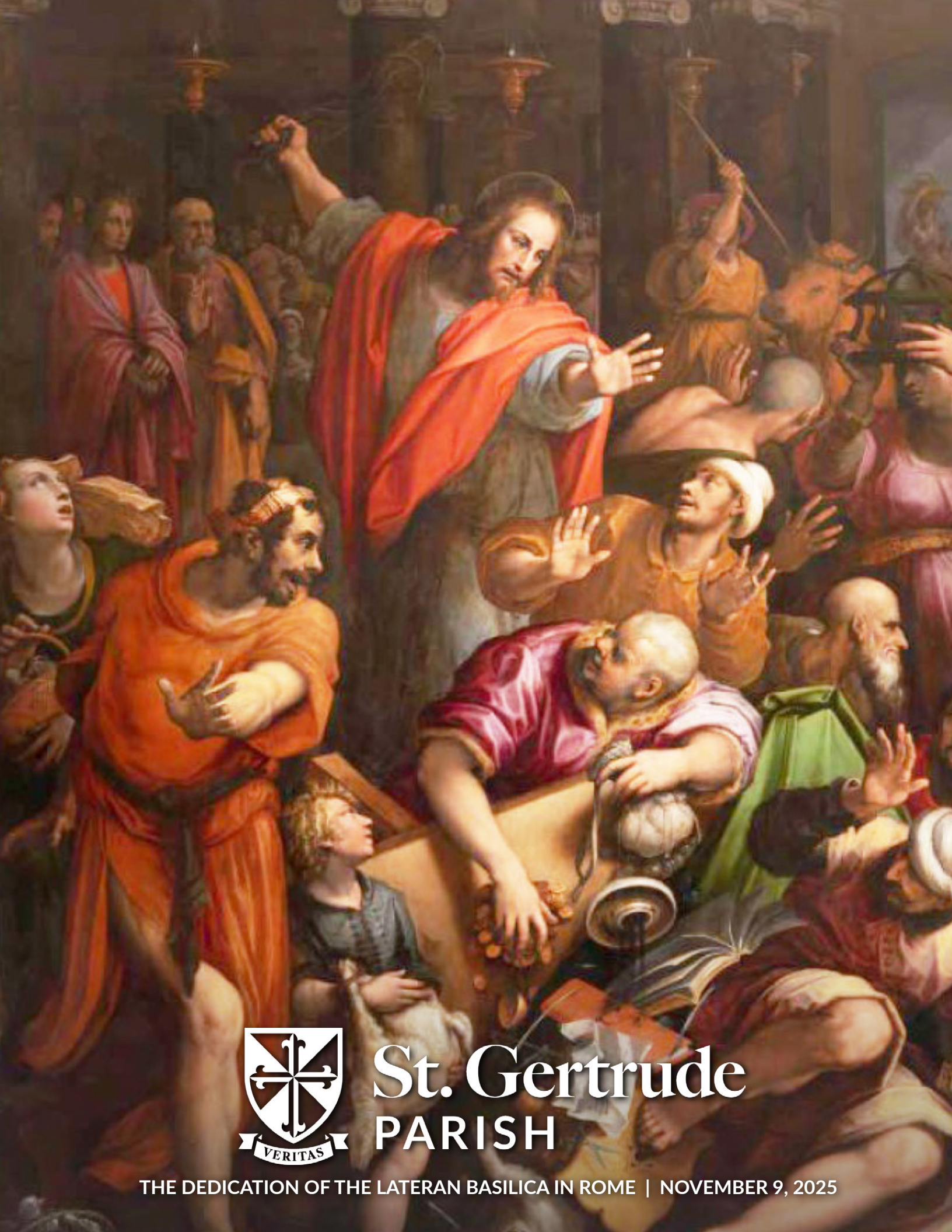


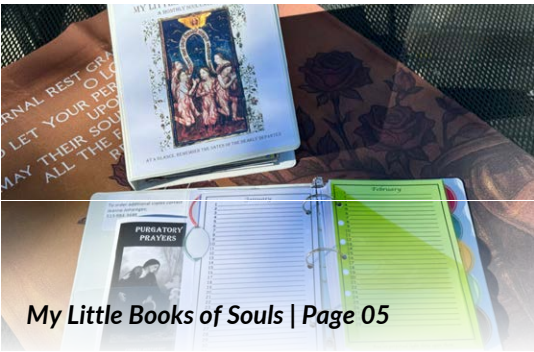


St. Gertrude PARISH

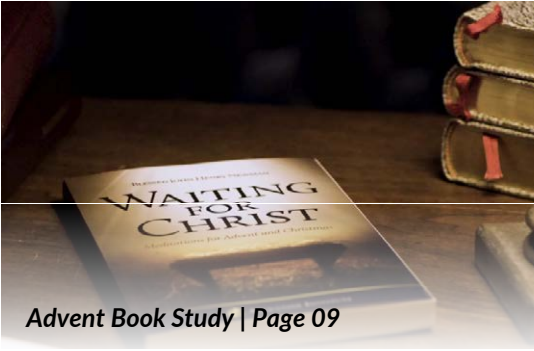
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Listen to our parish podcast on Spotify or Apple Podcasts!



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Apple

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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.



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. 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 or scan the QR code.





A VERY PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE PARISH

Early last Sunday morning, I received quite a scare. Upon waking up, I recognized I was experiencing one of the symptoms indicating a possible stroke. One of

the other friars drove me to the ER. After a series of tests (CT scans and an MRI of the brain), the hospital confirmed that I had suffered a stroke and admitted me. This was certainly an objectively scary situation to be in, though I did feel at peace the whole time I was there. I kept repeating a prayer that I learned from the writings of Blessed Chiara Luce Badano (one of the four young and mighty saints featured in our All Saints' Day Vigil on Halloween night), who, as she was dying from cancer, kept repeating the prayer, "Jesus, if you want it, I want it too."

The good news is that the chief neurologist who looked at the MRI told me it was one of the smallest strokes he had ever seen during his entire career as a neurologist. Another neurologist added that it was also in a part of the brain that was known to be extremely adaptable. Both proved to be correct, as about 24 hours after it started, the symptom I was experiencing disappeared entirely. The neurology team is positive that there will be no permanent effects of this small stroke. Less than 48 hours after it happened, I was back home in the priory.

