

LENT

*"Behold, now is a very acceptable time;
behold, now is the day of salvation."*

2 COR 6:2



ST. GERTRUDE
CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT | FEBRUARY 25, 2024

MASSES AND CONFESSION

Monday, February 26, Lenten Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Mark Crouch by Bill & Penny Cunningham
- 8 a.m. † Gary Babcock by Pete & Donna Marcello
- 11:30 a.m. † Deceased Members of the Dominican Order

Tuesday, February 27, Lenten Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Gregory Mates by Bob & Patricia Dieckman Family
- 8 a.m. † Don Beimesche by Jim & Diane Tomaszewski
- 11:30 a.m. † For all those who have died in aviation incidents
by Brian Zappia

Wednesday, February 28, Lenten Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Brett Peterson by St. Gertrude Parish
- 8 a.m. † Christa Briskin by Gary & Lucy Negin
- 11:30 a.m. † Miguel Carrillo by Elvira Carrillo

Thursday, February 29, Lenten Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Deceased Family and Friends of St. Gertrude School
by St. Gertrude School
- 8 a.m. † Don & Marie Fay by Naoma & Ernest Thomas
- 11:30 a.m. People with rare diseases
by Moms of Special Needs Support Group

Friday, March 1, Lenten Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Don Beimesche by Sherry Schuler
- 8 a.m. † Nancy Kaeck by The Shappie Family
- 11:30 a.m. † Roger Olsen by Ed & Maria Torgesen

Saturday, March 2, Lenten Weekday

- 8 a.m. † Nancy Roberts by Courtney Roberts
- 11:30 a.m. † Tim & John Petric by Mary Petric
- 4:30 p.m. † Charles Hertlein by Alex Hertlein

Sunday, March 3, 3rd Sunday of Lent

- 8 a.m. † Gary Babcock by Knights of Columbus
- 10 a.m. † Megan Clark Johnson by Ray & Marylyn Clark
- 12 p.m. People of St. Gertrude
- 6 p.m. † Joseph & Marjorie Schirmer by The Schirmer Family

Confessions will be heard in the church Monday-Friday at 4 p.m.,
Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

Parish Information

6543 Miami Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45243
(513) 561-5954 | stgertrude.org
parishoffice@stgertrude.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

School Office Hours
Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Church Hours
Every day: 7 a.m.-9 p.m.



LENTEN SPEAKER SERIES + HOLY HOUR

Nurturing Faith in a World of Distractions

Wednesdays in Lent | 7:30-8:30 p.m. | Church

Join us this Wednesday for the second night of our
Lenten Speaker Series. Enjoy a short reflection,
followed by Eucharistic adoration. Priests will be
available for confession.

February 28 Faith: Nourished in Prayer
Father John Langlois, O.P.

Check out the rest of the schedule and all our Lenten
offerings at stgertrude.org/lent2024.



Dominican Rite Mass

In honor of St. Thomas Aquinas, O.P.
on the occasion of the 750th anniversary of his death.

March 7 | 7 p.m.
St. Gertrude Church

Receive an indulgence and venerate St. Thomas' relic!



IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

I recently found myself thinking about an old saying that I am sure many of you are familiar with: “Never judge a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes.” The origin of it seems to be found in a slight adaptation of a very similar line in Mary T. Lathrop’s 1895 poem “Judge Softly.” The point of that line, and indeed the entire poem, is to have empathy for the struggles of others

rather than rushing to judge them, for we know not what unseen burdens they carry.

However, I found myself jumping from the line of that poem to one of our most beloved Catholic devotions emphasized in a particular way during the season of Lent; namely, the Stations of the Cross. For in the prayers of the stations, we indeed “walk” in the very footsteps of Jesus Christ. Unlike so many of our Catholic prayers and devotions by which we reflect upon Jesus (or Mary or one of the saints) “from the outside,” in the Stations of the Cross we are invited to immerse ourselves into the mystery of Our Lord’s Passion and crucifixion “from the inside” by walking with him, every step of the way, the very path he trod—all the way from his agony in the garden to his entombment.



The origin of this Lenten devotion dates back to the 13th century, when the Franciscans were given custody of the holy sites in Jerusalem. Pilgrims who traveled to the Holy Land would (quite literally) walk the path Jesus walked during his Passion, stopping to pray at the various locations of key events.

