

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE ASSUMPTION

1101 Madison Avenue Covington, Kentucky 41011
Phone: 859-431-2060 Fax: 859-431-8444
Web Page: covcathedral.com

Most Rev. John C. Iffert,
Bishop of Covington
1125 Madison Avenue, Covington, KY 41011

Most Rev. Roger J. Foys,
Bishop Emeritus of Covington

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

CATHEDRAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Please remember the Cathedral in your Will or Estate plans.
Please call the Parish Office.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome all newcomers moving into our Parish.
Please register at the Parish Office or after Mass
as soon as possible. If you plan to move from
the Parish, please let us know.



MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass: 8:15 a.m., Monday through Friday

Saturday: 4:30 p.m. (Vigil)

Sunday: 7:30 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 5:30 p.m.

Televised Mass: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

On the CW – Over the air Channel 12-2

Cincinnati Bell Fioptics – Channels 17 or 517

Spectrum: Northern KY – Channel 25

Live Streamed Mass, 4:30 p.m.: covcathedral.com

Holy Day of Obligation:

5:30 p.m. (Vigil, except All Saints); 10:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Saturday: 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Anytime by appointment

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call the Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please call the Parish Office at least one year
before the proposed wedding date.

CATHEDRAL PRAYER NETWORK

Please sign the book in the north entrance.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

To report Sexual Misconduct in the Diocese of Covington,
please contact: Ms. Julie Feinauer, Diocesan Victims'
Assistance Coordinator, 859-392-1500.

**CATHEDRAL BASILICA
OF THE ASSUMPTION
SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025**

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Reading I: Isaiah 43:16-21

Responsorial Psalm: 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

Reading II: Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel: John 8:1-11

From the Rector's Desk ...

On Saturday, April 12th, the 3rd Annual *Lenten Pilgrimage to Covington Churches* will take place. It is a wonderful way to prepare ourselves for the Holy Week liturgies. Hundreds of people are expected to visit the Cathedral on this day. I will lead interested Cathedral parishioners on the walking pilgrimage to the other churches. We will spend around 15 minutes at each church to pray. After exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 9:00 a.m., we will meet in the front parking lot for a blessing before we begin the pilgrimage. You can also make the pilgrimage using your car. You can also come to the Cathedral to spend time in prayer. We will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Confessions will be heard from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. I encourage you participate in some fashion in this special day of grace during this Jubilee Year.

Fr. Maher**The Sixteen Saints 7**

St. Ambrose (c. 339-397) was the Bishop of Milan from 374 until his death. He defended Christianity against Arianism (three gods, not one God) and Paganism. He is one of the most influential ecclesiastical figures of the 4th century and the author of a number of hymns, especially "Veni Redemptor Gentium." ("Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth") The tune is also used in the modern hymn, "Where Charity and Love Prevail," from which lyrics by Omer Westendorf were Omer's translation of the Holy Thursday hymn, "Ubi Caritas." ("Where Charity...") Omer was the choir director at the Cathedral when I first sang in the Bishop's Choir. St. Ambrose's writings were extensive. His emphasis on the virginity of Mary influenced St. Augustine's devotion to her. Notice in his window he carries a quill and a book. St. Ambrose was also very firm in his writings that Jesus was the Son of God, and that, Mary was, thus, the mother of God, the "God bearer." The writing on the book held by St. Ambrose is probably translated, "The honor goes to God," although I am not sure of the word ("zur"? = "to") at the seam in the glass. Certainly, Mary's virginity should bolster our giving proper honor to God.

Deacon Jerry Franzen

The Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption's Saturday, 4:30 Vigil Mass is recorded and broadcast at 10:00 a.m. Sunday on The CW. Over-the-air (antenna) Channel 12-2, Cincinnati Bell Fiopics Channels 17 or 517, Spectrum-Northern KY Channel 25, Spectrum-Hamilton Co. Channel 20 or 1024, and DirectTV 25. The Mass is livestreamed and available to view on covcathedral.com. Support for this ministry comes from Saint Elizabeth Healthcare and the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation.

