

DECEMBER 22, 2024

EASTSIDE CATHOLICS

St. Cecilia Oakley | St. Mary Hyde Park | The Oratory of St. John Vianney Madisonville



Adoration of the Magi, circa 1725, Corrado Giaquinto

O come, let us adore him.



Eastside Catholics is composed of Saint Cecilia in Oakley, Saint Mary in Hyde Park and the Oratory of Saint John Vianney at Saint Anthony in Madisonville.

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

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COORD. OF YOUNG ADULT MIN. / MaryBeth Edmundson

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SCHOOL OFFICE MANAGER / Lisa Koslovsky

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FUNERALS — Carrie Brigger

cbrigger@eastsidecatholics.org | (513) 321-1207, ext. 7

For more information on weddings, baptisms and funerals, please visit eastsidecatholics.org or call the appropriate parish office.

Priest Emergency Line: (513) 815-5038



Weekend Mass Schedule

St. Cecilia (Oakley)

Saturday 3:30 PM | Sunday 8 AM, 10 AM, and 8:15 PM

St. Mary (Hyde Park)

Saturday at 4 PM | Sunday at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM

The Oratory of St. John Vianney at St. Anthony Church (Madisonville)

Saturday 3 PM | Sunday 9:30 AM

Daily Mass Schedule

St. Cecilia (Oakley)

9 AM Mass, Monday-Saturday.

All-day Adoration follows the 9 AM Mass on Wednesdays with 7 PM Holy Hour and Confessions from 7-7:50 PM

St. Mary (Hyde Park)

5:30 PM evening Mass, Monday-Thursday with Holy Hour on Tuesdays following the 5:30 PM Mass.

The Oratory of St. John Vianney at St. Anthony Church (Madisonville)

11:45 AM Mass, Monday-Friday



Confession Schedule

Confessions begin immediately after all daily Masses. One hour before weekend Masses, ending 30 minutes before Mass.

Church Addresses

St. Cecilia (Oakley)

3105 Madison Road, Cincinnati OH 45209

Office: (513) 871-5757

www.stceciliacincinnati.org

St. Mary (Hyde Park)

2853 Erie Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45208

Office: (513) 321-1207

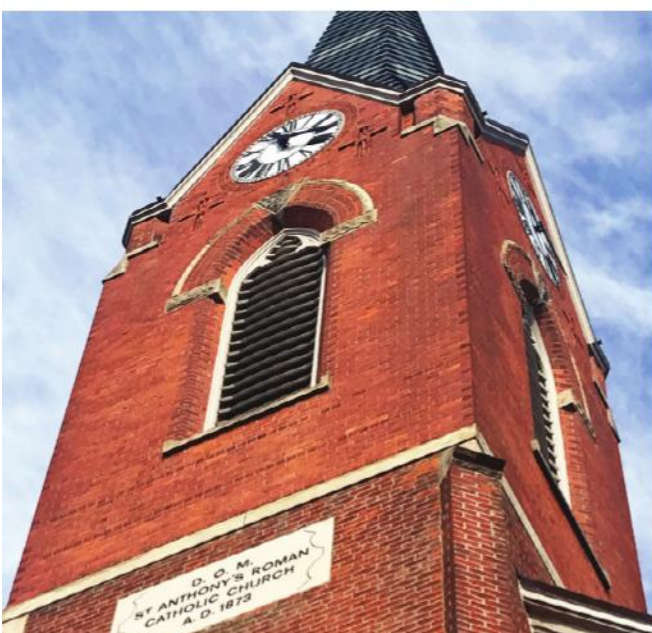
www.smchp.com

The Oratory of St. John Vianney at St. Anthony Church (Madisonville)

6104 Desmond Street, Cincinnati, OH 45227

(513) 271-0920 | www.eastsidefaith.org

Oratory St. Vincent de Paul Society: (513) 271-0856



www.eastsidecatholics.org

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The Corner

Fr. Jamie Weber gives a brief overview for the week and top highlights in the family of parishes.

