

Glory to God

IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE TO THOSE
ON WHOM HIS FAVOR RESTS!

– LUKE 2:14



OUR LADY OF THE HILLS

ST. MARY CHURCH

212 S. HIGH ST, HILLSBORO, OH 45133 | 937-840-9932

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

612 E. MULBERRY ST, WEST UNION, OH 45693 | 937-544-2757

WWW.OURLADYOFTHEHILLSOH.COM

ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH

204 S. SECOND ST, GREENFIELD, OH 45123 | 937-981-2785

ST. MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN CHURCH

205 WENDELL AVE, PEEBLES, OH 45660 | 937-544-2757

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VICAR, FR. ADAM LEWIS

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**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
JANUARY 11, 2026****Sunday, January 11, 2026**9:00 a.m. **St. Benignus** – Donald Allison11:30 a.m. **St. Mary** – Rudy Thomsen +**Tuesday, January 13, 2026**Noon **St. Benignus** – Kylie Locke**Wednesday, January 14, 2026**Noon **St. Benignus** – Theresa Staten +**Thursday, January 15, 2026**Noon **St. Mary** – Pro-life Mass**Friday, January 16, 2026**Noon **St. Mary** – Mary Gross +**Saturday, January 17, 2026**5:00 p.m. **St. Mary** – Donald Markland**Sunday, January 18, 2026**9:00 a.m. **St. Benignus** – Eric Arrington +11:30 a.m. **St. Mary** – Teresa Caplinger**Adoration & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament****Wednesday: 12:30 p.m. – St. Benignus****Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – Holy Trinity; 6:00 p.m. – St. Mary****Confessions****Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – Queen of Heaven; 12:30 p.m. – St. Benignus****Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – Holy Trinity; 6:00 p.m. – St. Mary****Saturday****4:00 p.m. – St. Mary; 4:00 p.m. – Holy Trinity**

Daily Mass Readings can be found at: usccb.org

1ST SATURDAY MASS

Beginning on **Saturday, February 7th**, Mass will be offered on the 1st Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at both Holy Trinity and St. Mary. This 1st Saturday Mass will be celebrated ad orientem (with the priest facing the tabernacle) and will be in Latin. All other Masses will continue to be celebrated in English and facing the people.

ST. MARY – LIVESTREAM<https://www.twitch.tv/saintmaryhillsboro>

No Signups Needed, Free Livestreaming of Mass

Audio Stream for WLRU Radio is: wlrugradio12345.com**OUR LADY OF THE HILLS FAMILY FACEBOOK PAGE**

Please Like & Share !!

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565871562111>

"If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing."

– St. Katherine Drexel

"My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."

– Isaiah 32:18

From the Pastor's Desk



They say that when God closes one door, He opens another for us to walk through. If we reflect on the many circumstances of our lives, most of us can recognize a deep truth in that saying. Scripture tells us that after the sin of Adam, humanity was driven from the garden and the entrance to paradise was guarded; through sin, the door to communion with God was closed. Today, as we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we also celebrate the reopening of that door and God's renewed invitation to all people of every time and place to enter into His life. The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of one who would be blessed and chosen by God: "a servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased." This servant would bring justice, be a light to the nations, and lead those who dwell in darkness into the light. Saint Paul echoes this promise in his letter to Titus, no longer as prophecy but as fulfillment. In Jesus Christ, Paul proclaims, God has come among us and given Himself "to purify us, to make us his own people." John the Baptist, the voice crying out in the desert to "prepare the way of the Lord," bears witness to this truth, which is solemnly revealed at Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan. We readily profess that Jesus is the Messiah, the promised one who brings light into the darkness. Yet the feast invites us to ponder a deeper question: if Jesus is truly God, why did He need to be baptized? The answer unfolds within the great story of salvation. In the Book of Exodus, God goes before His people in a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. At the Red Sea, the waters part, and Israel passes from slavery toward freedom. This crossing has long been understood as a foreshadowing of Baptism, a passage from bondage to new life. In the Baptism of the Lord, we see this pattern fulfilled. Jesus does not enter the waters because He needs cleansing; rather, He enters them to sanctify the waters for us. As He goes before His people once again, He prepares the way for our own passage from sin to grace. By His action, the waters of Baptism become a source of purification and new life. Luke records John's promise: "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Through our own Baptism, that promise is fulfilled. We are cleansed from sin, reborn as sons and daughters of the Father, and welcomed into eternal life. As Saint Paul reminds us, in Baptism we die with Christ and rise with Him to new life. The door once closed by sin has been thrown open, and the Father speaks over us the same words spoken to His Son: "You are my beloved; with you I am well pleased." As we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, may we renew our gratitude for this great gift and walk confidently through the door Christ has opened, living each day in the grace and freedom He has won for us.

