

Stella
Maris

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT | FEBRUARY 22, 2026
Christ in the Wilderness | Ivan Kramskoy

*Weekend Mass Schedule

St. Bernadette

Saturday 8:15am, Sunday 9am & 11am

St. Mary

Sunday 10:30am

St. Peter

Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8:30am

St. Thomas More

Saturday 4pm, Sunday 8am & 10am

*Daily Mass Schedule

St. Bernadette

M, T, W, F 8:15am, Thursday 6:45pm

St. Mary

Tuesday & Thursday 8:30am

St. Peter

Friday 8:30am

St. Thomas More

T, W, Th, F 8:30am

Confession Schedule

St. Bernadette: Thursdays from 5:30pm to 6:30pm
& Saturdays from 9am to 10am

St. Mary: Thursdays from 6pm to 7pm

St. Peter: Mondays from 6pm to 7pm &
Saturdays from 4:00pm to 4:45pm

St. Thomas More: Saturdays 3pm to 3:40pm

Confessions are also available by appointment. Please contact one of our priests by phone or email to schedule a time.

Eucharistic Exposition

****St. Bernadette:** Tuesdays from 9am - 8pm

St. Mary: Thursdays from 5pm - 7pm

St. Peter: Mondays from 1pm - 7pm

St. Thomas More: Fridays from 9:30am - 3:30pm

Learn more about Eucharistic exposition and becoming a regular guardian at stellamarisfamily.org/adoration.



**Benediction (7pm-8pm) 3rd Tuesday
and 1st Friday of each month at St. Bernadette

Mass Intentions

Key: B: Bernadette, M: Mary, P: Peter, TM: Thomas More

Monday, February 23

8:15am (B) † Bill Kennedy req. by Sue Kennedy

Tuesday, February 24

8:15am (B) † Lisa Ann Seipelt

8:30am (M) † Jennie Schajatovic req. by St. Mary Bereavement

8:30am (TM) † Mary Lou Griffin Harrison req. by The Family

Wednesday, February 25

8:15am (B) † Euphemia Campbell Baird req. by Anthony MacIsaac

8:30am (TM) † Bob O'Connor req. by The O'Connor Family

Thursday, February 26

8:30am (TM) Jeannette Archer req. by Carole Hinton

8:30am (M) People of the Parish Family

6:45pm (B) Ashley Dawn Searcy req. by Diane Sievering

Friday, February 27

8:15am (B) People of the Parish Family

8:30am (P) Maria Brockman req. by The Williams Family

8:30am (TM) † Len Heiselman req. by Jeannine Heiselman

Saturday, February 28

8:15am (B) Priest's Intention

4:00pm (TM) † Thomas Crawford req. by Bill Crawford

5:00pm (P) † Becky Coslett req. by Joseph and Linda Macke

Sunday, March 1

8:00am (TM) † Sue Sutter req. by Lorie and Steve

8:30am (P) Ricky Holt req. by The Williams Family

9:00am (B) † Lisa Ann Seipelt

10:00am (TM) People of the Parish req. by The Pastor

10:30am (M) † Thomas Schneider req. by Regina Finke

11:00am (B) People of the Parish Family

Other Sacramental Needs

For more information on weddings, baptisms, and funerals, please call the appropriate parish office. **If you or a loved one is hospitalized or ill at home and would like a pastoral visit and/or Anointing of the Sick, please call [513-549-2198](tel:513-549-2198).**

Schedule a Mass Intention

If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for a special occasion, on behalf of a family member, a friend, or a deceased loved one, please submit a Mass Request using our new online program.

Visit the link below, or scan the QR code.

tinyurl.com/MassIntentionSM



*Exceptions for Mass times will be listed separately in the bulletin.

Ash Wednesday

If you attended daily Mass on Ash Wednesday, which is not a Holy Day of Obligation, you received ashes on your forehead from burnt palms, which had been blessed the previous Palm Sunday.

