mike, Peter Pence (Salido Family)  
**Fr. Mike Paraniuk**

**SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024**

**8:00 a.m. St. Mary** Charles Elking (Marilyn Rosselott)  
**10:00 a.m. St. Mary** Clayton Vanzant (Michelle Vanzant)  
**Noon St. Benignus** The Lukas Family (Bob Dye)  
**Fr. Mike Paraniuk**

**ST. MARY COLLECTION – MAY 5, 2024**

Weekly Need .....	\$	6,500.00
Weekly Collection.....	\$	5,948.00
Variance .....	\$	-552.00
<b>FISCAL YEAR NEED .....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>292,500.00</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR COLLECTED .....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>270,188.00</b>
<b>VARIANCE.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-22,312.00</b>

**ST. BENIGNUS COLLECTION – MAY 5, 2024**

Weekly Need .....	\$	1,900.00
Weekly Collection.....	\$	1,626.00
Variance .....	\$	-274.00
<b>FISCAL YEAR NEED .....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>85,500.00</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR COLLECTED .....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>101,022.00</b>
<b>VARIANCE.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>+15,522.00</b>

**Thank You for your Generosity!**

## BEACONS OF LIGHT

Evangelization Team: Meets August 1, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

at Holy Trinity Church Hall – West Union

Stewardship Team: Meets August 7, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

at St. Mary Church – Hillsboro



## PRAYER REQUEST

Please keep **Archbishop Schnurr** in your prayers. He has been diagnosed with small bowel cancer and will begin a six-month regimen for treatment. His health overall is good, but can use the support and prayers of the faithful as he begins this endeavor.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

## THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

6:00-7:30 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Pantry – Religious Ed. Bldg. – **St. Benignus**

## SUNDAY MAY 19, 2024

10:00 a.m. First Communion Mass – **St. Mary**

## FRIDAY JUNE 3-MONDAY JUNE 6, 2024

Crafts, Theology, Hiking, Wilderness Activities, Prayer, Science, Sports & Games Engaging Catholic Camp Ages 5-13 – **Our Lady of Guadalupe Discipleship Center – Peebles, Ohio** Contact Olivia Neukam for more information at 513-237-3234

## SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2024

11:00 a.m. Knights of Columbus St. Benignus in Father Lay Hall – **St. Benignus**

MONDAY JULY 15-THURSDAY JULY 18, 2024 Vacation Bible School – Barnyard Roundup – **St. Mary**

6:00-8:00 p.m. Contact Michelle Salyer for more information 937-840-9932

## JULY 29-AUGUST 2, 2024

6:00-8:00 p.m. VBS – Big Top Heroes – **Holy Trinity Church**  
Contact Kathy Gerth for more information at 937-661-4070

## MEETING REMINDER

Sunday, June 9, 2024

11:00 a.m. Knights of Columbus St. Benignus in Father Lay Hall – **St. Benignus**

**Grand Knight:** Bruce Bennett, Sr. **Contact:** 740-463-3406



## NEWS AROUND OUR LADY OF THE HILLS

**Save the Date: Pentecost Sunday, May 18 and 19, Our Lady of the Hills Families will celebrate St. Isidore the Farmer at the Masses.** A special seed blessing will take place. If you have crop seeds or flowers seeds you would like blessed, please bring them to one of the Masses that weekend. Father Mike 937-403-2510 and Father Bredestege 937-637-8035 will be available to bless farm tractors, fields, or animals that week also. If you would like a special blessing that week, contact either priest to arrange the date and time.



**All parishioners** in the **Our Lady of the Hills Parish Family** are invited to join the youth group of St. Benignus for a Cincinnati Reds game on **Friday, August 2nd. 7:10 p.m.** is game time. Tickets will be purchased as a group to enable us to save money and be seated together! More details to be shared soon.

## HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

Sunday May 26th after 11:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Trinity

Come out to Holy Trinity for a Patronal Feast Celebration. Family Picnic with food and games for all ages. The Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary will host a cookout, please bring a sidedish to share. **Everyone in Our Lady of the Hills Family is invited! Mark your calendars, and please join us!**

## PROPHECY, DISCERNMENT AND EVANGELIZATION – MAY 24-26

St. Paul tells us to seek the gift of prophecy above all other gifts in 1 Cor 14:1. Discernment is important to determine true prophecy from false prophecy. These gifts of the Holy Spirit are very effective when carrying out the commission to Evangelize. **Call 513-373-2397, or register online at our website at [www.presentationministries.com](http://www.presentationministries.com). Email: [bpojesu2000@gmail.com](mailto:bpojesu2000@gmail.com). Our Lady of Guadalupe Discipleship Center, 5701 Lawshe Road, Peebles, Ohio 45660. Cost: A Donation.**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Remember in your prayers those parishioners or their family or friends who are sick, in the hospital, nursing home, homebound or in need of prayers...

ST. BENIGNUS &  
ST. MARY PRAYER LIST

Archbishop Schnurr, Brittany Kinzer, Eric Arrington, Paula Miller, Claudia Frank, Jeff Hadley, Becky Hiser, Theresa Shackelford, Cathy Thompson, Teresa Staten, Edna Maxwell, Jean Smith, Howard Smith, Deacon Len Parker, Todd Blankenship, Elaine Feder

**\*\*To Add/Remove from Parish Prayer List, please inform the office (937-840-9932, St. Mary) or leave a note in the collection basket. (St. Benignus Church Office, 937-981-2785)\*\***

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

**\*\*Please submit by Monday 10:00 a.m.** in writing or email at [justleahatstmary@gmail.com](mailto:justleahatstmary@gmail.com), or submit in my mailbox located at the front of the school or call the office at 937-840-9932.\*\*

## FR. LUEHRMANN HALL

**\$67,999.26** Debt on Fr. Luehrmann Hall.

ST. MARY CHURCH  
BINGO INCOME

**Total since May 5, 2023: \$15,755.65**

**Bingo Team 1 (June 7, 2024)**

Michelle Salyer, Jane Horne, Ann Lerch, Barb Rayburn, Taryn Hastings, Tom Moran, Josh Pohlman

## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

**May 12** – Bruce Collins, Chloe Fullenkamp, Greg Rhoads

**May 13** – Amy Williams

**May 14** – Kristie Cornele

**May 15** – **Fr. Mike**, Peter Pence, Iryana Reeves, Reagan Rusch, Isidro Salido

**May 17** – Jim Creed, Annamaria Ventura

**May 18** – Lori Gunderman, Lynn Turner

**May 19** – Theresa Hartman, Joshua Pohlman, Joyce Combs, Courtney Gallimore

**May 20** – Jim Hehl, Donna Remsing

**May 21** – Sarah Wuellner

**May 22** – Sharyn Salzano

**May 23** – Andy Piekutowski, Brian Rumpke

**May 25** – Susan Iseman Hallows

**May 28** – Taylor Remsing



St. Mary – Hillsboro - May Crowning, PSR Family Breakfast, PSR Retreat

## PLANT EXCHANGE

June 1, 2024 at St. Mary, Hillsboro. Plant Exchange contact Patty Reinholz for more information 937-466-2305

## 40-HOURS DEVOTION AND FAMILY CAMPOUT

June 7-9

This is such an amazing weekend – steeped in prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, teaching, fun and fellowship. Where else can you find an opportunity like this? You owe it to yourself and your family. Our Lady of Guadalupe Discipleship Center, 5701 Lawshe Rd. Peebles, Ohio 45660. Call Betty at 513-373-2397.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – FAMILY VACATION WITH THE LORD

June 17-21

Mornings are scheduled at the Discipleship Center with Catholic Vacation Bible School for Children and Teachings for Adults. Afternoons are free for the family to explore beautiful Adams County, walk in the woods, blaze some trails on our 64 acres of fields and wooded hillsides or check out the many sites in Cincinnati, Dayton or Columbus. A Light Breakfast and Lunch will be served. Dinner is on your own. Guest rooms are available several for large families. Our Lady of Guadalupe Discipleship Center, 5701 Lawshe Road Peebles, Ohio 45660. For more information Call Betty at 513-373-2397.