Fr. Scott Morgan

NOTES FROM FR. ADAM LEWIS

The Epiphany of the Lord (Year A):



Sometimes during Solemnities or other important feasts (or when we do not have a choir), Fr. Scott and I may chant the *Ordinary* parts of the Mass in Latin (such as the *Sanctus*, *Agnus Dei*, & *Pater Noster*: Holy holy holy, Lamb of God, & Our Father respectively). The Church's teaching on the use of Latin in the Mass is clear, consistent, and often misunderstood. Here's the official teaching of the Church regarding the use of Latin in Mass:

1. Latin is the Church's *proper* liturgical language: The Catholic Church teaches that **Latin belongs to the Roman Rite by right**, not by nostalgia. The Second Vatican Council teaches in *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, §36: "The use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites." This is not an optional language. Vatican II teaches Latin "is to be preserved," even while allowing limited use of the vernacular.

2. The vernacular is permitted – but not mandated: The Council allowed the use of local languages "for the good of the people," especially in readings and responses: SC §36 & §54: Vernacular *may* be used; Latin should not be eliminated; The faithful should be able to say or sing the Ordinary of the Mass in Latin (**Kyrie [Greek]**, *Gloria*, *Credo*, *Sanctus*, *Agnus Dei*, & *Pater Noster*). In other words: Vatican II did **not** call for the abandonment of Latin.

3. Popes after Vatican II reaffirmed Latin repeatedly: Pope Benedict XVI in, *Sacramentum Caritatis* §62: "I ask that the faithful be able to recite together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass..." Benedict was explicit: Latin is not an obstacle to participation – it can *foster* it.

4. Latin safeguards unity, reverence, and doctrinal stability: The Church sees real theological value in Latin: *Unity* across nations and cultures; *Stability* (Latin doesn't change like living languages); *Precision* in doctrine and prayer; *Sacral character* — set apart from everyday speech. This is why all official liturgical texts are first promulgated in Latin.

5. The current discipline today: The Ordinary Form (Novus Ordo) is the Latin Rite of the Church and thus may be celebrated entirely in Latin; No document has ever forbidden Latin in Mass; No priest needs special permission to use Latin in the Ordinary Form. It is the preferred language of the Latin (Roman) rite.

6. Regarding (Latin) Gregorian Chant: Vatican II, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, "The Church acknowledges Gregorian chant as specially suited to the Roman liturgy." "Therefore, other things being equal, it should be given pride of place (principem locum) in liturgical services." (§116). "Specially suited" = organically proper to the Roman Rite. "Pride of place" = not merely one option among equals. Vatican II did not demote chant; it explicitly reaffirmed it.

Bottom line: The Roman (Latin) Catholic Church teaches that Latin should be preserved, known, and used in the Mass. The vernacular is a pastoral concession, not a replacement. If Latin has disappeared from many parishes, that reflects local practice, not the Church's doctrine.

Latin Ordinaries you may hear: *Holy, holy, holy...*: Sánctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dóminus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt cæli et terra glória tua. Hosánnā in excélsis. Benedíctus qui venit in nómine Dómini. Hosánnā in excélsis.