In the first option for distribution of the ashes, the minister says, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return." This is a stark reminder that your body will die, then your soul will go immediately to particular judgment, then your soul will be saved or damned, up or down for all eternity, based on state of grace or state of mortal sin. This is why the great Catholic evangelist Jesse Romero says, "There are 50 states, but the only state that matters is the state of grace!" So, if your soul is in a state of mortal sin, then go to the Sacrament of Confession as soon as possible and be restored to a state of grace. Always remember the fundamentals of the faith — saved by grace, first given in Baptism, restored in Confession, renewed in the Eucharist. This is the path to Heaven — saved by grace, but you need to stay in a state of grace by keeping the Commandments.

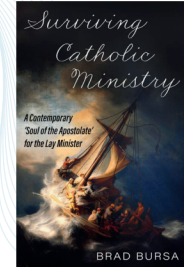
In the second option for distribution of the ashes, the minister says, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." Repentance is signified by ashes in the Old Testament, so wearing ashes is a sign of being a repentant sinner. Therefore, if you receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, then you are signifying that you are a repentant sinner, and of course, repentant sinners go to the Sacrament of Confession, so be sure to go to Confession this Lent. Also, remember that, other than the Immaculate Conception herself, we are all sinners, but the difference between the souls in Heaven and the souls in Hell is repentance, in that the souls in Heaven repented of their sins and were forgiven by God, whereas the souls in Hell refused to repent of their sins until the end, dying in final impenitence, and thus were not forgiven by God.



Fr. Thomas Dorn
Parochial Vicar



SURVIVING CATHOLIC MINISTRY A BOOK STUDY



Tuesdays at 7:30 pm | March 3rd and 31st | Stievenard Hall, St. Bernadette

Nobody enters Catholic ministry aiming to become jaded. Yet it happens all the time. Ministers often grow calloused and abandon ship. It does not have to be this way. In "Surviving Catholic Ministry," Brad Bursa combines his deep experience in the ministry field with insights drawn from Tradition to provide readers a practical escape from burnout. The cost for the study is \$15, which includes the book and materials. \$8 of each book purchase goes straight to supporting the Stella Maris Institute coffee fund. The cost for this study is free if you already own the book.

stellamarisfamily.org/institute-book-studies



FAMILY SUNDAYS



for families with children in preschool through high school *Dig into Scripture!*



Each Family Sunday includes...

- a special family-focused Mass 🏰
- complimentary brunch 🍷🍰
- guided, family time with Scripture 📖
- community with other families who have kids in grades pre-K to 12 🌸

Our next Family Sunday will be at St. Bernadette on Mar. 15, from 9:00 am - 11:30 pm.

(For other Family Sunday dates, please visit our website.)

There is no cost, but space is limited. Please RSVP no later than one week in advance at stellamarisfamily.org/family-sundays or by using the QR code.



1, Kids from St. Mary's had a lot of fun in the snow, and are excited about the annual Fish Fry! 2 - 6, St. Thomas More hosted their Father Daughter Dance on Friday, February 13 at the Eastgate Holiday Inn.



Do you have photos from a recent event at Stella Maris?
Please send them to williams@stellamarisfamily.org for a chance to be featured in the bulletin!

No Confessions at St. Peter on Monday, February 23

The Sacrament of Reconciliation won't be offered at St. Peter on Monday, February 23. Exposition at St. Peter will still take place that day from 1-7 pm.

Lenten Changes at St. Thomas More

There will be no extended Adoration hours during Lent. At St. Thomas More, Adoration will be held from 9:30 am to 3:15 pm as usual.

Stations of the Cross | at Stella Maris

- St. Bernadette — Fridays at 7 pm during Lent.
- St. Peter — Fridays at 8 am during Lent (before 8:30 am Mass).
- St. Thomas More — Fridays at 7:30 pm during Lent (except on March 13).

Restraining Speech for Lent

In his message for Lent 2026, Pope Leo XIV invited Catholics to consider a different kind of Lenten observance:

"I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgment, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media, and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."

When I read this, I immediately thought of the Christmas gift distributed across the Family, and the subsequent book studies on "The Forgotten Way." I also thought of a recent article I wrote on silence and discretion. I guess restraint of speech has been coming up a lot. I'd like to offer an abbreviated version of that article as additional food-for-thought heading into Lent.

