



Stella Maris

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time | August 23, 2026 The Coronation of The Virgin | Niccolò di Buonaccorso

History and Context of the
Feast of the Assumption

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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, August 24

8:15am (B) † Nathan Bourgeois req. by Charles Bourgeois

Tuesday, August 25

8:15am (B) † Harry Patterson req. by Greg and Allison Patterson

8:30am (M) † Linda McCarroll req. by Nick McCarroll

8:30am (TM) † Dilano Fernando req. by Sharmanthie Fernando

Wednesday, August 26

8:15am (B) † Steve Joseph Mullen Sr. req. by Rachael and Jacqueline

8:30am (TM) † Sue Sutter req. by Gerry

Thursday, August 27

8:30am (TM) † Al Meisman req. by Rick and Chris Schmidt

8:30am (M) † Ellen Powell Kron req. by St. Mary Bereavement

6:45pm (B) † Jerry Wenker req. by Jim and Joyce Wenker

Friday, August 28

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

8:30am (P) † Tony Macke req. by The Parish

8:30am (TM) † Sister Mary Seghers req. by Diane Meisman

Saturday, August 29

8:15am (B) Priest's Intention

4:00pm (TM) † Tony Reichard req. by Vince and Jan Sawma

5:00pm (P) People of the Parish Family

Sunday, August 30

8:00am (TM) People of the Parish Family req. by The Pastor

8:30am (P) Special Intention req. by Anonymous

9:00am (B) Special Intention req. by Anonymous

10:00am (TM) † William Grant Harris, Sr. req. by The Grieco Family

10:30am (M) † Kathy Canter req. by Ken Canter

11:00am (B) † Janette Doty req. by N Doty Bortle

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



History and Context of the Feast of the Assumption

August is the month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the month in which we celebrate one of the great Marian Feasts, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. So, this week, I would like to take some time to give a bit of history and context to some of the Church's celebrations, most notably the Feast of the Assumption.

Sometimes it is noted that, while the Assumption is one of the earliest recorded Marian Feasts to be celebrated, it is not discussed much by the Church Fathers in the first centuries of the Church. However, it is not passed over altogether. There are two families of documents that tell the story of Mary's Assumption into Heaven at the end of her earthly life. While we don't know exactly where either of these stories originated, they were translated and transmitted across the Christian world of the early Church, with the earliest surviving copies dating to the third century.

But why are there only a couple of stories, and so few other mentions of such a great feast day? Well, most of the writings that we have from the early Church deal only with problems. These documents deal primarily with persecutions or heresies. Those dealing with persecution tell the stories of the martyrs, are the persecutors' accounts of the strange people who are willing to die for their faith, or are Christian explanations of the basics of the faith to show that we are not a threat to the society that is persecuting us. The writings dealing with heresies contain most of what we hear about the Church's beliefs and are foundational to our understanding of God, Jesus, the Church, Heaven, morality, and many aspects of our faith. However, basically all of the writings dealing with heresies do exactly that—they address errant beliefs—and the Assumption of Mary seems to have been an almost universal belief even among heretical groups. There are two notable exceptions to this. Two writings condemn some belief pertaining to the Assumption. The first is a document that simply lists the books that are part of Scripture, along with a long list of those that should not be considered part of the Bible. One of the books listed as not scriptural appears to be about the Assumption of Mary; this does not condemn the belief, but simply indicates that it is not a

biblical book. The second condemnation comes from St. Epiphanius, who seems to be addressing a group of women who set themselves up as priests to worship Mary and who were proposing that Mary's Assumption made her into a kind of divinity separate and independent of God. This is clearly distinct from the belief that Mary was taken up to heaven by God at the end of her earthly life. This is polytheism, not Christianity. St. Epiphanius does not condemn the Assumption as such, but is rather condemning the group's interpretation of it—he is telling them that they got the wrong idea from the miracle that God worked for His mother.

