



Stella Maris

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | July 26, 2026 *The Hidden Treasure* | Eugène Burnand

Synod 2027

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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.



****Benediction (7pm-8pm)** 3rd Tuesday
and 1st 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, July 27

8:15am (B) ✠ Terry Williams req. by Travis Williams

Tuesday, July 28

8:15am (B) ✠ Naomi McCormick req. by The Parish

8:30am (M) ✠ Arthur G. Williams req. by The Family

8:30am (TM) ✠ Fred Bosken req. by Dorothy and Tom Klosterman

Wednesday, July 29

8:15am (B) ✠ Naomi McCormick req. by The Parish

8:30am (TM) ✠ Tony Reichard req. by William A Maier

Thursday, July 30

8:30am (TM) ✠ Ingrid & Sylvester Fernando req. by Sharmanthie Fernando

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

6:45pm (B) ✠ Sister Mary Seghers req. by Diane Meisman

Friday, July 31

8:15am (B) ✠ Al Woerner req. by Carol Woerner

8:30am (P) ✠ Graydon and Margaret Reid req. by Tim and Mary Reid

8:30am (TM) ✠ Karen Kylsz req. by Maureen Combs

Saturday, August 1

8:15am (B) Priest's Intention

4:00pm (TM) People of the Parish req. by The Pastor

5:00pm (P) ✠ Dan Morgan req. by Betty Morgan

Sunday, August 2

8:00am (TM) ✠ Karen Klysz req. by Bob & Ruth Meisman

8:30am (P) Special Intention

9:00am (B) Special Intention

10:00am (TM) ✠ Fred Haas req. by Linda Haas

10:30am (M) Frank and Bev Jacquez req. by Frank and Bev Jacquez

11:00am (B) ✠ Roger Grillot req. by Karen Grillot

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.**

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



Synod 2027

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is moving into the next step with its Synod 2027. So, I thought it was a good time to remind everyone about the synod itself and how we all can participate. Much of the information below is taken directly from the Archdiocesan website.

What is a Synod?

A diocesan synod is a time of prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit and to one another, culminating in a general assembly with representatives of the clergy, vowed religious, and laity to assist the local bishop. Synod 2027 will be an engagement of our whole archdiocese to consider what the Holy Spirit may be asking of the Church of Cincinnati at this moment. The goal will be to discern needs and recommend pastoral priorities for the future to Archbishop Casey.

Why a Synod?

Engaging in an archdiocese-wide synod is appropriate at this time for several reasons: It is a priority of the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, that the Church be intentionally synodal so that pastoral plans and decisions are made in a spirit of prayerful discernment. In this spirit, the results of our Synod will serve as input to that of the universal Catholic Church. Synod 2027 will be particularly useful to Archbishop Casey as he continues to get to know our archdiocese and establishes priorities for the future. Our last archdiocesan synod was in 1971, and much has changed in the intervening years. The two-year timeframe of Synod 2027 corresponds to the conclusion of the timeframe designated for Beacons of Light.

What do we hope to accomplish?

Synod 2027 will be a valuable means of setting in place the foundations of Beacons of Light as the way of life in our archdiocese. The six principles of Beacons of Light are the connection between Beacons of Light and Synod 2027. Those six principles are Church, Eucharist, Evangelization, Leadership, Love in Action, and Stewardship.

Who Will Be Involved in The Synod?

Throughout Synod 2027, clergy, vowed religious, and laity – in other words, you – will lead and be invited to participate. This participation will be facilitated through open local gatherings and through discernment of delegates to the culminating General Assembly planned for the second half of 2027.

Where are we in all of this?

The Archdiocese is now accepting registrations to participate in upcoming sessions called Conversations in the Spirit Sessions. **(See promo for this on page 9 of this bulletin.)** By participating in a Conversations in the Spirit session, you will join others across our archdiocese in prayerfully considering what the Holy Spirit is asking of our Church at this time. This is your opportunity to contribute to Synod 2027 and assist Archbishop Casey as he establishes pastoral priorities for the future. Synod 2027 has been designed to encourage broad participation from across the archdiocese. Sessions are offered in two formats: location sessions open to all, and cohort sessions designed to hear from specific groups of people. Please note that individuals are only able to sign up for one session each, to allow more people the opportunity to participate.