Recently, I had a bad cough. You know, the type that causes your chest and throat to burn and gives your once-six-pack-abs a good workout? Yes, that kind. The kind of cough that lingers as an evil tickle in the back of your throat. One false word, one false breath will cause it to explode and send you red-faced and running out of the room with tears in your eyes as you try to hold it in. That terrible type of cough.

As the days wore on, I found myself growing more and more silent. I could speak, but if I spoke, I knew it would hurt, and I knew it could cause me to start coughing. Consequently, I had to weigh each word. Was it worth saying what I was about to say? Was it worth the cost? Was it worth the cough? Generally, as I thought through what I would say and if it was necessary, I found that most of the time, it wasn't necessary, and if it was, I could say whatever it was in fewer words — a fraction of what I would have said had I not thought deeply about how I should say it.

While it may have been for a kind of medical precaution, this experience made me realize silence is a precondition for discretion. Said another way, it's hard to exercise discretion if you're distracted and jabbering away all the time.

In chapter 64 of his Rule, St. Benedict calls discretion the "mother of all virtues." Discretion has to do with making the right choice to achieve an intended outcome in a given set of circumstances. Far from being a strict rule, it is truly a virtue carrying with it the flexibility of the virtuous choosing-of-the-good in whatever the circumstances — choices which may shift and change depending upon those circumstances. Sister Therese Haydel, OSB, of Sacred Heart Monastery in Alabama, describes discretion and its importance as follows:

"Discretion lets us know what actions are appropriate based on the desired outcome, even if the action itself is unpleasant or undesirable in itself. Curbing one's speech when one would rather defend one's own opinion can form us in the virtues of humility and obedience. Speaking up about an unjust situation when one would rather not draw attention to oneself can promote the cultivation of honesty, courage, and integrity. Accommodating a sister or brother so that she or he may be at peace when we would prefer to do things our own way might help us to grow in the virtue of patience."

I think we can see that silence and silencing the tongue are a kind of prerequisite for a fruitful exercise of discretion. But the converse is also true. Discretion guides the exercise of silencing the tongue. The value of silence warrants discretion and the curbing of words — even good ones. Discretion results from the love of silence. Discretion needs silence, and discretion serves silence. The two go hand-in-hand. There is no true discretion without some interior silence, and discretion makes interior silence possible by limiting external and internal noise.

In sum, if you want to make better decisions, be quiet. And if you want to be quieter, make good decisions that will cultivate that spirit of silence in your life.

Maybe we can follow Pope Leo's advice this Lent and restrain our speech by abstaining from certain kinds of language. I suspect we'll find that we're more peaceful, and our homes, too.



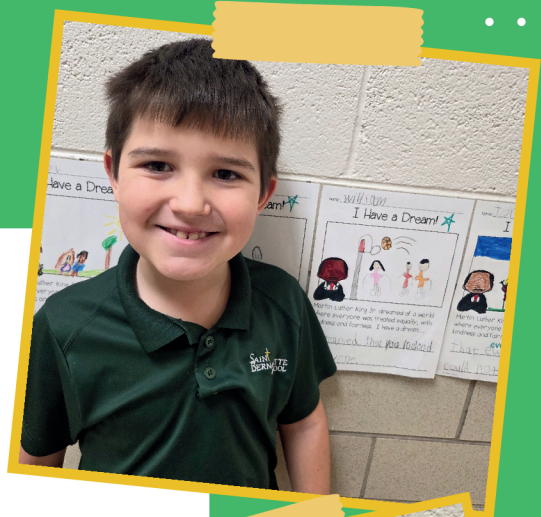
Brad Bursa
Director of Evangelization

ST. BERNADETTE SCHOOL

Weekly Updates

The first graders talked about Martin Luther King Jr., and all the important things he did for our country. They watched his "I Have a Dream" speech and then wrote their own dreams they have for the world.

The eighth graders teamed up with their kindergarten buddies to explore earthquakes. Together they designed and built the tallest structures they could — then tested them on our shake table.