Lamb of God...: Ágnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi: miserére nobis. Ágnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi: miserére nobis. Ágnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi: dona nobis pacem.

Collection Information

St. Mary Collection January 4, 2026

Weekly Collection.....	\$ 6,043.00
St. Vincent de Paul:	\$ 1,055.00
Southern Ohio Pregnancy Center:.....	\$ 170.00
Solemnity of Mary:.....	\$ 643.00
Cemetery Fund:.....	\$ 161.00
Maintenance Fund:	\$ 25.00

Online Giving makes it easy to fulfill stewardship commitments. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and improve its budget. It's less risky than writing checks or bringing cash to church. **Electronic contributions cannot be lost, stolen, or destroyed and have an extremely high rate of accuracy.**

St. Benignus Collection January 4, 2026

Weekly Collection.....	\$ 2,836.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$ 350.00

Thank You for your Generosity!

St. Mary Online Giving Link & QR Code

osvhub.com/stmaryhillsboro/giving/funds

You can give Online to (SOPC, SVdP, Building Fund, Church) to the link above.



BULLETIN DEADLINE OR BULLETIN EMAIL REQUEST

Bulletin can be Emailed – If you would like to have the Bulletin emailed to you, please contact the email below or church office. Please submit by **Monday 10:00 a.m.** Bulletin submissions in writing or e-mail justleahatstmary@gmail.com or submit in my mailbox located at the front of the school or call the office at 937-840-9932.

HIGHLAND COUNTY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Next Pastoral Council Meeting for St. Benignus & St. Mary – January 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary. Highland County Pastoral Council Meetings will be held the 2nd Wednesday of every month and rotate locations between St. Mary & St. Benignus.

DATES & INFORMATION AT ST. BENIGNUS

Thursday, January 15, 2026, St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry; Religious Education Building, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

St. Benignus PSR students will have a donation box in the back of the church for new or gently used winter hats, gloves, socks and scarves. The items collected will be donated to St. Benignus St. Vincent de Paul and will be dispersed as needed.

SVDP OF ST. BENIGNUS

SVDP meetings are on the **first and third Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.**, all are welcome. Do continue to support our youth drive for winter items: hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, socks.

SVDP welcomes new members. We want not only to help our neighbors but also grow in faith ourselves through fellowship and generosity to others.

ST. BENIGNUS MEN'S GROUP

Men's Group of St. Benignus 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., all men are invited to join us at 6:00 p.m.

ST. BENIGNUS LADIES AUXILIARY

St. Benignus Ladies Auxiliary Meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Religious Ed Bldg. Any questions, please reach out to Paula at 937-876-9883. Meetings will resume on **March 12, 2026**. All are invited to come and help support your church.

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

Harry Todd, Pat Stevens, Wayne Bryant, Jason Wood, Steve Faust, Madge McCoy, Richard Oakes, Dave Shoultz, Gail Grim, Robert Wheaton, Ally Wright, Bonnie Hammons, Joe Carson, Bob Dye, Joe Turley, Jeff Thoroman, David Tolle, Brittany Kinzer, Paula Miller, Claudia Frank, Jeff Hadley, Becky Hiser, Theresa Shackelford, Cathy Thompson, Edna Maxwell, Jean Smith, Dick Lester, Linda Bradford, Roseann Cordrey, Barry Reinholtz, Rosemarie Muenster, Dale Braun, Mary Williams, Greg Burns, Rob Wintrow, Nicole Rhoads, Alan Lane, Elaine Feder, Aubrey Griego, Jamey Phillips, Mike Vermeersch, Ervin Moore, Sarah Severyn, Cathy Fox, Bob Prosek, Sandra Singer, Arlene Huiet, Reita Haney

**** 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) **

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

As we celebrate your birthday, we give thanks to God for placing you in our life. May your day be filled with joy, reflection, and hope for the year ahead, and may He continue to bless you and watch over you all the days of your life.

