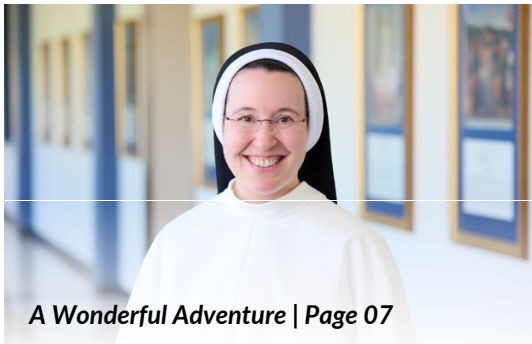
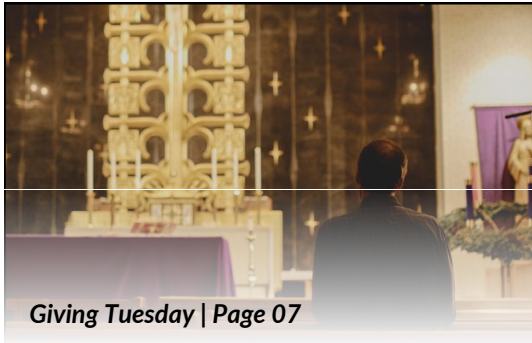





# St. Gertrude PARISH


FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | NOVEMBER 30, 2025





Listen to our parish podcast on Spotify or Apple Podcasts!

  
Spotify

  
Apple

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# ST. GERTRUDE **PARISH**

6543 Miami Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45243

 (513) 561-5954  [stgertrude.org](http://stgertrude.org)

 [parishoffice@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishoffice@stgertrude.org)

 [stgertrudechurch](https://www.facebook.com/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.



## 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.







### SOMETHING SHOULD BE DIFFERENT

I'm sure many of you might have reacted with a, "well that's a cryptic title" when you saw the title of my pastor column this week. You might be wondering about all the possible ways that

title could be interpreted. From my perspective, the title is meant to emphasize the fact that, as of this weekend, we are now in a different liturgical season of the year: Advent. At St. Gertrude Parish, you'll see the Advent wreath in the sanctuary, the priests wearing the familiar violet vestments at Mass, the absence of the *Gloria* at Sunday liturgies, and the singing of a whole new set of hymns to celebrate the season. Even though the change is not by any means terribly radical, anyone stepping foot into our church over the next four weeks will definitely know something is different. We've left Ordinary Time for something definitely out of the ordinary.

So I ask all of you: What about you? What about your family? What about your home? Will something be "different" over the next four weeks? I hope the answer for everyone is a resounding "yes!" I would encourage all of you to take advantage of this special liturgical season to do something different in your Catholic life. Maybe that means having an Advent wreath at home and lighting it for a period of time every night. Maybe it means deciding to spend time listening to the many beautiful Advent hymns. (Personal insight: of all the liturgical seasons of the year, my favorite—from the standpoint of hymns—is Advent!) It can sometimes be hard to find the hymns at home, but anyone interested can simply go to YouTube and do a search for "Advent Hymns," and plenty of options will pop up. I suspect the same might be true of the various streaming services out there. Advent calendars or the Jesse Tree are other options for celebrating this special season at home.

There is one other thing I would highly recommend to everyone in the parish. We are honored and blessed to be welcoming the nationally (and internationally) known group of Catholic musicians known as **The Vigil Project (TVP)** to our parish **this Wednesday evening, December 3**. They will be leading us in a deep dive into the spirituality of Advent through music, Scriptural readings, visual art, and Eucharistic adoration in a program called *Way of the Star*. TVP has been on the national stage multiple times recently, including being specially invited to perform at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis last summer and at the celebration of the election of Pope Leo XIV held in Chicago in the days after his election.