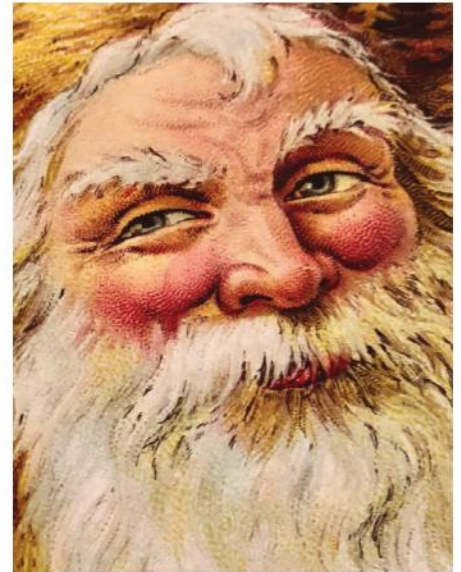
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Pastor's Ramblings

A snapshot of our community. Here is where we will showcase all the activities and blessings.

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The Spread

Our weekly spread will dive a little deeper into the specific topic that is featured for the week.

Mass intentions can be found on page 18 and weekly financials on page 19.

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Eastside Catholics

This section will highlight ways to get connected and invite those seeking community.

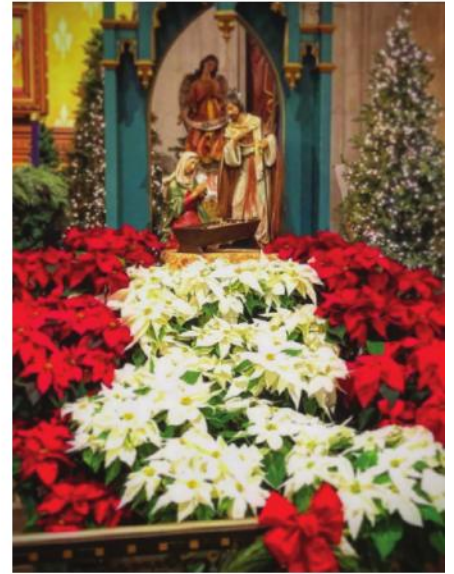
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Upcoming Events

What is going on and coming up in our community. Primarily focused on activities outside of the church.

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News & Notes

Internal communications. This section focuses on details and announcements from us.



Pastor's *Corner*

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

This week we enter into the Christmas season. We have our houses and churches decorated for Christmas Day ready to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. On Christmas Day we turn on all of the Christmas lights at home, on the altars, as well as outside. It is a beautiful remembrance of how the light will always win over the darkness. So many things come from the light that shines on Christmas Day. For one thing it was the symbol of the star that proclaimed the birth of Jesus. It was that same light that led the Magi to find Him. We light the candles next to the ambo as we open our hearts to the Word. The light also signifies good conquering evil.

May we enter the season of Christmas with the Light of Christ guiding us to a deeper relationship with Our Lord. May we spend the following weeks sharing this light with our loved ones by living His Word and helping them seek the light that will lead us out of darkness.

On behalf of all of the priests and staff at our three churches and schools, we wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Amen? Amen.

Schedule of Masses

Make your plans now for Christmas and the New Year's holy day of obligation.

+ Christmas Masses

Tuesday, December 24

3 PM	The Oratory
3 PM	St. Mary
3 PM	St. Cecilia
5:00 PM	St. Cecilia
5:30 PM	St. Mary
10:30 PM	St. Mary
Midnight	St. Cecilia

Wednesday, December 25

10 AM	The Oratory
10 AM	St. Mary
10 AM	St. Cecilia

+ Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Masses

Tuesday, December 31

5:30 PM	St. Mary (Vigil Mass)
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Wednesday, January 1

9 AM	The Oratory
9 AM	St. Mary
9 AM	St. Cecilia

**Come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!**

Holy Innocents

Saturday, December 28, is the Feast of the Holy Innocents. King Herod had the children killed after Jesus was born and this is the day we remember the martyred babies — The Holy Innocents. We have a 9 AM Mass at St. Cecilia that you can attend as well as spending the day in mourning and fasting for our first martyrs.



