

# *Respect Life Sunday*



**St. Gertrude**  
**PARISH**

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | OCTOBER 5, 2025



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ST. GERTRUDE PARISH

6543 Miami Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45243

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(513) 561-5954
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stgertrude.org
- 

parishoffice@stgertrude.org
- 

stgertrudechurch

- Church Hours**

Daily, 7 a.m.–9 p.m.
- Parish Office Hours**

M-F, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
- School Office Hours**

M-F, 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.





# ENCOUNTER JESUS. TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

## WELCOME

Welcome to St. Gertrude Parish—it is good that you are here!

Whether this is your first time worshiping with us, you have been here many times and want to become a parishioner, or you have questions about the Catholic faith and want to learn more, the information on this page is a great place to start.

We look forward to getting to know you and accompanying you on your faith journey.

### MISSION

#### *Who We Are*

We are a Roman Catholic parish of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati that is shaped and enlivened by the charism of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans). We teach and preach the Truth, reverently celebrate the liturgy and sacraments, and gather as a community so that all may encounter Jesus here.

### VISION

#### *Who We Aspire to Be*

To be a community of disciples united in our Eucharistic Lord and sent to transform the world in the light of the Gospel.

### CORE VALUES

#### *What We Cultivate*

Reverence, Humility, Magnanimity, Generosity, Intentionality

## BECOME A PARISHIONER

Ready to join our vibrant parish of missionary disciples?

Register as a parishioner at [stgertrude.org/register](http://stgertrude.org/register). Paper copies of the registration form are also available in the parish office.



## Been away for a while or curious about Catholicism?

### WE WOULD LOVE TO WALK WITH YOU.

To connect with us, get your questions answered, and learn more about returning to the Church or becoming Catholic, contact Tyler Castrucci at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org) or scan the QR code.





*Since Father John Paul was away on his annual retreat September 25–October 2, Father Reginald, one of our parochial vicars, wrote the following article in place of Father John Paul's normal pastor letter.*

### ROSARY SUNDAY AND THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE

In Dominican circles, the first Sunday in October is known as Rosary Sunday. This title derives from an interesting history of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7. As you may know, October 7 was originally known as the feast of Our Lady of Victory. It is the anniversary of the 1571 victory of the Christian naval forces over the Turkish fleet in the Battle of Lepanto. Pope Pius V had asked the whole of Europe to pray the rosary for victory. When the Christians defeated the Turks, he attributed that victory to Our Lady's powerful intercession and named the feast in memory of that event.

Just two years later, Pope Gregory XIII changed the name of the feast to the feast of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He also moved it to the first Sunday in October, so that more people would be able to celebrate it. His predecessor had formalized the number and content of the mysteries of the rosary, so Pope Gregory wanted to promote its devotion among the faithful. Three hundred and forty-two years later, Pope Pius X moved the feast back to October 7.

We Dominicans love the rosary—it's our "thing"! When St. Dominic received the rosary from Our Lady, what he received was a way to preach about—and meditate on—the goodness of creation. People had been using earlier forms of rosary beads to count Hail Marys before St. Dominic's time, but the genius that Our Lady added for him was to join that repetition of prayers to meditating on the mysteries of Christ's life. Meditation on the awesome reality that the Second Person of the most Holy (and ineffable!) Trinity had taken on human flesh. Had remade creation and declared it "good" once again, just as he had during the first six days of creation.

St. Dominic's mission was to preach to those who denied the goodness of the material world, as if it were evil, a drag on spiritual realities, which alone were good. The rosary was and is an important weapon to help combat that mindset, and it's a mindset we face today as well. How much self-hatred and shame are bound up with our image of our own bodies and the weakness we experience in our bodies? The rosary is a reminder that Jesus Christ became a human being and

sanctified our flesh. We no longer have any cause for shame or self-hatred.

Providentially, in the Catholic Church in the United States, this Sunday is also Respect Life Sunday. It kicks off Respect Life Month, just as Rosary Sunday begins the Month of the Rosary. The goodness of creation on which we meditate in the rosary is expanded upon as we promote the dignity and sanctity of human life at every stage.

*"So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them . . . and God saw that it was very good" (Genesis 1:27, 31).*

This is the reality on which we meditate when we consider the mysteries of Christ's life. When he took on our flesh, he said again, "It is very good." He uses our flesh, our humanity, to sanctify us.

Our Lady of Victory, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Mother of God, pray for us!

May God bless you and your families!