What else can we do for the Synod?

Pray. The following prayer is one attributed to St. Isidore of Seville and has been used at major Church gatherings for centuries, including the sessions at Vatican II.

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

Official prayer for the fruitfulness of Synod 2027

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Ralston'.

Fr. Tim Ralston
Pastor of Stella Maris

1-4 Photos from St. Peter's Annual Parish Picnic that took place on Saturday, June 28. 5 Stella Maris sent 10 teens to the Steubenville Youth Conference that took place July 17-19.



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

Christ and His Friend

The first time I saw it, the intimacy portrayed in the icon caused me to double-take. I had never seen anything like it. Just take a good look for yourself.

This is an early Coptic Christian icon depicting Jesus and a 5th-century abbot named Mena. The icon itself was probably written in the 6th century. Some simply refer to the icon as "Christ and his friend." It is also an icon of discipleship, because discipleship is nothing other than faithful friendship with Jesus. And it is an icon of the goal of the Christian life — abiding communion with God.



Let's try to take this in for a few minutes. Jesus has a cruciform halo and stands taller than the Abbot Mena. He is greater because he is Lord. Inscribed to the right of Jesus' head is the word "Savior," which identifies a critical part of his relationship to us. Notice that Jesus has one eye on Mena and the other one on the viewer. He sees Mena, and he sees you and me. The seemingly hidden God we've been looking for (see John 1:38) sought us in our own hiding (see Gen 3:9). By hiding his divinity in flesh, he finds us even when we're lost unto ourselves due to the wounds of sin and the darkness of shame. Jesus holds a jewel-studded Bible, showing us that he is the One we encounter in the words of Scripture. He is the key to unlocking the meaning of Scripture, and Scripture is the way to hear the voice of the Lord.

Next, we have the figure of the good abbot, surely struggling through all the things any abbot — or priest, or abbess, or father of a family, or mother of a family — struggles through. Mena's trying to be a good shepherd, and here is Christ, the Good Shepherd, shepherding him. Jesus is guiding him into Scripture and guiding him in life. Mena holds a scroll, possibly the rule of his monastic community, and he, too, has one eye on Christ and one eye looking out. He can only bear credible witness to Christ

"out there" in life, in the monastery, with his people, to the extent that he is abiding with Christ, in intimate relationship with him (cf. Mark 3:13–15). Finally, note Abbot Mena raising his hand in blessing. He is blessing Christ in return (see CCC, §2626), but in return for what?

An embrace.

The whole scene is wrapped in an embrace. Jesus draws close to the Abbot, puts his arm around him. It's an image of protection. He places the abbot under the wing of his protection. As the Psalmist says, "Under his wings you may take refuge" (Ps 91:4). This is also a gesture of intimacy, vulnerability, and friendship. He is also pulling the abbot closer to his heart, collapsing the distance between them. The icon invites us to consider how he does this for us, too. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28), for "I no longer call you slaves...I have called you friends" (Jn 15:15). Again, in drawing the abbot closer to his heart, he is drawing him deeper into his mystery contained in the Gospels. At the same time, the words of Scripture lead us to the heart of Christ. We come to the heart of the Lord via Scripture, by meeting him in the Sacred Pages.

I believe we have in this image and icon of the Christian life, an invitation to encounter Christ in Scripture and encouragement to share this friendship with others.

I'll close with a line from Pope Benedict XVI that encompasses all of this and all of what we've been about at Stella Maris the last three years (so much so that we put this quote on the wall in Stievenard Hall):

"Only when we meet the living God in Christ do we know what life is. ... There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him."



