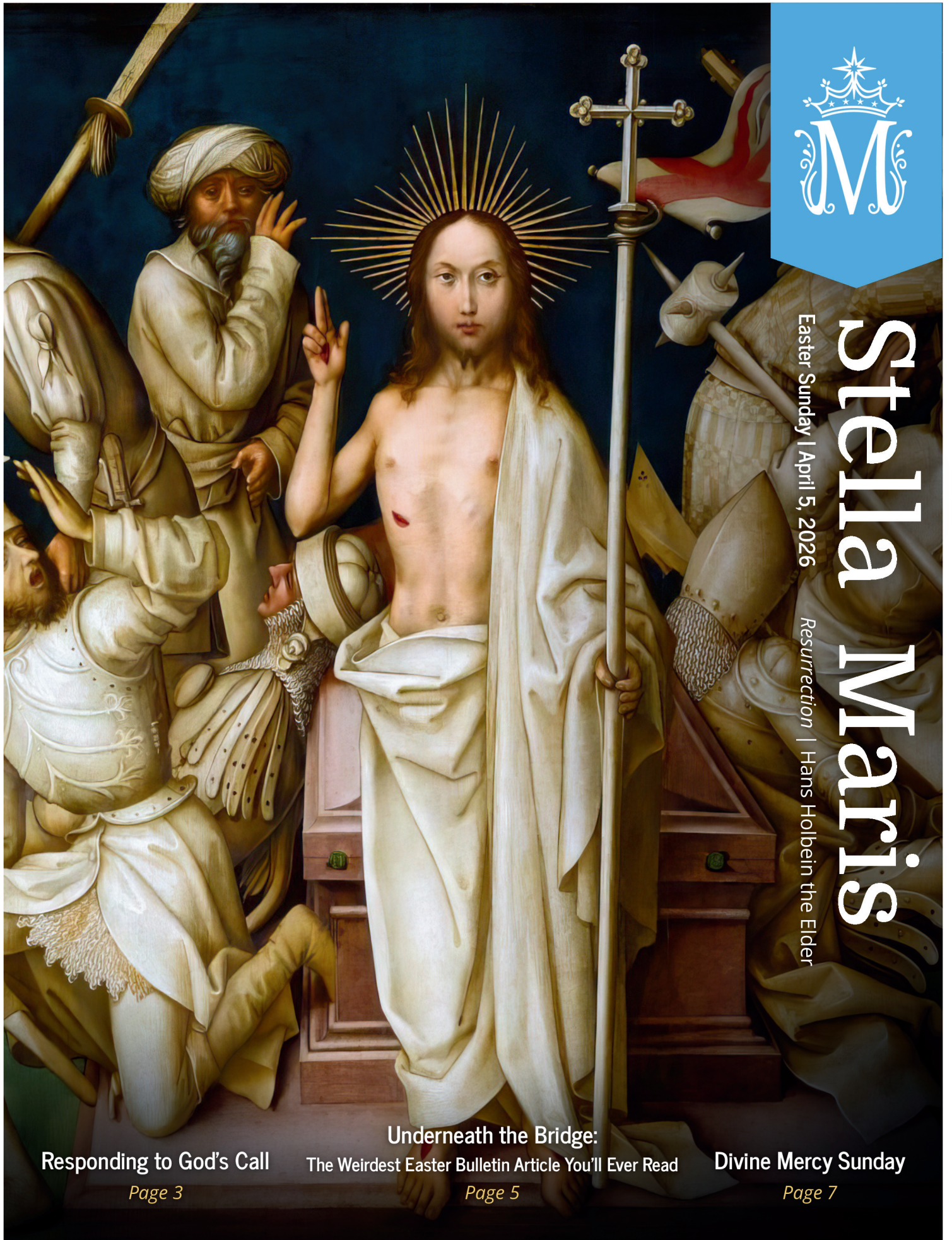




Easter Sunday | April 5, 2026

Resurrection | Hans Holbein the Elder

# Stella Maris



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## \*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](http://stellamarisfamily.org/adoration).