In Christ,

Father Reginald Hoefer, O.P., Parochial Vicar



### THE POWER OF THE ROSARY



"In order to pray well, it is not enough to give expression to our petitions by means of that most excellent of all prayers, the Rosary, but we must also pray with real concentration for God listens more to the voice of the heart than that of the mouth."

- St. Louis De Montfort

## 2025 PARISH CENSUS & SURVEY DEADLINE—OCTOBER 6!

Thank you to everyone who has completed the 2025 St. Gertrude Parish Census & Survey. **The deadline to participate is Monday, October 6.** To complete the form online, visit [stgertrude.org/census](http://stgertrude.org/census). Paper copies are available in the church and parish office. If you have any questions, contact us at (513) 561-5954 or [parishoffice@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishoffice@stgertrude.org). Thank you!

## NEEDS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION—THIS WEEKEND

Before and after all Masses (except 6 p.m.) this weekend, October 4–5, the Ladies of Charity will be at the white van in the parking lot collecting items for NEEDS Food Pantry in Kenwood. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085.

Most needed items at this time of year:

- Canned/Packaged Goods: Collard greens, salmon, rice and pasta mixes (with and without meat), Vienna sausages, black beans
- Personal Care Items: Laundry and dish soap; baby wipes; men's and women's adult diapers, all sizes; sanitary pads and tampons; toilet paper and paper towels

Always needed: Gift cards (Aldi, Kroger, Walmart, Meijer) and check/cash.

## DO YOU LOVE TO BAKE?

The St. Gertrude Parish Ladies of Charity are asking all bakers to help with the Bake Sale at their annual Craft and Gift Show on Saturday, October 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Baked goods may be dropped off in the Parish Center on Friday, October 17, between 2:30 and 5 p.m. and on the day of the event. All proceeds go to help charities around the Cincinnati area. If you have questions about the Ladies of Charity or our events, please contact Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085. Thank you for your support!

## BOYS BASKETBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE

All boys of St. Gertrude Parish in grades 3-8 are eligible to participate in the 2025-2026 Bulldogs basketball program! Late registration ends October 17. Visit [bit.ly/stgbulldogs](http://bit.ly/stgbulldogs) or scan the QR code for details and to sign up. If you have any questions, contact Robert Franer at [franersports@gmail.com](mailto:franersports@gmail.com).



## WE'RE HIRING!

Are you looking for an opportunity to serve our parish—and get paid while doing it? We're hiring a **part-time administrative assistant** for our Office of Evangelization and Faith Formation. The administrative assistant will ensure a healthy and high-functioning office environment and serve as administrative support for the evangelization efforts of the parish, including program/event registrations and records and communications. To view the full job description, visit [stgertrude.org/employment](http://stgertrude.org/employment). If you are interested in applying for this role, please email your resume and a brief letter stating your interest in the position to our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org).



Let Us  
**PRAY**

### THE SICK

Johnny Burns, Vicki Calonge, Triset Defonseka, Diana Doll, Mark Doran, Lisa Ely, Octavio Flores Resendiz, Ron Freudenberg, Will Freudenberg, Dick Gelhaus, Goad Family, Elsa Hall, John Holden, Hummel Family, Steve Kaimer, Andrea Kattel, Aiko Kimura, Robert Lantz, Karen Larkin, Kevin Lewis, Gertrude Maxwell, Kim McClung, Elaine O'Connell, Sue Paas, Gert Patterson, Romualdo & Maria Pelle, Heather Pfeiffer, Paula Scalo, Pegge Schuermann, Nancy Silvers, Patricia Strauss, Judy Sullivan

### THOSE IN THE MILITARY

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, Seth McGann, 2nd Lt. Miles Mayer, PFC Charles Mayer, John Murdock Jr., John Oscar, Dan Roseman, Andrew Shannon, Michael Stein, Ian Tester, Jack Thornton, and Gus Voto

### THE RECENTLY DECEASED

† All Our Beloved Deceased





### SIGN UP FOR 40 DAYS FOR LIFE—THIS WEEKEND

40 Days for Life is an international pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil outside of Planned Parenthood to end abortion. The fall 40 Days for Life Campaign is September 24 through November 2. **St. Gertrude Parish will participate in the campaign on Sunday, October 12, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.** at Planned Parenthood (2314 Auburn Avenue). Sign up after any Mass this weekend to participate. If you have questions, please contact Lisa Campbell at [lisaredig61@gmail.com](mailto:lisaredig61@gmail.com) or (865) 455-4795.



### DOMINICAN RITE MASS—OCTOBER 7, FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Please join us at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 7, for a solemn High Mass in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary. The music will be Messe de Nostre Dame, Guillaume de Machaut. The Mass will be preceded by a rosary procession, hosted by St. Gertrude School, at 6:15 p.m. More details to come.