We are blessed to have such an amazing group of faithful, amazing Catholic musicians coming here, but what many of you might not know is that one of the co-founders of TVP is one of our own St. Gertrude Parish parishioners, Andrea Thomas! Andrea was good enough to sit down with our bulletin editor and explain what the *Way of the Star* is all about; please see her reflection on page eight of this bulletin.

I absolutely love the season of Advent. I hope this letter has inspired many of you to want to grow deeper in your love of the season as well.

God bless,

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

Father John Paul Walker, O.P.



### FROM THE DIARY OF ST. MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA



I will spend this Advent in accordance with the directions of the Mother of God - in meekness and humility. I am reliving these moments with Our Lady. With great longing, I am waiting for the Lord's coming . . . I desire that all humankind come to know the Lord. I would like to prepare all nations for the coming of the Word Incarnate.

O Jesus, make the fount of Your mercy gush forth more abundantly, for humankind is seriously ill and thus has more need than ever of Your compassion. You are a bottomless sea of mercy for us sinners; and the greater the misery, the more right we have to Your mercy.

- Diary, #793

## NEW PARISH PODCAST EPISODE—THANKSGIVING

This past Thursday, we celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday with a beautiful 10 a.m. Mass. Father John Paul gave an inspiring homily on what it means to be truly grateful. Check out the St. Gertrude Parish Podcast on Spotify or Apple Podcasts to hear his message.



Spotify



Apple

## CONGRATULATIONS, NEOPHYTES

Congratulations to our nine neophytes who received the sacraments of initiation last Sunday, November 23, at the 12 p.m. Mass! As Father John Paul remarked at the Mass, it was like a "mini Easter Vigil!" Please keep each of them in your prayers as they continue their journey of faith: Eli Raheem-Russell, Jamie Halchak, Sarah Kaletta, Daniel Bedford, Ava McIntosh, Nishawn Nijati, Tashia Hoskin, Drew Powell, and Mike Castrucci.



## BAPTISMS – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025



Child: Joseph Colmcille McNulty  
Parents: Rachael & Aiden McNulty



Child: Wyatt Allen Rasmus  
Parents: Abbey & Cameron Rasmus



Child: Cameron David Smith  
Parents: Katie & Philip Smith



Let Us  
**PRAY**

### THE SICK

Joy Belperio, 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, Charles McCown, Elaine O'Connell, Sue Paas, Gert Patterson, Romualdo & Maria Pelle, Jerry Pfeiffer Family, 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





### UPCOMING LECTOR TRAINING—THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

If you are a current lector or wish to join the lector ministry and did not attend the lector training on Saturday, November 22, please plan to attend the training this Thursday, December 4, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the church. You will learn how to use the new sound system, acquire some lectoring tips, and receive feedback on your reading style. Father Luke and Dr. Christopher Holman, our director of music, will conduct the training. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at (513) 561-5954 or [parishoffice@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishoffice@stgertrude.org).



### CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The Ladies of Charity have kicked off their annual Christmas Giving Tree project, supporting Hope Emergency, Life Forward, St. Bernard Parish, Ivy Woods Nursing Home, and many local families. Please stop by the white van in the parking lot after any Mass this weekend to get the list of needed items. Additionally, a Giving Tree will be placed in the church—please take a gift tag. Please bring all the requested items to the Parish Center the weekend of December 6–7. For more information, contact Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085. Thank you for your generosity!



### DISCERNMENT DAY WITH THE DOMINICAN SISTERS

The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia will host a discernment retreat day on Saturday, December 6, at St. Gertrude Parish from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Open to single Catholic women ages 17 to 30, the event includes Mass, prayer with the sisters, adoration, spiritual talks, and lunch. For more information or to RSVP, please email [vocation@op-tn.org](mailto:vocation@op-tn.org). Come spend time with the Lord, and get a glimpse of the beauty of religious life!



### SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION—HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Monday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, which is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be at 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 7 p.m. Please join us as we honor and celebrate our Blessed Mother.



### CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Remember your family, friends, and loved ones in a special way this Christmas with our annual Christmas novena of Masses, offered here at St. Gertrude Parish. The novena will begin on Christmas Day, December 25, 2025, and go through January 2, 2026. Novena cards are available at the entrances of the church and in the parish office. Please return your novena offering envelope in the collection basket or to the parish office before Christmas. All proceeds go to support the St. Gertrude Priory.

## This WEEK

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

7 p.m. | Become Catholic (St. Dominic Lobby)  
7 p.m. | Healing Rosary (Church)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

11 a.m. | Moms and Littles Winter Social (St. Dominic Lobby)  
7 p.m. | Boy Scouts (School Cafeteria)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

10:15 a.m. | St. Gertrude School Pre-School Pups (School Library)  
6:30 p.m. | Cub Scouts Pack Meeting (School Cafeteria)  
7 p.m. | The Vigil Project *Way of the Star* Event (Church)  
8:30 p.m. | *Way of the Star* Reception (St. Dominic Lobby)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

7 p.m. | Lector Training (Church)  
7 p.m. | Stewardship Committee Meeting (St. Joseph Room)  
7 p.m. | Young Adults Group (St. Dominic Lobby)

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

5:30 a.m. | St. Joseph Society (Church)  
9 a.m. | Respect Life Meeting (St. Dominic Lobby)  
9 a.m. | Las Guadalupanas (St. Joseph Room)  
5:30 p.m. | Giving Tree Drop-Offs (St. Dominic Lobby)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

9 a.m. | Giving Tree Drop-Offs; Rosary Sales (St. Dominic Lobby)  
11 a.m. | Giving Tree Drop-Offs; Rosary Sales (St. Dominic Lobby)  
1 p.m. | Giving Tree Drop-Offs; Rosary Sales (St. Dominic Lobby)  
7 p.m. | Giving Tree Drop-Offs (St. Dominic Lobby)  
7 p.m. | L'alto: High School Night (Parish Center)

## DO YOUR LITTLE ONES NEED A BREAK DURING MASS?

We are now live streaming the 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 12 p.m. Sunday Masses to the Parish Center lobby. The intention is to provide parents a place where they can take their little ones during Mass and still see and hear what is happening during the liturgy.

## HOW CAN READING DEEPEN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE?

Visit the St. Gertrude Parish library to find out! Located in the St. Joseph Room in the Parish Center, the library is open 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. when parish groups are not using the space. Visit [stgertrude.library.site/](http://stgertrude.library.site/) or scan the QR code to browse our online catalog and sign up for an account.



Cover Image Attribution: Fra Angelico, The Last Judgement. Photo by Father Lawrence Lew. Photo used with permission.

## 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.



## OUR KNEELERS SHOULD NOT BE FORCED PENANCE

*Hope Ramundo*  
*Director of Stewardship*

Each Sunday, we come together to celebrate Mass as a community. We participate in various ways, including sitting, standing, and

kneeling, all of which help us to enter more fully into the Mass. Kneeling shows reverence and is an act of humility, especially during the Eucharistic prayer, when our all-powerful God humbles himself by taking the form of bread and wine.

At St. Gertrude Parish, our current kneelers have served us for more than 20 years(!) and have become increasingly uncomfortable and worn down as, week after week, around 2,000 people come to our church and use them.

For Giving Tuesday this year, our parish goal is to raise **\$100,000 to refurbish the kneelers in our church.** With your help, we can make our kneelers comfortable and more supportive—a seemingly small update that will greatly improve the Mass experience for our parishioners and everyone who

visits our parish. Be on the lookout for an email on Giving Tuesday with more details. Ready to give now? All gifts made between now and the end of the day on December 2 count toward our goal! Scan the QR code below to give early, or send a check or cash to the parish office (make sure you clearly note that it is for Giving Tuesday). Thank you!