## JOIN US FOR... Camp Adventurers

An **ENGAGING** Catholic camp for kids 5-13

June 3-6 • Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Discipleship Center - Peebles, OH

Crafts • Theology • Hiking • Skits • Wilderness Activities  
• Prayer • House Wars • Science • Sports and Games

For more info and sign-ups, go here: <https://tinyurl.com/peebles24>  
Questions? Contact Olivia Neukam (513) 237-3234

Faith • Friends • Fun • Adventure!



Join us this June 3-6 for Camp Adventurers! This year's theme is **Doctors of the Church!** We'll embark on a journey through church history, diving into the wisdom of the greatest, holiest thinkers. You won't want to miss it!

**Camp Adventurers is an outdoor-based day or sleep-away camp hosted at Our Lady of Guadalupe Discipleship and Retreat Center.**

Here we will emphasize responsibility, sportsmanship, living the Catholic faith, and building lasting friendships. Throughout the four-day session, campers will participate in hikes, crafts, prayer, wilderness survival activities, competitions, and learning more about our rich Catholic faith! Campers will also have the opportunity to:

- Earn stars daily to use as an in-camp currency to buy prizes and snacks!
- Gain house points as a team and when tallied up giving the house with the most points a winning grand prize.

Camp Adventurers truly offers something for everybody! For more information on activities and camp life, check out the website at: <https://oliviacatherine423.wixsite.com/camp> or call Natalie Gonzalez for more information or if you would like to volunteer, donate or provide a meal!!!!Call 954-770-6190 or email at [natalieegonzalez11@gmail.com](mailto:natalieegonzalez11@gmail.com).

## ST. MARY VBS



St. Mary – Vacation Bible School will be held July 15-18, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Save the date for Barnyard Roundup. If you are interested in helping or have more questions, please call Michelle Salyer at 937-840-9932 or email to [stmarycre119@gmail.com](mailto:stmarycre119@gmail.com).

## HOLY TRINITY VBS

July 29-August 2nd, 2024, 6:00-8:00 p.m., VBS – Big Top Heroes – Holy Trinity Church. Contact Kathy Gerth for more information at 937-661-4070



## MOTHER'S DAY IN MEMORY / HONOR OF...

Mary F. Trempus, June Takacs, Francis Dernovsek, Rita Haban, Marjorie Williams, Ellen Walker, Ella Baker, Lida Behm, Thelma Butler, Suzanne Walters, Jen Keating, Gladys Shultz, Lydia Douglas, Alma Williams, Trudy Keating, Ellen Turner, Bea Turner, Mary Agnes Tolle, Bernice Georges, Mary Ann Georges, Angie Vance, Edith Wendell, Lori Schmidt, Velma Winner, Ann Rehack, Beverly Rhoads, Dortha Leibreich, Carolyn Roth, Mary Huffner, Margaret Cadwallader, Linda Worley, Ruth Kleinhenz, Lena Klein, Phyllis Huff, Mary Hovan, Ann Thiele, Mary Lou Haines, Ruth Vanzant, Reva Salyer, Kathleen Vanzant, Margaret Lane, Octavia Lane, Vina Cagle, Sara Anderson, Norma Groves, Doris Davidson, Mary Huffner, Maragret Cadwallader, Patricia Wehner, Betty Lou Moses, Carrie Wright, Stacy Moses, Nance Lafferty, Marjorie Pavey, Mary Miller, Margorie Braun, Iris Harmon

## MAY CLERGY COMMUNICATION

**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/>

**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.

Full link to view the letter: <https://resources.catholicaoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ArchbishopCampaignLtr Priests-3-19-24.pdf>

**JOIN IN THE EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE COMING TO ARCHDIOCESE JULY 1-8** – The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is coming through the Archdiocese of Cincinnati July 1-8 on its way to Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress. Along the route, several parishes will be offering special opportunities for prayer and fellowship. On July 6, Archbishop Schnurr will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains at 10:00 a.m., followed by a Eucharistic Procession through downtown Cincinnati and Eucharistic Festival on Fountain Square. Please plan to participate in this wonderful event! Go to [www.JesusIsHere2024.org](http://www.JesusIsHere2024.org) for information.