In the centuries that followed, many of the faithful were unable to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. So many more of the faithful could participate in such a “walking in the footsteps of Christ,” the Franciscans began building outdoor shrines that replicated the holy sites in Jerusalem. At this time, there was no “set” number of stations, and various shrines would have as few as seven to as many as thirty stations. Typically, at the various stops along the path, there would be life-sized statues depicting the mystery being recalled. Around the year 1700, the number of stations was fixed at the present-day 14 stations. In the mid-1800s, the pope gave permission for stations to be erected inside of parish churches all over the world.

We will be praying the Stations of the Cross as a parish every Friday of Lent at 7 p.m. in the church. It is my hope that everyone will be able to participate in this devotion at least once or twice during

this sacred season. It provides a unique and beautiful way of walking in the footsteps of Christ and immersing ourselves more deeply into what Jesus endured for our salvation.

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

God bless,

Rev. John Paul Walker, O.P.

Father John Paul Walker, O.P.

LENTEN REMINDER - ABSTINENCE

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

2024

CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL

“As the Father has sent Me,
so I send you.” - John 20:21

2024 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to the 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal. We are at 72 percent of our parish goal. As in previous years, 50 percent of all pledges in excess of our parish goal of \$99,541 will remain here at St. Gertrude for our own use. **Additionally, a \$5,000 rebate will be awarded to the top 10 parishes in the archdiocese with the highest percentage increase in donor participation over last year’s total parish donors.** If you have not yet made your gift, please consider doing so this week. You will find extra pledge envelopes on the table in front of the relic chapel for your convenience. To make a donation online, please visit CatholicAOC.org/CMA. Thank you!

THE POWER OF THE ROSARY



“When you say your Rosary, the angels rejoice, the Blessed Trinity delights in it, my Son finds joy in it too, and I myself am happier than you can possibly guess. After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, there is nothing in the Church that I love as much as the Rosary.”

— Our Lady to Blessed Alan de la Roche

LEARNING HEALTHY WAYS TO COMMUNICATE IDEAS

St. Gertrude School junior high students have a unique experience using a method for discussion called Socratic Seminar. In these seminars, students use open-ended questions to delve deeply into literature, theology, and other topics. Students practice the art of listening to others, articulating responses rooted in truth and supported by texts, and respectfully disagreeing with points of view. Through this method, a new generation can learn healthy ways to communicate ideas. Here is what students say is great about Socratic Seminars:

- learning to be brave and back up and explain your opinion
- hearing others' points of view
- you can say what you want because you can agree or disagree with people
- the excitement of the students; everyone gets "hyped up"
- you are supposed to argue
- no one is afraid of saying what's on their minds
- it's really funny!



IGNATIUS BOOK FAIR

Save the
DATE



ST. GERTRUDE SCHOOL

Sunday, March 10, 2024
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

We Are **HIRING!** After Care Director

St. Gertrude School is seeking a director for its After Care Program that runs from 3 to 6 p.m. on school days. This is a part-time position that requires administration of the program, including program organization and supervision of students. The new director can begin as soon as possible and will assume full responsibility on April 8.

For more information and to apply, visit stgertrudesch.org/employment or scan the QR code. If you have any questions, please contact Sister Mary Agnes at smagnes@stgertrudesch.org.



Schedule a Personal Tour!

A Catholic education is more affordable now than ever before!

We invite you to visit us for a personal tour to meet our principal, observe classes, and discover—first hand—the St. Gertrude School difference.



NOW ENROLLING FOR 2024-2025!





GOD HAS GIVEN YOU CHARISMS TO HELP BUILD HIS KINGDOM

WALTER PLUMMER, DIRECTOR OF
EVANGELIZATION

Okay, here's a quick story with a point: In high school, I was invited to help lead a retreat. Guided by our youth minister, my peers and I shared our testimonies, led discussions, prayed together, and received a lot of wisdom from faithful adults. One teen shared a very personal story as part of his testimony, and I was charged to introduce him and his story. I was pretty flummoxed about what to say, especially considering the gravity of the story. I thought about it a lot and even prayed about it. And then, when it was time to stand up in front of everyone, I remember looking at the group in front of me and just knowing what I had to say.

It took all of 10 seconds, but somehow the room went from fidgety and bored to eyes wide and glued to the front. It felt like I had this (pleasantly) burning coal inside me that I had to let out from my lips. What I said had an immediate and powerful effect—beyond my own ability. After the talk, several people came up to me and told me the introduction was really good and set my friend up perfectly for his talk.