Blessing of Expectant Mothers.

Sunday, December 29, is The Feast of the Holy Family, and we will be blessing the expectant mothers in our churches. If you have a friend or family member who would like to be part of this blessing please invite them to Mass. This blessing is a comfort to the mothers and it is a wonderful way to promote the respect of the dignity of life.

Join the Oratory in Praying for our Priests!

This week we are praying for **Fr. Jacob Lindle, Fr. Thomas McCarthy, Fr. Timothy Schehr, Fr. George Schmitz, and Fr. Elias Mwesigye**. Please consider joining in the Rosary especially offered for these priests at the Oratory each weekday at 11:15 AM, before the 11:45 AM Mass.

PASTOR'S RAMBLINGS

From the desk of Father Jamie ...

I wanted to thank everyone who helped in any way with our Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Cecilia. Thanks especially to Dan O'Connell and his team of volunteers from all three of our churches. Those who provided turkeys, helped with the food prep, delivered meals to those who could not be with us in person. It was once again a truly wonderful event.





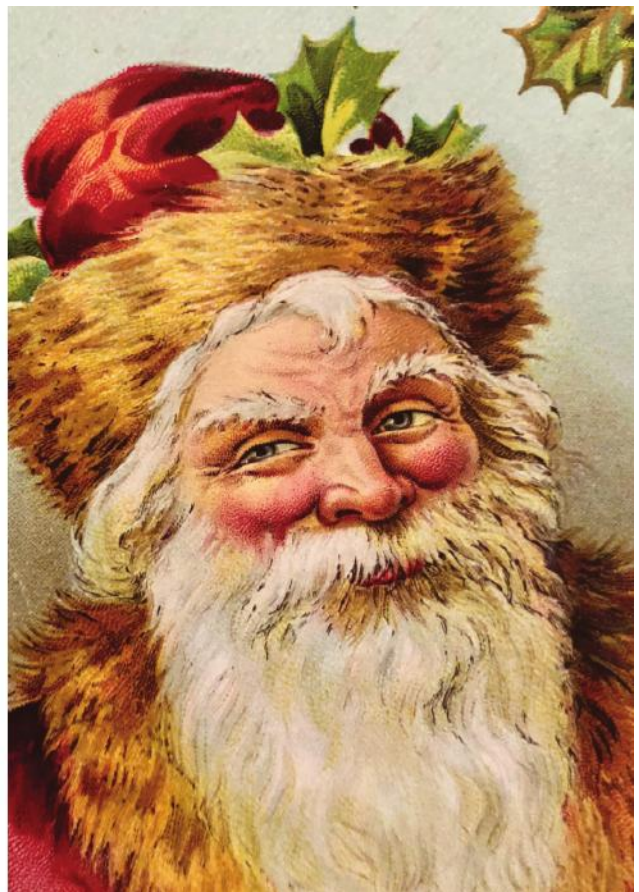
“TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

by MaryBeth Edmundson

... and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.”

I'm sure we can all recite the rest of this iconic poem without hesitation. It's one of the most beloved Christmas books of all time. First published in 1823, most families gather together sometime during the Christmas season to read and recite it together; it's a tradition for many families across our country. I know this poem is ingrained in my own memory, thanks to many years of reading it with my family. The magic of the poem would have my sister and I squealing in delightful anticipation of the day to come. The details of Santa's visit still brings up feelings of the wonder and awe that I'm sure most kids associate with the magic of Christmas. But how often do we think of this poem in relation to our Catholic Faith and the real reason for Christmas? The poem mentions many joyful secular traditions- the stockings hung by the chimney, Jolly Old St. Nick arrives in a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer- and while these are fun traditions that make children light up like a Christmas Tree, it's actually a poem very rooted in Catholicism. St. Nicholas, as we know, was a real man, living in modern day Turkey in the 4th Century. He was known for coming in the night to leave people anonymous gifts. He was a pious man, brought up by devout Christian parents, who went on to play a large role

