



Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

UPDATED 2/12/26

Questions?

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THE RITE OF ELECTION

CLEVELAND PUBLIC AUDITORIUM

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

2:00PM

Thank you for registering your parish to participate in the Diocese of Cleveland Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion. It is going to be a vibrant and memorable celebration!

Prior to the Celebration:

Please review these instructions with your participants, including the overview of the ritual. Do not hesitate to contact the Office for Worship with any questions. **Celebrate Rite of Sending at your parish. Have your catechumens sign the Book of the Elect during Rite of Sending at your parish. Bring the signed Book of the Elect to the Rite of Election.** Please make sure there are no stray papers in the Book of the Elect, that could fall out at Public Auditorium! Note that **only the catechumens (including youth catechumens) sign the Book of the Elect** – not the (already baptized) candidates.

Here is a video overview you might share with your participants: <https://vimeo.com/1144653031>

Arrival:

Cleveland Public Auditorium is located at 500 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114. Although there is no parking specifically dedicated to Cleveland Public Auditorium, parking is available on surrounding streets, and in area garages. We suggest parking at Willard Park Garage, accessible at East 9th Street and Lakeside, for a nominal fee. We recommend carpooling – arranging for transport and parking for your catechumens and candidates will ease a burden from their minds and help them focus on this important step in their spiritual journey!

Doors open to the public at 12:30pm. Upon arrival, please have a member of your group check in at the tables in the lobby. Those who have catechumens will receive a bag containing a card with your parish name on it, and purple ribbons for each of your catechumens. Please have the catechumens pin the ribbon on their lapel (or similar) so that Bishop Malesic can readily recognize who the catechumens in your group are. A member of your OCIA team is asked to bring the card when processing with the catechumens during the ritual, and hand it to the announcer.

Book Bearers are asked to assemble in the downstairs lobby at the bottom of the grand staircase no later than 1:30pm, to be lined up for the Entrance Procession, in pairs. Those whose seats are on the left side of the Auditorium (facing the stage) will line up on the left side. So, those in sections A, Upper A, B, E, F, I, J, M, and N will be on the left side of the procession. Those whose seats are on the right side of the Auditorium (facing the stage) will line up on the right side. That means those in sections C, D, G, H, K, L, O and P will be on the right side of the procession. Those

seated in the sections closer to the lobby (sections I through P) are asked to be near the front of the procession of book bearers. Those whose seats are in the sections closest to the stage/sanctuary (sections A through H) are asked to line up toward the back of the procession of book bearers. **Attached to this document is the order of book bearers, by parish.** Please provide your book bearer these instructions! Your assistance with this will make it easier for our ushers to get the procession organized efficiently.

Seating:

Given the ritual of the celebration, we have assigned seating for registered catechumens, candidates, godparents, sponsors, and OCIA teams. Please see the attached diagrams. The remainder of the seating in the balcony (lower mezzanine) is open to friends, family, and parishioners. **Note that a portion of the floor seats in Section H has been reserved for those with special needs.** Ushers will be available to guide you if you have difficulty finding your seats.

Please save the seat designated with a [B] for your book bearer. They are placed intentionally at the ends of the rows.

Overview of the Ritual:

This ritual includes 4 processions. *During these processions, please maintain a spirit of prayer and participate fully in the singing.*

- Entrance (liturgical ministers & Book Bearers) – starts the ritual
- Catechumens/Godparents/OCIA Team – to meet the Bishop
- Candidates/Sponsors – to participate in Sprinkling
- Recessional (liturgical ministers only) – concludes the ritual

Entrance procession (approximately 115 people)

- Begins at lobby, proceeds down main aisle
- Liturgical ministers proceed up steps to stage
- Book (of the Elect) Bearers proceed around front aisle and up side/outside aisles to their places

Greeting & Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- Second Reading
- Gospel Acclamation
- Gospel
- Homily

Presentation of the Catechumens

Questioning / Affirmation / Petitioning of the Catechumens

- Bishop asks questions – please respond with conviction!
- Music begins

Procession of Catechumens, Godparents, and OCIA Team:

- Bishop proceeds down steps to the floor in front of stage
- Announcer, Candle bearers & Ushers move to positions
- All are seated until guided by an usher for the procession

- Procession of catechumens and godparents begins (~1,475 people)
 - Those on the left side (facing the stage) loop counter-clockwise
 - Those on the right side (facing the stage) loop clockwise
 - Led by a candle bearer and staying together with your parish, all walk down the main aisle to greet the Bishop floor level, center in front of stage
 - Book Bearer holds the *Book of the Elect* open for Bishop to see the signatures of the catechumens
 - Upon reaching the Bishop, the team member hands the card to the Announcer (Mary Hrich)
 - Be seated when you return to your places
- The Ushers will direct the procession of catechumens, godparents, and OCIA team to the Bishop, in this order:

Note that, facing the stage, those in sections to the right of the main aisle will proceed in a clockwise circle. Those in sections to the left of the main aisle will proceed in a counterclockwise circle. There should be two lines coming down the main aisle.

- Parishes with assigned seats in the upper level (**Upper A**) proceed down to the floor level, along the outside aisle toward the back of the auditorium, then turn at the first cross aisle to the main aisle to be joined by a Candle Bearer.
- **Sections N and O** proceed to the left/right aisle toward the back of the auditorium, then turn at the cross aisle to the main aisle and proceed forward to be joined by a Candle Bearer.
- **Sections M and P** proceed to the outside aisle toward the back of the auditorium, then turn at the cross aisle to the main aisle and proceed forward to be joined by a Candle Bearer.
- **Sections J and K** proceed to the left/right aisle toward the back of the auditorium, then turn at the cross aisle to the main aisle and proceed forward to be joined by a Candle Bearer.
- **Sections I and L** proceed to the outside aisle toward the back of the auditorium, then turn at the cross aisle to the main aisle and proceed forward to be joined by a Candle Bearer.
- **Sections F and G** proceed to the left/right aisle toward the back of the auditorium, then turn at the cross aisle to the main aisle and proceed forward to be joined by a Candle Bearer.
- **Sections E and H** proceed to the outside aisle toward the back of the auditorium, then turn at the cross aisle to the main aisle and proceed forward to be joined by a Candle Bearer.
- **Sections B and C** proceed to the left/right aisle toward the back of the auditorium, then turn at the cross aisle to the main aisle and proceed forward to be joined by a Candle Bearer.
- **Sections A and D** proceed to the outside aisle toward the back of the auditorium, then turn at the first cross aisle to the main aisle to be joined by a Candle Bearer.

When the Procession concludes, Bishop returns to the stage

Act of Admission

Presentation of Candidates

- Bishop asks questions – please respond with conviction!

