

Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS

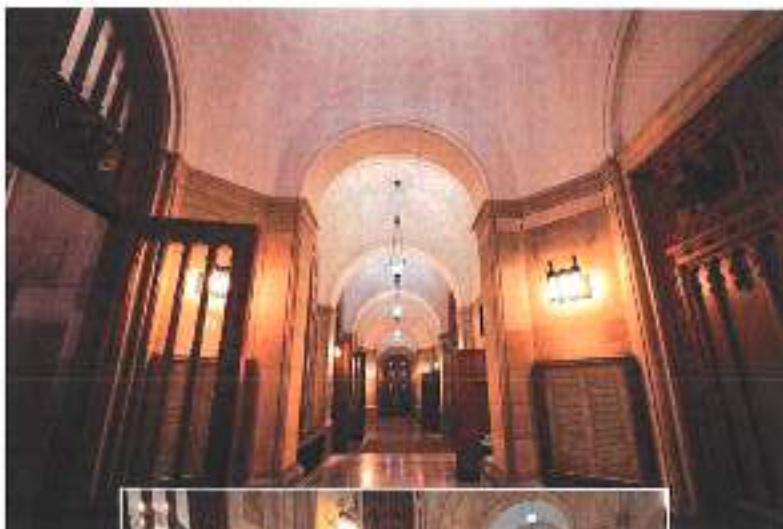


“Luminous!”

“Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever!” I begin with this familiar phrase, used by Pope Saint John Paul II, whenever he began a presentation, discourse, or homily. And I highlight this phrase for two reasons: first, because Pope Saint John Paul II wanted always to begin and concentrate whatever he was saying around the Lord Jesus Christ, and to offer him praise and honor! And second, because the catalyst for our efforts is that it was Pope Saint John Paul II who, in 2002, in his Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, gave the Church five new mysteries of the Rosary: the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan, the Wedding Feast of Cana, the Proclamation of the Kingdom, the Transfiguration, and the Last Supper or Institution of the Eucharist.

What we are about to do is “luminous,” because it is all about Christ Jesus! And we offer him praise and honor that we’ve arrived at this historic moment! The moment of which I speak of course is that we are now able formally to commence work on adding the Luminous Mysteries to the five empty vaults in the narthex of our splendid Rosary Cathedral! This very exciting project will complete the depiction of all 20 of the Mysteries of the

Rosary at Rosary Cathedral, including the already existing Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries, depicted in the vaults of the side aisles.



On March 27th, we publicly announced that, following upon the success of the diocesan-wide *Living Christ* capital campaign and the extraordinary generosity of so many donors, the Diocese of Toledo is now able to begin three major initiatives to restore and enhance the mother church of our Catholic diocese, Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral. And on April

16th, we held a press event in the narthex formally to announce that one of those initiatives, the realization of the Luminous Mysteries, is now poised to begin. Gathered with the members of our Cathedral Restoration Committee and others, we welcomed the overall project manager of our Cathedral restoration, Mr. Louis DiCocco of St.

Jude Liturgical Arts Studio; we introduced the artist, Mr. David LaFleur whose studio is in Avon Lake, Ohio; we acknowledged and thanked the Luminous Foundation of the Delp family whose generous gift for this purpose to the *Living Christ* campaign makes possible this installation; and we displayed several of the renderings and images which will soon grace those undecorated vaults!

In giving the Luminous Mysteries to the universal Church, Pope Saint John Paul II wrote: "I believe that to bring out fully the Christological depth of the Rosary, it would be suitable to make an addition to the traditional pattern which...could broaden it to include *the mysteries of Christ's public ministry between his Baptism and his Passion*. In the course of those mysteries we contemplate important aspects of the person of Christ as the definitive revelation of God. Declared the beloved Son of the Father at the Baptism in the Jordan, Christ is the one who announces the coming of the Kingdom, bears witness to it in his works and proclaims its demands. It is during the years of his public ministry that *the mystery of Christ is most evidently a mystery of light*. "While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world" (Jn 9:5)" [*Rosarium Virginis Mariae* 19].

Once the work is complete, it will "bring out fully the Christological depth of the Rosary" for every parishioner and visitor to our Cathedral. There is no doubt that, as one of the only Cathedrals in North America to so depict all twenty mysteries of the Rosary, Rosary Cathedral will become even more a place of pilgrimage.