January 10 – Lisa House
 January 11 – Dick Davis, Carson Licca
 January 12 – Thomas Hovan
 January 13 – Mark Hampton
 January 14 – Jeff Rossolot
 January 15 – Kathryn Hapner
 January 17 – Michelle Cimis
 January 18 – Jon Salyer
 January 19 – Jeffrey Beery, Charles Cordrey
 January 20 – Danielle Combs
 January 21 – Kinsley Volino, Zoey Licca
 January 22 – Eli Worley
 January 23 – Bonnie Rusch
 January 24 – Ellie Howland, Adam King, Carole Terrell, Cathy Thompson
 January 25 – Steven Ventura
 January 27 – Janet Hauser
 January 29 – Reanna Thery
 February 1 – Dale Martin, Kristie Miller
 February 2 – Nancy Bennett
 February 3 – Elijah Hatfield, Robert Perry
 February 4 – Angel Mendez

St. Benignus Volunteers Needed: Volunteers are needed to take down the Christmas decorations at St. Benignus Sunday, January 11, 2026 after 9:00 a.m. mass.

"We must always remember that God does everything well, although we may not see the reason of what He does."

— St. Philip Neri

ST. MARY REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Year-End Offering Statement: If you would like it emailed or printed for pickup in the back of the church, please contact the church office at 937-840-9932 or by email to justleahatstmary@gmail.com.

St. Mary Knights of Columbus meetings are the **2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. of each month at St. Mary**

St. Mary Volunteers Needed: We are looking for parishioner volunteers to join our dedicated crew of counters to help with counting the weekly collection. If you are a current counter, or would like to volunteer for this ministry, please be sure to sign up on the sheet in front of Mary on the communion rail.

Training will be provided.

Counting will be done after the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

Volunteers can sign up until January 12, 2026; please contact the church office for more details.

St. Mary Choir: Your Saturday organists would love to have voices join them upstairs for Saturday Mass. Announcing songs, singing the songs familiar to you and new to us, keeping us on the right verse – all would be helpful. Please wander upstairs and introduce yourself. No special process is necessary. Help us make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

— Kristy and Cathy

St. Vincent de Paul Monthly Report for December, 2025

Donations:

Bingo Concession	\$ 340.00
Monthly Donations	\$ 1,176.00
District grants	\$ 713.00
Anonymous donors	<u>\$ 2,550.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,779.00

Thank you for your generous monthly contributions. Your contributions will help more families and individuals in crisis.

Expenditures:

Assistance to neighbors:

The expenditures for the month was **\$4,099.00** includes help paying: utility bills, gasoline, rent, temporary housing, groceries, appliances, furniture, and more.

Monthly Fundraiser:

SVdP members operates the concession stand at St. Mary Bingo. All the concession stand profits goes to SVdP. Come out and enjoy an evening of Bingo and food on the first Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.).

Upcoming Fundraiser

Monday, January 19, 2026 at Wendy's 900 N. High Street, Hillsboro. Dine-in or carry-out between 5:00-8:00 p.m. A percentage of the proceeds will go to SVdP to help neighbors in our community.

Contact information:

The local SVdP phone number for a neighbor in need or to join the SVdP organization call 937-205-0919.

Report submitted by: Lois M. Richendollar



ST. MARY CHURCH BINGO

Bingo Team 2 (February 6, 2026)

David T.,
Mary T.,
Tara B.,
Joyce C.,
JoAnn M.,
Kevin / Teresa S.

ST. MARY CEMETERY FUND – JANUARY YELLOW ENVELOPES

Why You Should Give to the Cemetery Church Fund:

Supporting the cemetery church funds is a meaningful act that honors the memory of loved ones and ensures the continued care of sacred spaces.

Please prayerfully consider donating to the cemetery church fund:

Maintain Beauty and Dignity: Cemetery funds provide income that covers the costs of mowing, preserving monuments, and general maintenance, ensuring the grounds remain beautiful and dignified year-round. **Support the Community:** Donations help support the spiritual well-being of the community, allowing parishes to focus on their mission without the burden of extensive cemetery maintenance costs. **Tax Benefits:** Donations to the cemetery fund, easing the financial responsibility of both the donor and the church.