Please visit [stgertrude.org/worship-and-music/dominican-rite](http://stgertrude.org/worship-and-music/dominican-rite) for more information about the Dominican Rite.



### SUPPORT THE CULTURE OF LIFE

Parishioners of all ages are invited to help install 3,000 Crosses of the Innocent on our parish grounds on Saturday, October 18, after the 8 a.m. Mass. (Please bring a hammer.) These small white crosses serve as a reminder of all the innocent children who have lost their lives to abortion.

*Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Archbishop Elder Council #1195 and the St. Gertrude Parish Respect Life Ministry.*



### NEXT FUN BUNCH GATHERING

Everyone age 55+ is invited to join us on Tuesday, October 21, at 12:15 p.m. for the second Fun Bunch meeting of the fall. Our theme is Celebrating Pope Leo XIV! There will be games, prizes, and a talk by Father John Langlois, O.P., on the significance of Pope Leo XIV and the history of Leonine popes. Lunch will be Chicago-style hot dogs and all the fixings. Please bring a side dish, dessert, or drink, and sign up at [bit.ly/octoberfun25](http://bit.ly/octoberfun25) to let us know what you are bringing. If you plan to come, please RSVP to Diane Kennedy at [mkennedy06@aol.com](mailto:mkennedy06@aol.com) or (513) 791-6075 so we have an estimated headcount for food. Walk-ins are welcome. We hope you will join us, and bring a friend!



### REIGNING IN LIFE: BECOMING PROVIDER—A SMALL GROUP FOR MEN

Do you have what it takes to lead your family in faith? This fall, join other men for Reigning in Life: Becoming Provider, a Catholic small group for husbands and fathers. The group meets twice per month between October and April. Sessions include a reflection on a Gospel passage and Church teachings, conversation on two to three principles that are directly relevant to being a husband and father, and a resolution to implement. Use discount code GERTRUDE25 to get \$30 off registration. If you have any questions, please contact Tyler Castrucci at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org).



## This WEEK

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 7 p.m. | Become Catholic (St. Dominic Lobby)
- 7 p.m. | Healing Rosary (Church)
- 7 p.m. | Seasons of Hope (St. Joseph Room)

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

- 6:15 p.m. | Rosary Procession (Church)
- 7 p.m. | Boy Scouts (School Cafeteria)

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

- 10:15 a.m. | Preschool Pups (School Library)
- 6 p.m. | Little Flowers Girls' Club (St. Dominic Lobby)

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

- 3 p.m. | SGS Educational Apparel Sale (School Cafeteria)
- 7 p.m. | Young Adults Group (Holy Family Conference Room)

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 7 p.m. | Sacred Music Series: Haydn's *Nelson Mass* (Church)

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 7:30 a.m. | Catholic Men's Fellowship (School Cafeteria)
- 9 a.m. | St. Anne & the Child Mary Guild (St. Dominic Lobby)

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 9 a.m. (After 8 a.m. Mass) | Coffee & Doughnuts (Gym)
- 11 a.m. (After 10 a.m. Mass) | Coffee & Doughnuts (Gym)
- 7 p.m. | L'alto: High School Youth Ministry Night (Parish Center)

## SEASONS OF HOPE

Mourning the loss of a loved one is never easy. To comfort you in your sorrow, St. Gertrude Parish offers Seasons of Hope, a unique adult support group for the bereaved. This free program, rooted in Catholic tradition, conveys God's consolation through Scripture, prayer, reflection, faith sharing, and fellowship. Anyone who has suffered a loss, whether it be recent or years ago, is invited to join us. Here is the schedule for the next session (all meetings are from 7 to 8:30 p.m.):

- October 6 (Parish Center, St. Joseph Room)
- October 13 (Church Vestibule)
- October 20 (Church Vestibule)
- October 27 (Church Vestibule)
- November 3 (Parish Center, St. Joseph Room)
- November 10 (Parish Center, St. Joseph Room)

For more information and to sign up, visit [stgertrude.org/seasonsofhope](http://stgertrude.org/seasonsofhope), or contact Cindy Hertzal at (513) 368-8941.

## BECOME A EUCHARISTIC GUARDIAN

Eucharistic guardians are people who sign up for and commit to a weekly Holy Hour in our Mother of Mercy Adoration Chapel. The chapel is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and overnight on Wednesday. **We need at least two people signed up for every hour; many spots are available.** To learn more or sign up, scan the QR code, or visit [stgertrude.org/adoration](http://stgertrude.org/adoration).



