



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20 and 21, 2025

St. Gertrude Parish, Cincinnati

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24

- 3 P.M. Vigil Mass in the Church (Capella)
3 P.M. Vigil Mass in the Gym (Laudare)
5:30 P.M. Vigil Mass (Capella)
5:30 P.M. Vigil Mass in the Gym (Laudare)
Midnight Mass during the Night (Parish Choir)
*A musical prelude, excerpts from the Christmas
portion of Handel's Messiah, begins at 11:30 P.M.*

Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25

- 8 A.M. Mass at Dawn (Cantor and organ)
10 A.M. Mass during the Day (Capella)
12 P.M. Mass during the Day (Capella)

The Capella is our choir of professional singers.

Laudare is our contemporary music ensemble.

*For details of the music, readings, prayers, etc. at each Mass,
please see www.stgertrude.org/worshipprograms.*



ORDER OF MASS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

Rorate cæli

Drop Down, O Heavens

Jeanne Demessieux

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSION *(Sunday)*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

At the ringing of the sacristy bell, all stand and sing:

Saint Michael Hymnal 650

INTROIT

As the celebrant approaches the altar, the cantor/choir sings:

Memento nostri, Domine,
in beneplacito populi tui;
visita nos in salutari tuo: ad videndum in
bonitate electorum tuorum;
ad laetandum in laetitia gentis tuae:
ut lauderis cum haereditate tua.

*O Lord, remember me
with the favor you show to your people.
Visit me with your saving power,
that I may see the riches of your chosen ones,
and may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
boasting in the glory of your heritage.*

Words: Psalm 106:4–5

Music: Dominican Chant

GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

All strike their breast three times

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

KYRIE

The cantor/choir sings each line of music first, then all repeat.

The musical notation consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are represented by black dots on the staff lines, with horizontal lines indicating the pitch and duration of the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with Latin text in a standard font and English translations in italics.

Staff 1: Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mercy.

Staff 2: Chri - ste, e - le - i - son.
Christ, have mercy.

Staff 3: Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mercy.

Music: Dominican Chant, Mass XII "On Sundays of Advent"

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING I

Isaiah 7:10–14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: “Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!” But Ahaz answered, “I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!” Then Isaiah said: “Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the LORD himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 24:1–6



The LORD's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. **℟.**

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain. **℟.**

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob. **℟.**

Music: Dominican Chant — Prope est Dominus, adapted by Christopher Holman

READING II

Romans 1:1–7

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ; to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

All stand



The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel. *℞.*

Verse: Matthew 1:23

Music: Dominican Chant — Alleluia, Ostende nobis, adapted C. Holman

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–24

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*, which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit

HOMILY

Friars of the Order of Preachers

CREDO *(Saturday)*

All stand

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

All bow

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

All stand

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

CREDO (Sunday)

All stand and sing:

Celebrant: *All:*

Cre - do in u - num De - um, Pa - trem om - ni - po - ten - tem,
I believe in one God, the Father almighty,

fac - to - rem cae - li et ter - rae, vi - si - bi - li - um om - ni - um,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible

et in - vi - si - bi - li - um. Et in u - num Do - mi - num Je - sum Chris - tum,
and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

Fi - li - um De - i u - ni - ge - ni - tum. Et ex Pa - tre na - tum
the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father

an - te om - ni - a sae - cu - la. De - um de De - o, lu - men de lu - mi - ne,
before all ages. God from God, Light from Light,

De - um ve - rum de De - o ve - ro. Ge - ni - tum, non fa - ctum,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,

con - sub - stan - ti - a - lem Pa - tri: per quem om - ni - a fa - cta sunt.
consubstantial with the Father; through whom all things were made.

Qui prop - ter nos ho - mi - nes, et prop - ter nos - tram sa - lu - tem
For us men and for our salvation

All bow

des-cen - dit de cae - lis. Et in - car - na - tus est de Spi - ri - tu Sanc - to
 he came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit,

All rise

ex Ma - ri - a Vir - gi - ne: Et ho - mo fac - tus est.
 from the Virgin Mary, and became man.