**FREESTORE FOODBANK'S HUNGER WALK & 5K RUN** – Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio serves and empowers people through God's love in their times of vulnerability. We do so through a full range of local services that engage the community in building solidarity. With more than 374,000 people living in poverty in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Catholic Charities tackles food insecurity head-on by offering mobile food pantries. We would not be able to do this work without our Freestore Foodbank partnership. We are taking part in the Freestore Foodbank's Hunger Walk & 5K Run again this year. Help us in tackling food insecurity! You can do so by running or walking the 5K or donating to our team. Find out more at: <https://give.freestorefoodbank.org/ccswoh>.

**OUR EUCHARISTIC MISSION IN A POLARIZED WORLD, PRESENTATION SERIES** – Based on his book *The Church's Mission in a Polarized World*, Fr. Aaron Wessman, Glenmary Home Missioners, will kick off his 6-part series on polarization in the United States and how the healing presence of Christ in the Eucharist can help us overcome and mend the political divides between us. There will be one presentation each month from May through October. For his first presentation, The Eucharist: An Antidote to Polarization, please join us in person on Thursday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. The second session will be on Thursday, June 20 at 7:00 p.m. at Bellarmine Chapel. (You can also join virtually, either session, at <https://zoom.us/j/99177580089> | Meeting ID: 991 7758 0089 | Dial in: 312 626 6799) For more information, contact Jillian Foster at [jfoster@catholicaoc.org](mailto:jfoster@catholicaoc.org).

**VOLUNTEER NEED AT ST. LEO** – St. Leo Church is in need of Spanish-speaking volunteers at their pantry, located at 1860 Carll Street, Cincinnati, 45225. The pantries are open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1:00-3:30 p.m. If you have the availability to help, please contact Nicole at 513.224.0831.

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES** – Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2024: 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, or 75 years? Request a certificate signed by Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr by visiting the Archdiocese of Cincinnati webpage at: <https://bit.ly/3lgyXfv>. Questions? Please contact the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Marriage & Family Evangelization Office at [cne@catholicaoc.org](mailto:cne@catholicaoc.org).

**ARE YOU CELEBRATING YOUR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN 2024?** Married couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2024 are invited to attend one of the following Golden Anniversary Masses:

- Saturday, September 7 at 4:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Tipp City. Celebrant: To be determined
- Sunday, September 8 at 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains, Cincinnati. Celebrant: Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr. Registration is required to attend one of the Golden Jubilee Wedding Anniversary Masses. Please register online by completing the anniversary certificate request form linked here: <https://bit.ly/3lgyXfv>. Questions? Please contact the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Marriage & Family Evangelization Office at [cne@catholicaoc.org](mailto:cne@catholicaoc.org).

**ST. ISIDORE**

*Feast Day: May 15th Patron of Farmers & Gardeners*

*Dear Isidore, you know how common it is to cultivate the land, for you were employed as a farm laborer for the greater part of your life. In your toils, you were blessed to receive God's help through Angels in the Fields.*

*O Great Saint, help all farmers and gardeners spiritually to see the wonders God has strewn on this Earth. Encourage them in their labors and help them to feed numerous people.*

*Amen*

**Prayer for Ascension Sunday**

Risen Jesus,  
help us to begin  
living eternal life today.  
Help us to know  
your presence with us now,  
even as we anticipate  
the joy of heaven.  
Teach us to live this life  
in a way that draws us  
into eternal life with you.  
Amen.