Sprinkling

- Music begins
- Bishops move to front of stage, remaining stage level, in front of main aisle
- All are seated until guided by an usher for the procession
- Procession of Candidates and sponsors (~1,070 people) begins

- In a **continuously moving procession**, forming two parallel lines, the Candidates and their Sponsors come forward for the Sprinkling. Those from sections to the left of the center aisle process on the left side of the main aisle, and those from sections to the right of the center aisle process on the right side of the main aisle. Please follow the direction of the ushers. **Walk all the way up onto the rugs in front of the stage to be sprinkled.** Sponsor, place your right hand on the shoulder of your candidate when you approach the stage to be sprinkled.
- This movement follows the same direction & order as the procession of catechumens. Sections move in this order:
 - Upper A (simply join in the procession when you get to the main floor, staying on the left side of the center aisle and looping counter-clockwise)
 - N and O
 - M and P
 - J and K
 - I and L
 - F and G
 - E and H
 - B and C
 - A and D
- Be seated when you return to your places
- When the Procession concludes, Bishops return to their chairs and Deacon moves to Ambo

Intercessions

Prayer

Thanks

Dismissal

Recessional

- Ministers on stage move to floor level
- Candle bearers at floor level align for procession
- Bishops move to floor level
- Book Bearers DO NOT participate in recessional

Following the Celebration:

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion marks the transition to a period of intense spiritual preparation for the Easter Sacraments. Please hold all of the catechumens and candidates in prayer, especially during this season of Lent.

Docents will be available at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist following the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion for anyone who would like a tour prior to the Cathedral's regular 5:30pm Mass. Note that tours can be arranged at another time if desired, by calling the Cathedral: 216-771-6666. Virtual tours may be viewed any time by visiting:

<https://saintjohncathedral.com/virtual-tour>

Thank you for your ministry!



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Rite of Election and
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22 Feb 2026

Book Bearer Line-Up for Left Side

1. Gesu - University Heights
2. St. Luke - Lakewood
3. St. John Neumann - Strongsville
4. St. Charles Borromeo - Parma
5. Holy Family - Stow
6. St. Augustine - Barberton
7. St. Basil the Great - Brecksville
8. St. John Vianney - Mentor
9. St. Christopher - Rocky River
10. St. Sebastian - Akron
11. St. Paschal Baylon - Highland Heights
12. Resurrection - Solon
13. Communion of Saints - Cleveland Heights
14. St. Michael the Archangel - Cleveland
15. St. Clarence - North Olmsted
16. St. Mark - Cleveland
17. Holy Rosary - Cleveland
18. St. Peter - North Ridgeville
19. St. Joseph - Cuyahoga Falls
20. St. Anthony of Padua - Akron
21. St. Anthony of Padua - Fairport Harbor
22. St. Peter - Cleveland
23. Our Lady Queen of Peace - Grafton
24. St. Michael - Independence
25. St. Colette - Brunswick
26. St. Mary - Berea
27. Holy Martyrs - Medina
28. St. Eugene - Cuyahoga Falls
29. St. Mary of the Falls - Olmsted Falls
30. Sacred Heart Chapel - Lorain
31. St. Paul - Akron



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32. St. Francis Xavier - Medina
33. St. Brendan - North Olmsted
34. St. Ignatius High School - Cleveland
35. Our Lady of Victory - Tallmadge
36. St. Clare - Lyndhurst
37. Sacred Heart of Jesus - South Euclid
38. St. Columbkille - Parma
39. St. Mary - Chardon
40. St. Dominic - Shaker Heights
41. St. Therese - Garfield Heights
42. Holy Angels - Chagrin Falls
43. St. Mary - Painesville
44. Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Wickliffe
45. Immaculate Conception - Willoughby
46. St. Justin Martyr - Eastlake
47. Mary Queen of Peace - Cleveland
48. St. Ambrose - Brunswick
49. Our Lady Help of Christians - Litchfield
50. St. Francis de Sales - Akron



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Book Bearer Line-Up for Right Side

1. St. Jude - Elyria
2. St. Angela Merici - Fairview Park
3. St. Anselm - Chesterland
4. Divine Word - Kirtland
5. St. Patrick (Bridge) - Cleveland
6. St. Joseph - Avon Lake
7. Immaculate Heart Of Mary - Cuyahoga Falls
8. St. Peter - Lorain
9. Sacred Heart Of Jesus - Wadsworth
10. St. Ladislav - Westlake
11. St. Gabriel - Concord
12. St. Ignatius of Antioch - Cleveland
13. Our Lady of the Lake - Euclid
14. St. Albert the Great - North Royalton
15. St. Cyprian - Perry
16. St. John Bosco - Parma Heights
17. St. Bridget of Kildare - Parma
18. Holy Spirit - Garfield Heights
19. Holy Spirit - Avon Lake
20. St. Rita - Solon
21. Sacred Heart/St. Patrick - Oberlin
22. St. Barnabas - Northfield
23. Our Lady of Guadalupe - Macedonia
24. St. Bernadette - Westlake
25. St. Mary Magdalene - Willowick
26. Queen of Heaven - Uniontown
27. St. Helen - Newbury
28. Our Lady of Grace - Hinckley
29. St. Anthony of Padua - Parma
30. St. Mary - Elyria
31. St. Jerome - Cleveland



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32. St. Edward - Parkman
33. St. Raphael - Bay Village
34. St. Bernard - Akron
35. St. Stanislas - Cleveland
36. Holy Trinity - Avon
37. St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception - Wooster
38. Ss. Robert and William - Euclid
39. St. Bede the Venerable - Mentor
40. Immaculate Conception - Madison
41. St. Francis of Assisi - Gates Mills
42. St. Noel - Willoughby
43. St. Joan of Arc - Chagrin Falls
44. St. Mary - Hudson
45. St. Adalbert - Berea
46. St. Mary - Bedford
47. St. Joseph - Strongsville
48. Our Lady of Angels - Cleveland
49. St. Hilary - Fairlawn
50. Cathedral of St. John - Cleveland
51. Ss. Cosmas and Damian - Twinsburg

