

[Candidates, catechumens welcomed  
during annual Rite of Election liturgy](#)

Lent is a time for prayer, penance and almsgiving, but it's also when the Catholic Church rejoices and welcomes those who will be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

In the Diocese of Cleveland, more than 1,000 people who are participating in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults will either be baptized or come into full communion with the Church during the Easter Vigil on April 4. They were welcomed during the annual Rite of Election liturgy on Feb. 22 at Cleveland Public Auditorium.



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Learn about the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at JCU through a virtual information session on March 23, 2026! Call or email Administrative Assistant, Maggie Hohlefelder, at 216-397-1599 or mhohlefelder@jcu.edu for more information and to register.

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**[Bishop Woost institutes eight seminarians, one diaconal candidate in ministry of acolyte](#)**

Nine men who are discerning their vocations for the priesthood and permanent diaconate took another step in that journey on Feb. 20 when they were instituted in the ministry of acolyte by Auxiliary Bishop Michael Woost. The liturgy took place in the Chapel of Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd at the Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe.



As acolytes, the bishop reminded the men and the congregation that they are not simply “super altar servers.”

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## [Cathedral hosts holy hour for peace amid 'climate of fear and polarization'](#)

Bishop Edward Malesic presided at a holy hour for peace on Feb. 25 in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

“We come to pray before the presence of the Lord, the Christ who has come to save us from ourselves and the evil one,” the bishop told the faithful who gathered for the late-afternoon liturgy.

Archbishop Paul Coakley, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, invited bishops and priests across the country to consider hosting a holy hour for peace during February.



[Read more>](#)



[Friendly competition to help schools in diocese build awareness of Angel Scholarship Fund](#)

The April 15 deadline to file 2025 state income taxes and to participate in the Angel Scholarship Fund for 2025 is approaching fast.



“Angel Madness,” a friendly competition, will take place during the month of March across the Diocese of Cleveland. It will help raise awareness of the Angel Scholarship Fund and encourage participation.

[Read more>](#)



## [‘Hope and Healing’ await at annual Evening of Confession on March 4](#)

The faithful throughout the eight-county Diocese of Cleveland are encouraged to take advantage of the annual Evening of Confession on March 4. Most churches across the diocese will be open 5-8 p.m. that night for the sacrament of reconciliation.



“Hope and Healing” is the theme for this year’s Evening of Confession, which has become a Lenten tradition in the diocese.

Father Damian Ference, diocesan vicar for evangelization, said confession is the best way to obtain spiritual healing and forgiveness

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Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
Helen D. Schubert Concerts

*Daniel Benjamin Sánchez*

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 • 7:30 P.M.

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
1007 Superior Ave • Cleveland, OH 44114

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## [St. Aloysius students 'adopt' African Americans on the road to sainthood](#)

Students at St. Aloysius School in Cleveland's Glenville neighborhood are learning about the lives of the seven Black men and women who are on the path to sainthood in the Catholic Church.



Sister Mary Jean Raymond, parish life coordinator at St. Aloysius-St. Agatha Parish, said the project was part of their Black History Month observance. February is Black History Month.

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## [Scripture reflection: First Sunday of Lent](#)

In his weekly Scripture reflection, Bishop Edward Malesic writes that the First Sunday of Lent could almost be called “Temptation Sunday.” In the first reading, the devil — that ancient serpent — tempts Adam and Eve with the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He promises that if they eat it, they will become like gods, able to decide for themselves what is good and what is evil, what is right and what is wrong. But it was a lie. And the devil still lies to us.

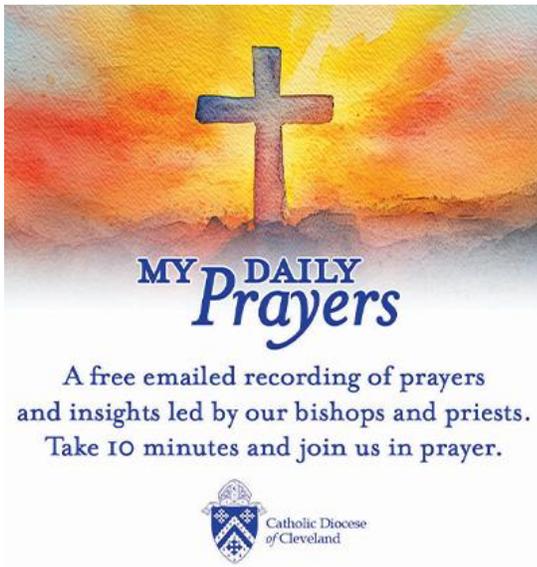
Read the entire reflection [here](#)

**Read other reflections from this week:**

[Monday, Feb. 23](#) | [Tuesday, Feb. 24](#)

[Wednesday, Feb 25](#) | [Thursday, Feb. 26](#)





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Click the cover above to read the latest edition of Northeast Ohio Catholic

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Also, click [here](#) to visit the diocesan website for additional news and information from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

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**And finally...**

Did you know that [Elyria Catholic High School](#) is presenting its Living Stations of the Cross once again this Lenten season? This year's programs will be Feb. 27 at [St. Ladislav Parish](#), Westlake; March 6 at [St. Bernadette Parish](#), Westlake; March 8 at [Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish](#), Grafton; March 13 at [Avon Catholic Community at Holy Trinity Parish](#), Avon; March 20 at [St. Peter Parish](#), Lorain; March 22 at [St. Jude Parish](#), Elyria and March 29 at [Sacred Heart Chapel](#), Lorain. Check the parish website for the time and more information.

[St. Agnes-Our Lady of Fatima Parish](#) in Cleveland will present a Women's History Month Luncheon 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 7 to celebrate the lives of Sister

Juanita Shealey, CSJ and Edna Duffy, founder of Duffy Liturgical Dance. Each has made significant contributions to the Cleveland Community since 1978. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to charities of their choice. Click [here](#) for more information or to make a reservation.

The annual 40 Days for Life observance continues through March 29. During this time, the faithful are invited to join other Christians in 40 days of fasting and prayer for an end to abortion. People also are invited to stand peacefully and pray any time between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the public right of way at abortion clinics in the diocese. Click [here](#) for more information, call 216-245-9744 or email [clevelandpraysforlife@gmail.com](mailto:clevelandpraysforlife@gmail.com).

The diocesan Office for Human Life and Chaplaincy Ministries, as well as Catholic Charities' Diocesan Social Action Office will present a free program, "Justice & Mercy: A better way to Criminal Justice," at 7:30 p.m. March 3 in the Breen Center at Saint Ignatius High School. The presenter will be Brian Lovins, founder of Justice System Partners. Click [here](#) for more information or to reserve a seat.

Father Michael Petkosek, parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Medina, said there are still a few spots available for a 12-day pilgrimage to Spain and France to [Celebrate the Saints of Spain & Our Lady of Lourdes](#) Sept 9-20. Pilgrims will visit Compostela where St. James is buried, Avila where St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross ministered, the Loyola palace where St. Ignatius grew up and the cave where he wrote his Spiritual Exercises (and more) while enjoying the beauty and grandeur of Spain, then they will spend two days in Lourdes. Deadline to register is Feb. 28. Click [here](#) for more information or to reserve a spot.

**Reminder:** With Lent underway, be sure to check out the [fish fry listings](#) on the [diocesan website](#). Fish fries hosted by parishes, schools and Catholic nonprofits are listed by county and by the name of the sponsoring entity.

**Did a friend or family member forward this to you?**

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