

# ST. GERTRUDE PARISH

## MINISTRIES & SACRAMENTS



There is a place for you  
in our parish community.

# Letter from Our Pastor

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Dear St. Gertrude Parishioners,

We are blessed with a very large, active parish. To help you get involved and “find your place” at St. Gertrude, I am happy to present this booklet. The following pages outline the many ministries our parish offers, providing more than 50 ways you can immerse yourself in our community. Whether you want to learn more about the faith, deepen your prayer life, or serve your fellow parishioners or the needy in the area, you will find opportunities to do so.

This booklet also contains details about our offerings for children and youth, including our wonderful St. Gertrude School, Faith Formation programs, and opportunities for young people to serve our parish in liturgical roles. In addition, you will find information about the administration of the sacraments, charisms of the Holy Spirit, and how discerning your charisms can help you figure out the best way to get involved in parish life.

I’ve said many times since arriving here as your pastor: it is my hope that every single parishioner gets involved in at least one ministry, prayer group, or service outreach. I pray that this booklet helps everyone find that perfect place to be engaged in the active life of our parish. If you would like assistance in discerning which ministry, group, or outreach opportunity is right for you, I encourage you to contact our director of stewardship, Hope Ramundo, at [hramundo@stgertrude.org](mailto:hramundo@stgertrude.org).

God bless,

*Rev. John Paul Walker, O.P.*

Father John Paul Walker, O.P.





# Contents

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<b>Charisms</b> .....	1
<b>For Adults</b>	
Asking Life's Big Questions .....	5
Considering Becoming Catholic .....	7
Looking for a Prayer Group .....	9
Desiring Formation .....	17
Needing Support .....	33
Seeking to Serve .....	37
<b>For Children &amp; Youth</b>	
St. Gertrude School .....	64
Athletics .....	65
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd .....	66
Little Flowers Girls' Club .....	67
Cub Scouts .....	68
First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion .....	69
Schola Cantorum .....	70
Family Faith .....	71
Sons of St. Joseph .....	72
St. Anne & the Child Mary Guild .....	73
Boys Scouts .....	74
Confirmation Preparation .....	75
Junior High Youth Ministry .....	76
L'alto: High School Ministry .....	77
Choral Scholars .....	78
Collegium .....	79
<b>Sacraments &amp; Worship</b> .....	80
<b>Ministries Index</b> .....	90
<b>Charisms Index</b> .....	93



# CHARISMS

Many of the ministries and groups in this booklet list at least one charism. This section is an introduction to charisms, why it is beneficial to discern your charisms, and how to use the charism designations in this booklet as a way to help you discern where to use your gifts at St. Gertrude Parish.



# Charisms

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## What Are Charisms?

God has given each of us incredible gifts. Charisms are gifts of the Holy Spirit given at Baptism and sealed at Confirmation. You might recall the traditional seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These seven gifts (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord) are given to each Christian primarily for his or her own benefit. They sustain us on our journeys to holiness and enable us to live lives of virtue. Charisms, on the other hand, are given to individuals for the benefit of others. They are gratuitous gifts that are meant to be given away. Ultimately, the charisms are “intended for the common good of the Church” (CCC 2003).

St. Paul beautifully describes the charisms, saying, “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7). When we use our charisms, we help further the building up of the Church and cause the light of the Gospel to shine more brightly in our broader community.

## Do I Have Charisms?

Yes! According to the Second Vatican Council, all of the faithful have been given “special graces” by the Holy Spirit (*Lumen gentium* 12). In order to be good stewards of the gifts that God has given us, we must first know what our gifts are. Discerning your charisms can help you do great things for the Lord and evangelize. It can help you in your work and personal relationships with family and friends. Knowing your charisms can also help you identify natural talents or qualities that you



have and reexamine them in the light of the Holy Spirit. Finally, knowing your own charisms can also help you recognize charisms in others. Seeing the unique gifts that God has given to others can help us grow in charity, strengthen our bonds of communion, and see that, rather than competing with one another, our charisms actually complement each other.

**Imagine what our parish would look like if every person knew what his or her charisms were and put them to use!**

## **How Do I Discern My Charisms?**

The Catherine of Siena Institute, founded by Sherry Weddell and Father Michael Sweeney, O.P., has created the Called & Gifted process to help Catholics discern their charisms. It is a three-step process to learn about charisms, narrow down what your charisms might be, and then discern them with the help of a small group community. Please check the parish bulletin and website for information about when the next Called & Gifted Workshop will be happening. Our Omega program for adults (see page 27) will also offer Called & Gifted.

While the Called & Gifted Workshop is a great way to discern your charisms, you can also discern them in other ways. Nevertheless, since charisms should be “referred and submitted” to the Church (CCC 801), it is always important to discern within the parish community alongside the guidance of a priest or someone else who is knowledgeable about charisms.

## **Charism Designations**

### **Leadership Charisms**

These are charisms that are best suited to being a leader in a given ministry. Important note: Not having all of the listed charisms does not necessarily mean you won't be a good leader! The listed charisms are not requirements or prerequisites; they are intended to help you decide where you might best offer your gifts.



### **Participant Charisms**

These are charisms that are best suited to being a member or participant of a given ministry, without necessarily being involved in its leadership.

### **No Listed Charisms**

This can happen for two reasons. First, some ministries are simply open to everyone, regardless of charisms. For example, our offerings for children and youth do not list participant charisms because discernment of charisms typically is something that happens in adulthood.

Second, while all of our ministries depend on the leadership of our parishioners, some are not seeking new volunteers at this time. If you feel called to get involved as a volunteer to help lead a ministry, you are always invited to reach out to the ministry contact, even if no leadership charisms are listed.

### **What If I Still Have Questions?**

Please contact our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org).



**FOR ADULTS**

# **Asking Life's Big Questions**



# Alpha

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Curious about faith? Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. At each Alpha session, you will have dinner, watch an episode on a different question of faith, and then have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all.

## When We Meet

June–August | Mondays, 6:30–8:30 p.m. | Parish Center

## Learn More

If you have questions or would like to join Alpha, email our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org), or visit [stgertrude.org/alpha](http://stgertrude.org/alpha).

## Leadership Charisms

Evangelism, Hospitality, Intercessory Prayer, Administration



**FOR ADULTS**

# **Considering Becoming Catholic**



# Become Catholic

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The Become Catholic experience is a profound but gradual process of conversion to the Catholic faith and integration into the liturgical and communal life of the Church. Adults are prepared to receive or complete the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil Mass in the spring.

## When We Meet

September–May/June | Mondays, 7–8:30 p.m. | Parish Center

## Learn More

If you have questions or would like to join Become Catholic, please visit [stgertrude.org/become-catholic](https://stgertrude.org/become-catholic), or email our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org).

## Leadership Charisms

Evangelism, Hospitality, Intercessory Prayer, Administration, Teaching



**FOR ADULTS**

**Looking for a  
Prayer Group**





# Angelic Warfare Confraternity

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The Angelic Warfare Confraternity (AWC) is a fellowship of men and women bound to one another in love and prayer, dedicated to pursuing chastity under the patronage of St. Thomas Aquinas and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The AWC is an official prayer ministry of the Dominican Order.

## **When We Meet**

Being primarily a spiritual association, the AWC does not require members to attend meetings.

## **Learn More**

If you have questions or would like to join the AWC, please visit [stgertrude.org/angelicwarfare](http://stgertrude.org/angelicwarfare), or contact the parish office at (513) 561-5954 or [parishoffice@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishoffice@stgertrude.org).

## **Participant Charisms**

Intercessory Prayer, Prophecy



# Circle of Prayer

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Circle of Prayer is a prayer chain of parishioners who pray for those in need. While our group is open to people of all ages, most of our 150 members are mature adults.

## **When We Meet**

We do not meet in person; the prayer chain is designed to allow members to pray on their own schedules.

## **Learn More**

Anyone is welcome to join the Circle of Prayer. If you would like to be added to the email chain or submit a prayer request, contact Barbara Rose at [prayercirclesg@gmail.com](mailto:prayercirclesg@gmail.com). You can also learn more at [stgertrude.org/circleofprayer](http://stgertrude.org/circleofprayer).

## **Participant Charisms**

Intercessory Prayer, Prophecy, Extraordinary Faith



# Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary

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The Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary is an international association of the faithful that exists “to praise and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and to secure her patronage by the recitation of the rosary for the mutual spiritual benefit of all the members throughout the world.”

## When We Meet

Being primarily a spiritual association, the confraternity does not require members to attend meetings. From time to time, some members of the St. Gertrude Parish chapter will meet to pray together and work on promoting the confraternity.

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/rosaryconfraternity](http://stgertrude.org/rosaryconfraternity), or email [rosary@stgertrude.org](mailto:rosary@stgertrude.org).