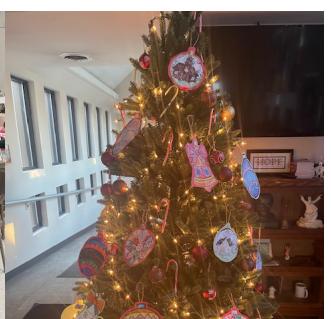
Long-term Care: Perpetual care funds are designed to provide income for cemetery maintenance and upkeep, ensuring cemetery care for generations to come. **Community Responsibility:** Donating to a cemetery fund fosters a sense of community and shared responsibility, ensuring that the grounds are maintained and preserved for future generations.

By donating to the cemetery church fund, you contribute to the long-term care of these sacred spaces and help ensure that they remain a peaceful and respectful environment for those who visit to mourn and remember.

Our Lady of the Hills Parish Family will be going to a **Cincinnati Reds game on Friday, June 12, 2026! 7:10 p.m. is the scheduled first pitch. The ticket price is \$34.00** (with the group discount applied) and we will be in section 415-419 (depending on the total number of tickets needed).



Chyane Collins is coordinating the ticket purchase. You can reach her directly by calling / texting 740-572-2101 with your ticket quantity or questions.



PSR students making Christmas ornaments for the parish tree!

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Our Lady of The Hills Family Mass Schedule

8:30Am- Mary Queen of Heaven

Noon -St Benignus

6:00pm Confessions at Holy Trinity & St Mary

7:00pm-St Mary

7:00pm- Holy Trinity Church

*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return..”*



OUR LADY OF THE HILLS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We invite you to reflect on the final moments of Jesus' earthly life through the Stations of the Cross.

February 19th - March 27th

THURSDAYS

9:00AM HOLY TRINITY

FRIDAYS

9:00AM- MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN

12:30PM: ST MARY

7:00PM- ST BENIGNUS



Religious teachers from OLOT gathered for Mass, lunch and guest speaker at Holy Trinity. Guest speaker was Christina Bumgardner from the Center of Evangelization.



Fr. Scott Blessing St. Mary Church, Rectory Offices & Campus for Epiphany

Holy Saints of God Family of Parishes

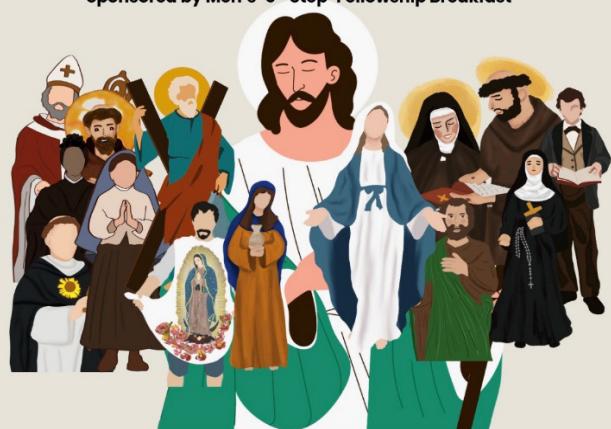
2026 Men's Retreat “Saints in the Making”

Fri, 1/30/26 - Sat, 1/31/26

5 PM-9 PM

7:30 AM-12 PM

Sponsored by Men's '5th Step' Fellowship Breakfast



QR Code to Register & Schedule of Events

All men 13 yrs
& older are
welcome!



Or text Bob @
937-725-5134

holysaintsogod.org/2026-mens-retreat

We are called, like Jesus, to bring about God's kingdom of justice, love, healing, liberation and peace through whatever ways and means are possible. As we settle back into Ordinary Time; albeit only for a few weeks before Lent begins, let us remember that through our own baptism God has named us as his beloved sons and daughters and that like Jesus, all that we undertake must flow from who and what we are – God's beloved.