Looking back over my life, I see other times when God has worked through me. Like when I was in 8th grade and needed to write an unprompted letter of encouragement (even though I was an otherwise uninterested teen) to the poor, bedraggled Confirmation coordinators. Or when I was in college and people, for some reason, were moved to tears by my third-rate poems. Or in my ministry work, when I'm woefully under-qualified to talk about a topic, yet somehow what I say gives life, hope, peace, and joy or invites conversion in some way.

Isaiah 50:4 gives me chills every time I read it because it feels like God is personally speaking to me, "The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to answer the weary a word that will waken them."

To be clear, I don't think I'm some sort of divine oracle and always say or do the right thing (just ask my wife). But it does mean that, for some reason God, desires to work through me in this consistent and recurring way, and it has helped others to know him more deeply.

It turns out that there's a name for that experience. It's called the charism of prophecy. Charisms are gratuitous gifts from God that produce results above and beyond our natural abilities. They are always for others and draw people into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ (*Called and Gifted Discernment Process Complete Training Guide*, p. 7). The charism of prophecy, "[e]mpowers a Christian to be a channel of divine truth and wisdom by communicating a word or call of God to individuals or a group through inspired words or actions" (*Called and Gifted Guide*, p. 19).

I wanted to share this story because you might have had an experience like what I've described—like you have suddenly been energized, found your place, have joyful satisfaction doing something that many others don't, or your work is suddenly fruitful and effective without undue struggle (*Called and Gifted Guide*, p. 11). Maybe it's helping people achieve their goals, acts of service, bringing clarity and organization to groups, welcoming people, giving encouragement, teaching, crafting useful or beautiful things that somehow or another connect people back to Jesus. Each of those could be a charism God gave you to build his kingdom.

If you've had an experience like what I've described, or if you'd like to, come discern your charisms with our parish family on April 13 at our Called and Gifted Workshop. Hear stories of normal people who God used in extraordinary ways. Take the inventory to help you discern how God consistently works through you in the lives of others. Learn about charisms. And most of all, come so you can tune in to those gratuitous gifts and perhaps allow the Lord to continue to work through you in even deeper ways. Like in my story, God has greater things in store for your life and work than you or I can do under our own power. We at St. Gertrude Parish want to help you live that out.

CALLED & GIFTED WORKSHOP

Discover God's Call for Your Life

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

St. Gertrude Parish Center (Gym)

Cost: \$25*

**Includes workshop, participant book, and lunch.*



Visit bit.ly/cgworkshop-april or scan the
QR code to learn more and register by April 3!

St. Gertrude Parish

LENTEN FISH FRY

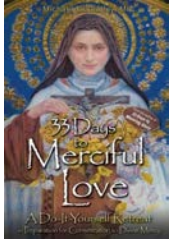
March 1 & 15

5-7:30 p.m.

St. Gertrude Parish Gym


Dine-in and carryout
available. View the menu,
place your carryout order,
or sign up to volunteer at
stgertrude.org/fishfry.





33 DAYS TO MERCIFUL LOVE

Prepare for Divine Mercy Sunday (April 7) with Father Michael Gaitley's moving book, *33 Days to Merciful Love*. Begin reading the book on Tuesday, March 5, and gather with your fellow parishioners on February 29, March 7, and March 21 to watch the DVDs that go along with the book and pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. We will meet in the Parish Center in the St. Dominic Lobby from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m.



Prayer Service
For Those Who Struggle with Health Issues

St. Gertrude Parish's Moms of Special Needs Support Group is hosting a special prayer service on Rare Disease Day to pray for and support those who struggle with health issues. All are welcome! Reception in the Parish Center immediately following the service.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29
7 P.M. | CHURCH**

BAPTISM

Sunday, February 11, 2024



Child: Gabrielle Grace Hobson
Parents: Thomas & Sarah Hobson



Child: Nora Elizabeth Williamson
Parents: Kyle & Taylor Williamson

SOUP KITCHEN SIGN-UPS THIS WEEKEND

Looking to serve the poor and needy in Cincinnati? St. Gertrude Church parishioners will be serving lunch at the Queen City Kitchen soup kitchen in Walnut Hills on Sunday, March 10, and Sunday, April 21. It takes approximately 30 people to cook and serve the main meal and side items—a great opportunity for families, groups, or ministries. Sign up in the Parish Center before or after 8 a.m., 10 a.m., or 12 p.m. Mass this Sunday, February 25. For more information, please contact Andy Cordier at SoupKitchen@StGertrude.org.

