

Thursday, October 23, 2025



*A weekly publication of the
Catholic Diocese of Cleveland*

[‘God has a plan for each of us,’ bishop
tells high school students at Mass, rally](#)

The second Youth Rally & Mass drew nearly 5,000 people to Cleveland Public Auditorium on Oct. 25 for witness stories, music, Mass and camaraderie. The event was larger than the first one in 2023.



“We’re not here as rivals,” Bishop Edward Malesic told the students, who hailed from all 20 Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Cleveland. “God has a plan for each of us ... Listen to him because he has something to say every day ... Each of us is unique, like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Think about how God might be using you to set the world ablaze.”

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[Bishop Malesic installs Father Simone as St. Jerome, Holy Redeemer pastor](#)

“I can’t express how much I love and care about each one of you,” Father Anthony Simone told parishioners at St. Jerome and Holy Redeemer parishes. Bishop Edward Malesic installed Father Simone as pastor of the two parishes in Cleveland’s Collinwood neighborhood on Oct. 19. Mass was celebrated at each parish — 9 a.m. at St. Jerome, 11 a.m. at Holy Redeemer — followed by a lunch reception at nearby St. Mary Parish Hall, also in Collinwood.



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[Big crowd turned out for Fall Fest fun at Camp Christopher](#)

It was a picture-perfect day as a large crowd descended on Camp Christopher in Bath for the annual Fall Fest. Parents, grandparents and children of all ages took advantage of the sunny, 80-degree day to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities at the camp, a ministry of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland.



Among those spotted at the event was Jim Mullen, president and CEO of Catholic Charities, who attended Fall Fest with his family.

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[St. Teresa of Avila Parish welcomes
Bishop Malesic for feast day Mass,
dinner](#)

One of the oldest parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland, St. Teresa of Avila in Sheffield Village, welcomed Bishop Edward Malesic on Oct. 18 as he helped celebrate the parish's 180th anniversary and its patron saint's feast day, which was Oct. 15.

It was the bishop's first pastoral visit to the parish, which has a German heritage. He noted the beautiful stained-glass windows in the church, which Father Edward Smith, pastor, said were refurbished recently.

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[Scouts, families attend annual Diocesan Court of Honor Mass](#)

"Come here not to stay the same. Come to be changed," Father John Pfeifer told scouts and their families who gathered Oct. 12 in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist for the annual Diocesan Court of Honor liturgy. Father Pfeifer and Father Bob Stec, Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting chaplains, celebrated the Mass.



After the liturgy, scouts and adults who volunteer with the program were presented with a variety of religious awards they earned during the year.

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[Seminary professor offers Women's Giving Circle insight into Pope Leo XIV](#)

Members and guests of the Catholic Community Foundation's Women's Giving Circle got some deeper insight into Pope Leo XIV during a recent "Sip & Learn" event. Guest speaker was Andrew Staron, associate professor of systematic theology at Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology.

Staron said the timing of the Oct. 9 event was fortuitous, since the pope released his first exhortation that day, "Dilexi Te," translated from Latin as "I Have Loved You."

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[Medical professionals hear message of hope at annual White Mass](#)

“You are the healing hands of Jesus,” Bishop Edward Malesic told the medical professionals who gathered Oct. 17 for the annual White Mass. The bishop celebrated the liturgy in Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd Chapel at the Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe. Dinner and a speaker followed Mass.



Members of the local Order of Malta, a Catholic lay religious hospitaller organization, attended the event with members of the Cleveland Guild of the Catholic Medical Association.

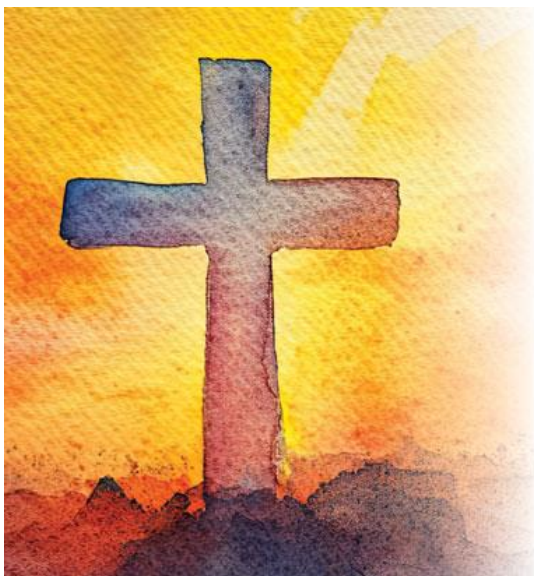
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Scripture Reflection: Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In his weekly Scripture reflection, Bishop Edward Malesic writes that the Sunday Mass readings highlight the need for persistent prayer. In the first reading, when Moses is lifting his hands in prayer, his troops are winning the battle. However, when he tires, lets his hands fall and stops praying, the battle goes the wrong way. Sometimes we need people to support us in prayer, like Aaron and Hur, who helped Moses. In the parable of the woman seeking justice from a judge, Jesus gave another lesson about persistence in prayer.