## MISCARRIAGE KIT BOX

Are you or someone you know facing a first trimester miscarriage? You are not alone. Heaven's Gain Ministries has provided our parish with a box of free miscarriage kits to support your physical and emotional needs during your tragic loss. The box is located in the landscape bed to the left of the circle drive in front of the church. If you have questions about the kit, call Heaven's Gain at (513) 888-4200. Learn more about Heaven's Gain's services at [heavensgain.org](http://heavensgain.org). We also encourage you to contact one of our parish priests so we can help you along your grieving journey.



## CREATE YOUR WILL FOR FREE

As a Catholic, your faith is your most valuable asset. Thanks to St. Gertrude Parish's partnership with MyCatholicWill.com, you can pass on your Legacy of Faith and plant seeds for the next generation of Catholics in an incredible way. Scan the QR code or visit [MyCatholicWill.com/StGertrude](http://MyCatholicWill.com/StGertrude) to start writing your will for free today! Use referral code **STGERTRUDE**.



## ARE YOU IN NEED OF FORGIVENESS?

God is always ready to forgive. Experience his merciful love through the sacrament of Reconciliation. Priests are available to hear confessions Monday–Friday at 4 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 3:30 p.m., or by appointment.



## SACRED HEART ATRIUM BLESSING

On Catechetical Sunday, September 21, Father John Paul blessed the new Sacred Heart atrium in the Parish Center. Over the summer, one of the atria in the school was relocated to the former choir room in the Parish Center basement. We are grateful for the many hands that made this possible, and for the flexibility and generosity of Dr. Christopher Holman and the music program and the Knights of Columbus, who now share the use of the Knights of Columbus hall. Almost 90 children will gather in the atrium for weekly sessions of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to encounter Christ and the richness of our Catholic faith.



## Do you know someone who is interested in the Catholic faith?

### Invite him or her to Become Catholic.

Our Become Catholic program is for adults interested in exploring the Catholic faith. If someone is interested in learning more or being part of the program, have him or her scan the QR code to get on the email list or contact our director of evangelization, Tyler Castrucci, at (513) 561-5954, ext. 2108, or [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org).

**Every Monday | 7–9 p.m.**  
**St. Gertrude Parish Center**



## Try Omega!

**DO YOU FEEL STUCK IN YOUR FAITH JOURNEY? ARE YOU WANTING MORE?**

### What You Will Learn

Through readings, talks, discussions, and group prayer, you will deepen your knowledge of the faith, grow in personal prayer, and be guided in crafting a rule of life.

### When & Where

September 2025-May 2026  
1st and 3rd Mondays | 7-8:30 p.m.  
St. Gertrude School Cafeteria

Visit [bit.ly/2025omega](https://bit.ly/2025omega) or scan the QR code to sign up.



### BIBLE STUDY

## *The Bible and the Church Fathers*

Who were the early Church Fathers? Why are they important? How did they read and interpret the Bible? How are they relevant to us today?

*The Bible and the Church Fathers* will teach you everything you need to know about the lives and times of the Early Church Fathers. Created by the St. Paul Center, this Bible study will teach you powerful tools for reading Scripture like the Fathers and help you understand Scripture's relationship to Tradition and the sacraments.

**September 27-March 28**  
**2nd & 4th Saturdays | 9:30-11 a.m.**  
**St. Gertrude School Cafeteria**  
\$25 for Participant Workbook

Contact Bob Endorf at [rjendorf@gmail.com](mailto:rjendorf@gmail.com) with questions.



Learn more at [bit.ly/churchfathers](https://bit.ly/churchfathers)





## NEXT SACRED MUSIC SERIES EVENT

Christopher Holman  
Director of Music

Our Sacred Music Series continues on Friday, October 10, at 7 p.m. with an extraordinary program of masterpieces by Mozart, Haydn, and Marianna Martines. This concert features our own Capella, alongside guest artists from Europe and musicians of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, bringing together an ensemble of remarkable beauty and power.

The Sacred Music Series has quickly grown in not only attendance but also reputation as a cultural icon within the city. Yet, its deeper purpose is not simply cultural—it is evangelical. The mission of the Church today takes many forms—service to the poor, teaching, witness in daily life. Sacred music, too, can be a path of evangelization. For some, an invitation to attend Mass may feel daunting, but through beauty, the doors of faith can quietly open. Music that has inspired believers for centuries can move hearts to encounter Christ in ways words alone cannot.