**Adult Catholic Faith Formation Workshops,
June 9-12, 2025**

The Diocese of Covington, in partnership with the Franciscan University's Catechetical Institute, is offering FREE Adult Faith Formation Workshops instructed by clergy, including **Father Ryan Maher**.

The Workshops will be held in Thomas More University's new Academic Activity Center. Most are scheduled on two consecutive days for 1.5 hours per day. Instructors will provide topical information, video content, and open discussion time. The Workshops are for anyone entrusted with the formation of others, whether professional or volunteer, from households to diocesan employees, Parish and School Leaders, Catechists, Teachers, DREs/CREs, Youth and Young Adult Ministers, Family Life Ministers, Homeschoolers, OCIA Directors/Coordinators, Bible Study/Rosary Groups, Retreat Teams, Coaches, Individuals, Parents, and Grandparents. **There are 27 Workshops to choose from.** For information and to register, visit <https://covdio.org/register>. For questions, contact Isaak Abraham Isaak at 859-392-1529 or iisaak@covdio.org. Explore the Franciscan University's Catechetical Institute's 200+ workshops by creating a free account at <https://franciscanathome.com>.

NCYC 2025 – The National Catholic Youth Conference is a three-day pilgrimage for Catholic high school students, November 20-22, 2025, in Indianapolis. Teens spend three days at the nation's largest Catholic youth gathering and experience the transformative power of the Church and God's presence through music, talks, community, and sacraments. The Youth Ministry Office coordinates the overall pilgrimage. Parishes and schools register as a group. For individuals who have not identified a group to attend with, please email Angie Poat at apoat@covdio.org. The early bird rate first payment is due Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

The Annual Memorial Mass for the Loss of a Child will be held at 7:00 p.m., Monday, April 7, 2025, in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. This Mass is being offered for parents, grandparents, family members and friends of those who have lost a child due to miscarriage, stillbirth, early infant death, abortion, illness, suicide, accident, or any other reason. All are welcome to attend. For information, please call the Diocesan Pro-Life Office at 859-392-1545.

The St. Vincent de Paul Cathedral Conference is always in need of the following for our Food Pantry: canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, canned beans, canned diced tomatoes, pasta sauce, dried pasta, mac and cheese, canned or pouched tuna or chicken, 1-lb bags of rice, saltine crackers and cereal. Donations can be placed in the bin by the greeter's desk. On behalf of our neighbors in need, we thank you for your kind generosity.

**Regional Pilgrimages**

Join fellow Catholics on inspiring day trips by bus led by Bishop John Iffert. The next of three more is on Saturday, May 31, 2025, to the Abbey of Gethsemani. For information, please visit <https://covdio.org/jubilee/> and see REGIONAL PILGRIMAGES.

Easter Flower Tributes are due to the Parish Office by Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

GARGOYLE GAZETTE



sarah wells

april 2025

Recently, I heard a talk by Bishop Fulton Sheen entitled “The Denial of Sin,” in which he argues the biggest problem with society today is not sin itself, but the denial of its existence. A major theme of this talk is the question of how to remove sin and the cost of redemption, which is stated in Hebrews 9:22, “Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin.” He reveals a pattern in Scripture that shows us just how God works to cover our sin. Firstly, “God does something”, meaning, he intervenes in some way. Secondly, “it is done vicariously,” man does not suffer for his own sins, but God accomplishes it through other means. And thirdly, there is a “shedding of blood.”

The first example he gives of this is Adam and Eve. In the garden, their sin caused them shame, and they recognized their nakedness. This was suffering enough for Adam and Eve



The Sacrificial Lamb by Josefa de Ayala (ca. 1630-1684)

to feel the weight of their actions change the very way they viewed themselves and each other, and they sought to cover themselves. God intervened, and in one of the last verses

of the account of the fall, often overlooked, we read in the third chapter of Genesis, verse 21, “the Lord made tunics of skins for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.” God intervened, an animal was used, and there was a shedding of blood, so that their shame would be covered.