## Participant Charisms

Intercessory Prayer, Extraordinary Faith



# Healing Rosary

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The Healing Rosary at St. Gertrude Parish is a group of men and women who pray the rosary for the sick in our parish and community.

## **When We Meet**

Every Monday at 7 p.m., we come together to pray the rosary. We often pray inside St. Gertrude Church. When the weather is nice, we pray the rosary outside.

## **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/healingrosary](http://stgertrude.org/healingrosary), or contact Cindy Hertzel at (513) 368-8941.

## **Participant Charisms**

Extraordinary Faith, Healing, Intercessory Prayer, Prophecy



# Las Guadalupanas

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Las Guadalupanas is a group of Latin women who are striving to grow in their prayer lives and desiring to be part of a community of women who are strong in their Catholic faith.

## When We Meet

First Saturdays, 9–10:30 a.m. | St. Joseph Room (Parish Center)

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/lasguadalupanas](http://stgertrude.org/lasguadalupanas), or call Dina Henderson at (513) 207-4246.

## Participant Charisms

Intercessory Prayer, Extraordinary Faith, Pastoring



# Moms & Littles Holy Hour

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All parents, grandparents, and babysitters of young children are welcome—with their little ones—to an hour of Eucharistic adoration every Tuesday morning. Whether you come for five minutes or an hour, you and your little ones are most welcome for a time of prayer and healing with our Eucharistic Lord. Silent prayer is encouraged but definitely not expected—little ones will be making noise! Confession is also available during this time.

## When We Meet

During the School Year: Tuesday mornings, 8:40-9:40 a.m. | Church

During the Summer: Tuesday mornings, 10-11 a.m. | Church

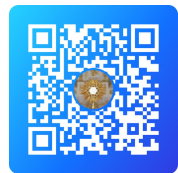
*Periodically, we will meet at a nearby park after the Holy Hour.*

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/momsandlittles](http://stgertrude.org/momsandlittles), or contact Amy Toft at [ahess2@gmail.com](mailto:ahess2@gmail.com). You can also scan the QR code to join the Moms & Littles GroupMe to connect with other group members and get notified of schedule changes.

## Leadership Charisms

Administration, Hospitality, Evangelism





# Prayer Ministry for the Dying

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Members of this ministry pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the those approaching death. The chaplet only takes about 10 minutes, is prayed on rosary beads, and doesn't need to be prayed in the presence of the dying person—it can be prayed in your home, car, office, etc. Members will be contacted to pray when someone's death is imminent.

## **When We Meet**

There are no meetings.

## **Learn More**

To join this ministry, please contact Pat Collins at (513) 265-1897, or visit [stgertrude.org/prayersforthedying](http://stgertrude.org/prayersforthedying).

## **Participant Charisms**

Intercessory Prayer, Prophecy, Extraordinary Faith



# FOR ADULTS

## Desiring Formation





# Benedictine Oblates

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The Cincinnati Chapter of the Benedictine Oblates of Saint Meinrad Archabbey is a small community of believers united by adherence to the teachings of the Gospel, the holy Rule of St. Benedict, and the values we share with the monks of Saint Meinrad.

## When We Meet

September–April | Fourth Sunday of the Month, 2 p.m.

*There is no meeting in December due to Christmas.*

## Learn More

If you have questions or would like to join the Benedictine Oblates, please visit [stgertrude.org/benedictionoblates](http://stgertrude.org/benedictionoblates), or contact Mark Milliron at [mmilliron@fastmail.com](mailto:mmilliron@fastmail.com) or Ron Demarco at [rld37@fuse.net](mailto:rld37@fuse.net).

## Participant Charisms

Wisdom, Intercessory Prayer, Knowledge



# Bourbon & Books

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Some bourbon, a good book, and a few guys with whom one may discuss ideas, grapple with big questions, and ultimately come to understand the truth of things—this is Bourbon & Books. Bourbon & Books creates a fraternal "space" wherein men in similar walks of life grow as brothers in Christ and sons of the Father. Here, men engage with literary and theological authors and, in doing so together, cultivate a community that challenges them to become who they are.

## When We Meet

Individual small groups meet once a month at a time of their choosing. The whole community comes together for two larger events each year.

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/bourbonandbooks](http://stgertrude.org/bourbonandbooks), or email Matt Brennan and Stephen Babcock at [bourbonbooks@stgertrude.org](mailto:bourbonbooks@stgertrude.org).

## Leadership Charisms

Administration, Hospitality, Leadership

## Participant Charisms

Knowledge, Wisdom



# Called & Gifted

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Do you want to discover your God-given purpose? Every Christian has been gifted with unique spiritual gifts—charisms—of the Holy Spirit. Charisms are special graces given to individuals for the sake of others. They are gifts we receive that are meant to be given away! Created by the Catherine of Siena Institute, which was founded by Sherry Weddell and Father Michael Sweeney, O.P., the Called & Gifted experience is designed to help you grow closer to God and discern your unique charisms.

## Who Is It For?

- People wondering what Jesus' plan is for their lives—right now, in this time and place.
- People in transition who might be changing jobs, adjusting to an empty nest, returning to the workplace, or entering retirement.
- New or returning Catholics who want to explore what it means to fully live their faith as an adult.
- Catholics discerning a call to religious life.

## When We Meet

Called & Gifted is offered at different times throughout the year, usually as a one-day workshop. Please see the Sunday bulletin or contact our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org) to find out when the next group is happening.

## Learn More

Contact our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org)



# Cana Family for Fathers

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We are dads and future dads who want to develop greater confidence in making decisions and living as husbands and fathers. We are from all walks of life and share the desire to grow in our faith, strengthen our marriages, grow closer to Christ, and build a domestic church.

## **When We Meet**

September–April | Twice a month; times and days determined by each group

## **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/canafathers](https://stgertrude.org/canafathers), or contact our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org).

## **Leadership Charisms**

Administration, Teaching, Pastoring, Hospitality, Encouragement

## **Participant Charisms**

Encouragement, Knowledge



# Cana Family for Mothers

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Cana Family for Mothers is a group of moms and future moms who want to renew and refresh their energy for their marriages and families. We are from all walks of life, but share in the desire to grow in our faith, strengthen our marriages, grow closer to Christ, and build a domestic church.

## **When We Meet**

September–April | Twice a month; times and days are determined by each group

## **Learn More**

For more information, visit [stgertrude.org/canamothers](https://stgertrude.org/canamothers), or contact Anita Pappalardo at [cana@stgertrude.org](mailto:cana@stgertrude.org).

## **Leadership Charisms**

Administration, Teaching, Pastoring, Hospitality, Encouragement

## **Participant Charisms**

Encouragement, Knowledge



# Catholic Mens Fellowship

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We are committed Catholic men who recognize our need for God's help. We gather in Christ's presence in trust, equality, and anonymity to share personal experiences and feelings. We unconditionally accept and prayerfully support one another. Our meetings are grounded in Scripture and prayer.

## **When We Meet**

Second and fourth Saturdays, 7:30–9 a.m. | School Cafeteria

## **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/catholicmensfellowship](http://stgertrude.org/catholicmensfellowship), or contact John Nosek at [johnnosekSTGmensfellowship@gmail.com](mailto:johnnosekSTGmensfellowship@gmail.com).

## **Leadership Charisms**

Pastoring, Evangelism, Administration, Leadership, Teaching

## **Participant Charism**

Encouragement, Knowledge, Wisdom



# Dominican Laity

## *Bishop Fenwick Fraternity*

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This fraternity is a group of lay members of the Order of Preachers who live out Dominican spirituality in the lay state. We strive for the sanctification of ourselves and those around us, especially those whom the religious cannot normally reach, and we focus on the study pillar of Dominican spirituality.

### **When We Meet**

First Tuesdays of the month, 7 p.m. (No meeting in July)

*Those in formation also have monthly meetings with the novice master.*

### **Learn More**

If you have questions or are interested in pursuing formation, please contact Mrs. Margaret Brecount, O.P., at [margaret@brecount.com](mailto:margaret@brecount.com), or visit [stgertrude.org/bishopfenwickfraternity](http://stgertrude.org/bishopfenwickfraternity).

### **Participant Charisms**

Evangelism, Intercessory Prayer, Knowledge, Missionary, Service, Teaching, Voluntary Poverty



# Dominican Laity

## *Our Lady of Peace Fraternity*

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This fraternity is a group of lay members of the Order of Preachers who live out Dominican spirituality in the lay state. We strive for the sanctification of ourselves and those around us, especially those whom the religious cannot normally reach, and focus on the four pillars of Dominican spirituality (prayer, study, community, and apostolate) with an emphasis on community.

### **When We Meet**

Second Monday of the month, 7 p.m. | School Cafeteria

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/ourladyofpeace](http://stgertrude.org/ourladyofpeace) or [olpfraternity.com](http://olpfraternity.com), or contact Mr. Fred Thomas, O.P., at [fcthomas3@gmail.com](mailto:fcthomas3@gmail.com).