UPCOMING COLLECTION
JANUARY 31 & FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Rejoice in the LORD always.
Phil. 4:4

YOUR GIFT TO THE CMA SUPPORTS:
Archdiocesan Seminarians • St. Rita School for the Deaf
Catholic Charities and Catholic Social Services • New Evangelization
Retired Archdiocesan Priests and Senior Clergy
Campus, Hospital, and Prison Ministries

CatholicAOC.org/CMA

Partner with us in support of these Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Seminary & Vocations**
We give thanks to God for our priests!
Without them, we would not be able to celebrate the Eucharist!
This year, **45** men are in formation for our Archdiocese. In the last three years, **23** men have been ordained to the priesthood in our Archdiocese.
- Catholic Charities & Social Services**
"I was hungry, and you gave Me food."
425,492 total meals served last year through Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley and Catholic Charities Southwest Ohio.
- Campus Ministry**
A strong Catholic presence at UC, Miami, and Wright State has resulted in OCIA candidates, seminarians, Bible study groups, and regular Mass attendance.
88 students are journeying toward full communion with the Church through OCIA.
- Hospital Ministry**
"I was sick, and you visited Me."
Over **40,000** visits at **14** hospital campuses are made each year.
- Retired Priests & Senior Clergy**
The CMA supports our retired priests and senior clergy (priests who choose to postpone retirement and continue in active ministry beyond age 70).
107 priests receive retirement benefits, and an additional **14** are Senior Clergy.
- Center for the New Evangelization**
The CNE equips parishes for mission; forming evangelization leaders through training, marriage & family life ministry, Hispanic advocacy and formation, as well as college and young adult initiatives.
Over **3,500** youth attended local Adoration Events in 2025.
- Prison Ministry**
"I was in prison, and you visited Me."
Since last Spring, **13** inmates completed OCIA and were received into the Church.
- St. Rita School for the Deaf**
St. Rita meets the educational and social needs of children who are deaf or have communication challenges - grades Pre-K through 12.
99 **100%** of surveyed students reported daily prayer practice.

ST MARY
ST VINCENT DE PAUL
January 17th & 18th, 2026

Membership Drive Weekend

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) mission is to serve those in need through person-to-person service, inspired by Gospel values, to grow spiritually and build a more just world by alleviating suffering and fighting poverty with compassion and respect for human dignity.

Serve the Poor: Directly assist neighbors in need with charity and justice, not just transactions, creating dignity. Spiritual Growth: Members (Vincentians) find holiness through service, prayer, and mutual support. Justice & Advocacy: Work to transform the causes of poverty and challenge human injustice. Compassion & Respect: Serve everyone without judgment, regardless of background. Friendship: Build relationships based on trust and shared faith.

† St. Vincent de Paul
Society of
Neighbors helping neighbors.

*Please join us in the Narthex after mass for
Coffee & Donuts Jan 17th & 18th*

CHARITY EVENT

Wendy's & **St. Vincent de Paul**

Dine-In & **Drive-Thru**

Monday
January 19, 2026
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
900 N. High Street, Hillsboro

Come to Wendy's and support St. Vincent de Paul
% of the proceeds will go to SVdP
(SVdP a non-profit organization (501(c)(3))

Your contributions will go back to our community to help neighbors in need.

WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US

February 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at St. Simon the Apostle
825 Pontius Road, Cincinnati, OH 45233

First Saturday Mass and talk by Fr David Endres, academic dean, professor of church history and historical theology at Mt. St. Mary's seminary, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and author.

Other speakers and witnesses from Presentation Ministries, prayer teams and confessions will be available throughout the day.

Our retreats are in person and live streamed.

Phone: 937-587-5464 or 513-373-2397. Register online at our website www.presentationministries.com. Email: bpojesu2000@gmail.com. Cost: A donation – Pray and “do whatever he tells you.”

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Philip A. Burwinkel, D.D.S.
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