I still need to have a lot of tests done in the weeks ahead to try to determine the exact cause of the stroke, as having one at my age is unusual. But I can say it was a wake-up call for me. I've realized that I probably haven't been as focused on self-care over these past few years as I should have been, and that I need to do more in that area moving forward. One of the things I most love about St. Gertrude Parish is how active it is and how everything is always happening at a million miles an hour—and I would never want that to change! But on a personal level, I probably shouldn't be going a million miles an hour all the time. I am very thankful for Father Luke and Father Reginald, who, even before this happened, have been taking some things off my plate to help ease the load on me. They are amazing vicars, and I am so thankful to have both of them at my side here at St. Gertrude Parish.

I absolutely love being the pastor of St. Gertrude Parish, and, God willing, plan to remain so for years to come. God is doing some amazing things here, and I am so very excited about what our future holds. One of our parish core values is **magnanimity**, which is the desire to do great things for God. I see that virtue in play every single day in our parish priests and staff, school

administration and faculty, and in so many parishioners who give generously of themselves to our parish in countless ways. As St. Catherine of Siena once wrote, "Do not be satisfied with doing small things for God, if God is asking you to do great things." I strongly believe that, at this moment in history, God is asking us to do great things. I pray we all respond to that call with zeal and generosity.

I will end this by asking for your continued prayers and support. My three-plus years here have been a joy, and they have been so because of all of you. Let's continue to do great things together.

God bless,

Rev. John Paul Walker, O.P.

Father John Paul Walker, O.P.



THE POWER OF THE ROSARY

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

- Our Lady to Blessed Alan de la Roche

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NOVENA

In preparation for the feast of our patroness, we invite all parishioners to join us in praying a St. Gertrude the Great novena from November 7 to 15. Novena cards with the prayer are available in the church.