Archdiocese of Cincinnati



## Annual Memorial Day Field Mass

*Monday, May 27th*

**10:30 a.m. Memorial Day Presentation**  
**11 a.m. Memorial Day Mass**  
*with Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, Celebrant*

**12:30 p.m. Patriotic Rosary in Section 28, Veterans Garden**

Join us for this day of remembrance and prayer on the sacred ground of Gate of Heaven Cemetery. We will gather at the Priest Mound for the Memorial Day Presentation and the Annual Memorial Day Field Mass.

Our remembrance gathering expresses our faith in Christ's resurrection, our gratitude for those who served and died for our country, and for all our loved ones and friends interred on this sacred ground.

*Transportation will be provided from parking areas to the Priest Mound for those who need assistance. Please bring your folding chairs.*

*There will be light refreshments after Mass for all.*

*In case of rain, the Mass will move to Good Shepherd Parish at 8815 East Kemper Rd.*

*The Knights of Columbus will lead the Patriotic Rosary at 12:30 p.m. in the Veterans Garden, section 28. All are invited.*

**11000 MONTGOMERY RD. • CINCINNATI, OH 45249**

gateofheaven.org • 513-489-0300  
 facebook.com/gateofheavencemetery



Loving God,  
we thank you  
for all the mothers  
in the world.  
Bless them so that  
they may always  
give life and  
nourishment  
to their children  
through their  
firm faith, generous and  
selfless love, good example  
and constant concern  
for their bodily and  
spiritual health.  
Grant that we, their  
children, may honor  
them always with  
a spirit of profound love,  
respect and thanksgiving.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

HAPPY  
MOTHERS'  
DAY!

- Catholics striving for Holiness -

## Ascension of the Lord

ASCENSION: the act of rising to a higher level

The Ascension of the Lord takes place **forty days** after the resurrection of Jesus (Easter). Technically, this day falls on a Thursday, but the celebration is transferred to the following Sunday. On this day, Jesus was taken up to Heaven in his resurrected body in the presence of his apostles.

**BIBLICAL REFERENCES**

① While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. Luke 24:51

② So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. Mark 16:19

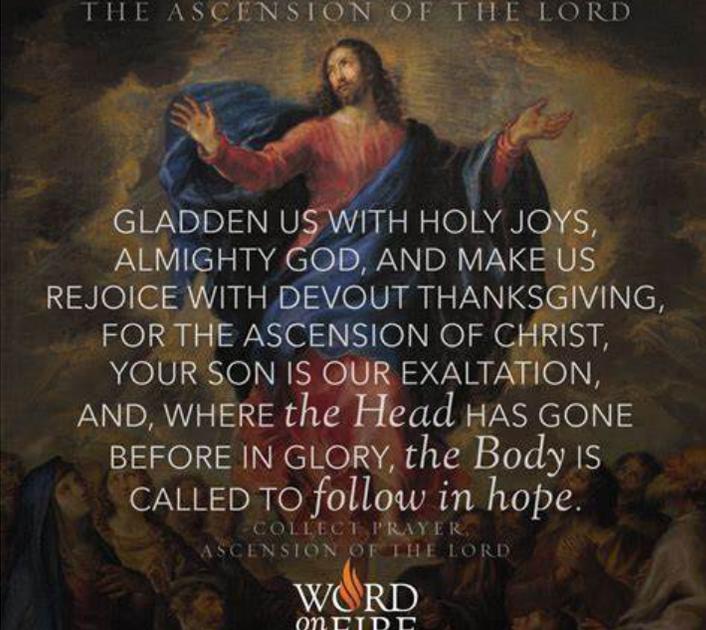
③ As the apostles were watching, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11

The ascension is also professed in the Nicene Creed and in the Apostles' Creed:  
 "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father..."