If our sources on the early Church's belief in the Assumption are somewhat limited, our evidence for it remains abundant. While we do not have very many writings from the first couple of centuries, it is very clear that it was widely believed. A few centuries later, in a time when we have homilies and liturgical records that were not destroyed, we find homilies speaking of the Assumption as common knowledge and a regularized feast day each year. We also find a shocking fact, which is almost unique to Mary: we have exactly no relics of her body. There are a few relics associated with her—her house most prominently—but there are no claimed relics of her body in the early centuries. All of the 12 apostles, almost every early martyr, and most of the canonized saints from the early centuries have preserved relics. The Church's great respect and veneration of the body led to these being preserved and venerated, but there are none of Mary, and no one pointed this out as odd. Why? Because from the first centuries, everyone knew there couldn't be any because her body was now in heaven.

So, we may ask ourselves, would the early Christians be surprised when Pius XII declared the Dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1950? Yes and no. They certainly would not be surprised to believe that she was assumed into Heaven, but they might be surprised to hear that anyone had doubted it.



Fr. Benjamin Packer

Parochial Vicar

frpacker@stellamarisfamily.org

Bible Studies

Pray. Study. Encounter.



Stella Maris
INSTITUTE

Putting Adults in Communion with Christ

- Adult Bible Study
 - Mondays from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Fr. Lewis Center at St. Mary Church. Bring a Bible if possible, and if not, one will be provided. Anyone can join at any time!
- Sunday Readings Preparation — starts September 9
 - Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 am at St. Thomas More. The Sunday readings are proclaimed, studied, and prayed.
- The Book of Revelation — starts September 16
 - Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 pm in the St. Thomas More School Library.
- Lectio & Life — starts September 3
 - Join Brad Bursa, director of evangelization at Stella Maris, Thursdays at noon in Stievenard Hall on the St. Bernadette Campus.
- Women's Bible Study
 - Fridays from 9:15-10:45 am in Fr. Kennedy Hall at St. Peter Church. Grow closer to our Lord through studying His Word and meet new friends. All are welcome!
- Men's Bible Study
 - Saturdays from 7:30-9:00 am at St. Peter Church. All are welcome to join for prayer and fellowship. Coffee and doughnuts are provided.

Learn more by visiting stellamarisfamily.org/bible-studies





Is your child ready for
First Reconciliation & First Communion?



Registration closes **Wednesday, August 26**
Program begins September 3

Let us help you prepare your child for these beautiful sacraments of healing and communion through an integrated, family-focused approach. And watch God renew your own experience of the sacraments at the same time!



stellamarisfamily.org/reconciliation-communion

High School Youth Ministry

Kickoff event | Sunday, August 30 | 7 - 9 pm



Our 2026/27 High School Youth Ministry year will launch with a "Built on Rock Angry Birds IRL" water balloon game. It will take place on August 30 at 7 pm at Saint Bernadette's. It is open to all students in grades 9-12. Invite a friend and join us for games, fun, and fellowship as we launch our ministry year. RSVPs are requested, but not necessary. Please RSVP by emailing Jacie at jlussetto@stellamarisfamily.org by August 25.

stellamarisfamily.org/high-school-youth-ministry



UNWRAPPING THE GIFT OF TIME



a choose-your-own adventure
for the whole family

With Christ, all things are possible—even having enough time to rest, work, and play. In this workshop for the entire family, we'll examine how we use our time and work together to align our schedules more closely with God's plan, so that we can receive His peace and His joy.

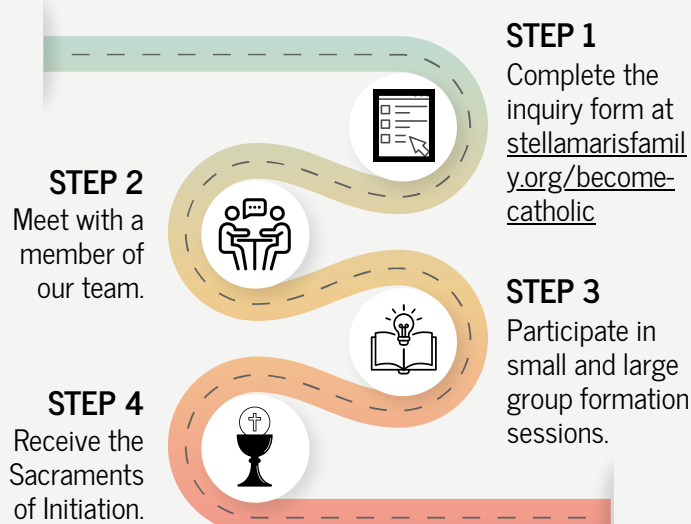
- Tuesday, September 8, 6:30-8:00 pm
- Stievenard Hall @ St. Bernadette
- Snacks and drinks will be provided.
- Optional dress code: Wear your favorite adventuring gear!