Cru - ci - fi - xus et - i - am pro no - bis: sub Pon - ti - o Pi - la - to
 He was crucified for our sake under Pontius Pilate,

pas - sus, et se - pul - tus est. Et re - sur - re - xit ter - ti - a di - e,
 he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day,

se - cun - dum Scri - ptu - ras. Et as - cen - dit in cae - lum:
 in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven

se - det ad dex - te - ram Pa - tris. Et i - te - rum ven - tu - rus est cum glo - ri - a,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory

ju - di - ca - re vi - vos et mor - tu - os: cu - jus reg - ni non e - rit fi - nis.
 to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

Et in Spi - ri - tum Sanc - tum Do - mi - num, et vi - vi - fi - can - tem:
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

qui ex Pa - tre Fi - li - o - que pro - ce - dit. Qui cum Pa - tre et Fi - li - o
 who from the Father and the Son proceeds, who with the Father and the Son

si - mul ad - o - ra - tur, et con - glo - ri - fi - ca - tur:
is adored and glorified,

qui lo - cu - tus est per Pro - phe - tas. Et u - nam sanc - tam ca - tho - li - cam
who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic

et a - po - sto - li - cam Ecc - le - si - am. Con - fi - te - or un - um bap - tis - ma
and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism

in re - mis - sio - o - nem pec - ca - to - rum.
for the forgiveness of sins

Et ex - spec - to re - sur - re - cti - o - nem mor - tu - o - rum.
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

Et vi - tam ven - tu - ri sae - cu - li.
and the life of the world to come.

A - - - - - men.

Music: Gregorian Chant, Credo III

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Each petition concludes with:

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

After the final petition, all pray:

Almighty Father,

you have created us for some definite purpose.

**Grant us the grace to know the path you have planned for us in this life
and to respond with a generous “Yes.”**

**Make our archdiocese, parishes, homes, and hearts
fruitful ground for your gift of vocations.**

**May our young people respond to your call with courage and zeal.
Stir among our men a desire and the strength
to be good and holy priests.**

**Bless us with consecrated religious
and those called to a chaste single life,
permanent deacons, and faithful husbands and wives,
who are a sign of Christ’s love for His Church.**

**We commend our prayer for vocations to you, Father,
through the intercession of Mary our Mother,
in the Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

*Words: The Most Reverend Dennis Schnurr,
Archbishop Emeritus of Cincinnati*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY

All sit as the cantor/choir sings:

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Alleluia.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Alleluia.*

Words: cf. Luke 1:28

Music: William Byrd (10 A.M.)

Dominican Chant (Saturday and 12 P.M.)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

All stand

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his
power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PREFACE DIALOGUE AND SANCTUS

Saturday: St. Michael Hymnal 101

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him, the Virgin Mother longed for him with love beyond all telling, John the Baptist sang of his coming and proclaimed his presence when he came.

It is by his gift that already we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity, so that he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

Cantor: San - ctus, Holy, ctus, Holy, ctus, Holy, ctus, Do - mi - nus De - us Sa - ba - oth. Lord God of hosts. Ple - ni sunt cae - li et ter - ra glo - ri - a tu - a. Full are heaven and earth of your glory. Ho - san - na in ex - cel - sis. Hosanna in the highest. Be - ne - dic - tus qui ve - nit in no - mi - ne Do - mi - ni. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in ex - cel - sis.