LADIES OF CHARITY THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

It is time for the Ladies of Charity annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, benefiting Hope Emergency Shelter. Flyers with a list of this year's needed items are available at the entrances to the church. **Donations may be dropped off in the Parish Center next weekend, November 15-16.** The following non-perishable items are especially needed during this time:

- Stuffing mix
- Gravy packets
- Canned sweet potatoes
- Cornbread mix
- Canned Pumpkin
- Canned pineapple chunks, rings, etc.
- Boxed brownie, cake, or dessert mixes
- Peanut butter
- Cranberry Sauce

Hope Emergency has requested that items be no larger than 16 oz. cans/containers.

Please consider donating these items to help someone in need have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Cash and check (made payable to Ladies of Charity) donations are also appreciated and may be dropped off at or mailed to the parish office. Please call Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085 with questions. Thank you for your support!

BAPTISMS – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025



Child: Hudson Paul McCluskey
Parents: Andrea & Keith McCluskey



Child: Eleanor Joan Schardt
Parents: Maryclare & Derek Schardt



Child: Samuel Diego Slonkosky
Parents: Laura & John Slonkosky



Child: Mary Elizabeth Smith
Parents: Grace & Michael Smith
Priest: Reverend Philip A. 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, 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

† Ronald Gunn, brother of Diane Tomaszewski



YOU'RE INVITED: PARISH LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

The St. Gertrude Parish Library is reopening, beginning with an **Open House this Sunday, November 9. Stop by the St. Joseph Room in the Parish Center after 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. Mass** to see the refurbished library and our remarkable treasure of Catholic books on a wide range of topics and for all ages and interests. As a bonus, the Open House will feature free books and magazines (in both English and Spanish).



NEXT DOMINICAN RITE MASS—THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Please join us on Thursday, November 13, at 7 p.m. for a low Mass in memory of the deceased brothers and sisters of the Order of Preachers. There won't be any music for this Mass.

This is the last Dominican Rite Mass for 2025. Stay tuned for the 2026 schedule. To learn more about the Dominican Rite, visit stgertrude.org/dominicanrite.



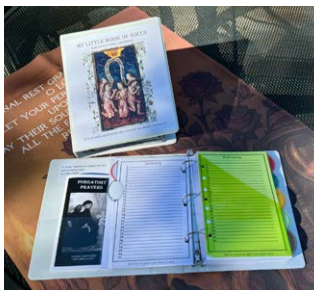
DIY WREATH DECORATING WORKSHOP—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Start your Christmas cheer at a DIY wreath decorating workshop, hosted by our Walking with Purpose ministry and given by St. Gertrude Parish parishioner Michelle Rossman. The workshop will begin with learning how to create a bow, and then you will use the provided materials to decorate large, live fir wreaths. The workshop is on Friday, November 21, from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. in the St. Dominic Lobby and is \$70 per person—anyone is welcome! Please RSVP by Saturday, November 8, by sending your payment to Michelle Rossman (@Michelle-M-Rossmann) via Venmo.



2025 WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Married couples from St. Gertrude Parish who are celebrating significant anniversaries (25th, 30th, 35th—every five years up to 75 years) are invited to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Saturday, November 22, to receive a special blessing. Reserved seating will be available for couples and their families. **To reserve your spot and ensure you receive your certificate from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, please contact the parish office at (513) 561-5954 or parishoffice@stgertrude.org by November 11.** We look forward to celebrating with you!



MY LITTLE BOOK OF SOULS

Praying for your departed loved ones just got easier with My Little Book of Souls. Created by St. Gertrude Parish parishioner Jeanne Johantges, My Little Book of Souls is a 9.5" x 8" monthly organizer with dated pages for you to write the names of your deceased loved ones and contains pockets where you can keep their holy cards. Then, on their anniversaries, you can pray for your dearly departed in a special way. Each book is \$45, and \$5 from each purchase goes toward a Mass said for the holy souls in purgatory. Stop by the parish office to see a sample of the book, and contact Jeanne at (513) 984-3688 (home) or (513) 800-8928 (cell) to purchase your own book.