Brad Bursa
Director of Evangelization



st Mary Church PIG ROAST

Saturday, August 1, 2026

4pm-7:30pm

3398 St Rt 125 Bethel, Ohio

ADULTS

\$13

IN ADVANCE

KIDS 5-10

\$6

IN ADVANCE

KIDS
UNDER
5 EAT
FREE



tinyurl.com/3m96ja3b

RAFFLE

First Prize - **\$1000**

Second Prize - **\$500**

Third Prize - **\$500+**
IN GIFT CARDS

\$10 for 1 Chance
\$50 for 6 Chances
\$100 for 12 Chances



tinyurl.com/2x4sfste

Advanced Pig Roast tickets are available via the QR code and link to the left, or at St. Mary after Masses the week of July 26. Exact cash or check is required.

Dancing with Joy

St. Bernadette Parish Festival

August 7 & 8, 2026



Friday, August 7, 6 pm - 11 pm | Saturday, August 8, 6 pm - 11 pm: Food, drink, casino, and games! Friday night will feature music by the band Back Beat, and Saturday will feature Kevin McCoy Band, both from 7 pm to 11 pm.

Grand Raffle



tinyurl.com/4556s3uw

Volunteer



tinyurl.com/mrs4fubf

Bid n Buy



tinyurl.com/Stbbidnbuy2026

Festival Shop



tinyurl.com/3m58p7n5

NEWS AND EVENTS

2026 JULYFEST SPONSORS Diamond Level

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**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR
JULYFEST SPONSORS!!**

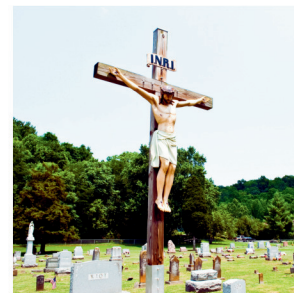
Reborn: Preparing for Baptism

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

St. Peter's Cemetery



Grave Pricing per plot

One plot - \$1,200 Three plots - \$3,200
Two plots - \$2,200 Four plots - \$3,800

Military Discounts Available

Cemetery Board Members

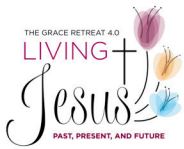
Mike Greeson: (513) -491-6633 | greesonmc@yahoo.com
Keith Vogelsang: (513) -491-6490 | keith.vogelsang@zoomtown.com

Rite of Entrance into the Catechumenate and Rite of Welcome | July 26, 2026



Please keep in your prayers Michael Sansone and Owen Sorg, who will enter into the Catechumenate this weekend, as well as Eileen Fuller, Ray Jenkins, Kae McVey, and Kaila Ogle, who will be welcomed as Candidates for Full Communion. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide them on their journey toward full communion with the Catholic Church.

The GRACE Ministry Fall Women's Retreat



September 18-20 at the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood: Join your Stella Maris sisters for the GRACE Ministry's fall retreat — Living Jesus: Past, Present, and Future. The cost for the weekend is \$200. Early bird registration is \$180 before August 1. The registration deadline is August 30. Scholarships are available. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Murrell (513) 218-9535 or Lisa Rose (513) 886-8531.

Please scan the QR code or visit zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/grace-ministry-retreat for tickets.



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



In the Gospel, we find that the demand of daily Christian living is to spend our life primarily searching for the kingdom of God. Through your generous gifts of time, prayers, and financial donations, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to provide critical help and hope to families in need. Your support allowed us to offer food, assistance with utility and rent bills, clothing, medicine, and referrals to community services that help build a more stable life. Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

STELLA MARIS FAMILY OF PARISHES ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HELP LINES: PLEASE NOTE ST. MARY'S UPDATED NUMBER.

St. Bernadette: 513-753-5566 Ext 130

St. Mary: 513-373-1996

St. Peter: 513-525-7173

St. Thomas More: 513-753-2561

Guidebook & Directory: Updates & Advertising



St. Bernadette and St. Thomas More are updating their annual guidebook and directory. Please call your parish office to share any changes that may have occurred in your family this past year. This book is provided and direct-mailed to families at no cost to our churches, and it's subsidized by local businesses through advertisements. Please call the St. Bernadette or St. Thomas More parish office with any changes that need to be made, or if interested in advertising in the guidebook.