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

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

## Mass Intentions

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

### Monday, April 6

8:15am (B) Ameni Bouattournreq. by Anthony Maclsaac

### Tuesday, April 7

8:15am (B) Mary Sydney Vu req. by Jade Dinh

8:30am (M) † Earl York req. by Christie Dannaher

8:30am (TM) † David Lees req. by Patricia Lees

### Wednesday, April 8

8:15am (B) † Karen Klysz req. by The Parish

8:30am (TM) † James Seipel req. by The Parish

### Thursday, April 9

8:30am (TM) † Bob Ayscue req. by Jodie Ayscue

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

6:45pm (B) † Barbara Poole req. by James Mc Donald

### Friday, April 10

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

8:30am (P) Joseph Krusling req. by Regina Finke

8:30am (TM) † Matt Haas req. by Linda Haas

### Saturday, April 11

8:15am (B) Priest's Intention

4:00pm (TM) † Jean and Dominic Randolph req. by Jean Jacobs

5:00pm (P) † Garth Belcher req. by Joseph and Linda Macke

### Sunday, April 12

8:00am (TM) † Bob O'Connor req. by Cindy Cappel

8:30am (P) † Jim Seipel req. by Marilyn Martineck

9:00am (B) † Thomas Schneider req. by Regina Finke

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

10:30am (M) † Michael Krusling req. by Regina Finke

11:00am (B) † Rita Craft req. by Book Club Friends

## 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](http://tinyurl.com/MassIntentionSM)



## Responding to God's Call

I recently saw an article from the New York Times entitled, "Roman Catholic Churches See a Surge of New Converts." There have been other publications that have run similar articles. The number of people seeking to become Catholic has seen a sharp increase over the last couple of years. Many dioceses throughout the United States have been anticipating a huge increase in baptisms at the Easter Vigil this year, even from the strong numbers they saw last year.

And this isn't just happening in the United States. In France, there were about 5,500 baptisms celebrated at the Easter Vigil. This year, the number is over 21,000! Dioceses in England, Ireland, Australia, Belgium, and other countries have also seen a rise in the number of people converting to the Catholic faith.

Clearly, God is at work. But, also, people are responding! We know that God is always at work, inviting people into His love and into His Church. We are seeing more and more people who continue to hear that invitation and who are giving their "yes" to the Lord.

We've been seeing this here within our Stella Maris Family as well. Men and women, young and old, sometimes whole families, have felt that nudge from God and are seeking to respond accordingly. Whether previously baptized or having very little exposure to Christianity until recently, people are finding a "home" in the Catholic Church.

It's an exciting time for sure, and I can't wait to see what else God has in store for us as we move forward. In the meantime, we rejoice in the Lord! We rejoice with those who have decided to enter the Catholic Church and seek to live more fully as disciples of Jesus. And, we rejoice that we have such a strong community here at Stella Maris to welcome them in and to continue to journey with them.

So, as we celebrate this glorious Solemnity of Easter, of the Resurrection of Jesus, let us do so with an openness to the new life that the Risen Lord brings. New life for our new converts. New life for each and every one of us.

Jesus Christ is risen today! And He is inviting each and every one of us, whether a cradle Catholic or a recent convert, to share in His risen life. God is at work – may all of us respond accordingly. Alleluia!



**Fr. Tim Ralston**  
Pastor of Stella Maris



1 - 4 At our last Jr. High Youth Night, the kids competed in real-life Mario Kart races in the St. Thomas More parking lot! 5 The GRACE Ministry Book Club and Women's Bible Study got together to watch a performance of The Screwtape Letters by The Fellowship for Performing Arts. 6 Women from all four churches within the Stella Maris Family enjoyed the GRACE Ministry ladies' luncheon on March 22, at the home of Dorene Farwick.