— This — WEEK

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

- 12:30 p.m. | *True Devotion to Mary* (St. Dominic Lobby)
- 6 p.m. | United in Hope – Ecumenical Panel Discussion (Gym)
- 7 p.m. | Boy Scouts (School Cafeteria)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- 10:15 a.m. | St. Gertrude School Preschool Pups (School Library)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- 7 p.m. | Young Adults Group (St. Joseph Room)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- 8:30 a.m. | CGS Seed Planting Workshop (School Cafeteria)
- 5:30 p.m. | St. Gertrude Feast Day Celebration (Parish Center)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- 7 p.m. | L'alto: High School Adoration Night (Parish Center)

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.



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. 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 to start writing your will for free today! Use referral code **STGERTRUDE**.



SAVE THE DATE
TRIUMPH
of the **HEART**
Inspiring feature film about St. Maximilian Kolbe
Thursday, November 20
Mariemont Theatre
More details to come!



BULLDOGS WRESTLING—LATE REGISTRATION

All boys of St. Gertrude Parish in grades K–8 are invited to join the Bulldogs wrestling team for the 2025–2026 season, which runs now through February 13, 2026. The state qualifying season runs February 16, 2026, through April 1, 2026. Late registration is open through December 1 and is \$175. For details and to sign up, visit bit.ly/stgbulldogs or scan the QR code. Email Alex Linz at linzal1982@gmail.com with questions.



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.

UPCOMING LECTOR TRAININGS

All current lectors and anyone wishing to join the lector ministry should **plan to attend one of our two upcoming lector trainings on Saturday, November 22, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. or 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, contact the parish office at (513) 561-5954 or parishoffice@stgertrude.org.

ALL SAINTS' & ALL SOULS' PODCAST EPISODE!

October 31 was our annual All Saints' Day Vigil, focusing on four young, inspiring saints. On Sunday, November 2, we celebrated All Souls' Day, praying for the souls in purgatory, especially our deceased loved ones. Our newest parish podcast episode features Father Reginald's homily from the All Saints' Vigil and Father Luke's homily from 10 a.m. Mass on All Souls' Day. Scan the QR codes to listen now.



Spotify



Apple

JOIN A BOURBON & BOOKS SMALL GROUP

Thank you to all the men who attended our Bourbon & Books Kickoff on October 23! Any men still interested in joining a Bourbon & Books small group, should scan the QR code or visit stgertrude.org/bourbonandbooks to complete the interest form by Monday, November 10. We are actively in the process of setting up a new cohort of small groups. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, contact bourbonbooks@stgertrude.com.



STEWARDSHIP: RENEWAL OF TREASURE

Hope Ramundo
Director of Stewardship

When I was a little girl, I loved to put money in the poor box at church. I would collect coins I

found on the street, look through our couch cushions for spare change, and excitedly bring all these coins to Mass and put them in the poor box. One year, I even asked to give all of my birthday money to the poor. My parents taught me that it was good to help people and that the money I gave would give people food and things they needed. I loved to help people, so I loved to give.

Then I got a little older, and I started seeing more things I wanted to buy. I got a job working at a diner, and I started making some money. I spent my hard-earned cash on clothes, books, and going to lunch with my friends. I volunteered a lot and was very active in my parish, but I no longer had the desire to give all my money to the poor; I wanted to spend it on myself. I thought, "When I'm older and make more money, that's when I'll give to the poor again."

After college, my first job was at a nonprofit. Every day, I asked people to donate to the organization's mission. This convicted me, and I started regularly giving to a couple charities and would bring cash to Mass almost every week. As time went on, I started seeing more opportunities to give, and I began thinking about it as an act of trust in God. So I made the leap, and

decided to sign up for online giving at my parish. I wanted to commit to giving a certain amount, and I didn't want my giving to be based on whether I remembered to bring cash to Mass that day. Each pay raise, I re-evaluated what I was giving and challenged myself to give a sacrificial amount. I had some big expenses, but I also had enough to go out to dinner with friends and do fun things, so I knew I had enough to give more to the Church.