This October program shines a light on the Classical era of music, centered in Vienna, where Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Marianna Martines, and Franz Joseph Haydn lived and worked. Each of these composers found patronage from the Church, and their works—elegant, radiant, and profound—continue to lift minds and hearts to God.

Marianna Martines' *Dixit Dominus* for chorus and orchestra brims with youthful brilliance and dramatic contrasts, revealing why she was so admired in her own day. Mozart's beloved *Exsultate, jubilate* for soprano soloist and orchestra—featuring British soprano Caitlin Harrison, who is joining us from Oxford, England—sparkles with joy and lyric beauty, culminating in one of the most radiant "Alleluias" ever written. The centerpiece of the evening, Haydn's mighty *Nelson Mass*, was composed in 1798 during a time of war and uncertainty. It is nicknamed after Admiral Horatio Nelson's victory at the Battle of the Nile. Its sweeping choruses and fervent cries of *Dona nobis pacem* ("Grant us peace") make it one of the most moving and powerful settings of the Mass ever composed, and it is a *tour de force* that will bring about the many extremes of human emotion.

I warmly invite you and your family and friends to join us for this concert. Together, let us celebrate the universality of the Church's tradition—music that transcends cultures and centuries, and that continues to draw people into the mystery of faith.



## HAYDN'S NELSON MASS

Part of the 2025-2026 Sacred Music Series

**Friday, October 10 | 7 p.m. | St. Gertrude Church**

The St. Gertrude Parish Capella and a rich orchestra of strings, flute, oboes, trumpets, and timpani present **three Viennese masterpieces**:

- *Dixit Dominus*, a rarely-heard setting of Psalm 110 by Marianna Martines.
- Mozart's euphoric *Exsultate, jubilate*, a virtuosic cantata.
- *Mass in Time of Tribulation* "Nelson Mass," widely regarded as Haydn's finest sacred work.

To get your tickets, visit [bit.ly/nelsonmass](https://bit.ly/nelsonmass) or scan the QR code.  
Tickets also available at the door.

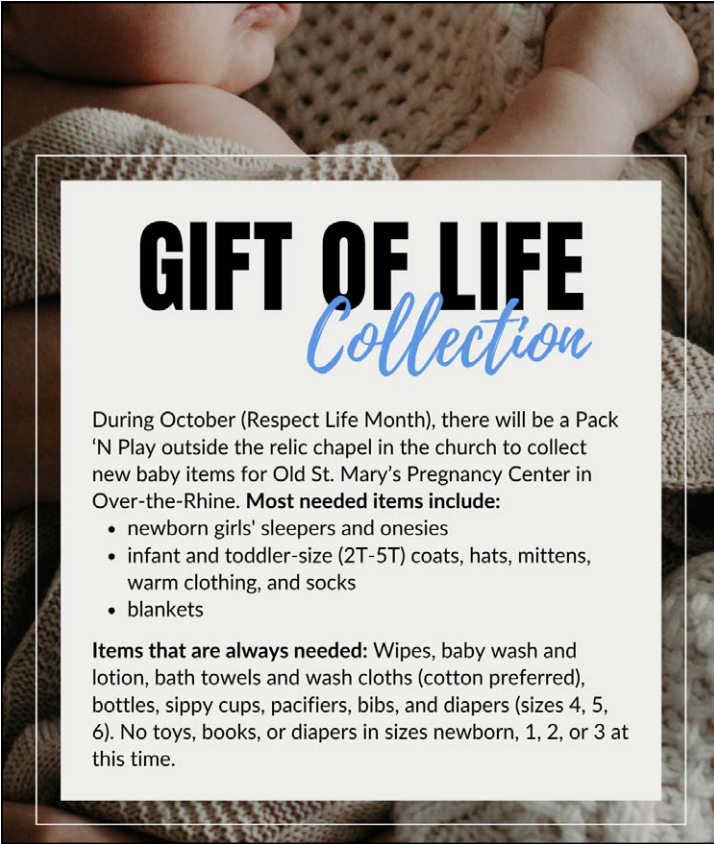



## 2025-2026 SACRED MUSIC SERIES

St. Gertrude Parish is delighted to present its second annual Sacred Music Series. Over the course of the 2025-2026 program year, this rapidly-growing initiative brings together world-class artists from across the United States and Europe to share the Roman Catholic Church's vast treasury of sacred music through the centuries in concerts, musical meditations, and liturgies.

Scan the QR code to view all events and learn more!