### **Participant Charisms**

Encouragement, Evangelism, Intercessory Prayer, Knowledge, Missionary, Service, Voluntary Poverty





# Natural Family Planning

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Natural Family Planning (NFP)—fertility awareness—helps a couple know more about fertility by reading the body's signs of fertility and infertility. With this awareness, a married couple can virtuously choose to open themselves to the possibility of the gift of pregnancy or, as an exercise of responsibility, regulate procreation by spacing births of their children (cf. CCC §2368). A variety of NFP methods exist (e.g., Couple to Couple League's sympto-thermal method, Billings, Creighton, Marquette). We have parishioners trained in each of the four NFP methods. The current instructors would love to teach you how to utilize NFP in your life or how to become an instructor yourself.

## When We Meet

Couples schedule time to meet with one of our instructors for method instruction. Instructors meet occasionally or monthly if they are planning an event.

## Learn More

If you have questions about NFP and methods for yourself or if you want to become an instructor, visit [stgertrude.org/nfp](http://stgertrude.org/nfp), or email [nfp@stgertrude.org](mailto:nfp@stgertrude.org).

## Leadership Charisms

Wisdom, Teaching, Knowledge, Encouragement, Evangelism



# Omega

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Are you looking for a spark in your relationship with Christ? Are you seeking to grow in your Catholic faith, spiritually and intellectually? Join Omega, an adult faith formation opportunity to help you grow in your personal relationship with God, deepen your knowledge of the faith, and be formed to live out your calling to be a missionary disciple.

## **When We Meet**

September–May | Twice a month on Mondays

## **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/omega](https://stgertrude.org/omega), or contact our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org).

## **Leadership Charisms**

Pastoring, Encouragement, Evangelism, Hospitality, Teaching



# Parish Library

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The Parish Library, managed by the Dominican Laity—Bishop Fenwick Chapter, is located in the St. Joseph Room in the Parish Center. Our vast collection of books exists in order to help St. Gertrude Parish parishioners grow in their faith. In the library, you will find writings of the Church Fathers, great doctors and theologians of the Church, spiritual writings, works of fiction, and much more. Unless a meeting is scheduled in the St. Joseph Room, the library is open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## Learn More

Stop by the library to see our collection of books. Call the parish office at (513) 561-5954 for details about hours.



# St. Joseph Society

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Rooted in a strong community of like-minded men, a man of the St. Joseph Society devotes himself to living a life of virtue and holiness as an offering to Christ. The primary way that this occurs is through following a shared "rule of life" of mind, body, and spirit.

## When We Meet

First Saturday of the month, 5:30 a.m. | St. Gertrude Church  
*Meetings consist of a Holy Hour and then a discussion.*

## Learn More

For information about the St. Gertrude Parish chapter of the St. Joseph Society, visit [stgertrude.org/stjosephsociety](http://stgertrude.org/stjosephsociety), or contact Father Luke VanBerkum at [frluke@stgertrude.org](mailto:frluke@stgertrude.org). For general information, visit [stjosephsociety.org](http://stjosephsociety.org).

## Leadership Charisms

Administration, Leadership, Pastoring

## Participant Charisms

Knowledge, Extraordinary Faith



# True Devotion to Mary

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Join us for a nine-month study of St. Louis de Montfort's spiritual classic, *True Devotion to Mary*. The class is presented through videos that were professionally recorded during 2014 and 2015. The material includes a thorough look at the Church's teaching on Mariology, including Marian dogmas, Vatican councils, and numerous Marian saints. In addition to the videos, study guides help you dig deeper into the book. The study concludes with Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

## When We Meet

August–May | Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, 12:30–2:30 p.m. | Parish Center Lobby

## Learn More

You may join the study anytime during the year and attend one or as many meetings as time allows. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Collins at [stgertrudetdm@gmail.com](mailto:stgertrudetdm@gmail.com), or visit [stgertrude.org/tdm](http://stgertrude.org/tdm).



# Walking with Purpose

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Walking with Purpose (WWP) is a parish-based Bible study program for women. We welcome all adult women, regardless of faith background or marital status. WWP incorporates at-home Scripture study (the Bible and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*), weekly small group discussion, and monthly talks on relevant study material. Our goal is to deepen our relationship with Jesus and live a more intentional Christian life.

## When We Meet

We meet September–April in the Parish Center and are offering three meeting times this year:

- Mondays, 8:30–10:30 a.m.
- Every other Wednesday 6–8 p.m.
- Fridays, 8:30–10:30 a.m.

*Child care is provided on Mondays and Fridays only.*

## Learn More

For more information, visit [stgertrude.org/walkingwithpurpose](http://stgertrude.org/walkingwithpurpose), or email Martha Thompson at [wwp.st.gertrude@gmail.com](mailto:wwp.st.gertrude@gmail.com).

## Leadership Charisms

Encouragement, Leadership, Administration, Hospitality



# Young Adults Group

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The St. Gertrude Parish Young Adults Group is for adults ages 18-35 who want to build community, grow in their faith, and have fun while doing it.

## **When We Meet**

We don't have any regular meetings but get together for various social events, book studies, Holy Hours, service projects, etc. throughout the year. Check out the Sunday bulletin for upcoming events.

## **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/youngadults](http://stgertrude.org/youngadults), or contact Jayden Connolly at [jaycathconn@yahoo.com](mailto:jaycathconn@yahoo.com).

## **Leadership Charisms**

Administration, Leadership, Service, Hospitality, Evangelism, Helps



# FOR ADULTS

## Needing Support





# Fun Bunch

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The Fun Bunch is a group for those aged 55+ and an opportunity for seniors to come together for fellowship, activities, prayer, and education. During monthly meetings, experts in various fields give presentations on a variety of issues, ranging from practical daily life topics relevant to seniors to theological meditations from friars—and everything in between! Above all, the Fun Bunch is a way for St. Gertrude Parish to help seniors build community and have a good time.

## When We Meet

September–May | Third Tuesday of the month, 12:15-2 p.m.

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/funbunch](http://stgertrude.org/funbunch), or contact Diane Kennedy at (513) 791-6075.

## Leadership Charisms

Administration, Hospitality, Encouragement



# Parents of Precious Pearls

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Children are a treasure—and just like St. Margaret of Castello who was born with many physical disabilities and whose name means "pearl," children with special needs are a beautiful gift. Parents of Precious Pearls is a group of parents who have young or adult children with special health care needs. As we navigate caring for our pearls, we offer each other prayer, a listening ear, support, and help along the way.

## **When We Meet**

Please see [stgertrude.org/parentsofpearls](http://stgertrude.org/parentsofpearls) for the most up to date meeting information.

## **Learn More**

We are in the process of making changes to this group. Please visit [stgertrude.org/parentsofpearls](http://stgertrude.org/parentsofpearls), or contact Laura Nanista at (513) 301-6317.

## **Leadership Charisms**

Encouragement, Pastoring, Hospitality, Service, Helps



# Seasons of Hope

## *Bereavement*

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St. Gertrude Parish hosts a unique adult support group for the bereaved called Seasons of Hope. This program, rooted in Catholic tradition, conveys God's consolation through Scripture, prayer, reflections, faith sharing, and fellowship. Anyone who has suffered a loss, whether it be recent or years ago, is welcome.

### **When We Meet**

Six-week sessions are offered in fall and spring on Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/seasonsofhope](http://stgertrude.org/seasonsofhope) or contact Cindy Hertzelt at (513) 368-8941.

### **Leadership Charisms**

Encouragement, Mercy, Hospitality



# FOR ADULTS

## Seeking to Serve



# Athletic Boosters

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St. Gertrude Parish Athletic Boosters manages and fundraises for all organized sports activities for parishioners in grades K–8.

## When We Meet

Meetings are usually on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the St. Joseph Room in the Parish Center. Executive board members and sports coordinators are required to attend; however, all Boosters members are welcome at meetings.

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/boosters](http://stgertrude.org/boosters), or contact Rob Gruber at [rlgruber5@gmail.com](mailto:rlgruber5@gmail.com) or Gena Bailey at [gena03@hotmail.com](mailto:gena03@hotmail.com).

## Leadership Charisms

Administration

## Participant Charisms

Craftsmanship, Hospitality, Service, Giving



# Communion to the Sick

## *Liturgical Ministry*

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Communion to the Sick is a group of parishioners who bring the Blessed Sacrament to those who are homebound or in hospitals. Those wishing to serve in this ministry must receive training as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.

### **When We Meet**

There are no regular meetings.

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/communiontothesick](http://stgertrude.org/communiontothesick). If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact the parish office at (513) 561-5954 or [parishoffice@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishoffice@stgertrude.org).