ROSARY SALES NEXT WEEKEND

Next Sunday, March 3, members of our parish Rosary Makers group will be selling handmade rosaries and other items before and after all morning Masses. Their table will be set up either outside by the back door to the church or inside the Parish Center, depending on the weather.

ST. GERTRUDE PARISH MOTHER/DAUGHTER SAND VOLLEYBALL SOCIAL

The St. Gertrude Boosters invite moms and their daughters to Setters Beach Volleyball and Tiki Lounge on Saturday, April 20, from 4 to 8 p.m. for indoor and outdoor volleyball, corn hole, and camaraderie. If you are not up for all the activity, you are welcome to attend as a non-player or to lend a hand with the fun (with or without your daughter). Registration is \$30 per family and includes a T-shirt and pizza for your entire team (mom and daughters). Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/mom-daughter-social to register or sign up to volunteer.



LET US PRAY

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .

THE SICK:

Linda Burke, Vicki Calonge, Carol Connors, Dan DeBow, Triset Defonseka, Beth Egbers, Lisa Ely, Octavio Flores-Resendiz, Ron Freudenberg, Dick Gelhaus, Bob Gerwin, Goad Family, Elsa Hall, Mark Holland, Hummel Family, Andrea Kattel, Aiko Kimura, Diane Kosobud, Robert Lantz, Ed and Karen Larkin, Ted Leugers, Kevin Lewis, Gertrude Maxwell, Kim McClung, Elaine O'Connell, Sue Paas, Gerry Patterson, Gert Patterson, Pegge Schuermann, Richard Seifert, Judy Sullivan, Jim Tappel, Brigitte Vielhauer, Kerry Walden, and Viktor & Mary Wilhelmy

THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES:

Patrick Burke, Gabe Dorsey, Jacob Dorsey, Curtis Flores, Luis Flores, Jr., Cole Foster, Kyle Foster, Dominic Geraci, Daniel Holian, Mike Huber, Aaron Jacobson, Jacob Kramb, John Kramb, Kelly Leugers, Dominic Lloyd, Seth McGann, John Murdock, Jr., John Oscar, Sarah Ries, Dan Roseman, Andrew Shannon, Ian Tester, and Gus Voto

THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

† Terrence McCarthy, husband of Nancy

MOTHER OF CHRIST FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Next weekend, March 2 and 3, before and after all Masses (except 6 p.m.), the Ladies of Charity will be at the white van in the parking lot collecting items for Mother of Christ Food Pantry. The food pantry provides food and personal care items to poor and needy families in the St. Bernard Parish area who are struggling to make ends meet. Your donations are very much appreciated! In addition to all nonperishable food items, the pantry has special needs for toilet paper, paper towels, cleansers like Pine-Sol, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, personal hygiene items, and practical household items. Cash or check donations are also welcome. If you have any questions about Mother of Christ Food Pantry or Ladies of Charity, please call Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085. Thank you so much for your help!

A CATHOLIC BROTHERHOOD CHANGING THE WORLD

The Knights of Columbus is a global Catholic fraternity of men who put their faith into action. **Next weekend, March 2 and 3, all men of the parish (18 years old and older) are invited to the Parish Center after any Mass to learn more about the Knights** and what they have accomplished since their humble beginnings in 1882. You'll also be able to watch a short video on the Knights' founder and soon-to-be-saint, Blessed Father Michael McGivney. Members of St. Gertrude Parish's Knights of Columbus Archbishop Elder Council #1195 will be present to answer any questions and provide information about joining the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world. **There will be light refreshments and a chance to win a \$50 gift card.** Fun fact: All of St. Gertrude Parish's priests and novices are members of the Knights of Columbus.

A MORNING OF LENTEN LISTENING

The Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford invites men and women to Lenten Listening on Tuesday, February 27, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Through the study and intercession of St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Francis Xavier, and Pedro Arrupe, this listening will help attendees better respond to Jesus' call to follow him in daily life. The event will begin with coffee and tea from 9 to 9:30 a.m. and will take place in the Loyola Building at the Jesuit Spiritual Center (5361 South Milford Road, Milford, OH 45150). If you have any questions, please call (513) 248-3500, ext. 10.