# GIFT OF LIFE

Collection

During October (Respect Life Month), there will be a Pack 'N Play outside the relic chapel in the church to collect new baby items for Old St. Mary's Pregnancy Center in Over-the-Rhine. **Most needed items include:**

- newborn girls' sleepers and onesies
- infant and toddler-size (2T-5T) coats, hats, mittens, warm clothing, and socks
- blankets

**Items that are always needed:** Wipes, baby wash and lotion, bath towels and wash cloths (cotton preferred), bottles, sippy cups, pacifiers, bibs, and diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6). No toys, books, or diapers in sizes newborn, 1, 2, or 3 at this time.





Father Ken Letoile, O.P.  
Retreat Master

# 2025 MEN'S ADVENT RETREAT

All men ages 18+ are invited to the annual Catholic Men's Advent Retreat, sponsored by the St. Gertrude Parish Catholic Men's Fellowship. Father Ken Letoile, O.P., will be our retreat master. This year's theme, "Hope, a Sure and Steadfast Anchor," will guide you to greater intimacy with Jesus and the Holy Eucharist as the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope draws to a close.

**WHEN & WHERE**  
December 5-6, 2025  
Begins 6 p.m. Friday and concludes 4 p.m. Saturday  
Jesuit Spiritual Center  
Arrupe Building  
5361 S. Milford Road | Milford, OH 45140

**COST**  
\$160 - Overnight option  
\$115 - Days only option (includes three meals)

**CONTACT**  
If you have questions, email [info@catholicmensretreat.org](mailto:info@catholicmensretreat.org) or call (513) 289-5268.

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/2025adventretreat](http://bit.ly/2025adventretreat). Ends November 29 or until the retreat is sold out. Space is limited!



## ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT

# Pancake Breakfast

Enjoy pancakes, eggs, sausage, and fellowship with your St. Gertrude Parish family! (Gluten-free pancakes and dairy-free scrambled eggs available.)

Children 5 and Under	FREE
Children Grades K-8	\$5
Adult	\$10
Family	\$35


**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26**  
**8:30 A.M. - 12 P.M.**  
**GYMNASIUM**

All proceeds go to the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids Program, an initiative that provides new winter coats for needy children.



Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Elder Council #1195.





## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

# Coats for Kids Program

The Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids Program is a vital initiative that aims to make a significant difference in the lives of children. By providing warm winter coats to those in need, the Knights enable children to attend school, participate in after-school programs, interact with their peers, and engage in activities that are essential for their growth and development. Since the program's inception in 2009, Knights councils across the United States and Canada have distributed over one million new winter coats to children.

Once again, Knights of Columbus Elder Council #1195 is stepping up to the plate to participate in the Coats for Kids program, ensuring that children from low-income families in Catholic schools within the Cincinnati area will receive the essential gift of a winter coat.

**How can you help? Come to our pancake breakfast on Sunday, October 26! All proceeds support this program!**





We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the generous donors of the 2024-2025 Annual Fund. Thanks to your support, we have raised \$81,875 from 88 donors. These gifts reflect a shared commitment to the mission of Catholic education and the flourishing of St. Gertrude School.

Every gift fueled transformative initiatives: expanding outdoor learning and STEM, building our new scholarship endowment, and strengthening campus safety and security. Because of you, these vital projects moved forward, leaving a lasting impact on our students today and for generations to come.

## 2024-2025 DONORS

Anonymous Donor 1	Ronald Diesslin	Burton & Julie Leslie	Justin & Lisa Shafer
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Ed Dadosky	David & Tara Justice	Joe Scherrer	Ashlee Wooten
Ed & Emily de St. Aubin	Joan Kramer	Matthew Schlotman	Stavra Xanthakos-Roehrig
Nancy DeBrunner	Harry Krommer	Mary Jo Schuette	



### ST. GERARD MASS OF HOPE FOR THE BLESSING OF CHILDREN

All married couples, family, and friends are invited to the annual St. Gerard Mass of Hope for the Blessing of Children from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, October 16 (the feast of St. Gerard Majella, the patron saint of expectant mothers), at St. Bartholomew Church (9375 Winton Road, Cincinnati). Hosted by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, this free event provides an opportunity for prayerful support for married couples experiencing infertility or pregnancy loss. It includes Mass and a reception with fellowship, hors d'oeuvres and resources. For more details, contact Deacon David Ulmer at [dulmer@catholicaoc.org](mailto:dulmer@catholicaoc.org).