Read the entire reflection [here](#).



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And finally...

Did you know that **Priesthood Sunday** is this weekend, Oct. 25-26, in the Diocese of Cleveland? It's a time to give thanks for the gift of priests, to pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire more men to discern this call to service and to personally invite young men to consider their vocation. For more information, call the diocesan Vocation Office, 440-943-7630.

Bishop Edward Malesic and Father Damian Ference, diocesan vicar for evangelization, will celebrate Mass at 10 a.m. on All Saints Day, Nov. 1 — a holy day of obligation — in the [Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist](#). Children are invited to dress as their favorite saint. The relics of St. Christina, which are housed in the cathedral crypt, will be venerated after Mass, followed by a reception in the cathedral courtyard. Father Ference will celebrate a candlelight Mass at 5:30 p.m. on All Souls Day, Nov. 2, in the cathedral.

Thousands of Catholic youth, including a contingent from the Diocese of Cleveland, who will be attending next month's [National Catholic Youth Conference](#) Nov. 20-22 in Indianapolis, Indiana will have an opportunity to see and hear from Pope Leo XIV. It will be the first time a pope directly engages United States' youth in a live, digital encounter that will be broadcast worldwide from Lucas Oil Stadium, the site of NCYC. The pope plans to join the gathering virtually from Rome at 10:15 a.m. Nov. 21 for a 45-minute program. He will address the gathering and dialogue directly with a number of NCYC attendees. Click [here](#) by Nov. 11 to get an invitation to the digital-only event.

Oct. 25 is the reservation deadline for the third annual Faith and Science Workshop: Human

Evolution. The event will take place 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 8 in the Sari Feldman Auditorium at the Parma-Snow Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 2121 Snow Road, Parma. The event is co-sponsored by the ITE Project and the Diocese of Cleveland Young Adult Ministry Office. Click [here](#) for more information or to register. The event includes speakers, lunch and discussion tables. Those 18 and older are welcome to register. Cost is \$10.

Don't forget to make a reservation for the upcoming First Friday Club programs. The **First Friday Club of Cleveland** will hear from Bishop Neal Buckon, auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, at its lunchtime program on Nov. 6 at the Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe. Networking and fellowship begin at 11 a.m., with a buffet lunch at 11:30 a.m., followed by the program. Bishop Buckon, a Cleveland native, will speak on the military chaplaincy and the soldiers served. Cost is \$35. Click [here](#) for more information or to reserve a seat. On Nov. 7, the **First Friday Club of Greater Akron** will hear from David Eich, a retired health care executive and author of eight books, who will discuss "Quo Vadis — Where are you Going?" Cost is \$25 and reservation deadline is Nov. 4. Doors open at 11 a.m. for lunch, followed by the speaker at noon. The group meets at Our Lady of Cedars, 507 S. Cleveland Massillon Road, Fairlawn. Click [here](#) for more information or to reserve a seat.

What began as a fun raffle prize turned into an act of generosity at [St. Gabriel School](#) in Concord Township. The parents of students Maverick and Harland Howells won the "Principal for a Day" raffle at last year's PTU Gala and they spent the day helping Principal Robert Kumazec lead the school. But they also used their "principal power" to declare a "destination dress-down day" on Oct. 10, inviting students to wear shirts from their favorite places. It also served as a kick off for "Socktober," a monthlong sock drive to benefit the City Mission and Adoption Network Cleveland. Until Oct. 31, St. Gabriel students and their families are encouraged to bring in new socks of all sizes to support the work of the two nonprofits. Donations can be dropped off in the school lobby.

Save the date: [St. Joseph Parish](#) will have a sensory-friendly Mass that is open to all at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 10 in the main church, 12700 Pearl Road, Strongsville. There will be low lights, soft music, a short homily and a welcoming environment for people with special needs. Those with sensory sensitivities are invited to bring comfort items to the liturgy.

All are invited to join in celebrating the 60th anniversary of Vatican II's Nostra Aetate, "Interreligious Understanding: Looking Back, Moving Forward," at 6 p.m. Oct. 28 in the Dolan Science Center at [John Carroll University](#), 1 John Carroll Blvd., University Heights. John Borelli of Georgetown University will speak along with Noah Bickart, Mandel Chair in Jewish Studies, and Zeki Saritoprak, Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies. The event is presented by the Tuohy Center for Interreligious Understanding at JCU. No registration is required for the free program.

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