Many of you will wonder what artistic form or style the new Luminous Mysteries will take. Every effort from the beginning has been made to envision and ensure that the depiction of the five new mysteries will follow upon and be seen as complementary to the elements and classic style of Jan Henryk de Rosen, the original artist who depicted the 15 mysteries of the Rosary in time for the dedication of the Cathedral in 1940. Thus the images of the Luminous Mysteries will present the New Testament scene of each mystery with its corresponding Old Testament prefiguration, there will be roundels or *tondi* which harken to related scriptural scenes, and escutcheons which bear imagery or iconography which elucidate the mystery. Just as in the great medieval Cathedrals the art was to serve a catechetical purpose, so too our new Luminous Mysteries will, we trust, appear seamlessly harmonious with the other mysteries of the rosary depicted in the vaults of the side aisles. This project will hopefully be completed within six to eight months.

Pope Saint John Paul also wrote: "This addition of these new mysteries, without prejudice to any essential aspect of the

prayer's traditional format, is meant to give it fresh life and to enkindle renewed interest in the Rosary's place within Christian spirituality as a true doorway to the depths of the Heart of Christ, ocean of joy and light, suffering and of glory" [*Rosarium Virginis Mariae* 19].



How striking that adding the Luminous Mysteries to our Cathedral should give fresh life and renewed interest in the Rosary, and how very appropriate that they be depicted above the narthex doors of our Cathedral, underscoring the Rosary "as a true doorway to the depths of the Heart of Christ."

In concluding his Apostolic Letter in which he gave us the Luminous Mysteries, Pope Saint John Paul reiterated the efficacy of entrusting to the Rosary our most difficult problems, noting: "At times when Christianity itself seemed under threat, its deliverance was attributed to the

power of this prayer, and Our Lady of the Rosary was acclaimed as the one whose intercession brought salvation." He added "Today I willingly entrust to the power of this prayer...the cause of peace in the world and the cause of the family" [*Rosarium Virginis Mariae* 19]. How poignant then that we should complete the depiction of the mysteries of the Rosary here in our Cathedral named for Our Lady of the Rosary, and how timely to entrust to the power of this prayer the cause of peace in the world and the cause of the family!

Many of you will recall that, in the homily on the day I was installed as your bishop, I expressed the hope that one day, here in Rosary Cathedral, we would be able to depict the Luminous Mysteries. It was especially moving then, because the date of my Installation, October 22, 2014, was the first time the Church celebrated the Feast Day of Pope John Paul II as a Saint. Often in these intervening years, several of you have asked "Bishop, when are you going to fulfill your hope to add the Luminous Mysteries to our Cathedral?" The answer to that question is: the time has come. How blessed we are to move forward with this exciting initiative to enhance our Rosary Cathedral artistically, historically and spiritually! "Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever!"

+ *Daniel E. Thomas*

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
April 17, 2026

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

(Good Shepherd Sunday)



Diocese
of Toledo
Diocesan Priority Vocations

Sunday, April 26, 2026



A TRADITION for MOTHERS..

Like St. Monica, sometimes a mother sheds many tears when a son responds to his divine calling. Before St. Augustine returned to the practice of the faith and was ordained a priest his mother shed many tears of intercession. Similarly, many mothers in today's world will make countless sacrifices so that their son can freely respond to whatever calling God has in store for him.

Recognizing this reality a pious tradition has been passed on over the years that pays respect to the role a mother has in a priest's life. When a priest is ordained his hands are anointed with chrism oil by the bishop. After this occurs his hands are cleaned with a white linen towel called a maniturgium. The oil that is used on the hands of the priest is sacred, having been previously consecrated by the bishop.

According to an age-old tradition the mother saves the towel in a safe place until she dies. Then when her body is prepared for the funeral the maniturgium is placed within the hands of the mother.

When she arrives to the gates of heaven she is escorted directly to our Lord. Our Lord says to the woman – "I have given you life, what have you given to me?" She hands him the maniturgium and responds, "I have given you my son as a priest." At this Jesus grants her entry into paradise.

It is a beautiful and consoling tradition that is always a touching ceremony to witness. Many more tears are shed when a young priest presents the towel to his mother, tears of joy instead of sorrow.

Upcoming Dates from the Vocations Office:

- April 26: World Day of Prayer for Vocations (Good Shepherd Sunday)
- May 16: Evan Sekerak's Diaconate Ordination (Holy Rosary Cathedral)
- June 27: Deacon Andrew Messer's Priesthood Ordination (St. Joan of Arc)
- July 31–August 2: Quo Vadis High School Discernment Retreat
- August 2–3: Quo Vadis Junior High Discernment Retreat



Please keep our seminarians
in prayer as they finish up
their spring semester in
seminary and prepare for
their summer assignments!