Do you have photos from a recent event at Stella Maris?  
Please share them by emailing [rwilliams@stellamarisfamily.org](mailto:rwilliams@stellamarisfamily.org) for a chance to be featured in the bulletin!

## Underneath the Bridge: The Weirdest Easter Bulletin Article You'll Ever Read\*

I grew up on grunge. The raw emotion, rough vocals, evasive lyrics, and diversity of sounds fascinated me. I suppose in my emo adolescence, it soundtracked the drama of my life.

I don't listen to grunge much anymore, but I was recently reintroduced to Nirvana's "Something in the Way" through Stephen Wilson Jr's cover of it. I hadn't heard the song in decades. It's sad and spooky. Oddly enough, it became a kind of anthem for my Lenten journey. I spent a lot of time praying with the song and mulling over the lyrics throughout Lent. Admittedly, they are weird lyrics:

**Underneath the bridge, tarp has sprung a leak  
And the animals I've trapped have all become my pets  
And I'm living off of grass, and the drippings from my ceiling  
It's okay to eat fish 'cause they don't have any feelings**

**Something in the way, hmm-mmm  
Something in the way, yeah, hmm-mmm  
Something in the way, hmm-mmm  
Something in the way, yeah, hmm-mmm  
Something in the way, hmm-mmm  
Something in the way, yeah, hmm-mmm**

I know what you're thinking. You're thinking you need to get on YouTube and take a listen. Go for it. Check out the MTV Unplugged version. But, fair warning, the song's going to get stuck in your head.

Now, let's take a closer look at the meaning.

On the surface, the song is clearly about a poor man living in a tarp under a bridge. His only friends are animals he's trapped. He eats grass. Wet and cold and hungry, he copes by justifying eating fish because they can't feel. This is an obvious lie he tells himself as he does anything for a bite. Then the haunting line: something in the way. All the imagery in the song is down, and when he manages to look up, he sees something in the way. He can see the possibility of a new life, but something blocks the path — something inside. So he's stuck.

Rumor had it that Kurt Cobain wrote the song as a reflection on his own experience of homelessness. The Internet debates the truth of this claim. Regardless, the deeper themes have been etched deep into my mind over the last six weeks. The sense of angst. Abandonment. Living on the fringe as an outcast. The way in which things seem to go wrong. Fail. Self-inflicted wounds. What we scrounge to try to fill the God-sized hole in our hearts. The ways we justify things and lie to ourselves. The sense of being stuck. Seeing a new way of life but finding ourselves practically paralyzed, like St. Paul wondering why he does the things he doesn't want to do, and doesn't do the things he ought to do (see Rom 7:13–25). There's a better life, but something's in the way — sins, vices, wounds, lies.

Aren't these the problems of humanity in our fallen state? It's your story. It's my story. All the discord, disharmony, discontent, disunity, disorder. All of it leaves us stuck and alone and fearful. Homeless. Made for a heavenly home that we can begin to live in right here, yet we settle for life underneath the bridge. Something's in the way. Sin is in the way. Death is in the way.

But today, Easter Sunday, we hear that great news: that Jesus Christ has broken the prison bars of death. He breaks the bondage caused by sin. He smashes the something that was in the way and opens up the way. It's a narrow way one enters through the Cross before the path widens our minds and hearts to embrace divine love. In the face of what always seems hopeless, Jesus' Resurrection gives us hope and shows us that a new way of living life is not only possible, it is here. The Easter liturgy tells us that now, if anything's in the way, it's Jesus Christ, the truth, life, and way to the Father (cf. Jn 14:6).

\*I doubt this is actually the weirdest Easter bulletin article out there. Nobody could ever know that. But it is pretty weird, and the title got you to read it.