May God bless you,

Hope Ramundo

**GIVING TUESDAY**  
December 2, 2025

**GOAL: \$100,000**

To upgrade our church kneelers and improve everyone's experience at Mass.

Give at [bit.ly/kneelers2025](https://bit.ly/kneelers2025)  
or scan the QR code.



## A WONDERFUL ADVENTURE

*Sister Mariana Thayer, O.P.*  
*St. Gertrude School Vice Principal*

"Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure!" This quote from Pope St. John Paul II resonates deeply with me, but that wasn't always

the case. During these past 20 years as a Dominican sister, I have experienced the peace and joy that come from saying "yes" to God's plan, but there was a time when I questioned if religious life could truly lead to happiness. In eighth grade, I recall our parish priest pointing to a sister sitting in a nearby pew and suggesting that I, too, could be a sister. I turned to my mom and told her I would never be a sister! It was not until college that I began to think about my vocation.

My parish was hosting a weekend retreat, and my mom encouraged me to attend. Half-heartedly, I went and was amazed by what I saw. There was a group of priests who were young, happy, and normal. I didn't realize these qualities could coexist! I asked them many questions about their lives and signed up for an evening Holy Hour. It was at that Holy Hour that I first wondered if God could be calling me to religious life. But, I didn't know how to discern my vocation and was scared at the prospect of being a sister, so I tucked the idea into the

back of my mind and didn't give it any more thought. A few years later, the Lord began to gently knock on the door of my heart again. I had assumed that God was calling me to be married and have children, but I realized I hadn't asked him about my vocation. I was afraid of the answer.

At World Youth Day in Toronto in 2002, I received the grace to be open to God's will for my life. In his homily, Pope St. John Paul II said not to be afraid if God is calling you to give him your entire life. At that moment, I understood something fundamental to my vocational discernment: God would never call me to something that would make me miserable. In fact, whatever he was calling me to would bring me the greatest joy this side of heaven because he fashioned my heart for it.

I learned about the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia not long after that and visited the Motherhouse in Nashville. I still had many apprehensions, so I knew I needed to see it for myself. While there, I quickly recognized that the sisters' joy was authentic and that I felt like I was at home. I visited a few other orders and continued to frequent the sacraments. Through prayer and the wise counsel of a spiritual director, I discerned that God was calling me to enter our congregation.

The joy that I experienced on my first visit has only deepened each year I spend giving myself entirely to Jesus and to his Church. The adventure that he has designed for me far surpasses what I could have imagined on my own!





## MAKE TIME FOR HIM THIS ADVENT

**Andrea Thomas, Parishioner and Co-Founder of The Vigil Project**

It was December 2000. My eighth grade year at St. Gertrude School was underway, and we were preparing for the much-anticipated

Christmas pageant, excited to be part of the nearly 70-year SGS tradition. I remember rehearsing my lines and practicing my solo as the Angel Gabriel. So much preparation. So much anticipation. And if I'm honest . . . so many nerves. The pageant night came, and the class of '01 held our own. The applause sounded, we took a bow, and went to Graeter's for a nightcap.

Now, 25 years later, that memory returns to me as I prepare, once again, for an event at St. Gertrude Parish. This time, I'm preparing not with my 8th-grade classmates, but with my team of musicians at The Vigil Project. Full circle moments in life are funny, aren't they?

Suboptimally, this combination of preparation, anticipation, and nerves seems to have followed me in my professional endeavors. Over the years, I have begged God to remove the nerves, but they have somehow healthily maintained themselves. There has been an unforeseen blessing in being nervous: it reminds me that God is ultimately in control even when I am uncomfortable or things seem amiss. In a performance-based culture, I am reminded that he desires time with me, more than anything I can do. Should we dare to make space, even a short time with him can accomplish more than we can achieve in a lifetime by ourselves.

But do we make the space to encounter him? Do we take the time?

I want to invite you to take time to encounter Jesus this Advent, right here at St. Gertrude Parish, on Wednesday, December 3, at 7 p.m.


