

Thursday, October 22, 2026

NORTHEAST OHIO
Catholic
— e-newsletter —

*A weekly publication of the
Catholic Diocese of Cleveland*

[Bishop Malesic, diocesan pilgrims conclude pilgrimage to France](#)

Eighty-four pilgrims from the Diocese of Cleveland, including Bishop Edward Malesic, spent 11 days traveling through France enjoying sacred and historical sites.

The group left Cleveland on Oct. 11 and were scheduled to return home on Oct. 22.

Among the places they visited during the past week were Lourdes, Trouville in Normandy, the Normandy beaches where Allies landed on D-Day in 1944, Mont Saint-Michel, Lisieux, where they spent a day visiting sites related to St. Therese, and Paris, including Notre Dame Cathedral. Their experiences, which were chronicled in a daily blog, concluded with a dinner cruise on the Seine River.

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[Bishop Woost celebrates annual White Mass for Cleveland Catholic Medical Guild](#)

“The practice of medicine is a profound thing. It’s more than just scientific knowledge and technical skill,” said Dr. James Ohliger, president of the Cleveland Catholic Blessed Fulton Sheen Medical Guild.



Dr. Ohliger addressed guild members and guests at the annual White Mass, celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Michael Woost on Oct. 16 at the Center for Pastoral Leadership. The liturgy is in thanksgiving for those in health care faithfully living as Catholics.

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**Graveside Service
for Deceased Priests**

November 16 | 3:00 pm | Holy Cross Cemetery, Cleveland

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Holy Family Parish, Stow celebrates 80th anniversary with Mass, reception

A lot has changed over the past 80 years both at Holy Family Parish and in the city of Stow, where it is located.

Holy Family, which is marking its 80th anniversary, celebrated with Mass, the blessing of new liturgical vestments and a blessing of the newly renovated parish hall on Oct. 17. Auxiliary Bishop Michael Woost presided at the celebration, along with priests and deacons from the parish including the pastor, Father Michael McCandless



Before Mass, the clergy processed to the altar where a new set of hand-sewn liturgical vestments were displayed. The bishop blessed them and then they were worn during the Mass.

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Sunday, November 1	Mass 10:00am	Open House 11:00am – 1:00pm
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The advertisement features a dark blue background with a photograph of three students on the left and a photograph of the school building with an American flag on the right. The text is white and yellow.

[Theology on the Rocks Akron program attendees learn about, view relics](#)

“Relics: Are Catholics Weird or Merely Human?” was the intriguing title of a presentation delivered by Father John Valencheck, pastor of St. Sebastian Parish in Akron, at a recent Theology on the Rocks Akron program.

Father Valencheck also brought several relics with him to help illustrate his talk.

He explained what a relic is, noting they fall into different categories or classes. First-class relics are the most important since they are the physical remains of a saint, such as a bone, hair, skull, blood, or flesh. They also can be items directly connected to the life and Passion of Jesus.

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Women's Giving Circle program focuses on 'Art, Beauty and the Catholic Faith'

More than 50 members of the Women's Giving Circle attended the group's annual Sip & Learn event where they heard Sally Phelps Smith speak on "Art, Beauty and the Catholic Faith." The program was hosted by Phelps Smith and her husband Ted on Oct. 8 at their home.

An art historian, Phelps Smith drew on wisdom from theologians such as St. Augustine, Gregory the Great and Pope St. John Paul II.

"Art began with God himself," she said. "Just as he is complete truth and complete love, he is also perfect beauty. As creator of all things visible and invisible, God is the ultimate artist."

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Camp Christopher Fall Fest offers

family-friendly fun

Lions, witches, superheroes, princesses and more roamed the grounds of Camp Christopher in Akron on Oct. 17 during the annual Fall Fest.

The day was bright, sunny and crisp for the popular event, which attracted families from across the diocese. Guests enjoyed some early Halloween and fall fun, with many of the children dressed in costumes.

There was trick-or-treating all afternoon as well as a scavenger hunt. Guests roamed the camp grounds searching for a variety of people, places and things like a “person painting fellow festival attendees” or finding Friends of Camp Christopher and giving them a “high five.”



[Read more>](#)



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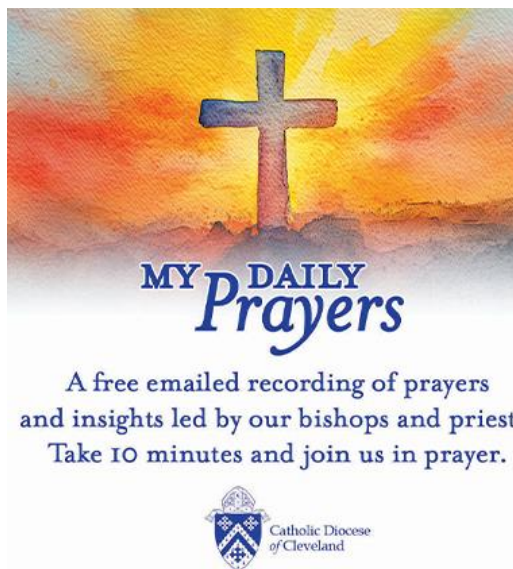
Scripture reflection: Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In his weekly Scripture reflection, Bishop Edward Malesic writes that the day's Gospel is a good example of the saying, "The enemy of my enemy is my friend."

The Pharisees and the Herodians had deep political and religious differences, yet they put them aside to plot against Jesus, whom they regarded as their common enemy.

They thought they had trapped him with a carefully chosen question: "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"

Read the entire reflection [here](#).



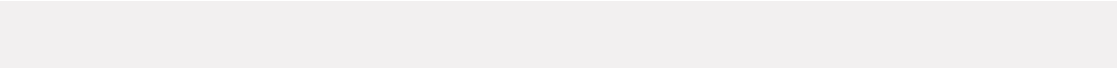
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Click the cover above to read the latest edition of Northeast Ohio Catholic



Click the image to read about the latest Vatican News



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



And finally...

Did you know that Sunday, Oct. 25 is Priesthood Sunday? The day allows the faithful to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church. It's also an opportunity to pray for all priests and those discerning the priesthood.

Civic duty: As Election Day (Nov. 3) nears, the Catholic Commission of Ohio is reminding the faithful of the importance of doing their civic duty and voting.

The commission offers a guide to Faithful Citizenship to lead voters through prayerful preparation to form their conscience, rooted in Catholic teachings and traditions, and to seek out trustworthy sources to research candidates and issues before voting. Click [here](#) to view the guide and other election resources.

Candlelight Mass: St. Sebastian Parish, 476 Mull Ave., Akron, will offer a candlelight Mass celebrated by Father Damian Ference, diocesan vicar for evangelization, at 7 p.m. on All Souls Day, Nov. 2.

The relics of St. Christina will be displayed near the altar.

Reminder: During renovations, weekday Masses, confessions, private prayer and Wednesday adoration have relocated from the [Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist](#) to a temporary worship space on the first floor of Cathedral Square Plaza, the diocesan offices, at 1404 E. Ninth St.

Weekday Masses are at 7:15 a.m. and noon, with the noon Mass livestreamed. Click [here](#) for more information on Masses, confessions and other cathedral news.

Stay updated: Be sure to check the [events page](#) for the latest happenings around the diocese.



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