Every year, as I learn to trust more in God, I get closer and closer to my childlike desire to help the poor and be generous. Life can be hard and expensive—I've had some really tight budgets over the years, but trusting God with my finances has never steered me wrong, and he has always provided for me. I still have a long way to go before I am like the little girl who wanted to give everything away, but I'm doing better than I was last year, and I'm inching my way closer to God through sacrificial giving.

This weekend, I am asking you to take your finances, budget, and the gifts you've been given to prayer. Ask God how he wants you to use your money. Think about whether you truly trust God to provide for you. Then, take the next step. Whether that's starting a consistent online gift, increasing your gift, or doing something more! To learn about ways to support St. Gertrude Parish, scan the QR code, visit stgertrude.org/donate, or contact me at hramundo@stgertrude.org or (513) 561-5954, ext. 2120.

God bless,

Hope Ramundo





2025 MEN'S ADVENT RETREAT



Father Louis Bethea, O.P., grew up in Springfield, VA, and is the oldest of two children. He studied chemical engineering at Carnegie-Mellon University. Father Louis entered the Order of Preachers after working as a materials engineer for 10 years in the tire industry, including three years in Europe. Father Louis has worked as a hospital chaplain in New York City and is presently completing a licentiate in sacred theology at the Dominican House of Studies focusing on spiritual theology.

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 Louis Bethea, O.P., will be our retreat master. This year's theme, "I Thirst: A Message of Hope from the Cross" 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 with dinner at 6 p.m. on Friday
and concludes by 4 p.m. on 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 any questions, call (513) 289-5268
or email info@catholicmensretreat.org.

REGISTER TODAY!



Scan the QR code or visit
catholicmensretreat.org.
Ends November 29 or
until the retreat is sold
out. Space is limited!



CGS—THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AT WORK

Lisa Farwick

Parishioner and CGS Catechist

In April 2015, when our children were ages three and one, I was invited to a Catechesis of the Good

Shepherd (CGS) informational night at St. Gertrude Parish. I saw the CGS presentations of the parables of the Good Shepherd and the Good Samaritan. I was a sponge. This wasn't just an informational night about a program; it was a seed planted in my heart. The pondering questions, the Scriptures, and the relationship with Jesus Christ were all present through not only the presentations, but also the Holy Spirit. I soon felt called to join this ministry as a CGS catechist and quickly signed up for formation that fall. It's been 10 years since my first encounter with CGS, and I can't imagine not having CGS in our family.

What is so special about CGS? CGS is built on the rich food of our faith, the truths of the Church, the liturgy, and salvation history as told in the Bible. Just as Jesus taught in parables, which can never be completely exhausted, CGS is a method of catechesis that leads to listening, pondering, and responding to God's incalculable gifts.

Each person is called to a relationship with God that meets the deep, natural desires of our hearts. This is present even in the smallest children. I have observed a child as young as three years old—who could not even recall her last name—know the love and joy that the Good Shepherd has for her. This is the heart of CGS: the discovery that the Good Shepherd loves me and desires to always be with me. He lays down his life for all of his sheep. It's a love beyond understanding.

On another occasion, I watched a small, active child who was new to the atrium begin setting the model altar, but he never finished. He just sat with hands clasped, leaning over the small table, very still, eyes open. When I asked if he was going to work with the altar he responded, "It's so quiet." He sat in satisfying silence for several minutes until the end of the work time. The Holy Spirit is at work in ways we can't fathom.

In *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey*, Sofia Cavalletti wrote, "Silence is an essential element of prayer. Silence is not simply the absence of noise; it is a deeper stilling of the body, heart and mind so as to listen and to open oneself more fully to God. We are invited to 'be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10). The cultivation of silence is a very important dynamic in the religious formation of children." I have seen this in the atrium. Even a very restless Level I (ages 3–6) group can transform as they prepare their bodies to make a

moment of silence—and afterward, enthusiastically ask to make a longer silence. In Level II (ages 7–9), children often choose to lead their classmates in moments of silent prayer.