This pattern is closer to the surface in the story of Abraham and Isaac. God’s commandment is harsh, in order to test the faith of Abraham. Bishop Sheen comments that “in this day and age, we say ‘obedience must be rational.’ Rational? What was rational about God’s command to sacrifice his son? But Abraham obeyed.” When they arrive at the place of sacrifice, Isaac says, “Where is the lamb?” And as we know, at the moment of sacrifice, God stops Abraham. God provided a ram, whose blood was shed instead of Isaac’s. The same pattern comes to light.

The theme becomes even more potent in the story of the first Passover in the book of

Exodus, when the one-year-old, unspotted lamb's blood was shed to protect the Israelites from the angel of death. Not a single Israelite died in the effort to acquire freedom from the Egyptians. God did it instead with a lamb.

And in the book of Numbers, the Israelites are in the desert, detaching from the habits and customs they adopted in Egypt, rekindling their relationship with their one true God. Yet they still struggle to trust and they still have a sin problem. As punishment for their rebellion in the desert, they are bitten by snakes. God tells Moses to model a serpent of brass, just like the serpents who stung the people, and hang it in a tree where all can see. Each person who sees the serpent will be healed of the poison.

Bishop Sheen says, "Now there's absolutely nothing in looking at a brass serpent that will cure a snake bite. Nothing. All these things in the Old Testament were done in figure." The obedience that God calls us to often perplexes human wisdom, and even rends the human heart, as it did for Abraham. We can imagine the slew of rationalizations in Abraham's mind upon hearing the commandment. One can imagine the fears of what others would think of him if he followed through. The cost of obedience for Abraham was weightier than that of the Israelites in the desert wounded by snakebites. They had less to lose in taking the step of faith to look at the serpent in the tree. They were in the desert. Who was there to mock them for their faith in something that seems almost ridiculous? But we who view the Cross today in search of salvation, amidst a world that punishes and mocks us for it, understand the cost of obedience to faith. Bishop Sheen says that "these things were done in figure," meaning that they were shadows on the wall, reflecting back an image rather than true reality. But the figures all become real in the Crucifixion, signified by the tearing of the veil at the moment of the piercing of Christ's side.

In the gospel of John, Jesus says to Nicodemus, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." Bishop draws the parallel as he says, "So our Blessed Lord on the cross looked as if he were full of the poison of sin, because he took our place, and our sins upon him. But as there was no poison in the brass serpent, so there was no poison of sin in the person of Christ. And all who look upon him will be healed."

Why did Jesus die on the cross? Why is it said that he "died for our sins?" Though I have been a Catholic my whole life, I am still confounded by the Crucifixion. Though I have firsthand received the Lord's redemption in my life, I am challenged with the necessity of Christ's death. But these stories from the Old Testament answer the question for me, which answer is summed up in Hebrews 9:22, "Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin." John the Baptist points to Christ says "Behold, the Lamb of God. Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world."

"The Denial of Sin" is part of a series called *A Retreat for Everyone*, produced by the podcast Bishop Fulton Sheen Remastered, which has many of his talks available for listening.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

Saturday, April 12, 2025

4:30 p.m. Lector: Ken Wolford
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Connor Hennessey, Stephanie Hennessey, Mike O'Donnell
 Altar: Pontifical Servers

Sunday, April 13, 2025

7:30 a.m. Lector: LeeAnn Kordenbrock
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Hope Cavaleri, Jean Reynolds
 Altar: Mary Creech, Steve Sahlfeld, Lou Wartman

10:00 a.m. Lector: Steve Rosenberger
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Carl Creech, Amy Engelman, Dan Fletcher
 Altar: Pontifical servers

5:30 p.m. Lector: Heather Bay
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Toni Akers, Jim Frondorf, Linda Mintkenbaugh
 Altar: Jim Akers, Josh Rohling

IMPORTANT – Every family registered in the parish should receive the free weekly mailing of *The Messenger*. If you have not been receiving it, please call the Parish Office at 859-431-2060.