in combating the Arian Heresy during the Council of Nicea. The Santa Clause we know from the poem was born from this Catholic Saint. His spirit of generosity is carried through the Santa Clause we know today. We all know that the birth of Christ is why we celebrate Christmas; it's easy, however, to get caught up in the secular traditions and forget this. By reading *Twass the Night Before Christmas* with your family, and helping your children to understand the Catholic roots of Santa Clause, you may find that your family will easily be able to keep Christ and Catholic traditions in Christmas.



A TIME FOR GIVING

Ways you can contribute

1

CASH GIFTS

A cash gift of any amount is a convenient and popular way to show your faithful support for the church and our ministries. If you itemize, the full amount of your gift qualifies for a 2024 charitable income tax deduction. Make certain your check is dated 2024 and received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2024, to receive a deduction this year.

2

MAKE A GIFT WITH YOUR IRA

Congress made the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) a permanent rule in 2015. It allows owners of a traditional IRA to exclude RMDs from their adjusted gross income (AGI) if they give the money to an approved charity, also known as a qualified charitable organization. The QCD rule allows you to give the amount you donate from your IRA directly to charity without ever receiving it as income. Therefore, you pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions. Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may also help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax. Best of all, you can start taking QCDs at age 70½; you don't have to wait until you hit 73.

WISE TAX PLANNING

3

Making extra gifts or accelerating future gifts into the 2024 tax year can enable an itemized income tax deduction. The standard deduction threshold for 2024 is \$29,200 for joint filers, \$21,900 for heads of households and \$14,600 for singles (\$1,950/person 65+, \$3,900 if joint return, \$1,950 if unmarried). If your total deductions are less than those amounts, you won't be able to deduct any charitable gifts. An extra year-end gift may add just enough to allow you to take advantage of your full itemized deduction. Many tax-wise donors accelerate contributions for the coming year to enable itemization at least every other year.

SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION (SGO)

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS! A donation to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), directing the funding to St. Mary School or St. Cecilia School, is a great opportunity to direct state funding that would otherwise be paid in taxes. There is no cost to your family individually, as the donation generates a dollar-for-dollar tax credit of \$750 per donor (up to \$1500 for a couple) to be used against Ohio tax liability. This fund will help create additional scholarship funding for St. Mary or St. Cecilia that would otherwise be funded through the general fund. **To participate, please visit [catholicbestchoice.org/sgo](https://www.catholicbestchoice.org/sgo)**

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ST. CECILIA GIVING

Scan the QR below or text GIVE3105 to 513-434-3577



ST. MARY GIVING

Scan the QR below or text GIVESTM to 513-540-0703



THE ORATORY GIVING

Scan the QR below or text GIVEORA to 513-998-6080



EASTSIDE CATHOLICS

Cocktails with the Catechism 2025

We're excited to announce that our theme for Cocktails with the Catechism 2025 is *Pilgrims of Hope: Untangling Myths and Misunderstandings from the First Two Millennia*. Just in time for the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, get ready to break open some of the Church's most complex, heavily debated, and commonly confused teachings and events that span the centuries. With topics like Vatican II, excommunication, the Crusades, and Purgatory, you are sure to leave 2025 with a renewed confidence to boldly understand, profess, and defend the Catholic faith.