**Brad Bursa**  
Director of Evangelization

# CONGRATULATIONS, MRS. DUFFEY!

St. Bernadette School



On March 24, 2026, Gold Star and The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati announced the winner of the Gold Star Teacher award, which recognizes educators who demonstrate a commitment to education and have made a significant contribution to their school. The 2026 Gold Star Teacher of the Year is St. Bernadette's second-grade teacher, Jennifer Duffey!

With more than 20 years of experience in education, Mrs. Duffey is a celebrated figure at St. Bernadette and a pillar of their community. Her dedication to education was on full display when she delayed dual knee surgery so that her students wouldn't be without their teacher. Often described as an extension of the family, she has touched scores of students and parents, creating a lasting impact over many years.

"In Ms. Duffey, we see the very heart of our mission come alive. She teaches with a joy that can only come from a deep love of God and His children. Every day, she reminds our students that they are cherished, capable, and created with purpose. Her classroom radiates warmth, compassion, and a sense of belonging that reflects Christ's love in the most beautiful way. We are profoundly grateful to celebrate her as the Gold Star Teacher of the Year — an educator who not only forms minds, but also shapes souls," said St. Bernadette Principal Christie Halaby.

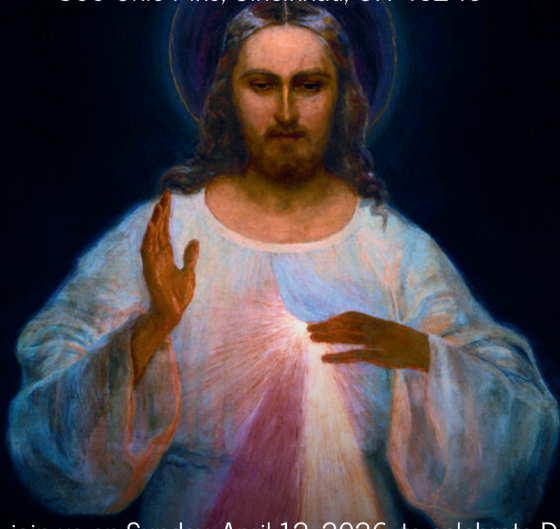
Mrs. Duffey was surprised in the gym by an assembly of the school children, parents, members of the community, and her family as she heard she had been chosen as the Gold Star Teacher of the Year. From the initial 590 nominees, Mrs. Duffey advanced to the top ten finalists, where community voting decided the winner. Out of almost 80,000 votes in total, Mrs. Duffey received almost 35,000!



# Divine Mercy Sunday

April 12, 2026 | 2 pm | St. Thomas More Church

800 Ohio Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45245



Please join us on Sunday, April 12, 2026, to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Thomas More Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 2 pm and will continue until 3:30 pm. At 3 pm, we will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet together.



# Eucharistic Living

A Stella Maris Institute Talk



April 15, 2026 | 8:15 am | St. Bernadette

St. Augustine claims that in receiving the Eucharist, the Eucharist itself transforms the communicant into Christ. The Eucharist initiates us into a kind of Eucharistic living. This event will begin with the celebration of Holy Mass, before participants enjoy breakfast together and a presentation by Brad Bursa. Registration for this talk is required. Please consider contributing an item for our potluck breakfast. A contribution is not required to attend this talk, but is highly encouraged if you are able.

[stellamarisfamily.org/institute-talks](http://stellamarisfamily.org/institute-talks)



# Stella Maris Jr. High Youth Ministry

ALL 6TH - 8TH GRADERS ARE INVITED!

Join us on Friday, April 17, for an evening of s'mores, campfire songs, fun activities, and a chance to learn more about Pope St. John Paul II.



Friday, April 17

6:30 - 8:30 pm

St. Thomas More  
800 Ohio Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45245

[stellamarisfamily.org/junior-high-youth-ministry](http://stellamarisfamily.org/junior-high-youth-ministry)



## 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

Today, as we celebrate the feast of Easter, we find the challenge of also seeing and believing the resurrection that comes through our own lives of self-sacrifice. It is then that we are truly Easter people!