### **Participant Charisms**

Service, Mercy



# Evangelization Team

---

Do you want to share the joy of the Gospel with others? Do you have the desire to lead family, friends, and colleagues to be disciples of Jesus Christ but aren't sure how to do it? Join the Evangelization Team!

The Evangelization Team consists of parishioners who have a desire to embrace the call to be missionary disciples and invite others to be disciples of Jesus Christ in his Church. We come together for prayer, formation in evangelization and discipleship, and discernment for forming apostolates and ministries.

## When We Meet

September–April | Fourth Thursday of the Month, 6–8:30 p.m.

*No meeting in December*

## Learn More

All parishioners with a passion or charism for evangelization or the desire to evangelize are invited to join the team. Please contact our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org).

## Participant Charisms

Evangelism, Hospitality, Intercessory Prayer



# Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

## *Liturgical Ministry*

---

Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) are parishioners who distribute Holy Communion to the faithful during Masses.

### **When We Meet**

There are no regular meetings. New members must undergo training, which is arranged as needed.

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/ministersofcommunion](http://stgertrude.org/ministersofcommunion), or contact our Office of Worship at [worship@stgertrude.org](mailto:worship@stgertrude.org).

### **Participant Charisms**

Encouragement, Healing, Mercy, Service





# Finance Council

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The St. Gertrude Parish Finance Council advises the pastor and the parish council on financial implications of their respective decisions for the parish. It provides necessary research and long-range planning by reviewing and approving financial plans and budgets and significant parish expenditures, supporting the pastor in ongoing parish financial management, presenting financial status and recommendations to the pastor and parish council, and assisting in the development and presentation of the annual report to the parish. The council has between six and nine members at a time and is structured so that council nominations are reviewed annually at the July meeting. Finance council members have up to two three-year terms.

## **When We Meet**

Every other month

## **Learn More**

Email our finance council chairperson at [financecouncil@stgertrude.org](mailto:financecouncil@stgertrude.org).

## **Participant Charisms**

Encouragement, Healing, Helps, Mercy, Teaching, Wisdom



# Funeral Hospitality

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The Funeral Hospitality ministry provides compassionate support to grieving families during a difficult time. This ministry often encompasses two key areas: assisting with funeral Masses and coordinating funeral receptions. During the funeral Mass, volunteers will assist the family, helping to ensure a smooth and reverent service. Following the Mass, the ministry extends its care by organizing and overseeing the funeral reception, which might involve setting up the Parish Center, preparing or serving food, and providing a comforting presence. This allows families to focus on their grief and connect with loved ones without the burden of logistical concerns.

## When We Meet

There are no meetings.

*You are not committed to volunteering at every funeral Mass or reception; you volunteer when you are available to assist at a funeral Mass or to provide food for a reception—or both.*

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/funeralhospitality](http://stgertrude.org/funeralhospitality), or contact Nancy Lucas at [funeralhospitality@stgertrude.org](mailto:funeralhospitality@stgertrude.org) or (513) 940-2643.

## Leadership Charisms

Administration, Hospitality, Helps, Service



# Hospitality Team

---

Are you warm and welcoming? Do you enjoy building relationships? The St. Gertrude Parish Hospitality Team seeks to help incorporate others into the parish community by building bridges of trust whereby people can encounter Christ through each other.

The hospitality team creates a welcoming support for the following events and functions:

- Ministry Leader Summit and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
- Greeters for Mass and other events
- New Parishioner Dinners
- New parishioner welcome process
- Coffee and doughnut Sundays

## When We Meet

We meet three or four times per year for organizational meetings and communal prayer.

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/hospitalityteam](http://stgertrude.org/hospitalityteam). If you are interested in joining this ministry, contact our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org).

## Participant Charisms

Hospitality, Helps, Service, Administration, Encouragement, Evangelism, Mercy



# Knights of Columbus

---

The Knights of Columbus Archbishop Elder Council #1195 is part of a national fraternity of Catholic men who are building a bridge back to faith. It's one thing to say who you are; it's another to live it. Knights of Columbus put their faith into action every single day. The Knights support St. Gertrude Parish, the community, families, youth, and life—from conception to natural death—through the corporal works of mercy. From blood drives and pancake breakfasts, to pregnancy center fundraisers, winter coat drives for children, and more, we are making a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

## When We Meet

We meet regularly two times each month:

- **Business Meeting:** The first Thursday of every month; open to all Knights (with a current membership card) and prospective members. We pray the rosary at 7 p.m., and then begin the meeting.
- **Rosary Social:** Every third Tuesday of the month; open to the entire parish. We pray the rosary at 7 p.m. in the church, and then go to the Parish Center for a special talk or presentation and refreshments.

## Learn More

If you have questions or want more details about Archbishop Elder Council, please visit [stgertrude.org/knightsofcolumbus](http://stgertrude.org/knightsofcolumbus), or contact Grand Knight Bill Shefcik at [grandknight@elderkofc.org](mailto:grandknight@elderkofc.org).

## Participant Charisms

Pastoring, Hospitality, Leadership, Teaching, Helps, Craftsmanship



# Ladies of Charity

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The St. Gertrude Parish Ladies of Charity (LoC) is a group of women who are passionate about helping vulnerable people in the community move from marginalization and despair to participation and hope. The LoC is on a mission to provide Vincentian leadership to women acting together against all forms of poverty and lives this call in various ways:

- Annual Fall Craft & Gift Show and Bake Sale
- Annual Treasure Mart
- Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Annual Christmas Giving Tree Project
- Weekend collections for local charities
- Emergency assistance with rent, food, and utilities

## When We Meet

January, March, May, September | Second Saturday of the month, 10–11:30 a.m. | Parish Center Lobby

## Learn More

For more information or to become a member of the Ladies of Charity, visit [stgertrude.org/ladiesofcharity](http://stgertrude.org/ladiesofcharity), or contact Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085 or [jeanhwilkinson@gmail.com](mailto:jeanhwilkinson@gmail.com).

## Leadership Charisms

Administration, Leadership

## Participant Charisms

Voluntary Poverty, Extraordinary Faith, Giving, Missionary



# Laudare Ensemble

## *Liturgical Ministry*

---

Laudare is an ensemble of singers and instrumentalists who provide music for the 6 p.m. Sunday Mass, balancing timeless traditional hymns with music by contemporary liturgical composers.

### **When We Meet**

We rehearse from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. on Sundays, immediately before the 6 p.m. Mass.

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/laudare](https://stgertrude.org/laudare), or contact the director, Paul Kindt, at [pkindt@zoomtown.com](mailto:pkindt@zoomtown.com).

### **Participant Charisms**

Evangelism, Music, Service



# Lectors

## *Liturgical Ministry*

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Lectors proclaim the Word of God at Mass.

### **When We Meet**

There are no regular meetings. New members must undergo training, which is arranged as needed.

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/lectors](http://stgertrude.org/lectors), or contact our Office of Worship at [worship@stgertrude.org](mailto:worship@stgertrude.org).

### **Participant Charisms**

Evangelism, Service



# Lenten Fish Fry

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The St. Gertrude Parish annual Lenten fish fry takes place on three Fridays during Lent in the Parish Center, offering dine-in, carry out, and online ordering for drive-thru pickup. We serve hand-dipped fried haddock loins, Nashville hot fried haddock, roasted lemon dill salmon, many in-house made sides, pizza, beer, and wine. There are plenty of options for the whole family, even those who do not enjoy fish.

## When We Meet

We do not have any meetings.

## Learn More

Many volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Look for a volunteer signup link in the Sunday bulletin and Weekly News email during Lent. In the meantime, visit [stgertrude.org/lentenfishfry](http://stgertrude.org/lentenfishfry), or contact Matt Genung at [mgenung@gmail.com](mailto:mgenung@gmail.com) or Rob Mancini at [robert.mancini@huntington.com](mailto:robert.mancini@huntington.com)

## Participant Charisms

Craftsmanship, Hospitality, Service, Helps, Leadership





# Parish Choir

## *Liturgical Ministry*

---

The Parish Choir is a group of volunteer singers, high school Choral Scholars, and eight professional section leaders that sings at the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass and for major feasts, Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter.

### **When We Meet**

We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lower level of the Parish Center. On Sunday, we meet at 9 a.m. prior to singing at the 10 a.m. Mass.

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/parishchoir](http://stgertrude.org/parishchoir), or contact our director of music, Dr. Christopher Holman, at [cholman@stgertrude.org](mailto:cholman@stgertrude.org).

### **Participant Charisms**

Evangelism, Music, Service



# Parish Coffees

## *Hospitality Ministry*

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The St. Gertrude Parish Coffees team consists of men and women who make it possible for parishioners to gather in fellowship after Mass. Members of this ministry host the hospitality table after Masses on the second and fourth Sundays of the month during the school year, serving coffee and doughnuts to parishioners and providing an opportunity for our community to come together in fellowship.