As a member of St. Gertrude Parish, I am overjoyed to bring my colleagues from The Vigil Project to the place I call home. The event is called *Way of the Star*, a night of music and prayer in preparation for Advent. This is an album and live-event experience that we wrote, inspired by the Way of the Cross devotion prayed during Lent. We will journey together for 90 minutes through the "stations" of the nativity story in lectio divina-style prayer, paired with sweeping instrumental and vocal music written to accompany the Scriptures like a soundtrack. The evening is made all the more beautiful with sacred art painted for this specific experience, and the night culminates in Eucharistic adoration—Emmanuel, God with us!

We first toured with this event throughout Europe in 2023, and then throughout the United States in 2024. It was originally written for a community in Italy as a means of connecting our universal Church beyond language, using the great gift of music, from soaring instrumental string melodies to simple, repeatable and powerful refrains.

In paragraph 2562, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that it is the whole man who prays. God created us as integrative beings, meaning that our emotions, intellect, imagination, and physical bodies all work together. We can't divorce them from each other, even if we try. Incense, music, and beautiful artwork engage our senses, and God very much comes to us by means of these! There is a reason we are stopped in our tracks by a gorgeous sunset or a stunning piece of music. We were made in beauty, by beauty, and for Beauty himself. It quite literally resonates with us on a cellular level! I don't have the time or space to expound on that (the science is called *cymatics* for the fellow nerds), but the point is that immersing ourselves in the beauty of these elements can be a powerful way to encounter God. It is the whole man who prays.

I didn't know it then, but my excitement as an 8th grader wasn't just about Christmas nostalgia and getting to sing a solo. I was drawn to the reality that music can accompany the season and guide my heart in a particular way. That's what *Way of the Star* is intended to do. A huge part of The Vigil Project mission is to reclaim artistic excellence in the Church and help people pray deeply with music. Thank you to Father John Paul, Michelle Dushensky, and the entire team here at St. Gertrude Parish for making it possible for us to come. **This event is intended for the entire parish, so please know that all ages are welcome!** I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us on December 3. And beyond a grace-filled night of music and prayer, I may need to heed tradition and convince my colleagues to join me in making Graeter's our nightcap.





## 2025 MEN'S ADVENT RETREAT

All men ages 18+ are invited to the annual Catholic Men's Advent Retreat, "I Thirst: A Message of Hope from the Cross."

**WHEN & WHERE**  
December 5-6, 2025  
Jesuit Spiritual Center (Milford)

Scan the QR code or visit [catholicmensretreat.org](http://catholicmensretreat.org) to learn more and register!



L'alto: High School

## 2025 ADVENT RETREAT




**Find your reason for the season**

All 9th-12th graders are invited to step away from the busyness of life to reflect and prepare their hearts to journey with Christ this Advent season.

Saturday | 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**12.06.25**

Jesuit Spiritual Center  
Milford, OH

Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/LaltoRetreat](http://bit.ly/LaltoRetreat) to learn more and sign up!



## Advent Lessons and Carols

In celebration of the Advent season, the St. Gertrude Parish Capella, Novitiate Choir, Schola Cantorum, and Parish Choir present a contemplative service of readings that trace salvation history from creation to the Annunciation, interwoven with profound musical meditations from the Church's treasury of sacred music for Advent.

**December 14 | 3 p.m.**  
**St. Gertrude Church**



## SWING INTO SPRING

**Knights of Columbus Fundraiser**  
Elder Council will donate a portion of the funds to The American Wheelchair Mission

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026**  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**TOPGOLF**  
9568 Water Front Drive  
West Chester Township

**Christmas Discount**  
\$70/person or \$375 for a team of six players (ends December 31)  
Regular Rate: \$75/person or \$390 for a team of six players.  
Registration ends April 11, 2026.

For more information and to register, scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/2026swing](http://bit.ly/2026swing).