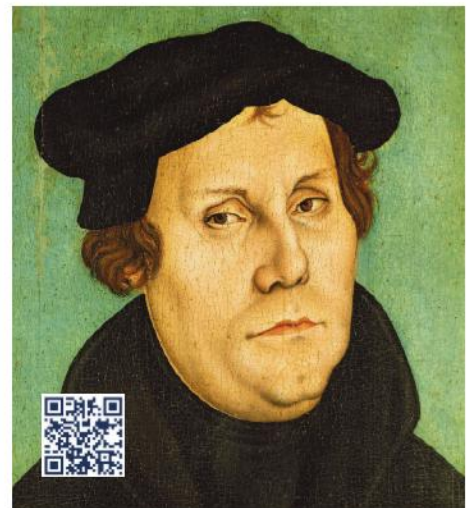
St. Mary School Moms Spring Bible Study

Our upcoming study, *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible*, helps you get the "big picture" by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. Moms from St. Mary School are invited to join us starting January 7 to discover together the story of salvation history and understand how each of us fit into God's plan. All experience levels are welcome! Learn more by scanning the QR code!



Discover the Next Chapter of our Family Story

This fall, about forty parishioners from across our Family embarked on a journey of learning about the earliest origins of our Catholic faith through our Early Church Study. Now, we turn our attention forward to all that lies beyond that first 500 years: the Crusades, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, and the age of secularism. Join us as we continue to discover the richness of our family story, the heritage that is our Catholic faith. Sign up for classes beginning on January 6th using the link below; we promise you'll be glad you did!



The Chosen Conversations and Commentary ... Continues!

After an enlightening fall diving into the first four episodes of *The Chosen* and listening to discussions between faith leaders and the show's director, we are excited to continue this opportunity for the coming spring. Join us Thursday mornings from 9-10:30 AM in the Marian Room on St. Mary's campus for conversations surrounding this Biblical series that has taken the world by storm. Those who have both seen *The Chosen* previously and new viewers are welcome! Learn more by scanning the code or visiting eastsidecatholics.org/the-chosen-study.



EPIC | Extraordinary Parishioners Involved in Community 65+

It has been a fun and adventurous year! Thank you to all who support our program and events. EPIC is about and for you. A special thanks to the EPIC Committee, Cathy Colque, Ron Lamping, Janet Buening, Marie O'Donnell, Chris Carnes, Bea Randle and Donna Mancini. They have creative ideas and are dedicated to enhancing the lives of our senior parishioners. We wish you all a very blessed and joyful Christmas as we celebrate our greatest gift, Jesus. We have another exciting year planned for 2025. Watch your bulletins for upcoming events.

God bless us all. – Mary Landrum, EPIC Chair



FAMILY OF FAITH *ADVENT FUN*

Thank you to all the Family of Faith folks who joined us on Saturday, December 7 for our Advent Retreat. The kids and their parents had a lovely time decorating Advent Calendars, making ornaments for their Jesse Trees, and learning about some of our favorite Advent hymns from our Music Directors!



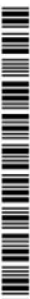


UPCOMING EVENTS

ICE SKATING AT FOUNTAIN SQUARE

The young adults of the Eastside Catholics are going ice skating at the Fountain Square ice rink on January 18, 2025! Join us for some winter fun downtown in the heart of the Queen City. We'll arrive downtown and stop at Fountain Bar for a quick drink around 6:30 PM, then head to the rink around 7 PM. It will be open until 11 PM, and we'll stay until we're too cold to skate anymore! Tickets will be \$10 per person (including skate rental, which is available at the rink) and are only available for purchase at the rink the night of the event.

Not really feeling like ice skating but still want to come for the community? Not to worry; there's something for everyone. The concession stand has a selection of snacks and drinks (including hot chocolate) available for purchase, and the Fountain Bar will be open for drinks until 9:30 PM.





Candlelight Mass

The next Young Adult Candlelight Mass is January 9 at St. Cecilia, with Confessions at 6:30 and Mass at 7 PM. A social will follow.