### **When We Meet**

We do not meet on a regular basis but gather twice per month to serve coffee and doughnuts to parishioners after 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday Masses.

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/parishcoffees](http://stgertrude.org/parishcoffees). If you are interested in being part of the Parish Coffees team, contact Mark Findley at (513) 417-9227 or [mfindley@epilepsy-ohio.org](mailto:mfindley@epilepsy-ohio.org), or call the parish office at (513) 561-5954.

### **Participant Charisms**

Hospitality, Administration



# Parish Health Ministry

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The St. Gertrude Parish Health Ministry is a group of men and women who are on a mission to reflect the compassionate, healing love of Jesus Christ. Members serve the parish and community by helping people achieve optimal health and wellness of body, mind, and spirit through health education, prevention programs, screenings, referrals, advocacy, and other whole-person health-related services.

## When We Meet

The Health Cabinet (leadership team) meets via Zoom once per month during the school year.

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/parishhealthministry](https://stgertrude.org/parishhealthministry), or contact our chairperson, Jeanne Palcic, RN, at [jpalcic@fuse.net](mailto:jpalcic@fuse.net) or (513) 317-4123.

## Participant Charisms

Healing, Encouragement, Mercy, Intercessory Prayer



# Pastoral Council

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At the parish level, the pastor, together with his parish staff and members of pastoral council and committees, works to provide for the ministries and programs serving our mission. The pastoral council, acting as a consultative body, is the vehicle by which the pastor and his pastoral staff consider and test their ideas and proposals with a group representing the entire parish community. It is the official listening post for the local parish community—the pastor listening to his people, and the people listening to their pastor. The St. Gertrude Parish Pastoral Council has 12 members. The executive committee consists of a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and the pastor. Council members serve for a three-year term.

## When We Meet

August–May | Monthly

*The May meeting is a time of transition with old and new members present.*

## Learn More

Every January/February, parishioners are invited to submit pastoral council nominations for either themselves or others. In March, those interested attend an informational meeting for nominees and submit a letter of intent. In April, the council reviews those letters and interviews interested nominees. Seating of new members is at the May meeting. This is all detailed at [stgertrude.org/pastoralcouncil](http://stgertrude.org/pastoralcouncil).

## Participant Charisms

Hospitality, Helps, Service, Administration, Encouragement, Evangelism, Mercy



# Photography Ministry

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From ministry meetings and pancake breakfasts, to Holy Hours and charitable collections, there is a lot that goes on at St. Gertrude Parish and School—and at all times of the day. The Photography Ministry was created to capture those events on camera for use on our website and Facebook page and in promotional materials, our Sunday bulletin, and more! The Photography Ministry consists of a group of St. Gertrude Parish parishioners, of all skill levels, who have a passion for photography and are using their gifts to capture parish life on camera.

## When We Meet

We do not meet on a regular basis.

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/photography](http://stgertrude.org/photography), or email our director of communication, Michelle Dushensky, at [mdushensky@stgertrude.org](mailto:mdushensky@stgertrude.org).

## Participant Charisms

Craftsmanship



# Respect Life Ministry

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Our Respect Life Ministry consists of men and women who are passionate about promoting and supporting life from natural conception to natural death. We do this by the following actions:

- supporting local pregnancy resource centers with volunteer hours, financial contributions, donation drives, and more;
- working with Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati and participating in events the organization sponsors;
- organizing and/or participating in community events like the Crosses of the Innocent, 40 Days for Life, educational presentations, and more; and
- engaging, in each individual citizens' capacity, in elections where life is on the line.

## When We Meet

First Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. | Parish Center

*The schedule has some fluctuations, so be sure you are on our Respect Life Ministry email list so you get meeting reminders and event updates.*

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/respectlifeministry](http://stgertrude.org/respectlifeministry). To be added to our ministry email list, email [stgertrudeprolife@gmail.com](mailto:stgertrudeprolife@gmail.com).

## Leadership Charisms

Administration, Leadership

## Participant Charisms

Service, Wisdom, Evangelism



# Rosary Makers

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The St. Gertrude Rosary Makers is a group of men and women who believe in the power of the rosary and desire to share this beautiful prayer with the world. We create handmade corded rosaries: 15 decade rosaries, 5 decade rosaries (standard), 1 decade rosaries (pocket-size), and bookmarks.

## When We Meet

Third Wednesday of the month, 3 p.m. | St. Joseph Room

*We also sell our handmade rosaries after Masses on the first Sunday of the month.*

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/rosarymakers](http://stgertrude.org/rosarymakers). Anyone is welcome to join! If you are interested, call Mary or Larry Ball at (513) 831-8572.

## Leadership Charisms

Administration, Leadership

## Participant Charisms

Giving, Craftsmanship, Helps



# Sacristans

---

Sacristans help with liturgical preparations, organizing things in the sacristy, and setting up the sanctuary for Mass and other liturgies. Duties involve arriving early to set out needed items for Mass, checking in on other liturgical ministers, and assisting with last-minute needs. There are also volunteer opportunities, such as cleaning, polishing, decorating, and preparing for Sunday and Holy Day Masses.

## When We Meet

There are no meetings. Sacristans can help during the week and on weekends.

## Learn More

If you are interested in being a sacristan, please contact Father Luke VanBerkum at [frluke@stgertrude.org](mailto:frluke@stgertrude.org).

## Participant Charisms

Administration, Helps, Service





# Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) is a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, who are growing in faith, friendship, and service. Our SVdP conference serves the community through home visits to neighbors in need. The parish as a whole supports SVdP through food drives (including collecting items in the food barrel inside the sacristy door), placing money in the poor boxes, and other donations to help people in need with rent, utilities, and more.

## **When We Meet**

The second Tuesday of the month, 7–8 p.m. | St. Joseph Room

## **Learn More**

For more details about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at St. Gertrude Parish, visit [stgertrude.org/svdP](http://stgertrude.org/svdP), or call (513) 561-5954, ext. 2112. For more information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Cincinnati, please visit [svdpcincinnati.org](http://svdpcincinnati.org).

## **Leadership Charisms**

Administration, Leadership

## **Participant Charisms**

Giving, Mercy, Voluntary Poverty, Hospitality



# Soup Kitchen Ministry

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The St. Gertrude Parish Soup Kitchen Ministry consists of adults, young adults, teens, and families who act as the hands and feet of Christ by serving needy people in our community. For over 35 years, St. Gertrude Parish has been involved with the Over the Rhine Soup Kitchen. Approximately four to six times during the year, our parishioners volunteer to cook and serve a meal to 200–300 hungry people at the soup kitchen. This is an excellent first way for families to show their children what poverty looks like in Cincinnati and how they can get involved and help. It takes around 30 people to cook the main meal and side items and serve the food.

## When We Meet

We do not have any formal meetings. Watch the Sunday bulletin and Weekly News email for upcoming service dates and signups.

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/soupkitchen](http://stgertrude.org/soupkitchen), or contact Andy Cordier at [cordierdad@gmail.com](mailto:cordierdad@gmail.com).

## Leadership Charism

Administration, Leadership

## Participant Charisms

Helps, Encouragement, Mercy, Service



# Stewardship Committee

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The St. Gertrude Parish Stewardship Committee promotes a culture of stewardship in our parish through the planning and execution of stewardship renewals, supporting parish ministries, reaching out to fellow parishioners, and living out stewardship in the use of individuals' time, talents, and treasures.

## When We Meet

The Stewardship Committee meets on a monthly basis. Contact our director of stewardship, Hope Ramundo, at [hramundo@stgertrude.org](mailto:hramundo@stgertrude.org), for upcoming meeting dates.

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/stewardshipcommittee](http://stgertrude.org/stewardshipcommittee), or contact our director of stewardship, Hope Ramundo, at [hramundo@stgertrude.org](mailto:hramundo@stgertrude.org).

## Leadership Charisms

Administration, Leadership, Giving, Helps, Service



# Ushers

## *Liturgical Ministry*

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Ushers are friendly men and women who help parishioners and visitors feel welcome at Mass and special liturgies and events. Any parishioner is welcome to serve as an usher.

Ushers have a variety of responsibilities, including:

- greeting and sometimes seating people as they arrive,
- taking up the collection,
- answering questions,
- providing direction,
- aiding anyone attending Mass who may become ill,
- distributing bulletins, and
- straightening up after Mass.

### **When We Meet**

We currently do not meet on a regular basis. Ushers serve on Sundays and Holy Days and for certain special occasions. Each usher determines how often he or she wants to serve, based on his or her schedule. (You do not need to commit to a specific Mass or frequency.)

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/ushers](http://stgertrude.org/ushers), or contact Doug Postler at (513) 791-6298 or [postman8905@gmail.com](mailto:postman8905@gmail.com).