Communion of Saints	J1-J3	St. Anthony of Padua (Fairport Har B10)	St. Joseph (Cuyahoga Falls)	B12, B14
Divine Word	O8-O10	St. Anthony of Padua (Akron)	St. Joseph (Strongsville)	A10-A12
Gesu	UAa5-UAa7	St. Anthony of Padua (Parma)	St. Jude	O15
Holy Angels	I4-I7	St. Augustine (Barberton)	St. Justin Martyr	I1
Holy Family (Stow)	UAb1-UAb3	St. Barnabas	St. Ladislav	K1-K3
Holy Martyrs	M14-M15	St. Bartholomew	St. Luke	UAb4-UAb8
Holy Rosary	F2-F4	St. Basil the Great	St. Mark	F5-F7
Holy Spirit (Avon Lake)	C12	St. Bede the Venerable	St. Mary (Bedford)	A12-A13
Holy Spirit (Garfield Heights)	C14	St. Bernadette	St. Mary (Berea)	B1-B2
Holy Trinity	L1-L8	St. Bernard	St. Mary (Chardon)	I12-I14
Immaculate Conception (Madison)	H3-H4	St. Brendan	St. Mary (Elyria)	P4-P5
Immaculate Conception (Willoughby)	I1-I3	St. Bridget of Kildare	St. Mary (Hudson)	D3-D12
Immaculate Heart of Mary (Cuyahoga Falls)	O1-O3	St. Charles	St. Mary (Painesville)	I3-I4
Mary Queen of Peace	E14-E15	St. Christopher	St. Mary Magdalene	P12-P13
Our Lady Help of Christians	E1-E3	St. Clare	St. Mary of the IC (Wooster)	H7-H10
Our Lady of Angels	A7-A10	St. Clarence	St. Mary of the Falls	M10-M12
Our Lady of Grace	P7	St. Colette	St. Matthew	M2-M3
Our Lady of Guadalupe	C1	St. Columbkille	St. Matthias	P14-P15
Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Wickliffe)	I1-I3	St. Cyprian	St. Mel	F5-F7
Our Lady of the Lake	G9	St. Dominic	St. Michael	B4-B6
Our Lady of Victory	M2-M3	St. Edward (Parkman)	St. Michael the Archangel	F9-F15
Our Lady Queen of Peace	B7-B8	St. Eugene	St. Noel	D15
Queen of Heaven	P9-P11	St. Francis de Sales (Akron)	St. Paschal Baylon	J5-J7
Resurrection	J3-J5	St. Francis of Assisi	St. Patrick (Bridge)	O5-O7
Sacred Heart (Lorain)	M8-M10	St. Francis Xavier	St. Paul (Akron)	M8
Sacred Heart/St. Patrick (Wellington)	C5-C7	St. Gabriel	St. Peter (Cleveland)	B9
Sacred Heart of Jesus (S. Euclid)	M1	St. Helen	St. Peter (Lorain)	K12-K15
Sacred Heart of Jesus (Wadsworth)	K3-K12	St. Hilary	St. Peter (North Ridgeville)	F1-F2
SPECIAL NEEDS SEATING	H11-H15	St. Ignatius of Antioch	St. Raphael	L13-L15
SS. Cosmas & Damian	A1	St. Ignatius High School	St. Rita	C7-C9
SS. Robert and Williams	H6-H7	St. Jerome	St. Sebastian	J7-J12
St. Adalbert (Berea)	D1-D3	St. Joan of Arc	St. Stephen (Cleveland)	C10-C11
St. Albert the Great	G4-G9	St. John Bosco	St. Therese	I7
St. Ambrose	E3-E14	St. John Neumann	St. Vincent de Paul (Elyria)	M8-M10
St. Angelia Merici	O12-O14	St. John Vianney	USHERS	B1, 11, 15, C15



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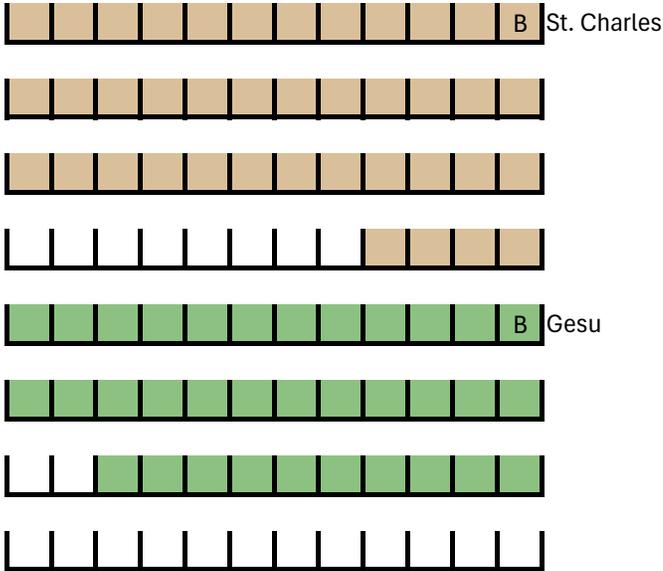
The Rite of Election
CLEVELAND PUBLIC AUDITORIUM
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Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion
Cleveland Public Auditorium - Reserved Seating

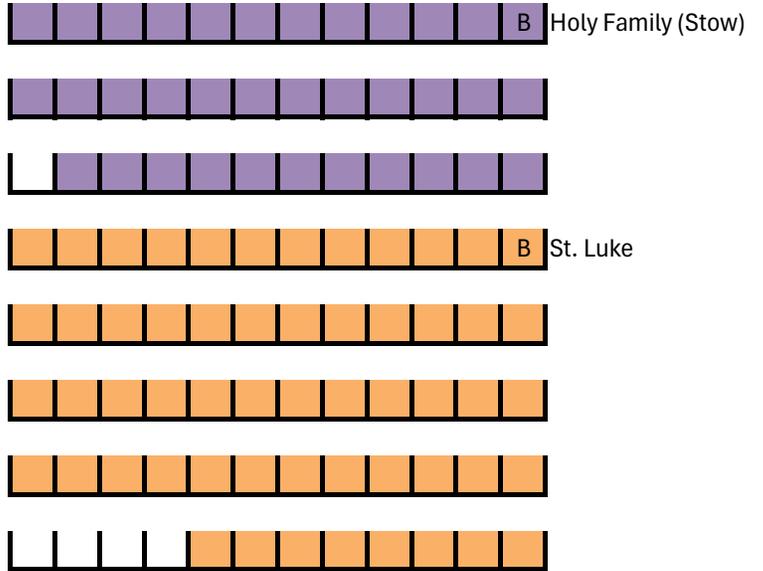
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Section Upper A