Jesus departs, he ascends to Heaven. He returns to the Father. But this does not mean a separation, for he remains forever with us, in a new way. **By his ascension, the Risen Lord draws the gaze of the Apostles - and our gaze - to the heights of Heaven to show us that the end of our journey is the Father...** Yet, Jesus remains present and active in the affairs of human history through the power and the gifts of his Spirit; he is beside each of us: **even if we do not see him with our eyes, He is there!** He accompanies us, he guides us, he takes us by the hand and he lifts us up when we fall down... **The Lord is with us!**  
 Pope Francis, June 1, 2014

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



GLADDEN US WITH HOLY JOYS, ALMIGHTY GOD, AND MAKE US REJOICE WITH DEVOUT THANKSGIVING, FOR THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST, YOUR SON IS OUR EXALTATION, AND, WHERE *the Head* HAS GONE BEFORE IN GLORY, *the Body* IS CALLED TO *follow in hope.*

COLLECT PRAYER, ASCENSION OF THE LORD

WORD on FIRE



*Prayer to Saint Matthias the Apostle*

O Glorious Saint Matthias, in God's design it fell upon you to take the place of the unfortunate Judas who betrayed his Master. You were selected by the twofold sign of the uprightness of your life and the call of the Holy Spirit.

Obtain for us the grace to practice the same uprightness of life and to be called by that same Spirit to wholehearted service of the Church. Then after a life of zeal and good works let us be ushered into your company in heaven to sing forever the praises of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HC9-558E



Questions/Requests: Call Kristy Bockrath at 937-361-6590 or email krbockr@icloud.com. **If you cannot attend as scheduled, please find a substitute.**

ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH	SATURDAY, MAY 18TH – 3:30 P.M. MASS	SUNDAY, MAY 19TH – NOON MASS
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## SERMON FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

My mentor Fr. Ed Connelly gave me wise advice on how to be a good priest. On my ordination day, after placing the priestly stole around my shoulders, he whispered into my ear, "Bless the people God brings to you." I have done my best to live those words for the past 43 years. Two years later Father Ed, who blessed me with his wisdom and care, went up to Heaven.

The last thing Jesus did before Ascending to Heaven was to bless us. "When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him..." (Luke 24:50-52)

I see a profound message in Luke's description of Jesus lifting up to Heaven. Jesus did not bless them and then ascend. He was blessing them "while" ascending at the same time. Why is this important?

The word "bless" means to "invoke divine care" or "bring God's Love to another." Jesus blessing while ascending tells us how to bless another. God wants you to bless others by "lifting them up," to help others "ascend above" life's crosses that weigh them down with sadness, fear, and hopelessness.

As I wrote this last sentence, I thought to myself, "I need an example to explain this." While contemplating a good example to use, I received a phone call. It was from a lady named Melinda whom I married in 1988. She wanted to know if I was still alive. I told her I'm very much alive. I quoted her the last words of Groucho Marx, "Die, my dear? Why that's the last thing I'll do." Melinda told me a beautiful story about her son Corey. He suffered from a very rare disease that caused him to lose the use of his legs. What a terrible fate when a small child is completely bedfast.

Melinda decided to give her son every chance to ascend and overcome the limitations of his illness. What did she do? She bought him all types of musical instruments. At five years old, he could play the drums as well as any professional. He learned how to make various sounds from many different musical instruments, such as guitar, violin, flute, trumpet, electric keyboard, and the national instrument of Poland - the accordion! Eventually, he was cured. He could walk again. When he reached adulthood, he told his mom, "I'm going to New York." He started his own company named, "Corey 19 Productions." He records sound effects for movies, using musical instruments he played as a child from his bed. Many movie producers seek out his unique skill for their movies. Melinda said, "I wasn't going to let his sickness keep him down." God used Melinda to bless her son.

There is a word that describes what happens when you bless another by lifting them up in prayer and care. It's called "transcend." Transcend means to "rise above." The Jesus who ascended calls His disciples to help others transcend. This is how we witness Jesus and worship God. Anytime you lift someone up when life "keeps them down," (like Melinda's son) you give true worship to God. God defines true worship in James 1:27: "The worship that God wants is this: caring for orphans or widows who need help." I can't think of a more downtrodden group of people who need to be transcended.

Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:32) Be a blessing. Bring God's Love. There is no better way to draw someone to Jesus.

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