HEALING SERVICE

Lent is a great opportunity to approach Jesus for healing. Attend a healing service at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center (5440 Moeller Avenue, Norwood) on Wednesday, February 28. The evening will begin at 6:45 p.m. with the rosary, followed by Mass at 7:15 p.m. and then the healing service. For more information, please call (513) 351-9800.

LENTEN PARISH MISSION

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish is hosting a Lenten Parish Mission on Catholic Social Teaching, presented by Kenneth R. Craycraft Jr., Ph.D., J.D., on February 29 and March 14 at 7 p.m. For more information, to view the talk topics, and to learn more about Dr. Craycraft, visit sainti.org/church/lenten-mission-2024/. If you have any questions, **please contact Brad Macke at (513) 661-6565, ext. 2743, or bmacke@sainti.org**. St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish is located at 5222 N. Bend Road, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45247.

RAFFLE BASKET ITEMS NEEDED

Pregnancy Center West's annual Spring Luncheon fundraiser is March 9, and we are still in need of raffle basket items. If you feel compelled to support our cause, please consider gifting items that can be used for our raffle baskets. For more information or to contribute, please reach out to Jame Jirovec at jame@pc-west.org and/or bring items to 2859 Boudinot Avenue, Ste. 320, Cincinnati.

WHITE COAT MASS FOR PHYSICIANS AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

The Cincinnati Catholic Medical Association will be holding its annual White Coat Mass for healthcare professionals and trainees on Saturday, March 9, at 4:30 p.m. (Vigil Mass) at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. Please join us for Mass, a light dinner, and time for fellowship in the undercroft following Mass. Families are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please visit cmacincy.org for more information and to RSVP or email cmacincy@gmail.com.

LAETARE CLASSIC—5K RUN & WALK

Join St. Gertrude Parish's Father Luke VanBerkum, O.P., and people across the Cincinnati area in the Laetare Classic, a 5K run and walk presented by The Pantaleon Project and benefiting The Angelico Project! Father Luke will not only do the opening prayer at the beginning of the event, but also run in the race! The Laetare Classic will be at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, at Corwin Nixon Park in Mason. The entry fee is \$25. To register, visit thelaetareclassic.com.

SIGN UP YOUR KIDS FOR SPRING RUGBY

All children in Kindergarten through 8th grade are invited to participate in Cincinnati Rookie Rugby, a program dedicated to introducing the dynamic sport of rugby to new players. Practices for children in grades 5-8 begin the first week of March at Moeller High School. Regular season games for all grade levels are on Sundays from March 24 through May 5 at St. Xavier High School (K-4th grade play 1-2:30 p.m., and grades 5-8 play at 2 p.m.). There is a state championship game in Cleveland on May 18. Learn more and register at rookierugbyohio.sportngin.com/register/form/284728973. Cincinnati Rookie Rugby is on a mission to instill a love for the game, promote teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship among young athletes.

Once a month over the next few months, we are going to feature “The Bible Ladies,” Father Joseph Aloabaidi’s short series on women in the Bible. You’ll read about our mothers of faith, including Eve, Sarah, Hagar, Miriam, Ruth, and Esther. This is the second article in “The Bible Ladies” series. You can find the first article on Eve on page 7 in the online edition of the January 21 bulletin at stgertrude.org/bulletin.



THE BIBLE LADIES — SARAH

FATHER JOSEPH ALOBAIDI, O.P.

Sarah is one of the most intriguing figures of the Bible. Her origin, role in the life of her husband, Abraham, antagonistic relationship with her servant, Hagar and even her bold attitude toward God’s messengers all indicate a colorful personality that defies the simplistic cliché of the superiority of men over women in the Bible. Let us examine a few of the marked aspects of her life.

Sarah’s Origin

Twice (Genesis 12:13 and Genesis 20:13), Abraham asked Sarah to state that she is his sister. We will explore the reason for Abraham’s awkward request, but first, let us answer this fundamental question: Was our father Abraham asking his wife to lie? The answer may seem obvious: Yes, he was asking her to lie since she was his wife. However, two elements make it necessary to qualify this answer. First, we read in Genesis 20:12 that Sarah was truly Abraham’s sister—or to be exact, his half-sister. She and Abraham had the same father, Terah, but she had a different mother. The other aspect is that marriage between siblings was not uncommon in the Middle East, particularly among the higher classes. The reason for such marriage, later condemned by the Law of Moses, especially in Leviticus, is that the higher class decided not to mingle with the lower classes. The pharaonic dynasty in Egypt, for example, had many marriages between brothers and sisters to protect the divine rank of the emperor and his descendants. Besides, there is a metaphorical usage of the word “sister” for one’s wife, which we frequently hear in the Song of Songs (Song 4:9, 10, 12; 5:1).