	St. Charles	UAa1-UAa4
	Gesu	UAa5-UAa7

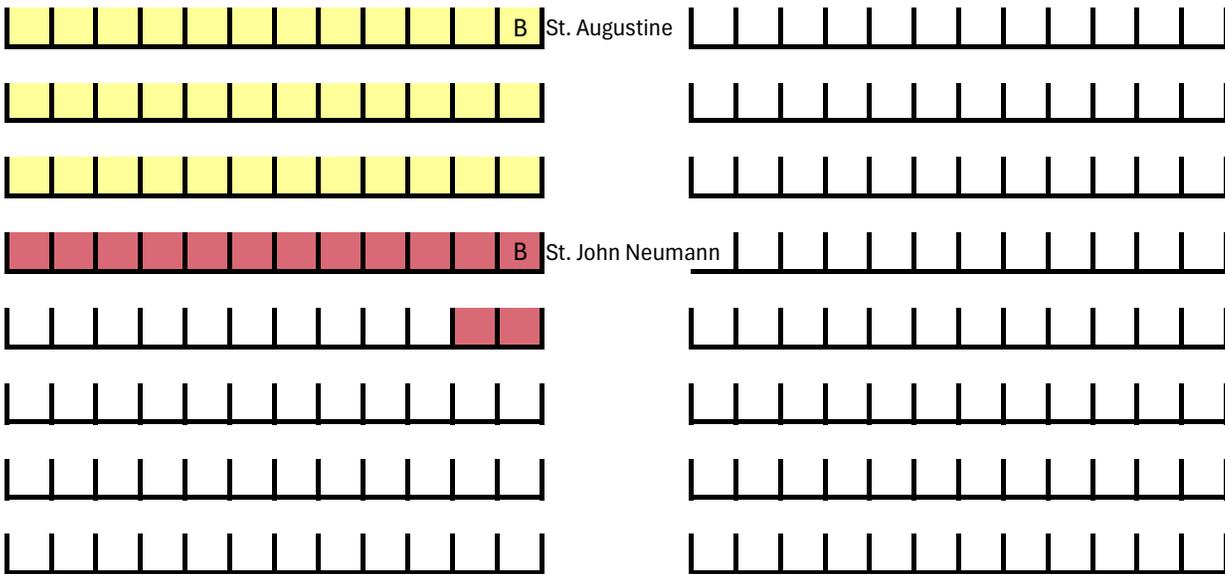
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Section Upper A

	Holy Family (Stow)	UAb1-UAb3
	St. Luke	UAb4-UAb8

B = Book Bearer



Section Upper A

	St. Augustine (Barberton)	UAc1-UAc3
	St. John Neumann	UAc4-UAc5

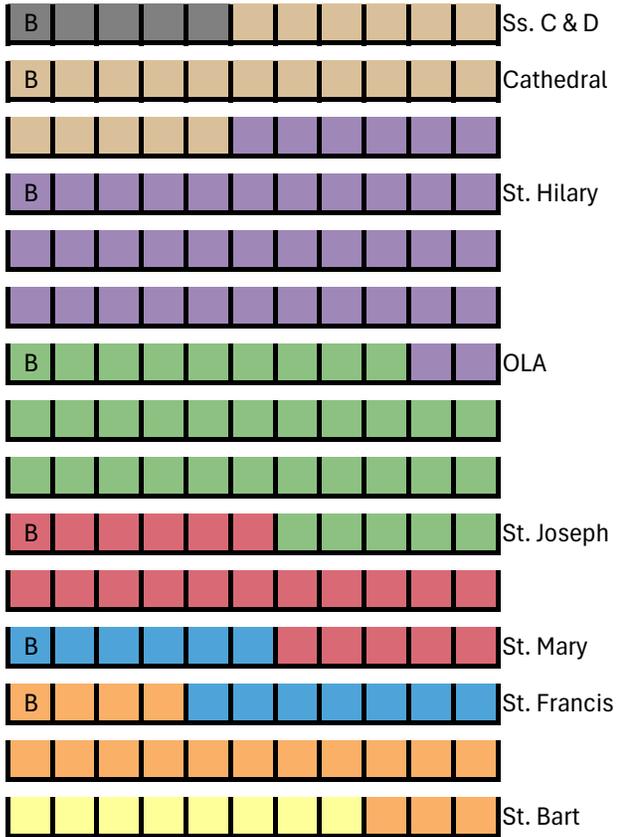
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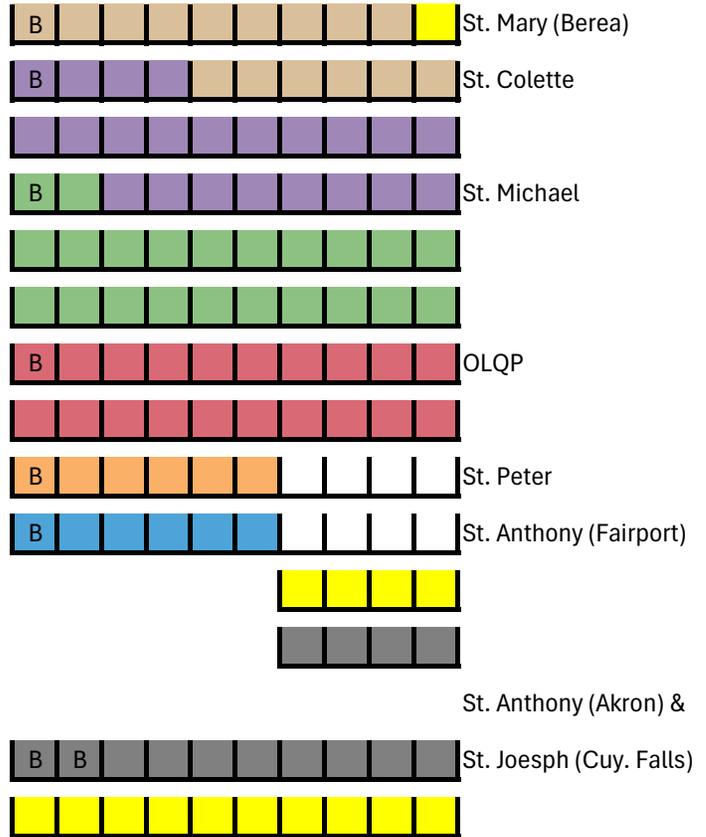
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Section A

SS. Cosmas & Damian	A1
Cathedral of St. John	A1-A3
St. Hilary	A3-A7
Our Lady of Angels	A7-A10
St. Joseph (Strongsville)	A10-A12
St. Mary (Bedford)	A12-A13
St. Francis de Sales (Akron)	A13-A15
St. Bartholomew	A15

B = Book Bearer



Section B

St. Mary (Berea)	B1-B2
St. Colette	B2-B4
St. Michael	B4-B6
Our Lady Queen of Peace	B7-B8
St. Peter (Cleveland)	B9
St. Anthony of Padua (Fairport)	B10
St. Anthony of Padua (Akron)	B12, B14
St. Joseph (Cuyahoga Falls)	B12, B14
Ushers	B1, B11, B15