Register by September 1 @ stellamarisfamily.org/time

Interested in becoming Catholic?

A Simple Roadmap for Adults



stellamarisfamily.org/become-catholic



You are invited to...

The 4th Annual Stella Maris Family of Parishes Picnic!

Hosted at St. Thomas More. Following the 4 pm Vigil Mass.

What to Bring...

- A side dish or dessert to share
- BYOB
- Your whole family!

What is provided...

- Main dish
- Water & lemonade
- Music
- Kids' games
- Raffles
- Fellowship
- A whole lot of fun!



Saturday, September 26, 2026 | 5:00-9:00 pm

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

Please **RSVP** by Friday, September 18

RSVP by scanning the QR code or by visiting stellamarisfamily.org/picnic



Please note that Fr. Tim will cancel the 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Peter on the evening of Saturday, September 26, for the 4th Annual Stella Maris Family of Parishes Picnic. Everyone is invited to attend the 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Thomas More and gather for the picnic at 5:00 p.m. You do not need to attend Mass to join us!



The Grace Ministry Book Club

The Bishop of the Abandoned Tabernacle by St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia

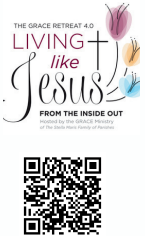
Wednesday, August 26 | 7 pm | Stievenard Hall at St. Bernadette

Join us for fellowship, fun, and to share your thoughts. All are welcome, even if you haven't read or finished the book! This book about St. Manuel will help you to receive Holy Communion more fervently, to love Jesus more deeply in Eucharistic Adoration, and to awaken you to a new experience of Our Lord. **Please bring a snack to share. RSVP to Terri Murrell: 513-218-9535 or Karin Mendoza: 513-884-2653 (text only)**



Register your 8th grader for IGNITE | Confirmation Formation Program

Parents, please complete the online registration form and submit the fee (\$45) to secure your child's spot for the 2026/27 IGNITE Confirmation Formation Program. **The registration deadline is September 1, 2026.** Liability and Medical Release Forms will be emailed after the registration deadline. These must be completed, signed, and returned to the parish office before the first IGNITE event. Please visit stellamarisfamily.org/ignite or scan the QR code to register today!



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 fall retreat — Living Like Jesus from the Inside Out. The cost for the weekend is \$200, and **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 to reserve your spot today!



Become Catholic at Stella Maris

Interested in becoming Catholic, getting baptized, or entering the Church? Join one of our Become Catholic programs! Learn more and register by visiting stellamarisfamily.org/bc or by contacting the appropriate member of our team listed below.



Become Catholic (ages 18+)

Please contact Brad Bursa, Director of Evangelization, at bbursa@stellamarisfamily.org

Become Catholic for Teens (grades 9th-12th)

Please contact Jacie Lussetto, Youth Minister, at jlussetto@stellamarisfamily.org. **Register by Sept. 1.**

Become Catholic for Children (ages 7+)

Please contact Courtney Smalley, Coord. of Family Faith, at csmalley@stellamarisfamily.org. **Register by Sept. 9.**



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

Like Peter in today's Gospel, we can find that when we open our eyes to see, our ears to hear, and our hearts to experience Jesus' presence in our daily lives, God reveals himself to us. **Have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?**

STELLA MARIS FAMILY OF PARISHES ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HELP LINES:

St. Bernadette: 513-753-5566, Ext 130 | **St. Mary:** 513-373-1996 | **St. Peter:** 513-688-3629 | **St. Thomas More:** 513-753-2561



Please pray for the soul of Robert Young, a parishioner of St. Thomas More, who passed away on August 9, 2026. May God grant him eternal peace and console his family at this time of great loss.