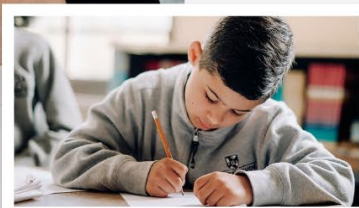


# 50 Years

CLASS REUNION  
CELEBRATION

St. Gertrude School's Class of 1975 is invited to celebrate 50 years on Saturday, March 21, 2026. The evening will begin with the 4:30 p.m. parish Mass, followed by a private tour of the SGS campus. Then, enjoy a four-course dinner catered by Maggiano's as you reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate the friendships that have endured across the decades—or catch up with classmates you haven't seen in years! To learn more or reserve your seat, please contact Julie Fentress at [jfentress@stgertrudesch.org](mailto:jfentress@stgertrudesch.org)

## Discover the *Dominican* Difference



At St. Gertrude School, our students are formed in rigorous academics, intellectual discipline, and an unshakable commitment to truth found in the person of Jesus Christ. Standing out in high schools across the region, our graduates are distinguished by their moral clarity, academic excellence, and a profound sense of purpose. For families seeking more than a Catholic education in name alone and for those who desire true formation in wisdom and virtue, St. Gertrude School stands apart.

**NOW ENROLLING**  
**K-8TH GRADE**

To apply, visit [stgertrudesch.org](http://stgertrudesch.org).

### WEIHNACHTS KONZERT

The Catholic Kolping Saengerchor presents its Weihnachts Konzert (Christmas Concert) on **Sunday, November 30**, at the Kolping Center (10235 Mill Road, Cincinnati, OH). The concert will feature carols and traditional songs in German and English and the Kinderchor (children's choir). Dessert, coffee, and tea will be served. There will be a cash bar, homemade cookies for sale, a basket raffle, and split-the-pot. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.; concert begins at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15. RSVP to Bonnie Campbell at (513) 675-0571.

### TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY

You're invited to Gate of Heaven Cemetery on **Friday, December 5, from 7 to 9:30 p.m.** for a special Advent evening of fellowship and sacred music, featuring performances by local parish choirs, including St. Margaret of York and Our Lady of Hope parish families. Enjoy complimentary appetizers and refreshments. During the evening, Gate of Heaven will be accepting donations to help provide car seats for Pregnancy Center Plus and will joyfully match your contributions, doubling the blessing for young families in need. Your generosity will make a lasting impact. No RSVP is required.

### CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM

Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center is hosting its annual Christmas in Bethlehem on Saturdays during December:

- December 6 (Family Fun Day), | 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Enjoy an interactive town of Bethlehem, shopping, live animals, crafts, food trucks, and St. Nicholas.
- December 13 & 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Enjoy an interactive town of Bethlehem and shopping.

Space is limited, and registration is required. Visit [olhsc.org/events](http://olhsc.org/events) for more information and to sign up.



**FREE!**  
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### MEN'S ADVENT RETREAT

All men are invited to an Advent retreat the weekend of December 5–7, either in-person or via Zoom. The theme for the retreat is, "St. Joseph, Our Model for Living in this World." Although Joseph never utters a word in Scripture, he is known as the Terror of Demons. His roles as husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus make him an important model to follow. The retreat will be at Our Lady of Guadalupe Discipleship Center (5701 Lawshe Rd., Peebles, OH), and is sponsored by Presentation Ministries. Enjoy the trails, rock formations, and wooded hillsides. Guest rooms are available, and meals will be provided. The cost of the retreat is a freewill offering. For more information and to pre-register, call (513) 373-2397 or visit [presentationministries.com](http://presentationministries.com).

### FRESH-CUT CHRISTMAS TREES

Boy Scout Troop 18 is selling fresh-cut Christmas trees beginning Saturday, November 29, until Christmas. The Christmas Tree lot is located at St. Savior Church. Learn more at [BoyScoutChristmasTrees.com](http://BoyScoutChristmasTrees.com). Buy a tree while they last!