Sarah Saves Abraham

The two verses above that mention Abraham’s request for Sarah to call herself his sister are also the verses that show Abraham’s fear of losing his life if he is discovered as Sarah’s husband. It is surely an ungentlemanly demand from our father in faith. There are two ways to interpret this awkward situation. The first interpretation looks at the two episodes as an illustration to what God had promised Abraham in his initial call for him to leave his country. Indeed, God has promised Abraham, saying, “I will bless those who bless you and curse those

who curse you” (Genesis 12:3). In their attempts to marry Sarah, Pharaoh and Abimelech, albeit unknowingly, insulted Abraham and, consequently, incurred the curse that God reserved to those who curse Abraham. Thus, the two episodes illustrate God’s promise to Abraham. The other interpretation that meets the agreement of today’s sensitivity is that by saving the life of Abraham, Sarah allowed the plan of salvation to take place. If the salvation willed by God had to start by the election of a certain people, Israel, it is right to thank not only Abraham who became the instrument of the election of Israel, but also Sarah who twice saved her husband’s life, allowing God’s plan of salvation to be implemented. These are passages that belong to a time and a mentality where the role of the male is hegemonic. Yet, they are also a reminder of the decisive role of women in our Biblical history. Furthermore, they are passages of refinement and human touches. See, for example, how Abraham approaches Sarah with his awkward demand of hiding that she is his wife: “I know that you are of beautiful appearance. . . . please say that you are my sister, that it may go well with me for your sake, and that I may live thanks to you” (Genesis 12:13). He starts by complimenting her for her beauty before presenting her with his uneasy request. Typical of an embarrassed husband asking his wife to do something she dreads.

Sarah, the Mother of Isaac

I will reserve the treatment of the tumultuous relationship between Sarah and her Egyptian maiden to the article about Hagar. The events that led to the conception and birth of Isaac are also tumultuous, though in a comic way. While it is understandable at Sarah’s age (90, according to Genesis 17:17) to wonder whether the promise of pregnancy and giving birth can be real, her laughter at such eventuality is presented as a lack of faith, a doubt in God’s capacity of accomplishing a miracle. Abraham, too, laughed at the prospect of having a child at the age of 99 (Genesis 17:17), yet he did not negate his laughter, which Sarah did (Genesis 18:15). Her punishment, therefore, was that God would have the last laugh, since she will conceive and give birth to a son whose name will be Isaac, a noun taken from the Hebrew verb *sachaq* “to laugh.”



Have a question about faith, life, theology, the Church, or something else? Submit your question to bulletin@stgertrude.org for one of our Dominican friars, brothers, or sisters; experts; or theologians to answer in an upcoming bulletin.

Monday, February 26	Tuesday, February 27	Wednesday, February 28	Thursday, February 29	Friday, March 1	Saturday, March 2	Sunday, March 3
Walking with Purpose Bible Study 8:30 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Cana Family – Year 2 9 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Resurrection Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Cana Family – Year 3 9:30 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Walking with Purpose Bible Study 8:30 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Las Guadalupanas 9 a.m. St. Joseph Room	KofC Recruitment Drive <i>After all Masses</i> St. Dominic Lobby
CGS Level 1 & 2 3:30 p.m. Atrium I & II	Moms & Littles Holy Hour 9:30 a.m. Church	Schola Cantorum 3:30 p.m. St. Joseph Room	CGS Level 1 11 a.m. Atrium I & II	Lenten Fish Fry 5-7:30 p.m. Parish Center	Respect Life Meeting 9 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	40 Days for Life Sign-up <i>After 8, 10 & 12 Masses</i> Outside Church
Schola Cantorum 3:30 p.m. PC Choir Room	Moms & Littles Fellowship Gathering 10:30 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	CGS Level 1, 2 & 3 3:45 p.m. Atrium I & II, School Music Room	33 Days to Merciful Love 1:30 p.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Stations of the Cross 7 p.m. Church	KofC – 4th Degree Program 9:30 a.m. School Cafeteria	LofC Mother of Christ Food Pantry Collection <i>After 8, 10 & 12 Masses</i> Sharing Van
Become Catholic (RCIA) 7 p.m. St. Dominic Lobby	True Devotion to Mary 12:30 p.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Collegium Rehearsal 6 p.m. PC Choir Room	Parish Choir 7 p.m. St. Joseph Room		40 Days for Life Sign-up <i>After 4:30 p.m. Mass</i> Outside Church	Rosary Sales <i>After 8, 10 & 12 Masses</i> St. Dominic Lobby
Healing Rosary 7 p.m. Church	CGS Level 1 & 2 6 p.m. Atrium I & II	Parish Mission & Vision Statement Presentation 6:45 p.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Prayer Service for Rare Disease Day 7 p.m. Church		KofC Recruitment Drive <i>After 4:30 p.m. Mass</i> St. Dominic Lobby	CGS Classes 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Atrium I & II, School Music Room
	Boy Scouts 7 p.m. Gym	Lenten Speaker Series + Holy Hour with Confessions 7:30 p.m. Church	Rare Disease Day Social <i>Following 7 p.m. service</i> St. Dominic Lobby		LofC Mother of Christ Food Pantry Collection <i>After 4:30 p.m. Mass</i> Sharing Van	Family Faith – Parent & Child Session 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. School Cafeteria
	SGS First Communion Parent Meeting 7 p.m. School Cafeteria				SGS PTO Trivia Night 6:30 p.m. School Cafeteria	First Scrutiny of the Elect (Become Catholic) <i>At 12 p.m. Mass</i>