St. Bernadette office: 513-753-5566

St. Thomas More office: 513-753-2550

Please Be Advised



It has been brought to our attention that scammers have been using the emails and phone numbers of staff and parishioners to ask for money and gift cards. No member of our parish staff — including our pastor and parochial vicars — will ever ask you for gift cards or money via text or email. If you receive a message claiming to be from a member of our staff, please do not respond. Please call the parish office if you have any questions.

Widows Helping Widows on the Journey

Thursday, August 13 | 10:30 am | Stievenard Hall, St. Bernadette



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! **Monthly gatherings will be on the second Thursday of each month.**

Questions? Please contact Pat Lees at pat.bernadette.lees@gmail.com or Becky Ready at bready@fuse.net

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY. HONOR YOUR FAITH.

Write your Last Will and Testament for **FREE**, courtesy of Stella Maris Parish



Stella Maris



Go to: MyCatholicWill.com/stellamarisfamily or scan the QR code above

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BULLETIN DEADLINE

MATERIALS DUE:
JULY 30, 2026

BULLETIN ISSUE:
AUGUST 09, 2026

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



Where is the Holy Spirit Leading Us?

As part of Synod 2027, Archbishop Casey invites each of us to participate in a Conversations in the Spirit listening session. Join others across our archdiocese in prayerfully considering what the Holy Spirit is asking of our Church at this time, thereby assisting Archbishop Casey as he establishes pastoral priorities for the future.

There are approximately 60 sessions scheduled between Labor Day and Thanksgiving.

Register today at
catholicaoc.org/conversations

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

THE SICK & HOMEBOUND: David Himmelstein, Jan Frazee, Bev Jung, Carroll Mayhugh, Ross Gentry, Timothy Haller, Robert Back, Julie Armbricht, Marge Armbruster, Kristina Deboard, Ken Ozanich, Joann Schwetschenau, Matthew Haunert, Patricia Dean, Herbert Doty, Steve and 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, Andrea Kittel, Robert Kocher, Paul Coyne, Willie and Renee Rooks, Joe Bresser, Rita Afflaeck-Graves, Bernice Sutter, 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 Worral, Stephanie Kortyka, Kathy Johnson, Dave O'Connor, Art Kareth, Steve Feist, Harry Horstman, Cathy Scheffter, Tyler Renfro, Chris Horstman, Nicole Henry, Kathy Luken, Mary Burke, Michael Daniel Lafferty, Deacon Jerry Etienne, Sallie Lund Etienne, Tim Etienne,

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, Logan Coward,

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 Benjamin Packer, Parochial Vicar

frpacker@stellamarisfamily.org

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 June

(for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026)

St. Bernadette

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>FORCASTED</u>
REVENUE	\$2,224,421	\$2,163,908
EXPENSES	\$2,130,624	\$2,242,738
INCOME	(\$93,798)	(\$78,830)

St. Mary

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>FORECASTED</u>
INCOME	\$246,287	\$229,250
EXPENSES	\$253,693	\$258,740
NET	(\$7,407)	(\$29,490)

St. Peter

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>FORECASTED</u>
INCOME	\$214,746	\$199,500
EXPENSES	\$234,269	\$255,040
NET	(\$19,524)	(\$55,540)

St. Thomas More

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>FORCASTED</u>
REVENUE	\$3,357,124	\$3,201,615
EXPENSES	\$3,094,406	\$3,117,553
INCOME	\$262,719	\$84,026

\$62,215 — PARK NATIONAL LOAN BALANCE

\$351,190 — IN RESERVES

CHURCH INFORMATION

St. Bernadette

1479 Locust Lake Rd.

Amelia, OH 45102

Office: (513) 753-5566

stbameliaparish.org

St. Mary

3398 State Route 125

Bethel, OH 45106

Office: (513) 734-4041

sccroho.org

St. Peter

1192 Bethel-New Richmond Rd,

New Richmond, OH 45157

Office: (513) 553-3267

sccroho.org

St. Thomas More

800 Ohio Pike

Withamsville, OH 45245

Office: (513) 752-2080

sttm.org

Stella Maris Family of Parishes: stellamarisfamily.org