### **Participant Charisms**

Hospitality, Service, Helps



# Viri Selecti

## *Liturgical Ministry*

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Viri Selecti is a group of men committed to learning and serving the traditional Dominican Rite form of the Mass in order to preserve and propagate true and edifying worship in the Church.

### **When We Meet**

About a week prior to a scheduled Dominican Rite Mass (typically once a month), the men who will be serving at the altar will meet to run through the Mass with the celebrant. On the day of the Mass, we meet an hour and a half before Mass begins to do another run through, set up the sanctuary area, and pray. Most of the time, commitment will come up front as you learn the Dominican Rite from written resources and watching recordings of the Mass.

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/viriselecti](http://stgertrude.org/viriselecti), or contact Ben Hoffmann at [pxaw@hotmail.com](mailto:pxaw@hotmail.com).

### **Leadership Charism**

Administration, Hospitality

### **Participant Charisms**

Service



**FOR CHILDREN &  
YOUTH**



# St. Gertrude School

## *Grades K-8*

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Since its founding in 1934, St. Gertrude School (SGS) has been led by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia and offers academic excellence in the Dominican tradition: preaching truth, practicing virtue, and loving one another in Christ. St. Gertrude School fosters this excellence in each student through exceptional Catholic academic development and faith formation. Our grade school is a special blend of timeless wisdom and spiritual discovery, a place where learning and communion flourish. SGS is a place where children build a lasting relationship with God, treasured friendships with each other, and discover a home not just for nine years, but for life.

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrudesch.org](http://stgertrudesch.org), or contact our principal, Mr. Travis Johnson, at [tjohnson@stgertrudesch.org](mailto:tjohnson@stgertrudesch.org), or our vice principal, Sister Mariana Thayer, O.P., at [smariana@stgertrudesch.org](mailto:smariana@stgertrudesch.org).



# Athletics

## *Grades K-8*

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St. Gertrude Parish's athletic program provides all parish children in grades K-8 with the instruction, guidance, and direction necessary to develop their talents in athletics, while at the same time forming them in those virtues that are an integral part of team play and competition.

### **When We Meet**

Practices and games vary by season and sport.

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/athletics](http://stgertrude.org/athletics), or contact our athletic director, Jake Dummermuth, at [jdummermuth@stgertrudesch.org](mailto:jdummermuth@stgertrudesch.org).

### **Leadership Charisms**

Administration, Encouragement, Teaching, Leadership





# Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

## *Faith Formation, Age 3–Grade 3*

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The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS), is a Montessori-influenced faith formation experience for children, where adult catechists foster each child's desire to "help me come closer to God by myself." Children are invited into a beautiful and developmentally appropriate environment called the atrium. There is time for prayer, presentations from Scripture or the liturgy, and personal work.

### **When We Meet**

September–April | Weekly, times vary

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/cgs](http://stgertrude.org/cgs), or contact our coordinator of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Mary Beth Thiemann, at [mbthiemann@stgertrude.org](mailto:mbthiemann@stgertrude.org).

### **Leadership Charisms**

Teaching, Hospitality, Administration, Encouragement, Evangelism



# Little Flowers

## Girls' Club

### *Grades K-4*

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Based on the 1906 Catholic classic *The Catholic Girls' Guide* by Father F.X. Lasance and the spirituality of St. Thérèse (the Little Flower), this beautiful, authentically Catholic program teaches virtues through Scripture, saint biographies, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

#### **When We Meet**

September 10, 2025–May 2026 | 2nd Wednesday of the month  
6-7:30 p.m. | Parish Center

#### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/littleflowers](http://stgertrude.org/littleflowers), or contact, Hannah Kunkel at [hannahrkunkel@gmail.com](mailto:hannahrkunkel@gmail.com).

#### **Leadership Charisms**

Administration, Hospitality, Evangelism, Teaching, Knowledge, Service, Craftsmanship



# Cub Scouts Pack 555

## *Boys & Girls in Grades K-5*

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Cub Scouts is part of the scouting program of Scouting America, formerly known as Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The mission of Scouting America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Cub Scouts is designed to help children develop skills, make friends, and have fun while learning about the world around them.

At our parish, Cub Scout Pack 555 focuses on doing our best and having fun doing it. At the heart of scouting are hands-on, interactive activities designed to be fun for children while teaching them about perseverance and developing their problem-solving abilities. There are opportunities to spend time as a family and to do things that help build upon the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Cub Scout adventures include model rockets, fishing, pinewood derby, Raingutter Regatta, hiking, archery, camping, swimming, and shooting sports

### **When We Meet**

Every other Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. with a few weekend events. We usually meet in the St. Gertrude School cafeteria but occasionally meet off-site for special events.

### **Learn More**

Scouts are welcome to join anytime throughout the year! Come to a Wednesday meeting to sign up, or contact Matt Frye at (574) 529-0427 or [mrmattfrye@gmail.com](mailto:mrmattfrye@gmail.com). Learn more at [stgertrude.org/cubscouts](http://stgertrude.org/cubscouts).



# First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion

## *Sacramental Formation*

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Our Sacramental Formation program collaborates with parents in helping prepare children (generally in second grade) for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Parents and children attend meetings together to pray with Scripture, receive presentations based in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and be given practical knowledge to receive these sacraments.

### **When We Meet**

October–April | Monthly, multiple sessions and times offered

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/sacramentalformation](http://stgertrude.org/sacramentalformation), or contact our coordinator of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Mary Beth Thiemann, at [mbthiemann@stgertrude.org](mailto:mbthiemann@stgertrude.org).

### **Leadership Charism**

Teaching, Hospitality, Administration, Encouragement, Pastoring



# Schola Cantorum

## *Liturgical Ministry, Choir*

### *Ages 8-13*

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The Schola Cantorum (School of Singing) is a mixed-voice ensemble that consists of children ages 8–13 and professional singers from the Cincinnati area. This special choir, unique in the Cincinnati area and one of less than a dozen of its kind in the entire U.S., is founded on the Church's ancient tradition of choral training: children sing the soprano line while professional singers sing the alto, tenor, and bass parts.

### **When We Meet**

August–May | Rehearsals are Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m., and Sunday at 11 a.m. We sing for the 12 p.m. Sunday Mass.

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/scola](http://stgertrude.org/scola), or contact our director of music, Dr. Christopher Holman, at [cholman@stgertrude.org](mailto:cholman@stgertrude.org).



# Family Faith

## *Faith Formation, Grades 4–6*

---

Family Faith is a Faith Formation program for families with children in grades 4–6. In Family Faith we support parents, as primary educators of their children, to foster personal encounters with Jesus Christ through prayer and teaching and to form community among the families of our parish.

### **When We Meet**

September–April | First and third Sunday mornings

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/familyfaith](http://stgertrude.org/familyfaith), or contact our director of children and youth evangelization, Walter Plummer, at (513) 561-5954, ext. 2122, or [wplummer@stgerturde.org](mailto:wplummer@stgerturde.org).

### **Leadership Charisms**

Teaching, Hospitality, Administration, Encouragement, Pastoring



# Sons of St. Joseph

## *Liturgical Ministry, Altar Servers*

### *Boys, Young Men in Grades 4-12*

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The Sons of St. Joseph is a ministry for boys and young men in fourth grade through high school who are trained to serve as altar servers for Mass and other important liturgical celebrations. They are also mentored in Dominican spirituality, build community, and provide needed service to the Church. It is a program of fraternity, discipline, accountability, and discernment with a focus on the spirituality of manhood, priesthood, and fatherhood.

#### **When We Meet**

Monthly for trainings, plus altar service commitments

#### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/sonsofstjoseph](http://stgertrude.org/sonsofstjoseph), or email Ben Hoffmann at [pxaw@hotmail.com](mailto:pxaw@hotmail.com).

#### **Leadership Charisms**

Administration, Service, Leadership



# St. Anne & the Child Mary Guild

## *Liturgical Ministry*

### *Girls in Grades 5–8*

---

The St Anne and Child Mary Guild is a spiritual group created to give the girls of our school and church an opportunity to be more tangibly involved in serving the parish community, growing in their own faith life, and learning about the various vocations God may be calling them to through social interactions with each other and other women mentors. Open to 5th-8th grade girls, the monthly meetings typically include breakfast and social time, care for the church by tidying and cleaning, a craft, and a short talk.

### **When We Meet**

Typically the second Saturday of the month, 9-11:15 a.m. (please check schedule at [stgertrude.org/stanneguild](http://stgertrude.org/stanneguild), as dates can change)

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/stanneguild](http://stgertrude.org/stanneguild), or contact Ann McCormick at [ann.mccormick@gmail.com](mailto:ann.mccormick@gmail.com).