### ANNUAL EVENING FOR LIFE

Don't miss Cincinnati Right to Life's Annual Evening for Life on Thursday, October 16, at the Sharonville Convention Center. The VIP Social begins at 5 p.m., followed by a reception at 5:30 p.m. and dinner and the program at 6:30 p.m. The evening will feature emcee Anna Mitchell from Sacred Heart Radio/EWTN; speakers Kaya Jones, recording artist and defender of life, and Michael Seibel, attorney and co-founder of Abortion on Trial. Reservations required. More details and to register, visit [CincinnatiRightToLife.org](http://CincinnatiRightToLife.org) or call (513) 728-7870.

### DATE WITH FATHER NATE: A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE

All married couples are invited to take time out of their busy lives on the evening of Saturday, October 18, to celebrate their marriage and reflect on what is truly important. Using humor and inspiration, Father Nathan Cromly helps couples make sense of the ordinary struggles they face and gives them tools to renew and reenergize their marriages. Attire is Sunday best; dressy for a date. The event will take place at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Memorial Hall (4011 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY, 41076) and includes 5 p.m. Vigil Mass (optional), a cocktail hour with live music, talks from Father Cromly, heavy appetizers, dessert, a marriage blessing, and dancing. Learn more and get your tickets at [brushfire.com/eagleeyeministries/saint-john-leadership-network/609543](http://brushfire.com/eagleeyeministries/saint-john-leadership-network/609543). If you have any questions, reach out to Margaret Pluta at [margaret.pluta@saintjohninstitute.org](mailto:margaret.pluta@saintjohninstitute.org).

### THE PATH TO SAINTHOOD: THE STORY OF TOM VANDER WOUDE

Join the Queen of Apostles Family of Parishes on Monday, October 6, 2025, at 7 p.m. at St. James of the Valley Church (411 Springfield Pike, Wyoming, OH 45215) to learn about the Tom Vander Woude story: A Father's Path to Sainthood. Chris, one of Tom's sons, is coming to Cincinnati to share the story of how his father gave up his life to save his brother. Tom's sacrifice could lead to the first possible canonization of an American husband and father. To learn more about Tom, visit [twvguild.org/his-story/](http://twvguild.org/his-story/).

### THE GIFT OF FERTILITY: MOTHER & DAUGHTER WORKSHOP



REGISTER

Speakers Include:

**Saturday,  
October 4th 2025**

8:30 am to 2:00 pm  
St. Bartholomew  
Catholic Church  
Cincinnati, OH



Mother Seraphina  
Marie, FDM



Ann Stein



Abby Garcia

Co-hosted by Our Lady of Divine Providence Family of Parishes and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati The Gift of Fertility: Mother & Daughter Workshop is geared toward moms with their young daughters (ages 10-14), providing a beautiful context for strengthening their bond and learning about God's plan for growing up. The cost is \$30 per family and includes hand-outs, a light breakfast and lunch. Sign up online no later than September 28, 2025.

### BECOME A TUTOR, TRANSFORM A LIFE

Whiz Kids, a literacy tutoring program at John P. Parker School in Madisonville is looking for tutors on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. from October 7, 2025, to April 21, 2026. (Must be 16 years of age.) The program engages elementary-aged students who are financially under-resourced and behind grade level in reading. Learn more and sign up at [bit.ly/whizkidstutor](http://bit.ly/whizkidstutor) or contact Linda Davis at (513) 807-1850.

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**Pre-Planning Seminars**

**October 21, November 25**

**Schedule for 11:00 AM, 2:00 PM, or 6:00 PM**

Call (513) 489-0300 to plan today with a Family Service Advisor



## Liturgical **SCHEDULE &** Mass **INTENTIONS**

### Monday, October 6 | Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – † Andy Mueller by Jeannie Mueller

8 a.m. | Mass – † Dino Pelle by Mike & Elaine O'Connell

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Deceased Members of the Dominican Order

4 p.m. | Confessions

### Tuesday, October 7 | Our Lady of the Rosary (F)

7 a.m. | Mass – † Joseph & Marjorie Schirmer by The Schirmer Family

8 a.m. | Mass – Sophia & James Henderson by Alan & Dina Henderson

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Janet Webster by The Finnegan Family

4 p.m. | Confessions

7 p.m. | Dominican Rite Mass – Intention of the Celebrant

### Wednesday, October 8 | Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – Samuel Schroeder by Kevin Breslin

8 a.m. | Mass – † Mark Stangler by The Arling, Eades & Shaftel Families

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Walter Gene Cameron by RoseMarie Cameron

4 p.m. | Confessions

7:30 p.m. | Holy Hour & Confessions

### Thursday, October 9 | St. Louis Bertrand, O.P. (M)

7 a.m. | Mass – † Owen Hughes by The Dieckman Family

8 a.m. | Mass – † Tim Asbrock by Bill & Penny Cunningham

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Rosemary & Charles Stalzer  
by The Stuebbe Family