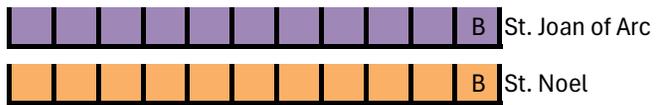
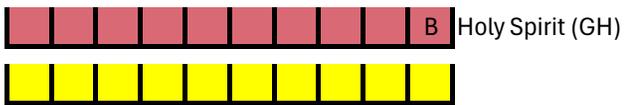
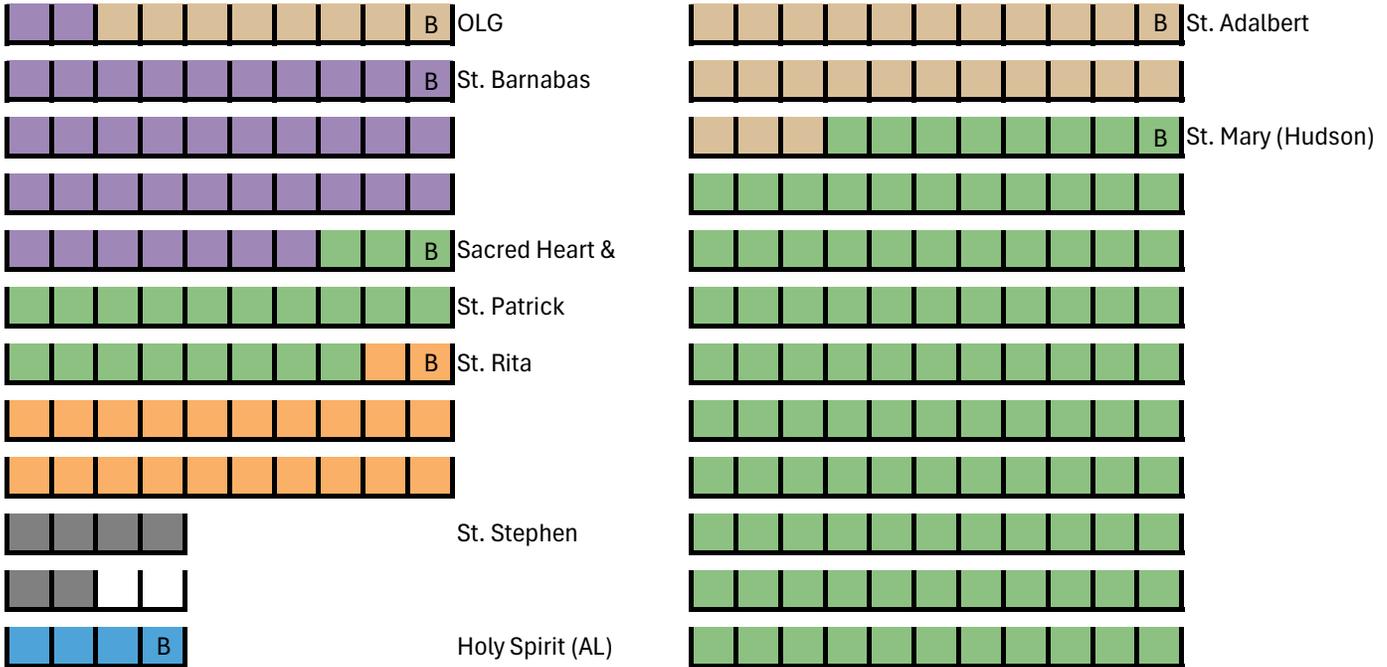
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Section C

Our Lady of Guadalupe	C1
St. Barnabas	C1-C5
Sacred Heart/St. Patrick (Wel)	C5-C7
St. Rita	C7-C9
St. Stephen (Cleveland)	C10-C11
Holy Spirit (Avon Lake)	C12
Holy Spirit (Garfield Heights)	C14
USHERS	C15

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Section D

St. Adalbert (Berea)	D1-D3
St. Mary (Hudson)	D3-D12
St. Joan of Arc	D14
St. Noel	D15

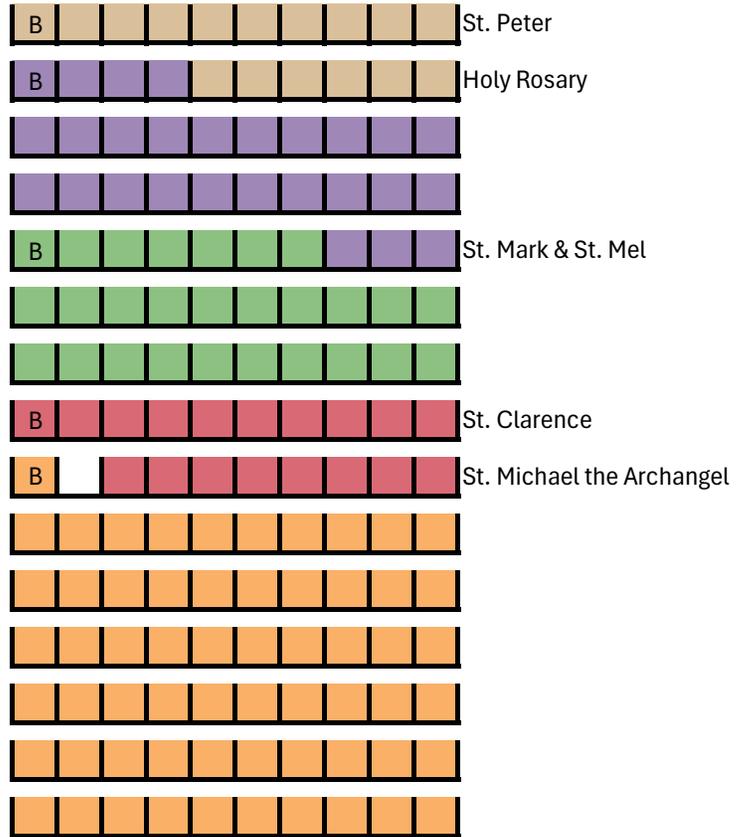
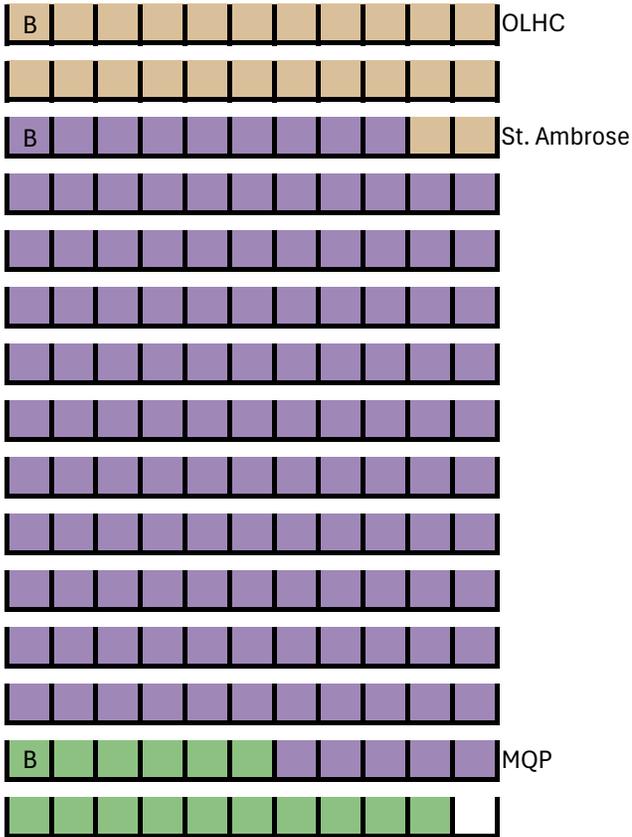
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Section E