As you place your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the collection basket, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them Easter hope and joy.

### 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



## Widows Helping Widows on the Journey



Calling all widows of Stella Maris, you are invited to join our new Holy Widowhood group! Form friendships, share in prayer and devotions, listen to speakers, practice Lectio Divina, and more. We would love for you to join us for our first gathering. Coffee and sweet treats will be served!

- **Thursday, April 16 — First Gathering**
- 10:30 am
- Stievenard Hall, St. Bernadette

### Ongoing Schedule

Moving forward, our monthly gatherings will be on the second Thursday of each month.

#### Questions? Contact

Pat Lees — [pat.bernadette.lees@gmail.com](mailto:pat.bernadette.lees@gmail.com)

Becky Ready — [bready@fuse.net](mailto:bready@fuse.net)

## Items needed for St. Bernadette's Festival

As you start your spring cleaning, the St. Bernadette Festival Bid n Buy and Basket Raffle are seeking new or gently used items to make their baskets. There will be a tub in the St. Bernadette vestibule on the left side for donations. If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

Kathy, 513-553-0092 or Linda, 513-753-8440

## Saint Peter's Easter Egg return dates are arriving soon!



Don't forget to return your Easter Egg next Sunday, following Easter Mass. Someone from SVDP will be at the Parish doors to accept your donation. If you forget on Easter Sunday, we will be at the front doors the following Saturday and Sunday, too. Thank you for supporting your neighbors in need. SVDP, Saint Peter's Parish.

Attention all Stella Maris Parishioners! Moms, Dads, Grandmas, Grandpas, Teachers, Students

## We Need Lots of COOKIES!

- **WHY:** To perform Corporal Works of Mercy for the Kairos Ministry Retreat for the Imprisoned at the Warren County Institution.
- **WHAT:** Your favorite homemade cookies, blessed with your prayers!
- **WHEN:** Deliver them before and after all Masses on **April 18 and 19.**
- **WHERE:** Please bring cookies to your church vestibule. A plus! One service hour earned per 2 dozen cookies. (Packed 1 dozen of the same cookies per bag)

The directions to package the cookies are extremely specific because of where they are going and because they are far more than just cookies. Please pick up a flyer with specifics at all the church doors on the weekends of **April 4, 5, and 11, 12.** Thank you, and God bless you for showing love to these men.

Please call Terri Murrell at 513-218-9535 with questions.



## Fr. Bill's Bible Study Cancelations

### Wednesday, April 8

There will be no Wednesday Night Bible Study with Fr. Bill on Wednesday, April 8th. Wednesday Night Bible Study will resume on April 15th.

## Healing the Soil by Composting

### Thursday, April 16

For those that understand that "Soil is a caress of God."

- Laudato Si (#84)

On Thursday, April 16, Elea Cooper from Clermont County Soil and Water will be giving a talk on composting at St. Peter's at 7 pm. Learn how to work with nature to produce a rich soil that will bring a bountiful harvest. Join the Caring for God's Creation Committee of Stella Maris at this groundbreaking event!



**EAGLE EYE TEEN  
SUMMER INSTITUTE**  
*Led by the Brothers & Sisters of the Community of St. John*

**June 13th - 21st**  
Ages 16 -18  
Maria Stein Spiritual Center

Register at [eagleeyeministries.org](http://eagleeyeministries.org)

For questions, contact Kathy  
at [kathykimar@gmail.com](mailto:kathykimar@gmail.com)



EAGLE EYE  
MINISTRIES

**“In Loving Memory”**

**Section in Bulletin**

Honor the memory of a loved one by including their name in the “In Loving Memory” section printed on the back of our bulletin. Each line costs \$75 and can be arranged through our bulletin publisher, Diocesan. To include a name or request more information, please contact our Diocesan representative, Ed Diehl. You can reach him at [ediehl@diocesan.com](mailto:ediehl@diocesan.com) or by calling 614-309-7261.