### **Leadership Charisms**

Administration, Service, Helps, Leadership





# Boy Scouts Troop 555

## *Boys Grades 5-Age 18*

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Scouting has been a helpful, cheerful, and reverent part of the St. Gertrude Parish community since 1965. Troop 555 is a traditional boy scout troop on the boy-led model. The Scout Oath and the Scout Law inform our efforts to prepare boys of high moral character for service leadership in a complex and challenging world. Our programming focus is on monthly camping outings throughout Greater Cincinnati and beyond, navigating the ranks and merits of scouting, and deepening our personal character and intrapersonal friendships—all in the context of our Catholic tradition.

### **When We Meet**

Tuesday, 7 p.m. | St. Gertrude School Cafeteria

### **Learn More**

New scouts are always welcome! Visit [stgertrude.org/boyscouts](http://stgertrude.org/boyscouts), or contact our scoutmaster, Paul Schmid, at [schmidp1@hotmail.com](mailto:schmidp1@hotmail.com).



# Confirmation Preparation *Sacramental Formation*

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Our Confirmation Preparation program is a two-year process that aims to help young men and women deepen their personal relationships with Jesus, grow in knowledge of the faith, and empower them to share the light of Christ in their homes, schools, and friend groups. We begin our formation in seventh grade, and candidates may receive Confirmation at the end of their eighth grade year.

## **When We Meet**

September–April | Second and fourth Sunday mornings

## **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/confirmationprep](https://stgertrude.org/confirmationprep), or contact our director of children and youth evangelization, Walter Plummer, at (513) 561-5954, ext. 2122, or [wplummer@stgertrude.org](mailto:wplummer@stgertrude.org).

## **Leadership Charisms**

Administration, Leadership, Teaching, Pastoring, Evangelism



# Junior High Youth Ministry

## *Grades 7–8*

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Our ministry for junior high fosters a base camp experience of the Christian life. Inspired by the lives of saints who embarked on the adventure of the Christian life, we cultivate time and space for encountering Christ through prayer, the sacraments, and real formation for daily discipleship.

### **When We Meet**

See [stgertrude.org/jrhigh](http://stgertrude.org/jrhigh) for the most up-to-date information.

### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/jrhigh](http://stgertrude.org/jrhigh), or contact our coordinator of youth ministry, Shannon Loughrey, at [sloughrey@stgertrude.org](mailto:sloughrey@stgertrude.org).

### **Leadership Charism**

Administration, Leadership, Teaching, Pastoring, Evangelism



# L'alto: High School Ministry *Grades 9–12*

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Inspired by the magnanimous life of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, L'alto: High School cultivates time and space for teens to become who God has created them to be and to set the world on fire for love of Christ. We gather for weekly meetings and host periodic social events and retreats marked by Christ-centered community, prayer, and purpose.

## **When We Meet**

Late August–May | Sunday, 7–9 p.m.

## **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/highschool](https://stgertrude.org/highschool), or contact our coordinator of youth ministry, Shannon Loughrey, at [sloughrey@stgertrude.org](mailto:sloughrey@stgertrude.org).

## **Leadership Charisms**

Hospitality, Leadership, Teaching, Pastoring, Evangelism



# Choral Scholars

## *Liturgical Ministry, Choir*

### *Grades 9–12*

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St. Gertrude Parish's Choral Scholars are high school students who are pursuing rigorous vocal training by singing the great music of the Church in the Parish Choir on a weekly basis. Each Choral Scholar receives a scholarship worth \$3,300, which includes a monetary award, free weekly voice lessons, and more.

#### **When We Meet**

September–May | Rehearsals are Thursdays from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and weekly voice lessons as arranged with the singing teacher.

#### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/choralscholarsprogram](http://stgertrude.org/choralscholarsprogram), or contact Cynthia Holman at [cynthia.holman@stgertrude.org](mailto:cynthia.holman@stgertrude.org).



# Collegium

## *Liturgical Ministry, Choir*

### *Grades 9–12*

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The Collegium is St. Gertrude Parish's choir for high school students, which sings occasionally for the 12 p.m. Sunday Mass when the Schola Cantorum is off. The choir primarily focuses on singing plainchant and simple motets.

#### **When We Meet**

Rehearsals are 6 to 7:30 p.m. on varying weeknights before each Mass at which they sing. Rehearsals are followed by free pizza and the opportunity to relax and spend time together.

#### **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/collegium](http://stgertrude.org/collegium), or contact our director of music, Dr. Christopher Holman, at [cholman@stgertrude.org](mailto:cholman@stgertrude.org).



# SACRAMENTS & WORSHIP



# Baptism

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“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments.” Through Baptism we are united with Christ, freed from sin, and recreated as sons and daughters of the Father” (CCC 1213).

## Preparing for Baptism

Parents seeking to have their child (newborn to around age six) baptized at St. Gertrude Parish should visit [stgertrude.org/baptismform](http://stgertrude.org/baptismform) to complete an interest form. If this is your first child to be baptized at St. Gertrude or it has been more than five years since the last time you had a child baptized here, you will need to participate in our Baptism program, Rooted: Family Baptism Formation. To learn more, visit [stgertrude.org/baptism](http://stgertrude.org/baptism).

Children and youth (7-16 years old) interested in being baptized should contact our director of children and youth evangelization, Walter Plummer, at [wplummer@stgertrude.org](mailto:wplummer@stgertrude.org).

Adults interested in being baptized should contact our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org), or refer to page 8 for information about our Become Catholic program.

## Celebrating Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated most Sunday afternoons. Adults and youth (age seven and older) are typically baptized at the Easter Vigil Mass. Other arrangements and dates are possible as needed. Our Baptism team will work with you to determine the most suitable time.





# Confirmation

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“Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Confirmation brings to perfection what is begun in Baptism, namely, it unites us more firmly with Christ and his Church, empowers us to witness to our faith in words and deeds, and confirms us in our identity as sons and daughters of the Father” (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1316).

## Preparing for Confirmation

Confirmation preparation for youth typically begins in seventh grade, with reception in eighth grade. Parents who want to learn more about preparing their child for this sacrament should refer to page 75 for details about our Confirmation Preparation program.

Adults interested in receiving the sacrament of Confirmation should contact our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org), or refer to page 8 for information about our Become Catholic program. You can also learn more about Confirmation at [stgertrude.org/confirmation](http://stgertrude.org/confirmation).

## Celebrating Confirmation

Following a suitable period of preparation, Confirmation is typically celebrated during Mass in the Easter season, although it can be celebrated at other times. For eighth graders in our Confirmation Preparation program, we have a special Confirmation Mass on a Sunday afternoon in May.



# Eucharist & Adoration

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The Eucharist is the “sum and summary” (CCC 1327) of the Christian life. All of the other sacraments and ministries of the Church are ordered and directed toward it. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ordinary bread and wine become the bread of eternal life—the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

## Mass Times

We offer many opportunities for Mass on a daily and weekly basis:

- **Monday–Friday** | 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
- **Saturday** | 8 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. (Vigil)
- **Sunday** | 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 6 p.m.

## Preparing for First Holy Communion (Eucharist)

Typically, children prepare to receive First Holy Communion in second grade. Parents who want to learn more about preparing their children for this sacrament should refer to page 69 for more details.

Adults interested in receiving the Eucharist for the first time should contact our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org), or refer to page 8 for information about our Become Catholic program.

## Celebrating First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion is typically celebrated during the Easter season, but other arrangements can be made as needed. Our Evangelization Team will work with you to determine the most suitable time to receive the sacrament.



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Children enrolled at St. Gertrude School or in our First Holy Communion Sacramental Preparation program will receive First Holy Communion at a special Mass in the spring.

### **Communion to the Sick and Homebound**

Our priests and lay ministers are available to bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound. Please call the parish office at (513) 561-5954 to request Eucharist. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please see page 39.

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

Eucharistic adoration is an opportunity to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Praying before Jesus sacramentally present in the Eucharist extends the union between Christ and the person who has received him in Communion—adoration flows from the Mass.

Our Mother of Mercy Adoration Chapel (located in the Parish Center) is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Stop by anytime. To commit to a set hour each week, sign up to be a Eucharistic guardian. Two guardians are needed during every hour for the chapel to remain open. We also have a special Holy Hour every Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the church.

To sign up to be a guardian or for more details about adoration, visit [stgertrude.org/adoration](http://stgertrude.org/adoration), or call the parish office at (513) 561-5954.



# Anointing of the Sick

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“By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayer of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord, that he may raise them up and save them” (CCC 1499).

Anointing of the Sick is a healing sacrament of the Church given when one is facing serious physical or mental illness, advanced age, or surgery due to one of these. When one is near death, anointing is offered as part of the Last Rites, along with the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. This sacrament may be administered at church or in a hospital or person’s home.

The special grace of this sacrament unites the sick person to the passion of Jesus, strengthens him or her in his or her suffering, heals sins, and may bring about restoration of health if it is beneficial for the soul. It prepares those near death to pass over to eternal life.