The Sacrament of Baptism

Are you pregnant or have you recently had a child? The church encourages parents to baptize their child as soon as possible. Parents seeking information about the baptism of their child should complete the inquiry form on the Stella Maris Family of Parishes website two months before the desired date of the baptism. Once the form is completed, the coordinator of the baptism program will contact you with additional information and requirements. Parents desiring baptism for children seven years or older should contact the parish office.

stellamarisfamily.org/baptism



Sunday, March 1 | 7-9 PM

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY NIGHT

Stievenard Hall | St. Bernadette



NEW LIFE AT SCHOOL

Attention high schoolers! Please join us on Sunday, March 1 in Stievenard Hall at St. Bernadette. We will be discussing what it looks like to live out your Catholic Faith at school. The night will also include games, time to connect with friends, and praise and worship. We hope to see you there!

stellamarisfamily.org/high-school-youth-ministry



Mentor Couples for Baptism Ministry

We need mentor couples for our Baptism Ministry at Stella Maris. Please contact Mark and Cindy Henderson at baptism@stellamarisfamily.org if you are interested in being apart in this great work! To learn more about this ministry, please visit stellamarisfamily.org/baptism.

2026 Lenten Mission

ALL THINGS NEW

March 8 - 10, 2026 | 7 PM | St. Thomas More Church

800 Ohio Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45245

Our "All Things New" Lenten Mission is an occasion for prayer, renewal, and conversion. The Mission will take place three straight evenings on **March 8 - 10, 2026**, and will focus on prayer and conversion of heart — rooting out vice and planting virtue. Let Christ make you new this Lent and Easter.



JOHN LEYENDECKER
MISSION PREACHER

MARCH 8, 2026 — WHAT IS PRAYER, REALLY?

- 6:30 pm — Sacrament of Reconciliation and Worship
- 7:00 pm — Welcome
- 7:05 pm — Mission Talk #1
- 8:00 pm — Eucharistic Exposition



DAVE STAPLES
MISSION PREACHER

MARCH 9, 2026 — VICE AND PARTICULAR FAULT

- 6:30 pm — Sacrament of Reconciliation and Worship
- 7:00 pm — Welcome
- 7:05 pm — Mission Talk #2
- 8:00 pm — Eucharistic Exposition



CARL JAKUBOWSKI
MISSION MUSICIAN

MARCH 10, 2026 — VIRTUE AND FREEDOM

- 6:30 pm — Sacrament of Reconciliation and Worship
- 7:00 pm — Welcome
- 7:05 pm — Mission Talk #3
- 8:00 pm — Eucharistic Exposition
- 8:35 pm — Reception



stellamarisfamily.org/lenten-mission



Find new life
in Christ.



Knights of Columbus Fraternal Benefit Event

February 26, 2026 | 6-8 pm



Learn how Knights of Columbus can help you protect your family and plan for your retirement, while supporting an organization that contributes to important charitable causes aligned with your Catholic values. You are invited to join us for a Benefits Night to learn more about the financial services and fraternal benefits offered by the Knights of Columbus at 1800 OHIO PIKE, AMELIA, OH 45102. Please reach out to Greg Snodgrass (513) 260-3283 to register. You do not need to be a member to attend.

St. Thomas More Church Kneeler Pad Project



The Knights of Columbus would like to facilitate the installation of new kneeler pads and bumpers for Saint Thomas More Church. The current pads and bumpers are original; many are ripped, and most of the padding is not effective. Your contribution will go directly to replace the kneeler padding, and the Knights of Columbus will provide all of the labor. The total cost of the project is approximately \$20,000, and the Knights of Columbus is matching the first \$6,500 in donations. Please use the QR code to reach the donation website or mail a check to Lisa Casavant at St. Thomas More. You can sponsor one kneeler for only \$75. Any donation is welcome. Please visit tinyurl.com/9df9r4zf to donate today.



During this season of Lent, join us by accepting a Lenten egg. Use this to donate any almsgiving you have thought about for Lent this year. All money will go to the SVDP Saint Peter's Parish, to help our neighbors in need by assisting with rent, heat, water, food, and other basic needs. When Easter arrives, return your egg to the basket that will be outside Saint Peter's doors. Please remember to offer prayers for our neighbors in need. Thank you!