MADE FOR MORE

A PRAYER FOR **SEMINARIANS**

Father, thank You for the generosity of our seminarians.
Safeguard them as they prepare for the priesthood.

Keep all evil far from them, so they may become strong
Christian men who are faithful to prayer, diligent in their
studies, open to spiritual direction, and docile to all
aspects of seminary formation.

Above all, enflame their hearts with love so they will be
ardent and gentle shepherds for Your Church.
We make this prayer through the great High Priest, Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Charles Borromeo, patron of seminarians, *pray for us.*

FR. DAVID KIDD

DIRECTOR OF OFFICE
FOR DIOCESAN
PRIESTLY VOCATIONS,
419 214-6711, dkidd@toledodiocese.org



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PRIESTHOOD?



TOLEDOPRIESTHOOD.COM

Parish Lay Missionary Formation

Training for an Apostolic Church



The Basics

- **Who?** Lay parish employees & volunteers (religious sisters & brothers are welcome). Maximum annual cohort of 24 participants.
- **What?** Formation including all four dimensions: human, spiritual, intellectual & pastoral, focused on equipping for the concrete realities of parish ministry.
- **When?** Monthly formation gatherings and small groups over a two year period. A new cohort will start every year.
- **Where?** Hybrid in person and virtual formats.
- **Why?** Equip the laity for the work of the New Evangelization in their parishes and to more significantly support their pastors.
- **Cost?** \$200 - includes all formation, meals and material. Total Value = \$1,400. This formation program is made possible by the Living Christ Capital Campaign.

Instructional Elements

- + **Quarterly In-Person Gatherings**
9:00 am - 4:00 pm on Saturday
- + **Monthly Virtual Sessions**
(Months without in-person gatherings)
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm on a weekday evening



Individualized Growth Plan

Design a personal growth plan including goals for all four dimensions of formation: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral



Formation Quads

Walk with a regional small group that meets monthly for prayer, sharing, accountability, and theological reflection.



Formation Director

Journey with a member of our diocesan team that will help guide you through your formation process.



PROGRAM SCHEDULE



Year One

2026

September 12th: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (In-person) - Orientation and a Vision for Lay Ministry
October 8th: 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm (Virtual) - Reacquiring a Biblical Worldview: The Religion of the Day & Common Contemporary Heresies
November 7th: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (In-Person) - Retreat: Restore the Initiative to God - Personal Prayer, Discernment, Spiritual Direction, and a Spirituality of Lay Ministry
December 10th: 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm (Virtual) - The Church, the Parish & the Pastor

2027

January: Winter Break
February 4th: 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm (Virtual) - The New Evangelization
March 13th: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (In Person) - The Human Person: Physical & Mental Health
April 10th: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (In Person) - Liturgy, Sacraments & Rites: Public Prayer Practicum
May 13th: 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm (Virtual) - Catechetics & Teaching
June 10th: 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm (Virtual) - Catholic Morality & Common Ethical Issues
July - August: Summer Break

Year Two

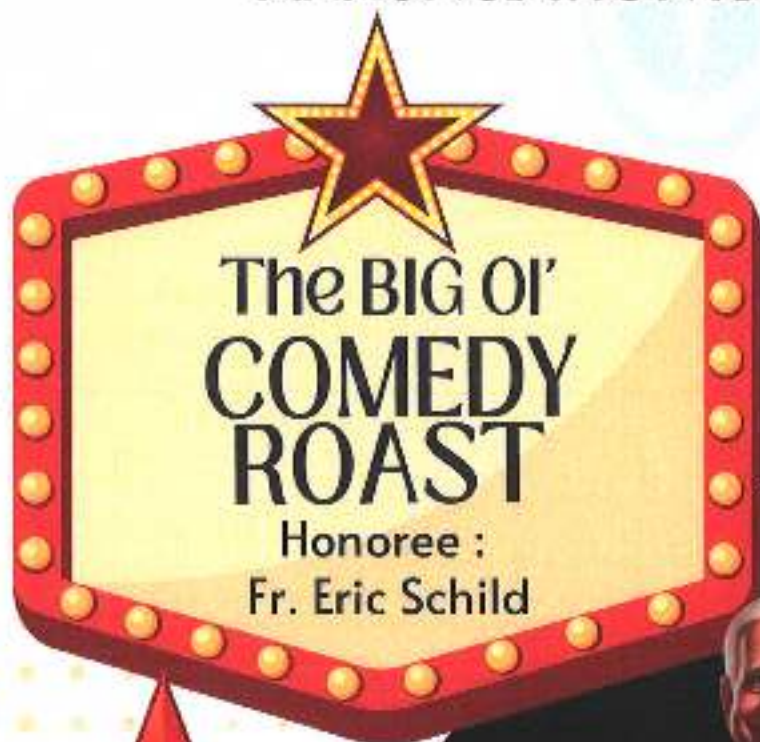
September 11th (In-Person) - Relational Ministry: Ministry of Presence, Pastoral Counseling v. Mental Healthcare, Mock Ministry Conversations and Speaking/Personal Witness Practicum
October TBD (Virtual) - Sacrament of Penance
November TBD (In-Person) - Retreat - Healing for Ministry & Healing Prayer
December TBD (Virtual) - Sacrament of Matrimony, Effective Marriage Preparation & Annulments