**Church Bulletin Advertising**

Ed Diehl, representing our Bulletin Publisher, Diocesan, is currently seeking new advertisements. Support our parish while you promote your business in print and digitally through social media. If interested, please contact Ed directly or call the parish office. Only a third down payment is required to reserve an ad.

**Contact**

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[ediehl@diocesan.com](mailto:ediehl@diocesan.com)  
**614-309-7261**



**DIOCESAN**  
Catholic Life Every Day

*Thanks to you and Diocesan, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish!*

HOSTED BY THE ST. GREGORY THE GREAT MENTAL WELLNESS MINISTRY

**HELPING YOUNG  
MINDS THRIVE**

*Supporting youth mental health with faith, compassion, & practical tools*

**Speaker: Tasha Ross, LCSW  
Therapist and Professional Trainer**

Speaker Tasha Ross will provide insight into the real challenges that today’s young people are facing. Adults who are parenting, educating, coaching, grandparenting, or just caring about them will walk away with practical effective tools to support their mental well-being, strengthen resilience, and help them thrive.



**April 23, 2026 at 7 PM**



**McNicholas High School Library**  
6536 Beechmont Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45230

**RSVP BY APRIL 20**

Scan the QR code or contact  
Kendall Keiser at  
[kendallkesgparish.org](mailto:kendallkesgparish.org)



**WALK-INS ALSO WELCOME!**

**Sponsored By:**



**Questions? Contact Kendall Keiser at [kendallkesgparish.org](mailto:kendallkesgparish.org)**



**Grief Support Group**

**Meetings take place at St. Peter at 7:00 pm on the first and third Mondays of each month (except for most civic holidays).**

The group is open to anyone dealing with loss who would like to attend. It provides an opportunity for sufferers to express their feelings and concerns among others who may have experienced similar losses. Meetings are free, and light refreshments will be provided. There is no pre-registration necessary. If you have questions, contact Mary Ann Stang at 513-550-1907 or [maryannstang@gmail.com](mailto:maryannstang@gmail.com).

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 Candelaresi, Jose Worrall, Stephanie Kortyka, Kathy Johnson, Dave O'Connor, Art Kareth, Beverly Cmehil, Steve Feist, Harry Horstman, Cathy Scheffter, Tyler Renfro, Diane Piening,

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, Tim Czubek, Bill Harris, Rachel Piening, Brian Faw, Jeff Archer, 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, Robert Kidd, James Leo Seibert III, Ethan Tolliver, Crosby Luke Seibert,

To keep our prayer list up to date, please email [rwilliams@stellamarisfamily.org](mailto:rwilliams@stellamarisfamily.org) to add/remove names.

PRIESTS

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

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

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

To view our most recent financial report, please visit the March 29 bulletin.

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@stellamariscincinnati



BULLETIN DEADLINE

MATERIALS DUE: APRIL 09, 2026

BULLETIN ISSUE: APRIL 19, 2026

Please submit your bulletin articles to [rwilliams@stellamarisfamily.org](mailto:rwilliams@stellamarisfamily.org). For submission guidelines, visit [stellamarisfamily.org/bulletin](http://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](http://stellamarisfamily.org/new-parishioner-registration)



CHURCH INFORMATION

St. Bernadette 1479 Locust Lake Rd. Amelia, OH 45102 Office: (513) 753-5566 [stbameliaaparish.org](http://stbameliaaparish.org)

St. Peter 1192 Bethel-New Richmond Rd, New Richmond, OH 45157 Office: (513) 553-3267 [sccroho.org](http://sccroho.org)

St. Mary 3398 State Route 125 Bethel, OH 45106 Office: (513) 734-4041 [sccroho.org](http://sccroho.org)

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

Stella Maris Family of Parishes: [stellamarisfamily.org](http://stellamarisfamily.org)