Save the Date: Shrines and Steins Pilgrimage Information Session

Have you ever dreamed of frolicking through the streets of Salzburg like Maria Von Trapp, touring fairytale-inspiring castles, or seeing the original statue of the Infant of Prague? If so, come learn more about our upcoming Eastside Catholics pilgrimage to Prague, Austria, and Germany! There are still a few seats open for this once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Our information session will be hosted on Thursday, January 16 at 7 PM in Robisch Hall. Come hear more about the itinerary, receive general tips on traveling to Germany, Austria, & Prague, and have an opportunity to ask questions about the pilgrimage. Learn more about the pilgrimage and register by visiting www.stcharlespilgrimages.com/dugas.

The Fun Bunch Chili Cook Off

Join the 40s Plus Fun Bunch for a chili cook off in the St. Cecilia Commons area on Sunday, January 12 at 5 PM. We will also have some tables set up to play the very fun card game "31" after you finish dinner. More details to follow, but mark your calendars for January 12 at 5PM and be thinking of your best chili recipe! RSVP to stcfunbunch@gmail.com if you would like to join the party.





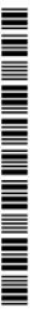
NEWS & NOTES

THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY OF IRENA GUT OPDYKE

Step into the shadows of Nazi-occupied Poland to witness the harrowing tale of a 19-year-old Polish Catholic nurse turned housekeeper who risks her life to secretly hide more than a dozen Jews in the house of her employer—a high-ranking German officer who is growing dangerously fond of her.

With suspenseful storytelling and enrapturing dialogue, *Irena's Vow* is more than a play; it is a testament to the moral courage of a young woman who saved a generation of Jews. Visit www.cincinnatiarts.org/events/detail/irenas-vow for tickets and info.

The Arnoff Center | January 17-18





Eucharistic Exposition Adorers Needed

We are in immediate need of adorers at St. Cecilia on Wednesdays for our all-day Adoration especially during the hours of 11 AM–4 PM. A half-hour to an hour commitment is workable. Please prayerfully consider giving time to the Lord. Please call or text Mary Lou Huth at (513) 908-6810 or email her at marylouhuth@yahoo.com to sign up.

Marriage Solutions

If you are having trouble within your marriage, especially if you are considering separation, the Church is here to help you. There is no such thing as Catholic divorce, as marriage is a permanent, unbreakable institution. Even if you think you and your spouse are beyond all reconciliation, there is hope and there is help. Even if you are separated or civilly divorced, your marriage bond is not broken. Please reach out to Deacon Nathan (deaconnathan@stceciacincinnati.org) for a confidential meeting. Our clergy will either try to help you here, or guide you toward someone who can.

However, there are times when two people have attempted marriage invalidly, have separated, and are in need of the Church's help in order to marry in the future. Catholics who are in this state do not need to refrain from the Sacraments unless they have already attempted marriage again or are in a relationship with a person other than their spouse. If you suspect your prior marriage may be invalid, we can help with the annulment process. Please reach out to Joe Fondacaro at 513-871-5757, ext. 222 for help. All inquiries regarding your current or past marriage are kept in the strictest confidence.

Pray the rosary. Witness your faith.

Men who have or wish to develop a devotion to the Blessed Virgin through the rosary are welcome to join them the first Saturday of every month at 7:30 AM to pray the rosary on the steps in front of St. Cecilia church. The Brotherhood of the Holy Rosary will meet next on Saturday, January 4.



Christmas Flowers

St. Cecilia is once again inviting parishioners to remember or honor someone special by making a donation toward our Christmas flowers and decorations in that person's name. Place the request in the specially marked envelope you received in the mail. There are also envelopes in the pews and at the doors. You may drop your envelope in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office. Thank you!



At St. Mary you can also give a gift in loving memory of or in honor of a loved one and help offset the cost of the beautiful altar flowers this Christmas season. Use the QR code at left to donate. Thank you!