BULLETIN DEADLINE

MATERIALS DUE
2/28/24

BULLETIN
3/10/24

Please submit your Mass announcements and bulletin articles to bulletin@stgertrude.org.

OFFERING

St. Gertrude Parish Weekly Collection and Budget Report Collection for February 18

Collection	\$	51,535
Weekly Budget	\$	37,000
Weekly Surplus	\$	14,535

Ash Wednesday (February 14): \$4,826

Fiscal Year-To-Date (for year ending June 30, 2024)

Fiscal YTD Actual	\$	1,423,337
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$	1,271,000
Fiscal YTD Surplus	\$	152,337

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Contact Tyler Castrucci at tcastrucci@stgertrude.org or Father Luke VanBerkum at frluke@stgertrude.org to learn more about our Become Catholic (RCIA) program and get your questions answered.

Baptisms
1:15 p.m.
Church

Sacramental Formation
1:30 p.m.
Atrium II

L'alto: HS Youth Night
7 p.m.
Parish Center

STAY INFORMED ON PRO-LIFE ISSUES

Want to get more involved in pro-life ministry or simply want to be more *in the know*? Email stgertrudeprolife@gmail.com to be added to the St. Gertrude Respect Life Ministry email list.



SUPPORT FOR MISCARRIAGE

Have you experienced a miscarriage? You are not alone. Heaven's Gain Ministries is here to provide for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of families experiencing pregnancy loss. Call Heaven's Gain at (513) 607-6083 for support, or visit HeavensGain.org for more information.

DIRECTORY

Parish Staff

Father John Paul Walker, O.P., pastor
 Father Joachim Kenney, O.P., parochial vicar
 Father Luke VanBerkum, O.P., parochial vicar

Dominican Friars in Residence

Father John Langlois, O.P., prior
 Father Joseph Alobaidi, O.P.
 Father John Corbett, O.P.
 Father Darren Pierre, O.P., novice master

St. Gertrude School – (513) 561-8020

Principal – Sister Mary Agnes Greiffendorf, O.P. ext 1101
 Vice Principal – Mr. Travis Johnson ext 1101
 PTO President – Ashlee Wooten ashleebwot@hotmail.com
 School Advisory Council

Office of Administration – (513) 561-5954

Receptionists – Susan Kane & Teri Forlini parishoffice@stgertrude.org
 Business Manager – Don Regan businessmanager@stgertrude.org
 Business Office Admin Assistant – Emma Golias egolias@stgertrude.org
 Bereavement ext 2101
 Bulletin Editor bulletin@stgertrude.org
 Director of Music – Christopher Holman cholman@stgertrude.org
 Safe Environment Coordinator – Emma Golias egolias@stgertrude.org

Office of Evangelization & Faith Formation – (513) 561-5954

Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation –
 Walter Plummer wplummer@stgertrude.org
 Coordinator of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd –
 Mary Beth Thiemann mbthiemann@stgertrude.org
 Coordinator of Adult Evangelization –
 Tyler Castrucci tcastrucci@stgertrude.org
 Director of Communications –
 Michelle Dushensky mdushensky@stgertrude.org
 Office Coordinator – Kristen Eggers kristen@stgertrude.org