- Our Lady Help of Christians E1-E3
 - St. Ambrose E3-E14
 - Mary Queen of Peace E14-E15
- B = Book Bearer

Section F

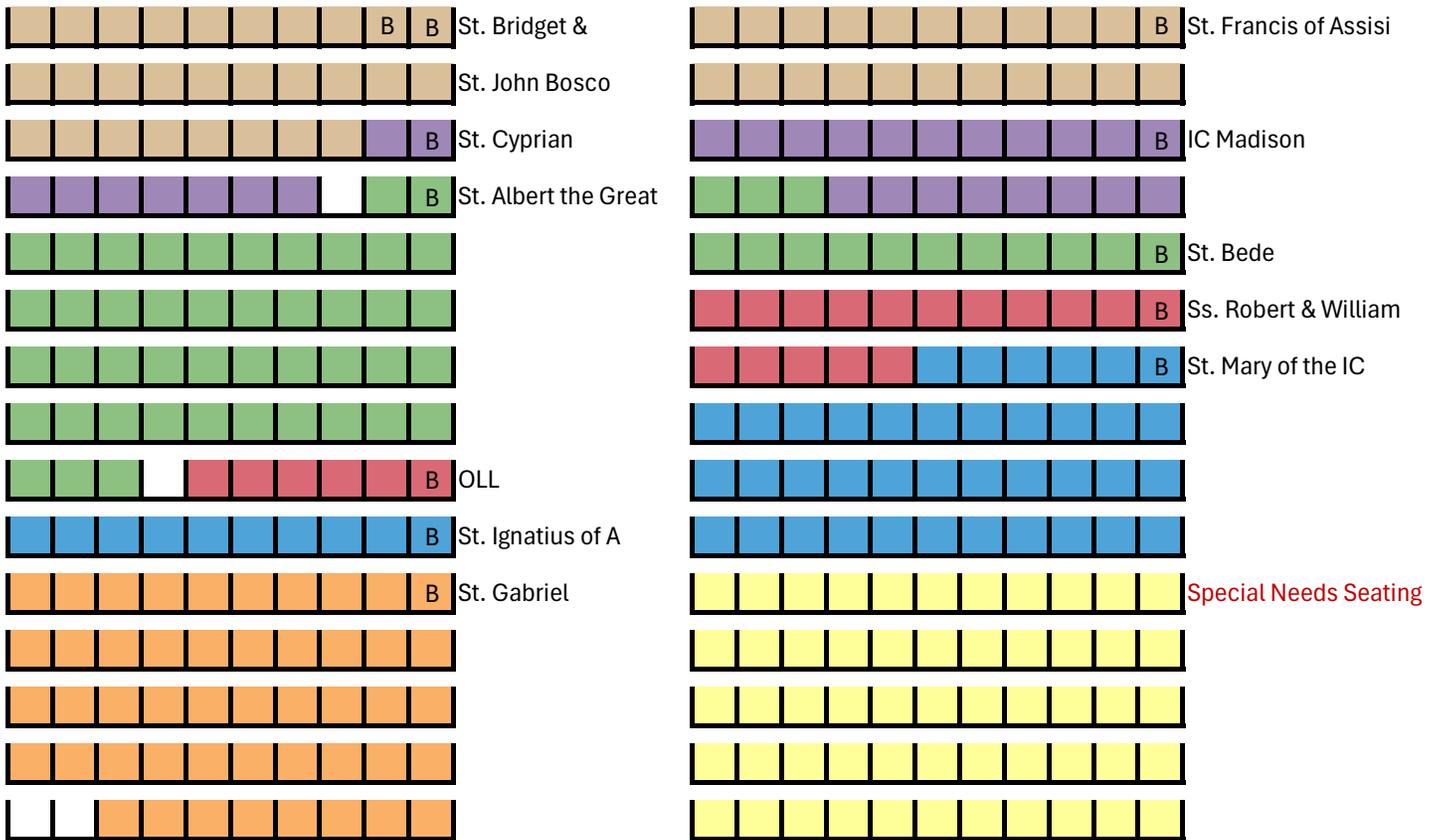
- St. Peter (North Ridgeville) F1-F2
 - Holy Rosary F2-F4
 - St. Mark F5-F7
 - St. Mel F5-F7
 - St. Clarence F8-F9
 - St. Michael the Archangel F9-F15
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Section G

	St. Bridget of Kildare	G1-G3
	St. John Bosco	G1-G3
	St. Cyprian	G3-G4
	St. Albert the Great	G4-G9
	Our Lady of the Lake	G9
	St. Ignatius of Antioch	G10
	St. Gabriel	G11-15

B = Book Bearer

Section H

	St. Francis of Assisi	H1-H2
	Immaculate Conception (Madison)	H3-H4
	St. Bede the Venerable	H4-H5
	SS. Robert and Williams	H6-H7
	St. Mary of the IC (Wooster)	H7-H10
	Special Needs Seating	H11-H15