Elderly and Homebound Ministry

The Homebound Ministry group strives to connect with parishioners from St. Cecilia, the Oratory, and St. Mary who are temporarily or permanently not able to come to Mass and would still like to be involved in the community. If you or someone you know is interested in receiving weekly bulletins, connecting with another individual from the parish, saying the rosary with someone, or receiving communion, please let us know. Contact Laura Spaugh at 513-321-1207, ext. 414, or email lspaugh@eastside.org.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions may be requested and paid for online at eastsidecatholics.org, under the "About" section. Masses may also be scheduled at one of our offices. Payment may be made online, in an envelope clearly marked in the collection basket, or in person during office hours. Intentions are often requested for those who have died, but may include any kind of need that you or someone you know is experiencing for which prayer is needed.

Monday / December 23

9:00 AM (STC) Mary Crimaldi (L)
11:45 AM (OSJV) Deceased of Burger and Rupp Families
5:30 PM (STM) Hugh Cahill †

Tuesday / December 24

3:00 PM (STC) Calvin Brigger (L)
3:00 PM (OSJV) For the Living and Deceased Regional Families
3:00 PM (STM) Judy Herron †
5:00 PM (STC) Bob Huelsman †
5:30 PM (STM) The Order of Alhambra
10:30 PM (STM) The special intentions of Judette (L)

Wednesday / December 25

10:00 AM (STC) Mr. Anthony Altimari †
10:00 AM (OSJV) The Leep Family (L)
10:00 AM (STM) The Marriage of Colin and Kelsey Kunath

Thursday / December 26

9:00 AM (STC) Nora Green
11:45 AM (OSJV) Jude Holland †
5:30 PM (STM) Anne Gardner Wilker

Friday / December 27

9:00 AM (STC) Fr. Jeremy Stubbs (L)
11:45 AM (OSJV) Agnes & Jim Rupp †
5:30 PM (STM) No Mass

Saturday / December 28

9:00 AM (STC) Gene Hanawalt (L)
3:00 PM (OSJV) Tim Jeffreys †
3:30 PM (STC) Michael Laage †
4:00 PM (STM) Michael Sweeney †

Sunday / December 29

8 AM (STC) For the Repose of the Soul of Kathleen Schwab
8:30 AM (STM) Lear Moon †
9:30 AM (OSJV) For the Living and Deceased Regional Families
10:00 AM (STC) Fr. Jacob Willig (L)
10:30 AM (STM) George Randle †
8:15 PM (STC) The Wedding Anniversary of Thomas & Lauren Carle

† Deceased (L) Living



FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

For the week ending December 8, 2024

	St. Cecilia	St. Mary	The Oratory
Offertory	\$10,117.00	\$10,099.00	\$3,634.00
Online	\$16,657.15	\$10,775.00	\$606.40
Total Collection	\$26,774.15	\$28,630.00	\$4,240.40
Avg. Collection	\$20,018.64	\$18,663.43	\$3,258.76
Budgeted Weekly	\$20,000.00	\$21,768.00	\$4,000.00

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” – Matthew 6:21

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 <p>SACRED HEART CATHOLIC RADIO 740 AM + 910 AM</p>	 <p>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Catholic men 18 and older, interested in helping those in need, serving our parish and/or growing in faith? Consider joining our Salve Regina Council #14834. Contact Greg Albanese salvereginacouncil@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Your new neighbors on Erie Avenue! 3322 Erie Avenue, Suite 200, Cincinnati, OH 45208 513-278-7467 Scan here to start planning www.simsinvestment.com</p>
<p>The WAY to grow in your Catholic faith EVERY DAY!</p>  <p>Listen on the APP</p>	 <p>Matthew Mauro, D.M.A. PIANO LESSONS teaching your parishioners since 2015 513.204.9684 www.matthewmauromusic.com/lessons</p>	 <p>ST. MARGARET HALL "The Difference Is Love" Compassionate, loving care served by The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm Assisted Living & Skilled Nursing 1960 Madison Rd. 513-751-5880</p>
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Steve Sublett, St. Mary Parishioner

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