Corporal Works of Mercy

Helping Hands (Funeral Reception Ministry) –
 Nancy Lucas stgerthh@gmail.com
 Knights of Columbus – Pete Marcello grandknight@elderkoofc.org
 Ladies of Charity – Jean Wilkinson jeanhwilkinson@gmail.com
 Parish Health Ministry – Jeanne Palcic jpalcic@fuse.net
 Pregnancy Center East (for all pregnancy needs) (513) 321-3100
 Soup Kitchen – Andy Cordier soupkitchen@stgertrude.org
 St. Vincent de Paul Society – Jennifer Mansfield (513) 561-5954, ext 2112

Vocations Directors

Archdiocese of Cincinnati – Father Dan Schmitmeyer (513) 421-3131
 Dominican Friars – Father Mario Calabrese, O.P. DominicanFriars.org
 Nashville Dominican Sisters – Sister Mara Grace, O.P. (615) 256-5486

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Circle of Prayer – Barbara Rose prayercirclesg@gmail.com
 Communion to Sick – Judy Hartmann jhartma2002@yahoo.com
 Eucharistic Adoration adoration@stgertrude.org
 Natural Family Planning – Jenna Bernardo nfp@stgertrude.org
 Pastoral Council – Ryan Schilling rryanschilling@gmail.com
 Prayer Ministry for the Dying – Pat Collins (513) 265-1897
 Respect Life – Lisa Campbell lisaredig61@gmail.com
 Rosary Making – Larry Ball (513) 831-8572
 Unbound (Ministry of Forgiveness and Healing) –
 Nealy Mechley (513) 505-1740

Liturgical Ministries

Parish Choir – Christopher Holman cholman@stgertrude.org
 Contemporary Music Ensemble – Paul Kindt pkindt@zoomtown.com
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion frluke@stgertrude.org
 Resurrection Choir – Marty Cunningham martyc.music@gmail.com
 The St. Anne and the Child Mary Guild –
 Ann McCormick ann.mccormick@ymail.com
 Sons of St. Joseph (Altar Servers) pxaw@hotmail.com
 Ushers – Douglas Postler postman8905@gmail.com
 Viri Selecti – Ben Hoffmann pxaw@hotmail.com
 Youth Choir – Christopher Holman cholman@stgertrude.org

Spiritual Groups

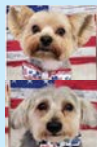
Angelic Warfare Confraternity – (513) 561-5954
 Benedictine Oblates – Mark Milliron mmilliron@fastmail.com
 CANA Family For Mothers –
 Anita Pappalardo pappacinci@gmail.com
 Catholic Men's Fellowship – Stan Lloyd stan.lloyd@gmail.com
 Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary –
 Brian Zappia brian.zappia@gmail.com
 Dominican Laity (Bishop Fenwick) –
 Mrs. Margaret Brecount, O.P. stgertrude.org/bishopfenwickfraternity
 Dominican Laity (Our Lady of Peace) –
 Mr. Fred Thomas, O.P. stgertrude.org/ourladyofpeace
 Healing Rosary – Cindy Hertz (513) 368-8941
 Moms of Special Needs Support Group –
 Laura Nanista laura_nanista@outlook.com
 Seasons of Hope – Cindy Hertz (513) 368-8941
 True Devotion to Mary – Anne Collins acollins4mary@aol.com
 Walking with Purpose Bible Study (Women) –
 Martha Thompson www.st.gertrude@gmail.com

Parish Groups

Athletic Boosters – Rob Gruber rlgruber5@gmail.com
 Boy Scouts – Rob Schuette (513) 333-0040
 Cub Scouts – Matt Frye (574) 529-0427
 Garden Club parishoffice@stgertrude.org
 Lenten Fish Fry – Rob Mancini rbmancini73@gmail.com
 Little Flower Library – Susan Santos susansantos2@gmail.com
 Parish Coffee – Mark Findley mark.findley@epilepsy-ohio.org
 Seniors' Fun Bunch – Tyler Castrucci tcastrucci@stgertrude.org

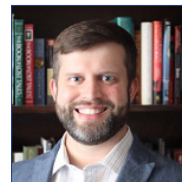


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