The brilliance of the CGS method is the result of many years of the founders observing children, honoring their responses to the materials, and honing in on the most fruitful parts. It's through these discoveries of connection between God and his children that cut to what's most essential for each presentation.

Woven throughout salvation history, from the beginning of creation and the existence of humankind to redemption through Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection, the presence of God can be seen as a golden thread that will continue on for all time to Parousia. We ponder Old Testament typology through the lens of the New Testament with 9–12 year olds. This leads to discoveries of similarities and also differences in the great events of salvation history. It is as if a golden thread, like one that unites individual pearls in a necklace, binds together these events. And so, we realize that the history of the kingdom of God is one history and told in one book. A child responded to a work about the history of the kingdom of God by drawing a spiral timeline with Creation in the center, redemption, and then Parousia, and the line kept expanding out with a yellow light until the page was full.

Children in the atrium express how they see the Holy Spirit working in their lives. This is such a contrast to my limited childhood understanding of our relationships with God. While I knew God's love, I didn't grasp his universal call and desire to unite all his sheep to himself without partiality. I saw the faithful in some sort of ranking of who God would do things for and who he would bestow more blessings and graces upon.

In the atrium, we say each one of us is given a blank page to write, in collaboration with God, in his book of the history of his kingdom. Could we look back on the writing on our pages thus far and see God's golden thread? From the three-year-old to the twelve-year old, and certainly to adults, we long for the mystery of the eternal life we were created for. It's the moment in history that we desire to know about and for which we are all people waiting. I invite you to experience CGS for yourself.

CGS SEED PLANTING WORKSHOP

Get an introduction to The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd principles and experience CGS presentations that will give you a taste of the program and what it offers.

Saturday, November 15
8:30–11:30 a.m.
School Cafeteria



Scan to learn more
and register!

An Evening of Prayer, Song, and
Conversation Across Traditions

United in Hope

6 p.m. Panel Discussion | Gym

Featuring Father John Paul Walker, O.P., and Reverend
Darren Elin, rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church
On the important work of healing divisions within Christianity.

7 p.m. Evensong Prayer Service | Church

Performed by the St. Gertrude Parish Schola Cantorum
and the Choir School of St. Thomas Episcopal Church.
*Evensong is a combined form of Vespers and Compline (evening and
night prayer) and the only Christian liturgy in which the Catholic and
Anglican texts are identical.*

Reception to Follow | St. Dominic Lobby

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
ST. GERTRUDE PARISH
6543 Miami Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45243

All are invited to join us for this free event!

St. Gertrude the Great Feast Day Celebrations

MASS

Saturday, November 15

4:30 p.m. | Church

Join us for a special Mass in honor of our
patroness, St. Gertrude the Great.

PARISH CELEBRATION

Saturday, November 15

5:30 p.m. | Gym

Join us for authentic German
food, drinks, live music from
our favorite German polka
band, and plenty of fun!



ADVENT Book Study

This Advent, prepare your heart and mind for the coming of
Christ with *Waiting For Christ: Meditations for Advent and
Christmas* by St. John Henry Newman. Designed to work with
your busy Advent and Christmas schedule, this study, led by
Tyler Castrucci, our director of evangelization, is a low time
commitment way to come together for dinner and discussion.
Only 15 spots available! Scan the QR code or visit
bit.ly/waitingforchrist to sign up.

November 24 & December 15
5:30-7 p.m.

St. Gertrude Parish Center – St. Joseph Room
Cost is \$15 (includes book and dinner)



ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Join us for fellowship, fun, refreshments, and
activities for the children as we kick off the new
liturgical season by making Advent wreaths! We
provide all the materials; you bring your pruners and
a tray to transport your wreath home.

Sunday, November 30 | 12-2 p.m.
St. Gertrude Parish Gym
\$25 per Wreath Kit

To register, scan the QR code or
visit bit.ly/adventwreath2025.