4 p.m. | Confessions

### Friday, October 10 | Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – † George & Dorothy Normand  
by John & Marilyn Scherpenberg

8 a.m. | Mass – † Jay Moore by John & Jenny Ward

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Len & Mary Gruber by The Green Family

4 p.m. | Confessions

### Saturday, October 11 | Blessed Virgin Mary (M)

8 a.m. | Mass – Chris & Hannah Kunkel

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Bill & Ruth Stuebbe by David & Ann Stein

3:30 p.m. | Confessions

4:30 p.m. | Mass – Kari Espel by The Woodward Family

### Sunday, October 12 | 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8 a.m. | Mass – The People of St. Gertrude Parish

10 a.m. | Mass – † Deceased Members of The Kohus & Bough Family  
by John & Hilda Bough

12 p.m. | Mass – † Kim Caswell by The Caswell Family

6 p.m. | Mass – † Mary Susan Imbus by Kathleen & David Bartish



## PASTORAL CARE

Are you or a loved one unable to attend Mass due to illness or being homebound? As a sign of Christ's love, our parish community earnestly desires to bring comfort and healing to these individuals. **Please call the parish office at (513) 561-5954, and we will direct you to the most appropriate ministry.**

**Here are ways we can help you:**

### Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

This healing sacrament is given to those 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 Eucharist.

### Communion to the Sick or Homebound

Our priests and lay ministers are available to bring Holy Communion to individuals who are unable to attend Sunday Mass due to illness or being homebound. This important ministry is a vital sign of the parish community's love and support for all of our members.

### Prayers for the Sick or Deceased

Each week, our bulletin lists the names of individuals who are sick or recently deceased so that our entire parish community may pray for them. Simply contact the parish office to add yourself or a family member to this list.

## PRAYER MINISTRY FOR THE DYING

Is your loved one actively dying? Contact our Prayer Ministry for the Dying. Members of this ministry pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for those approaching death. To request prayers for your loved one, please call Pat Collins at (513) 265-1897. If you would like to join this ministry, visit [stgertrude.org/prayersforthedying](http://stgertrude.org/prayersforthedying) to learn more.

PARISH STAFF DIRECTORY

CLERGY

Father John Paul Walker, O.P., Pastor  
frjohnpaul@stgertrude.org  
Father Reginald Hoefer, O.P., Parochial Vicar  
frrreginald@stgertrude.org  
Father Luke VanBerkum, O.P., Parochial Vicar  
frluke@stgertrude.org

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

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Emma Golias, Admin Assistant & Safe Environment Coord.  
egolias@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954, ext. 2103  
Susan Kane, Parish Secretary  
parishoffice@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954  
Teri Forlini, Parish Secretary  
parishoffice@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954

OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION & FAITH FORMATION

Tyler Castrucci, Director of Evangelization  
tcastrucci@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954, ext. 2108  
Michelle Dushensky, Director of Communication  
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Kristen Eggers, Office Coordinator  
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Walter Plummer, Director of Children & Youth Evangelization  
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Shannon Loughrey, Coordinator of Youth Ministry  
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Mary Beth Thiemann, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Coord.  
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Lauren Mays, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Assistant  
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OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP

Hope Ramundo, Director of Stewardship  
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OFFICE OF WORSHIP

Father Luke VanBerkum, O.P., Director of Worship  
Christopher Holman, Director of Music  
cholman@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954, ext. 2213  
Pam Chmiel, Administrative Assistant  
worship@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954

ST. GERTRUDE SCHOOL

Travis Johnson, Principal  
tjohnson@stgertrudesch.org | (513) 561-8020, ext. 1103  
Sister Mariana Thayer, O.P., Vice Principal  
smariana@stgertrudesch.org | (513) 561-8020  
Madeline McCauley, Dir. of Marketing & Community  
Engagement  
community@stgertrudesch.org | (513) 561-8020, ext. 1138

ATHLETICS

Jake Dummermuth, Athletic Director  
jdummermuth@stgertrudesch.org

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Bulletin: October 19  
Materials Due: October 8

Please submit your bulletin information and Mass  
announcements to [bulletin@stgertrude.org](mailto:bulletin@stgertrude.org).

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Sunday, September 28, 2025

Collection	\$45,960
Weekly Budget	\$47,059
Weekly Deficit	(\$1,099)

Fiscal Year-to-Date

Year Ending June 30, 2026	
Fiscal YTD Actual	\$522,336
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$611,765
Fiscal YTD Deficit	(\$89,429)



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