Parish Secretary Update

Liz Hart, parish secretary for St. Bernadette, St. Mary, and St. Peter, will be out of the office for an undetermined period. During this time, we kindly ask parishioners to direct all questions and inquiries to **Kate Roelker, Parish Secretary at St. Thomas More**, at 513-753-2550 or kroelker@sttm.org. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.



St. Mary's Altar Society August Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the winners, and a reminder to all to let us know if you want raffle tickets. \$1.00 each. Just drop your money and information in the collection basket.

- \$50.00 - Jeff Ferris
- \$25.00 - Linda Faulhaber
- \$10.00 - Sharon Ritzi



A Thank You from St. Bernadette's SVdP

The St. Bernadette St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank all the individuals and businesses that displayed signs for the 2026 yard sale. Meeting the food and other basic needs of many in our community depends on yard sale proceeds and all of your generous donations. We would also like to express appreciation to Meijer, Aldi, Kroger, City BBQ in Eastgate, and the Free Store Food Bank for their regular product contributions. Thank you, volunteers, for your compassion, energy, and dedication all year long. Vincentians are bedrock! Join us!



Knights of Columbus Football Crazr Sweepstakes

The Knights of Columbus will be selling Football Sweepstakes tickets at St. Mary and St. Peter on September 5 and 6, and also at St. Thomas More and St. Bernadette on September 12 and 13. The Football Sweepstakes involves the last 10 weeks of games played by the NFL this season – games that will be played between November and January. The donation is \$20 per ticket. At least \$2,500 in prizes will be awarded each week or at least \$25,000 over the contest period. The 23 winners are determined by ticket holders with the four teams that score the most – or the least – number of points in that given week of games. The scores from the previous week's games are used for teams that are not scheduled to play in any given week. A winners' list will be posted on fundcrazr.com and kofcoho.org. The password is your ticket number. All proceeds go to charities in our area. For tickets, call Steve Feist at 513-965-1073, stevfeis@gmail.com, or Jeff Racic at 513-225-7423, [jratic2@gmail.com](mailto:jracic2@gmail.com).



Support our parish at no cost to you!

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Link your card to 'St. Mary Catholic Church, Bethel', Shop at Kroger and swipe your shopper's card.

1. Create a digital account.
2. Link your card to St. Mary's.
3. Your organization earns (no cost to you)!

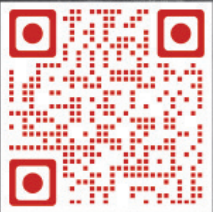
- Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending with all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations.



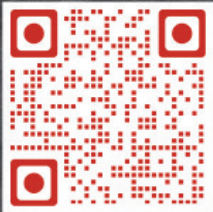
Welcome Back
Students, Parents & Faculty!

STM PTO is gearing up for another incredible school year.

To join or learn more about the exciting year ahead, scan the QR!



PTO Webpage



PTO Facebook

CONNECT WITH US!



@StellaMarisCincinnati



facebook.com/StellaMarisCinci



@stellamariscincinnati





BULLETIN DEADLINE

MATERIALS DUE:
AUGUST 27, 2026

BULLETIN ISSUE:
SEPTEMBER 6, 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



**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

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, 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, Cindy Baird,

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 July

(for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027)

St. Bernadette

Stewardship numbers will be published next week

St. Mary

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>FORECASTED</u>
INCOME	\$21,102	\$21,722
EXPENSES	\$26,262	\$30,016
NET	(\$5,161)	(\$8,295)

St. Peter

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>FORECASTED</u>
INCOME	\$11,006	\$10,515
EXPENSES	\$19,591	\$18,482
NET	(\$8,585)	(\$7,967)

St. Thomas More

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>FORECASTED</u>
REVENUE	\$228,061	\$160,435
EXPENSES	\$302,782	\$253,653
INCOME	(\$74,720)	(\$93,218)

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