## **Celebrating Anointing of the Sick**

If you or a loved one would like to receive this sacrament, please contact the parish office at [parishoffice@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishoffice@stgertrude.org) or (513) 561-5954. Our priests are available 24/7 in case of emergency. When in doubt, call and we will assist you.

## **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/sick](http://stgertrude.org/sick).



# Funerals

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St. Gertrude Parish clergy and staff are prepared to assist you in planning a sacred funeral Mass for your loved one. In its richness, tradition, and beauty, a Catholic funeral liturgy provides abundant graces and consolation. Our solace as Christians takes root in the hope that comes from faith in the saving death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you navigate your loss, we also offer additional support through Seasons of Hope (see page 36) and Heaven's Gain Ministries ([heavensgain.org](http://heavensgain.org)).

## **Learn More**

We are currently updating our funeral planning process. Please contact the parish office at (513) 561-5954 or [parishoffice@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishoffice@stgertrude.org) if you have any questions about planning a funeral at St. Gertrude Parish.



# Reconciliation

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“The sacrament of Reconciliation with God brings about a true ‘spiritual resurrection,’ restoration of the dignity and blessings of the life of the children of God, of which the most precious is friendship with God” (CCC 1468).

## Confession Times

We offer the sacrament of Reconciliation six days per week:

- **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday** | 4 p.m.
- **Wednesday** | 4 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- **Saturday** | 3:30 p.m.

If you need to make other arrangements, contact the parish office at [parishoffice@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishoffice@stgertrude.org) or (513) 561-5954.

## Preparing for First Reconciliation

Children are typically prepared to receive First Reconciliation in second grade, prior to First Holy Communion. For more information about having your child prepared to receive this sacrament, see page 69.

Adults interested in receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time should contact our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org), or refer to page 8 for information about our Become Catholic program.

## Receiving First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation is typically celebrated during the Lenten season, but other arrangements are possible if needed. Our Evangelization Team will help you determine a suitable time to receive this sacrament.



# Holy Matrimony

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“The sacrament of Matrimony signifies the union of Christ and the Church. It gives spouses the grace to love each other with the love which Christ has loved his Church; the grace of the sacrament thus perfects the human love of the spouses, strengthens their indissoluble unity, and sanctifies them on the way to eternal life” (CCC 1661).

## **Preparing for Holy Matrimony**

Engaged couples interested in getting married at St. Gertrude Parish should contact the parish office at [parishoffice@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishoffice@stgertrude.org) or (513) 561-5954 as soon as they become engaged.

## **Celebrating Holy Matrimony**

Weddings are typically celebrated on Saturday's throughout the year.

## **Learn More**

Visit [stgertrude.org/matrimony](http://stgertrude.org/matrimony) or contact the parish office at (513) 561-5954 or [parishoffice@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishoffice@stgertrude.org).

## **Bringing Your Marriage into the Church**

If you or your spouse is Catholic and your wedding was celebrated by someone other than a Catholic priest or deacon, we invite you to consider bringing your marriage into the Church through the convalidation process. To start a conversation about bringing your marriage into the Church, please contact Father Luke Vanberkum at [frluke@stgertrude.org](mailto:frluke@stgertrude.org).



# Holy Orders

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Through Holy Orders, men receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit and are configured to Christ the priest. At the service of communion and mission those ordained to the priesthood are “consecrated to preach the Gospel, to celebrate divine worship, especially the Eucharist . . . and to be a shepherd of the faithful” (*Compendium* 328). Deacons are ordained for service to the Church through ministry of the Word, divine worship, and pastoral care (cf. *Compendium* 330)

## Preparing for Holy Orders

Men interested in discerning the priesthood should contact the vocations director for the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Father Mario Calabrese, O.P., at [vocations@opeast.org](mailto:vocations@opeast.org) or the vocations director for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Father Michael Willig, at [vocations@catholicaoc.org](mailto:vocations@catholicaoc.org). Men interested in discerning the diaconate should contact the director for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Office of the Permanent Diaconate, Deacon Mark Marchuga, at (513) 263-6641.

## Celebrating Holy Orders

Ordinations to the priesthood and diaconate are typically celebrated by the archbishop of Cincinnati during the Easter season. Please pray for our seminarians.

## Learn More

Visit [stgertrude.org/holyorders](http://stgertrude.org/holyorders), or contact the respective men listed above under Preparing for Holy Orders. You can also contact the parish office at [parishoffice@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishoffice@stgertrude.org) or (513) 561-5954 to set up a time to speak with one of our priests, or find one of our priests after Mass.





# MINISTRIES INDEX

# For Adults

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## **Asking Life's Big Questions**

- Alpha 6

## **Considering Becoming Catholic**

- Become Catholic 8

## **Looking for a Prayer Group**

- Angelic Warfare Confraternity 10
- Circle of Prayer 11
- Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary 12
- Healing Rosary 13
- Las Guadalupanas 14
- Moms & Littles Holy Hour 15
- Prayer Ministry for the Dying 16

## **Desiring Formation**

- Benedictine Oblates 18
- Bourbon & Books 19
- Called & Gifted 20
- Cana Family for Fathers 21
- Cana Family for Mothers 22
- Catholic Men's Fellowship 23
- Dominican Laity—Bishop Fenwick 24
- Dominican Laity—Our Lady of Peace 25
- Natural Family Planning 26
- Omega 27
- Parish Library 28
- St. Joseph Society 29
- True Devotion to Mary 30
- Walking with Purpose 31
- Young Adults Group 32

## **Needing Support**

- Fun Bunch 34
- Parents of Precious Pearls 35
- Seasons of Hope (Bereavement) 36

## **Seeking to Serve**

- Athletic Boosters 38
- Communion to the Sick 39
- Evangelization Team 40
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion 41

- Finance Council 42
- Funeral Hospitality 43
- Hospitality Team 44
- Knights of Columbus 45
- Ladies of Charity 46
- Laudare Ensemble 47
- Lectors 48
- Lenten Fish Fry 49
- Parish Choir 50
- Parish Coffees 51
- Parish Health Ministry 52
- Pastoral Council 53
- Photography Ministry 54
- Respect Life Ministry 55
- Rosary Makers 56
- Sacristans 57
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul 58
- Soup Kitchen Ministry 59
- Stewardship Committee 60
- Ushers 61
- Viri Selecti 62

# For Children & Youth

---

Athletics 65  
Boy Scouts 74  
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 66  
Choral Scholars 78  
Collegium 79  
Confirmation Preparation 75  
Cub Scouts 68  
First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion 69  
Family Faith 71  
Junior High Youth Ministry 76  
L'alto: High School Ministry 77  
Little Flowers Girls' Club 67  
Schola Cantorum 70  
Sons of St. Joseph: Altar Servers 72  
St. Anne & the Child Mary Guild 73  
St. Gertrude School 64



# CHARISMS INDEX

# For Adults

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**This index alphabetically lists all 24 charisms identified by the Catherine of Siena Institute's Called and Gifted program.**

- Administration 6, 8, 15, 19, 21, 22, 23, 29, 31, 32, 34, 38, 43, 44, 46, 51, 53, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 65, 66, 67, 69, 71, 72, 73, 75, 76
- Celibacy
- Craftsmanship 38, 45, 49, 54, 56, 67
- Encouragement 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 31, 34, 35, 36, 41, 42, 44, 52, 53, 59, 65, 66, 69, 71
- Evangelism 6, 8, 15, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 32, 40, 44, 47, 48, 50, 53, 55, 66, 67, 75, 76, 77
- Extraordinary Faith 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 29, 46
- Giving 38, 46, 56, 58, 60
- Healing 13, 41, 42, 52
- Helps 32, 35, 36, 42, 43, 44, 45, 49, 53, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 73
- Hospitality 6, 8, 15, 19, 21, 22, 27, 31, 32, 34, 35, 38, 40, 43, 44, 45, 49, 51, 53, 58, 61, 62, 66, 67, 69, 71, 77
- Intercessory Prayer 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 24, 25, 40, 52
- Knowledge 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 67
- Leadership 19, 23, 29, 31, 32, 45, 46, 49, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 65, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77
- Mercy 36, 39, 41, 42, 44, 52, 53, 58, 59
- Missionary 24, 25, 46
- Music 47, 50
- Pastoring 14, 21, 22, 23, 27, 29, 35, 45, 69, 71, 75, 76, 77
- Prophecy 10, 11, 13, 16
- Service 24, 25, 32, 35, 38, 39, 41, 43, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 55, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, 67, 72, 73
- Teaching 8, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 42, 45, 65, 66, 67, 69, 71, 75, 76, 77
- Voluntary Poverty 24, 25, 46, 58
- Wisdom 18, 19, 23, 26, 42, 55
- Writing

*Note: There are more charisms than listed here! This is a list of common charisms used in this booklet as identified through years of research by the Catherine of Siena Institute and Sherry Weddell.*

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# St. Gertrude PARISH

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