Becoming *Saints* in Our Midst

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

We have entered the month of November—a time when the Church invites us to remember the saints and to reflect on the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. Their lives not only inspire us, but also give us the courage to say “yes” to the way God is fashioning us to become the saints he created us to be.

The French Catholic writer Léon Bloy once said, “The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint.” Each of us was made for sanctity, for union with God. Think about how our hearts lift when we encounter what is true, beautiful, and good! These things draw us because our hearts are made for them. At St. Gertrude School, we seek to awaken this desire in our students each day—to help them see God’s fingerprints in the world around them and to delight in his goodness.

Over the past few weeks, I have witnessed countless moments that reveal how God is at work in their hearts: eighth graders celebrating one another’s successes during a science project, third graders joyfully dancing to learn rhythm and form, a first grader pausing before a saint poster to say, “All the saints are so beautiful!” And, of course, our second graders—beaming in their saint costumes—reminding me with a smile, “Sister, we are saints in training!”

May we all take that to heart. Whether in the classroom, at home, or in the pew, we, too, are saints in training—learning, little by little, to become who God made us to be. May this month remind us to turn our hearts toward heaven and to live each day with the quiet courage of the saints.



CONTRIBUTE TO THE SGS 2025-2026 ANNUAL FUND

This vital campaign helps bridge the gap between tuition, parish subsidies, and the true cost of providing an exceptional Catholic education. Your gift directly supports the resources, programs, and tools that sustain the academic excellence and Dominican formation our students receive each day. Every gift—no matter the size—strengthens the mission of St. Gertrude School and the future of Catholic education. Donate today!



WEIHNACHTS KONZERT

The Catholic Kolping Saengerchor is presenting its Weihnachts Konzert (Christmas Concert) on **Sunday, November 30**, at the Kolping Center (10235 Mill Road, Cincinnati, OH). Carols and traditional songs in German and English will be performed, and the concert will feature the Kinderchor (children's choir). Dessert and coffee or 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., and the concert begins at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Please RSVP to Bonnie Campbell at (513) 675-0571 by November 24 to reserve your tickets. Enjoy a special afternoon with friends and family, and embrace the spirit of the season!

MEDICAL ETHICS TALK

Father Eric Wood, professor of moral theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, is offering a series of talks with discussion, reviewing some basic principles of medical ethics and considering special areas of focus. The last talk in the series is **Saturday, November 15**, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's in Hyde Park (Marion Room); the focus will be reproductive care. All Catholic nurses, doctors, medical students, therapists, and other healthcare workers welcome! Coffee and bagels will be provided. RSVP to Tricia Rahner at rahner@fuse.net or (513) 482-1265. *Sponsored by the Catholic Medical Association of Cincinnati.*

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Next weekend, November 15-16 is the annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the U.S. bishops' national anti-poverty campaign. CCHD has been an immeasurable blessing for thousands in our archdiocese over the years. Archbishop Casey appeals to the faithful: "Through the grants we make to well-vetted organizations, CCHD uniquely empowers those in poverty to identify their own needs and to become their own agents of positive change." CCHD is a unique opportunity to honor the dignity of the poor and create space for them to more fully participate in society. Please prayerfully and generously consider how you will give on Collection Weekend, November 15-16. Visit usccb.org/cchd to learn more. Also, check out the archdiocesan CCHD website for local information at resources.catholicaoc.org/offices/catholic-social-action/task-forcescommittees/cchd.

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. Please email vocation@op-tn.org for more information or to RSVP. Come spend time with the Lord, and get a glimpse of the beauty of religious life!