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

### Monday, December 1 | Advent Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – Samuel Schroeder by Kevin Breslin  
8 a.m. | Mass – † Janet Webster by Bill & Tish Shefcik  
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Deceased Members of the Dominican Order  
4 p.m. | Confessions

### Tuesday, December 2 | Advent Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – Father Robert Altier by Martha Hanna  
8 a.m. | Mass – Caroline Clanton by The Clanton Family  
10 a.m. | Moms & Littles Holy Hour  
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Anne & Bob Siebert by The Siebert Family  
4 p.m. | Confessions

### Wednesday, December 3 | St. Francis Xavier (M)

7 a.m. | Mass – † Missy Castrucci by The Castrucci Family  
8 a.m. | Mass – Reverend Richard Baumann, SJ  
by Harry & Peggy Robinson  
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Dino Pelle by The Effler Family  
4 p.m. | Confessions  
7 p.m. | Confessions

### Thursday, December 4 | Advent Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – † Marlin James Lloyd by Pete & Donna Marcello  
8 a.m. | Mass – † Raymond J. Bashor Jr.  
by The Deocariza Family & Virginia Dornidon  
11:30 a.m. | Mass – Michael Green by Jack & Susan Green  
4 p.m. | Confessions

### Friday, December 5 | Advent Weekday

7 a.m. | † Patricia & Norman Murdock by The Murdock Family  
8 a.m. | Mass – † Margaretha Thung by The Goedde Family  
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Kim Caswell by Rita Johantges  
4 p.m. | Confessions

### Saturday, December 6 | St. Nicholas (M)

8 a.m. | Mass – † Sister Marian Sartain, O.P., by Kevin & Anne Lynch  
11:30 a.m. | Mass – Maximilian Westendorf by Randy & Emily Westendorf  
3:30 p.m. | Confessions  
4:30 p.m. | Mass – † Owen Hughes by Bo & Jennifer Burkhart & Family

### Sunday, December 7 | Second Sunday of Advent

8 a.m. | Mass – The People of St. Gertrude Parish  
10 a.m. | Mass – † Sister Agatha Fitzgerald, OSU, by Marylyn Clark  
12 p.m. | Sports Mass – Radhika Ramenaden  
by Dennis & Shirly Ramenaden  
6 p.m. | Mass – Joe & Gabriela Mackey & Family  
by Joan Rizzo Mackey



## 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

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Father Reginald Hoefer, O.P., Parochial Vicar  
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Father Luke VanBerkum, O.P., Parochial Vicar  
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Teri Forlini, Parish Secretary  
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Christopher Holman, Director of Music  
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Pam Chmiel, Administrative Assistant  
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Sister Mariana Thayer, O.P., Vice Principal  
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Madeline McCauley, Dir. of Marketing & Community  
Engagement  
community@stgertrudesch.org | (513) 561-8020, ext. 1138

ATHLETICS

Jake Dummermuth, Athletic Director  
jdummermuth@stgertrudesch.org

ST. GERTRUDE PARISH SUPPORT MINISTRIES

Parents of Precious Pearls (Children with Special Needs)  
Laura Nanista | laura\_nanista@outlook.com  
Seasons of Hope (Bereavement)  
Cindy Hertzal | (513) 368-8941  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Jennifer Mansfield | (513) 561-5954, ext 2112

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Collection	\$54,056
Weekly Budget	\$47,059
Weekly Surplus	\$6,997
Second Collection – CCHD	\$2,432

Fiscal Year-to-Date

Year Ending June 30, 2026	
Fiscal YTD Actual	\$901,559
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$988,235
Fiscal YTD Deficit	(\$86,676)



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BULLETIN DEADLINE

Bulletin: December 14  
Materials Due: December 3

Please submit your bulletin  
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[bulletin@stgertrude.org](mailto:bulletin@stgertrude.org).





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