Stella Maris Fish Fries

St. Bernadette | 5:00 - 7:30 pm

St. Bernadette Cafeteria

Feb. 20, 27 | Mar. 6 & 13

St. Mary | 4 - 8 pm

Feb. 20, 27 | Mar. 6, 13, 20, & 27

St. Peter | 5:00 - 7:30 pm

Feb. 20, 27 | Mar. 6, 13, 20, & 27

St. Thomas More | 5 - 7 pm

St. Thomas More Cafeteria

Feb. 20, 27 | Mar. 6, 13, 20, & 27



Stella Maris Youth Ministry STEBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

July 17 - 19, 2026 | Franciscan University of Steubenville | 9th-12th



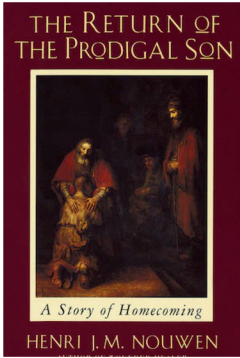
We don't want financial burdens to be a barrier for anybody. Sponsorships are available. Please reach out to jgiroux@stellamarisfamily.org if you'd like to go but need financial assistance.



Rising 9th graders and graduating 12th graders, please join us this summer to experience a life-changing encounter with Christ at the Steubenville Youth Conference at Franciscan University! The cost of the conference is \$250. A \$50 down payment is due when you reserve your spot.

stellamarisfamily.org/youthconference2026

The Grace Ministry Book Club



Wed. Feb. 25th, 2026

7 pm | St. Bernadette Parish

Come for fellowship, fun, and to informally share your thoughts. All are welcome, even if you haven't read or finished the book! Please bring a snack to share.

RSVP to Terri Murrell: 513-218-9535 or Karin Mendoza: 513-884-2653 (text only)

The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming

by Henri J.M. Nouwen

A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's The Return of the Prodigal Son catapulted Henri Nouwen on an unforgettable, deeply personal, resonant meditation and spiritual adventure that led him to discover the place within where God has chosen to dwell. Nouwen probes several movements of the parable: the younger son's return, the father's restoration of sonship, the elder son's resentfulness, and the father's compassion. The themes of homecoming, affirmation, and reconciliation will be newly discovered by all who have known loneliness, dejection, jealousy, or anger. The challenge to love as God loves, and to be loved as God's beloved, will be seen as the ultimate revelation of the parable known to Christians throughout time.

SUPPORT YOUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL



IS A OHIO SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION (SGO)



Designate your donation to benefit a specific school(s), or one will be chosen based on the greatest need.

Donate and you could claim a dollar-for-dollar, non-refundable tax credit on your state income tax return. Up to \$750 per donor (up to \$1,500 if married and filing jointly). See section 5747.73 Ohio Revised Code

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

CatholicBestChoice.org/SGO

It's not too late! Ohio taxpayers have until April 15, 2026, to make a donation to an SGO and be able to apply the associated tax credit to their 2025 tax return.



Putting our Love in Action through Charitable Work and Social Justice

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the Stella Maris Family of Parishes

Lent is a call to "give alms for the poor." Right here within our Family of Parishes, there are struggling families. Living on the poverty line is tough. One week of sickness, a family emergency, loss of a job — many normal occurrences wreak havoc on our struggling neighbors' fragile budgets. Is there a family you know that needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can bring hope to those facing hardship.

Stella Maris Family of Parishes St. Vincent de Paul Help Lines:

St. Bernadette: 513-753-5566 Ext 130

St. Mary: 513-734-4041

St. Peter: 513-525-7173

St. Thomas More: 513-753-2561



Connect with us!



@StellaMarisCincinnati



facebook.com/StellaMarisCinci



@stellamariscincinnati



BULLETIN DEADLINE

MATERIALS DUE

02/26/26

BULLETIN

03/08/26

Please submit your bulletin articles to

rwilliams@stellamarisfamily.org.

For submission guidelines, visit

stellamarisfamily.org/bulletin

NEW TO STELLA MARIS?

We are so glad you're here!

We encourage you to register as a parishioner.

Scan the QR code or visit

stellamarisfamily.org/new-parishioner-registration



PLEASE PRAY FOR...