FRIENDS OF JESUS

Friends of Jesus is a group for adults with developmental disabilities (18 years old and older) that primarily focuses on support, prayer, and socializing. We come together in prayer, make a craft, and enjoy refreshments. Please join us for our upcoming gatherings **November 15, 2025, January 17, 2026, and March 21, 2026, from 1 to 3 p.m.** at All Saints Parish Center (8939 Montgomery Road). We will also gather in May for the year-end picnic. New members are always welcome but must RSVP prior to attending so we can plan for food and craft supplies. If you have questions or to RSVP, contact Jane Callan at (513) 793-3546. At the November event, we will focus on the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

DAY OF PRAYER AND HEALING

Open to any woman who has lost a child to abortion, the Day of Prayer and Healing on November 15 will provide a safe and confidential space for women to share their experiences, reflect on their pasts, and offer their futures to Christ. A trained priest, licensed mental health counselor, and volunteer who has found healing after abortion will be present to accompany participants. Women of all faith backgrounds are welcome. Visit projectrachelohio.org/event/day-of-reflection-2 to learn more and register. Event location and timing details will be shared after registering.

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Liturgical SCHEDULE & Mass INTENTIONS

Monday, November 10 | St. Leo the Great (M)

7 a.m. | Mass – † Arthur & Yonnie Churchill by Lynn Glockner

8 a.m. | Mass – † Tom Williams by Nancy Lucas

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

4 p.m. | Confessions

Tuesday, November 11 | St. Martin of Tours (M)

7 a.m. | Mass – † Jane Ortiz by Kevin & Anne Lynch

8 a.m. | Mass – † Ted Bayer by Judy Bayer & Family

10 a.m. | Moms & Littles Holy Hour

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Jeanne Clark by Rita Johantges

4 p.m. | Confessions

7 p.m. | United in Hope – Evensong Prayer Service

Wednesday, November 12 | St. Josaphat (M)

7 a.m. | Mass – † Owen Hughes by Bill & Ginny Schneller

8 a.m. | Mass – † Jane Ortiz by Knights of Columbus Elder Council

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Celeste Riehle by Michael & Mary Jo Voto

4 p.m. | Confessions

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

Thursday, November 13 | St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (M)

7 a.m. | Mass – † Patricia & Norman Murdock by The Murdock Family

8 a.m. | Mass – † Marianne Klekamp by Donald Klekamp

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Sister Agatha Fitzgerald, OSU, by Marylyn Clark

4 p.m. | Confessions

7 p.m. | Dominican Rite Mass – † The Deceased Brothers and Sisters of the Order of Preachers

Friday, November 14 | Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – Father Robert Altier by Martha Hanna

8 a.m. | Mass – † Marlin Lloyd by Tom & Kim Hahn

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

4 p.m. | Confessions

Saturday, November 15 | St. Albert the Great, O.P. (M)

8 a.m. | Mass – † Agnes Ginnetti by The Stines Family

11:30 a.m. | † Dino Pelle by The Hertlein Family

3:30 p.m. | Confessions

4:30 p.m. | Mass – Holy Souls in Purgatory

Sunday, November 16 | St. Gertrude the Great (S)

8 a.m. | Mass – † Ted Leugers by Peter Bertoli

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

12 p.m. | Mass – Coley Hough by Christy & Lizzie Kellner

6 p.m. | Mass – Daniel Sammons by Rick Sammons



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 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

Don Regan, Business Manager
businessmanager@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954, ext. 2102
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
mdushensky@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954, ext. 2121
Kristen Eggers, Office Coordinator
kristen@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954, ext. 2109
Walter Plummer, Director of Children & Youth Evangelization
wplummer@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954, ext. 2122
Shannon Loughrey, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
sloughrey@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954
Mary Beth Thiemann, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Coord.
mbthiemann@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954, ext. 2110
Lauren Mays, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Assistant
lmays@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954, ext. 2110

OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP

Hope Ramundo, Director of Stewardship
hramundo@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954, ext. 2120

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

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Collection	\$50,285
Weekly Budget	\$47,059
Weekly Surplus	\$3,226
Second Collection - All Saints	\$2,198

Fiscal Year-to-Date

Year Ending June 30, 2026	
Fiscal YTD Actual	\$734,139
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$847,059
Fiscal YTD Deficit	(\$112,920)



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BULLETIN DEADLINE

Bulletin: November 23
Materials Due: November 12

Please submit your bulletin
information and Mass
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