Please pray for our parishioners and family:

Donna Krumpelman, John Walcutt, Maria Weller, Cathi Bleile, Janice Northcutt, Mary Beth Peavler, Jim Albright, Ralph Pranger, Josh Rohling, Joan and Ralph Arnsparger, Ken Raisbeck, Neil Blunt, Berry Mang, the Juilf Family, Gerry Zembrodt, Alissa Light, Wladyslawa Balaban, Theresa Goeke, Sharon Koenig, Madeleine Smith, William Davin, Amy Michels, Michael Trimpe, Terri Beuttel, Geraldine Hallahan, Hannah Tolson, Helen Fehr, Amy Goeke, Joan McGearty, Jill Humphries, Barb Armstrong, Marion Keen, and Vicki Smith. May they find comfort in the healing touch of Jesus.

Estate Planning

For your protection and security of your family and heirs, consult an attorney about making out your will. While reviewing your estate plan, please consider including the Cathedral Endowment Fund. Please contact Finance Council Chair Rick Lehman about the Cathedral Endowment Fund, at 859-431-2060.

Help after Abortion

Our past decisions can leave us feeling messy. God is bigger than any of our messes. Don't let this keep you from His love and forgiveness. Project Rachel can help. Contact: projectrachel@covdio.org or 859-392-1547. All communication is confidential.

Care of the Sick

If you know of a parishioner who is in a hospital or care center who would like a visit from the parish clergy, please call the Parish Office. We rely on family or friends to let us know when someone is in a hospital.

Visit myparishapp.com



MASS INTENTIONS

- Saturday, April 5**
4:30 p.m. Barb Maher
- Sunday, April 6**
7:30 a.m. George and Mary Trumble
10:00 a.m. Dottie Tedtman
5:30 p.m. Cathedral Parishioners and Benefactors
- Monday, April 7**
8:15 a.m. Intention of Father Ryan Maher
- Tuesday, April 8**
8:15 a.m. Intention of Maisam Elbanna
- Wednesday, April 9**
8:15 a.m. Monica Pauley
- Thursday, April 10**
8:15 a.m. Jack and LaVerne Koop
- Friday, April 11**
8:15 a.m. Achim Bank
10:00 a.m. Newport Central Catholic High School Mass
- Saturday, April 12**
4:30 p.m. Decease of the Coldiron family
- Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**
7:30 a.m. Anne Tobler
10:00 a.m. Joe Feldhaus
5:30 p.m. Cathedral Parishioners and Benefactors

Collection for Sunday, March 16, 2025	
Envelopes (64)	\$10,537.00
Loose	\$2,264.00
Diocesan	<u>\$3,115.39</u>
Total	\$15,916.39

Thank you!

E-Giving at the Cathedral – For information, please visit our website: www.covcathedral.com

Stations of the Cross – 6:30 p.m., Friday, April 11, and 12:00 p.m., Good Friday, April 18, 2025.

The Annual Lenten Pilgrimage of the Diocese of Covington is from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., **Saturday, April 12, 2025** – a free local Lenten Pilgrimage in the Jubilee Year 2025. The Covington parishes included are the Cathedral Basilica, St. Augustine, St. Benedict, St. John, and Mother of God. For information, please visit: www.covdio.org/lenten-pilgrimage

Weekly Rosary: Thursdays after 8:15 a.m. Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Public Tours of the Cathedral after 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 18 and June 15, 2025.

Cathedral Prayer Group – Meets 8:00 to 9:00 a.m., Saturdays in the Parish Office and considers the Scriptures from the



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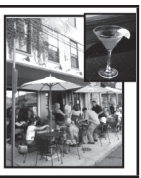
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