2027

January: Winter Break
February TBD (Virtual) - 19th Annotation Ignatian Retreat Orientation
Lent - At Home Ignatian Retreat: Daily Meditation, Examen & Regular Spiritual Direction
March TBD (In Person) - Parish Ministry: Inspiring & Leading Volunteers, Effective Teamwork, How to Lead Meetings & Event Planning
April TBD (In Person) - Parish Based Evangelization: Thresholds of Conversion, Lifelong Formation Pathway and the OCIA Process
May TBD (Virtual) - Pastoral Ministry: Accompanying the Sick & Dying and Anointing of the Sick
June TBD (Virtual) - Evangelization & the New Media: Effective Parish Social Media and Content Creation
July - August - Summer Break & Personal Formation Plan Wrap Up
September TBD (In Person) - Concluding Mass, Sending for Lifelong Formation & Reception

The Parish Lay Missionary Formation Program is made possible thanks to the Annual Catholic Appeal and the Living Christ Campaign.

ANNUNCIATION RADIO PRESENTS



Thursday, May 7, 2026

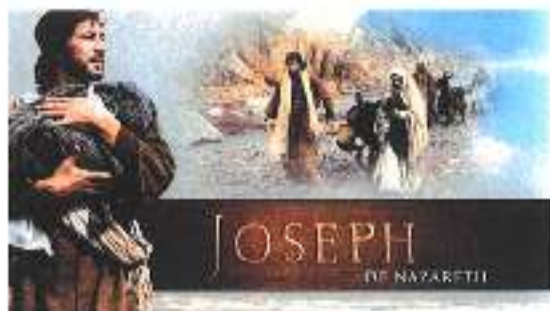
Maumee Indoor Theater
601 Conant Street
Maumee, Ohio 43537

Doors Open at 5:30
Program Begins at 6:30
Dismissal at 8:00

Featuring:
Fr. Jeff McBeth,
Fr. Chris Turner, Fr. Mark Davis,
Fr. David Kidd, Dcn. Joe Malenfant,
Abbie Spillis, Dave Vacheresse, Ron Finn
& Pat Oedy Murray

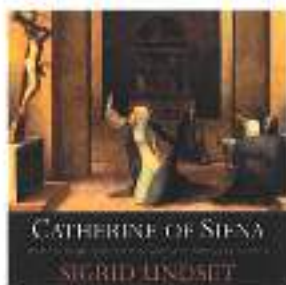
This Week on Formed

Week of April 26, 2026



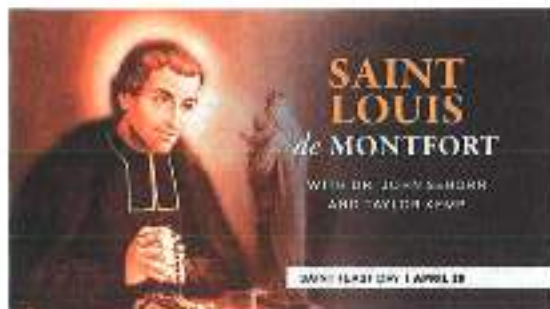
Joseph of Nazareth

Celebrate the feast of Christ's foster father with even more joy and respect this year by watching a movie about him! Enter into the life of this great saint through the movie Joseph of Nazareth!



Catherine of Siena

Sigrid Undset's Catherine of Siena is critically acclaimed as one of the best biographies of this well-known and amazing fourteenth-century saint.



St. Louis de Montfort | Catholic Saints

Dr. John Sehorn joins Taylor Kemp to discuss the life of St. Louis de Montfort. Born in western France, St. Louis had a great love for Mary and the Rosary. His work True Devotion to Mary helps Catholics grow in their relationship with Jesus through his Mother, Mary.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.