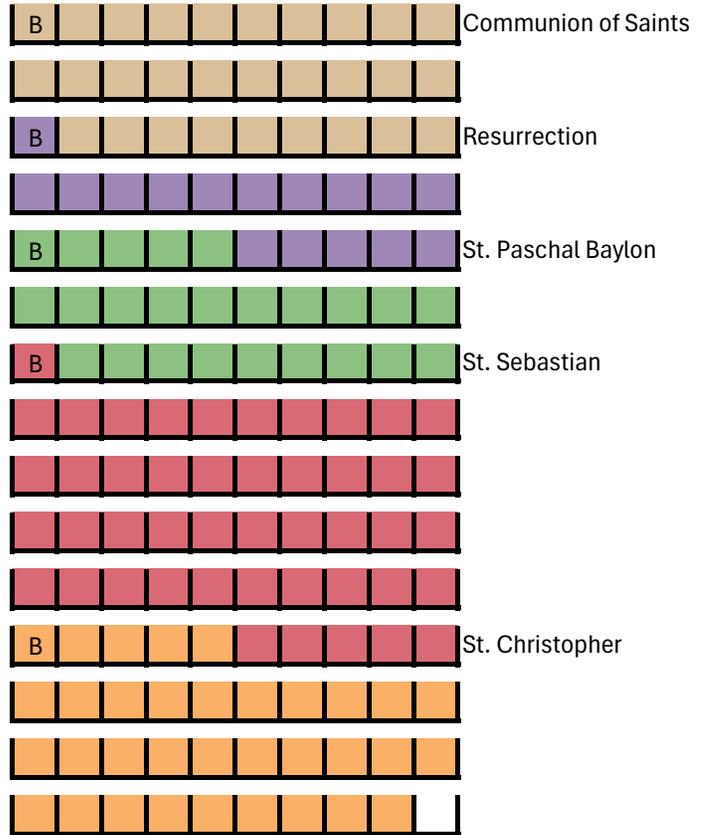
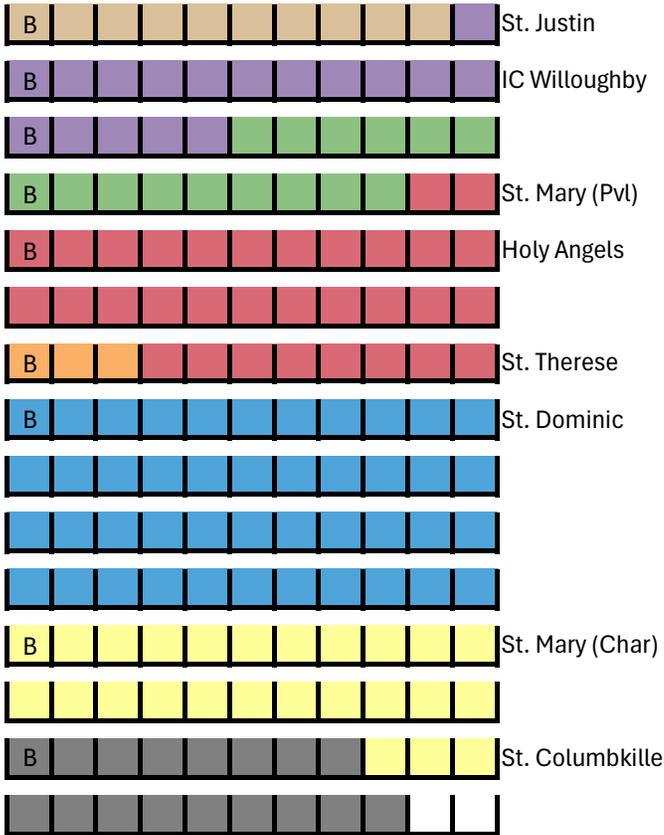
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Section I

	St. Justin Martyr	I1
	Immaculate Conception (Willoughby)	I1-I3
	Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Wickl)	I1-I3
	St. Mary (Painesville)	I3-I4
	Holy Angels	I4-I7
	St. Therese	I7
	St. Dominic	I8-I11
	St. Mary (Chardon)	I12-I14
	St. Columbkille	I14-I15

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Section J

	Communion of Saints	J1-J3
	Resurrection	J3-J5
	St. Paschal Baylon	J5-J7
	St. Sebastian	J7-J12
	St. Christopher	J12-15

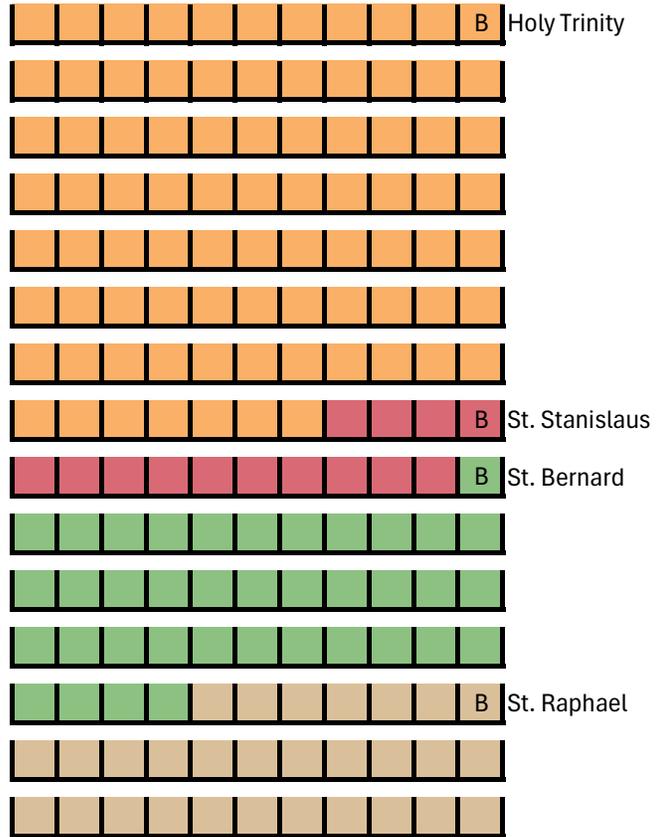
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Section K

- St. Ladislav K1-K3
 - Sacred Heart of Jesus (Wadsv K3-K12)
 - St. Peter (Lorain) K12-K15
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Section L

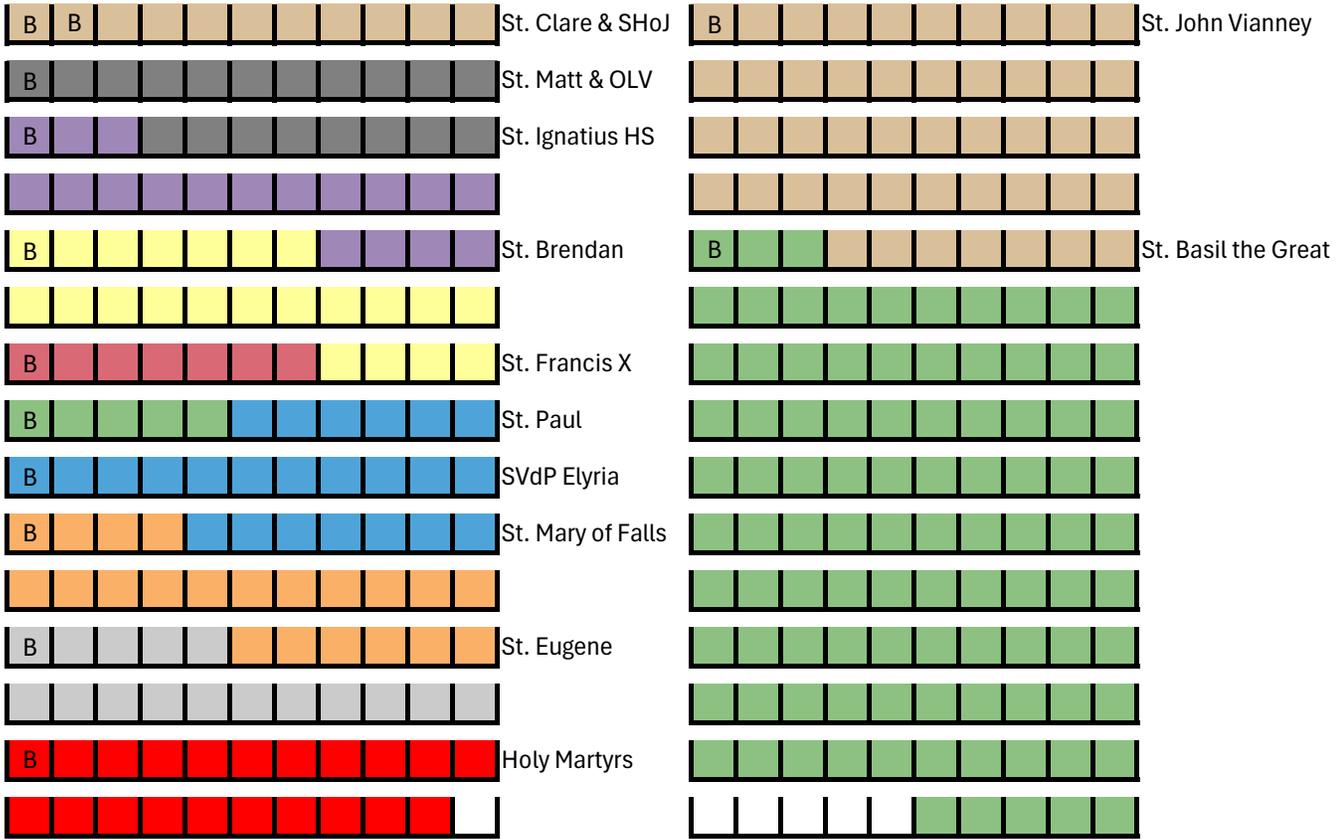
- Holy Trinity L1-L8
 - St. Stanislaus L8-L9
 - St. Bernard L9-L13
 - St. Raphael L13-L15
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Section M