THE SICK & HOMEBOUND: David Himmelstein, Jan Frazee, Bev Jung, Carroll Mayhugh, Ross Gentry, Timothy Haller, Robert Back, Julie Armbrrecht, Marge Armbruster, Kristina Deboard, Ken Ozanich, Joann Schwetschenau, Matthew Haurert, Patricia Dean, Herbert Doty, Steve & Zenia Kobylski, John Davis, Pat Crumbacher, Jim D'Aquila, Milie Blom, Mary Breving, Rose Brumfield, Pauline Young, Derek Archer, AJ Bressler, Mary Ann Fedak, Mary Anna Willacker, Denny Mulvey, Charlie Horstman, Jack Gardner, Andrea Kittel, Robert Kocher, Paul Coyne, Willie and Renee Rooks, Joe Bresser, Rita Afflaeck-Graves, Bernice Sutter, Andrew Nelson, Nicole Bussard, Kenneth Siler, Hugh Evans, Donna Merkle, Robert Rau, Ainsley Gableman, Michelle Smith, Norma Alford, David Kiefer, Barb Setty, Alice Sims, Dennis Ralph, Lori Cole, Carol Woerner, Toni Hayes Herbst, Bob Guenther, Tom Canelaresi, Jose Worrall, Stephanie Kortyka, Kathy Johnson, Dave O'Connor, Art Kareth, Beverly Cmehil, Steve Feist, Harry Horstman,

THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES: Michael Kelly, Dominic Steelman, Donnie Lawrence, Tyler Reinhart, Jonathan Carnes, Travis Gallivan, Koray Sexton, Michael Hucker Jr., Corey Campbell, Randy Damron, Keith Deardorff, Ryan Robinson, Paul Bellonby II, Andrew Schloemer, Kimberley Brinson, Joshua A. Rettig, Travis Gallivan, Tim Czubek, Neil Lizakowski, Bill Harris, Rachel Piening, Brian Faw, Jeff Archer, Kyle Schulte, Justin Mulloney, Matthew Quitter, Paul Conrady, Emma Conrady, Kyle Broerman and Alexis Ruth, Nicholas Craig, Logan Owens, Connor Murray, Samantha Dauterman, Andrew D'Aquila-Meyers, Benjamin Watson, Fermin DeRepentigny, Robert Kidd, James Leo Seibert III, Ethan Tolliver, Crosby Luke Seibert,

To keep our prayer list up to date, please email rwilliams@stellamarisfamily.org to add/remove names.

PRIESTS

- Father Timothy Ralston, Pastor** | 513-753-5566 ext. 102
pastor@stellamarisfamily.org
- Father Thomas Dorn, Parochial Vicar**
fatherdorn@fuse.net
- Father William Wagner, Parochial Vicar**
513-753-2553 wjwags@sttm.org
- Father David Endres, Weekend Celebrant**

For a complete listing of parish staff members, please see the individual parish websites.

Parish Stewardship

Fiscal Year-to-Date through January
(for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026)

St. Bernadette

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>FORECASTED</u>
INCOME	\$396,536	\$334,503
EXPENSES	\$392,726	\$406,197
NET	\$3,810	(\$71,694)

St. Mary

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>FORECASTED</u>
INCOME	\$142,076	\$127,851
EXPENSES	\$133,217	\$141,687
NET	\$8,860	(\$13,837)

St. Peter

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>FORECASTED</u>
INCOME	\$142,937	\$111,260
EXPENSES	\$126,511	\$142,234
NET	\$16,426	(\$30,975)

St. Thomas More

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>FORECASTED</u>
INCOME	\$504,431	\$540,005
EXPENSES	\$486,922	\$502,500
NET	\$17,509	\$37,505

CHURCH INFORMATION

St. Bernadette
1479 Locust Lake Rd.
Amelia, OH 45102
Office: (513) 753-5566
stbameliparish.org

St. Mary
3398 State Route 125
Bethel, OH 45106
Office: (513) 734-4041
sccrohio.org

St. Peter
1192 Bethel-New Richmond Rd,
New Richmond, OH 45157
Office: (513) 553-3267
sccrohio.org

St. Thomas More
800 Ohio Pike
Withamsville, OH 45245
Office: (513) 752-2080
sttm.org

Stella Maris Family of Parishes: stellamarisfamily.org