Section N

	St. Clare	M1
	Sacred Heart of Jesus (S. Euclid)	M1
	St. Matthew	M2-M3
	Our Lady of Victory	M2-M3
	St. Ignatius High School	M3-M5
	St. Brendan	M5-M7
	St. Francis Xavier	M7
	St. Paul (Akron)	M8
	Sacred Heart (Lorain)	M8-M10
	St. Vincent de Paul (Elyria)	M8-M10
	St. Mary of the Falls	M10-M12
	St. Eugene	M12-M13
	Holy Martyrs	M14-M15

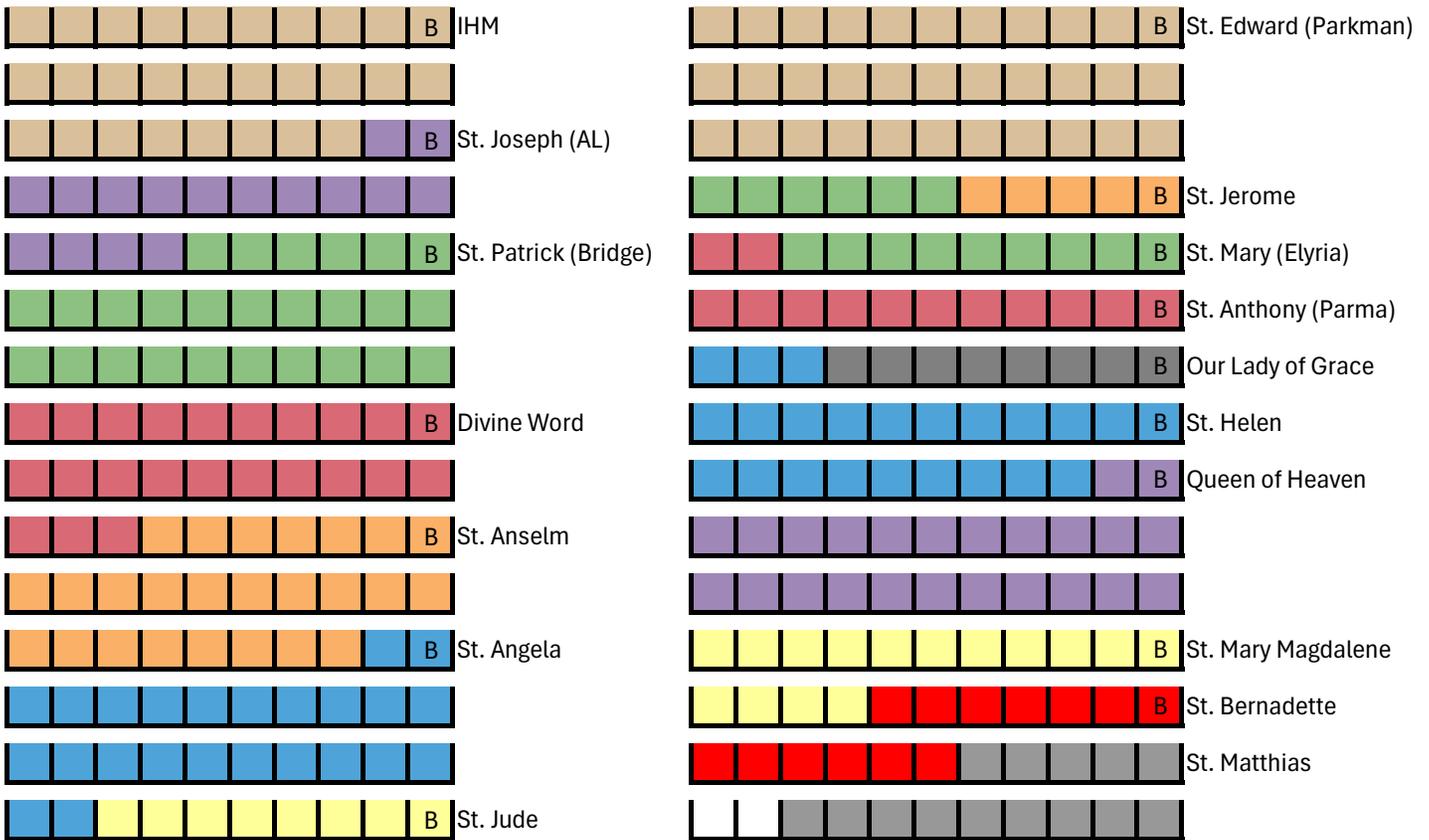
	St. John Vianney	N1-N5
	St. Basil the Great	N5-N15

B = Book Bearer

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February 22, 2026



Section O

	Immaculate Heart of Mary (C)	O1-O3
	St. Joseph (Avon Lake)	O3-O5
	St. Patrick (Bridge)	O5-O7
	Divine Word	O8-O10
	St. Anselm	O10-O12
	St. Angelia Merici	O12-O14
	St. Jude	O15

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Section P

	St. Edward (Parkman)	P1-P3
	St. Jerome	P4
	St. Mary (Elyria)	P4-P5
	St. Anthony of Padua (Parma)	P5-P6
	Our Lady of Grace	P7
	St. Helen	P7-P9
	Queen of Heaven	P9-P11
	St. Mary Magdalene	P12-P13
	St. Bernadette	P13-P14
	St. Matthias	P14-P15

B = Book Bearer