All:

Music: Gregorian Chant, Mass XVII "On Sundays of Advent"

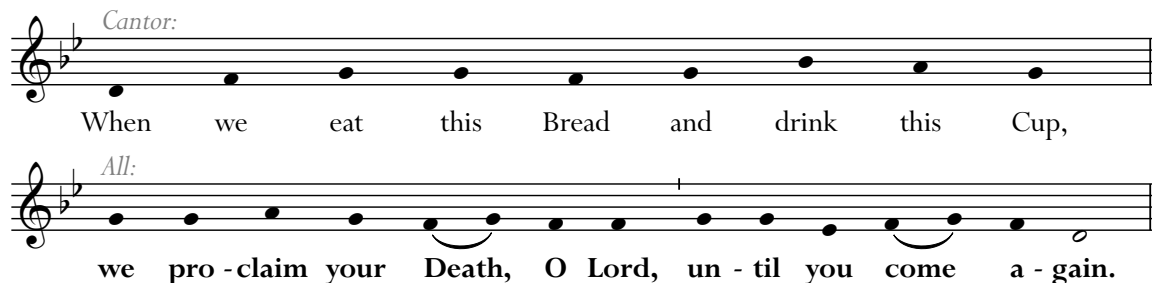
THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

All kneel

The celebrant says the Eucharistic Prayer. After the words of Consecration, the celebrant sings:

The mystery of faith.

Cantor:

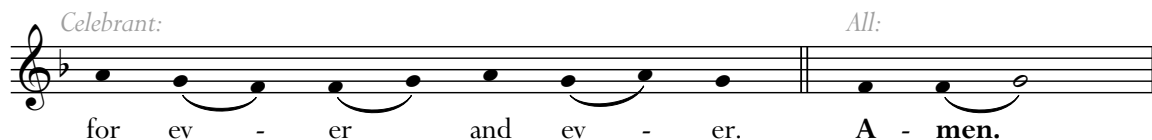


When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we pro-claim your Death, O Lord, un-til you come a-gain.

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer the celebrant takes the chalice and the paten with the host, and raising both, sings:

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours,

Celebrant:



for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All stand

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: *Peace I leave you, my peace I give you*, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All offer one another a sign of peace

AGNUS DEI

Saturday: St. Michael Hymnal 104

Cantor/choir: *All:*

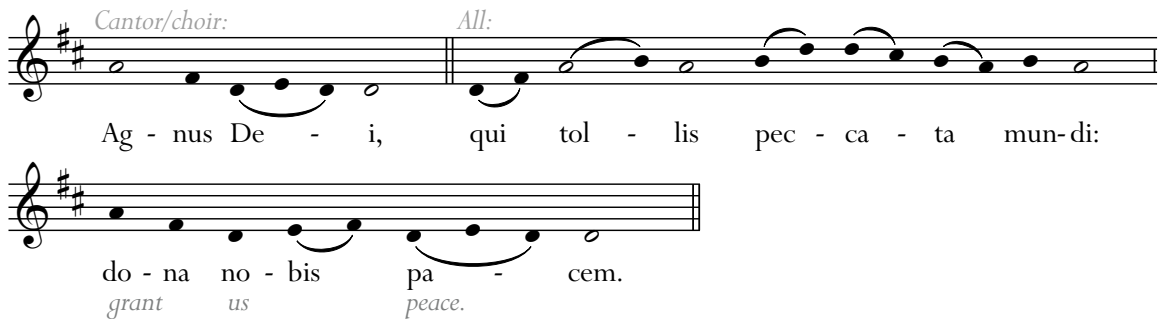
Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun-di:
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

mi - se - re - re no - bis.
have mercy on us.

Cantor/choir: *All:*

Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun-di:
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

mi - se - re - re no - bis.



Music: Gregorian Chant, Mass XVII "On Sundays of Advent"

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All kneel

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION

The cantor/Parish Choir sings:

Ecce virgo concipiet, et pariet filium:
et vocabitur nomen eius Emmanuel.

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

℣. Attollite, portae, capita vestra,
et elevamini, portae aeternales,
et introibit rex gloriae.

℣. O gates, lift high your heads,
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

℣. Quis est iste rex gloriae?
Dominus fortis et potens,
Dominus potens in proelio.

℣. Who is this king of glory?
The LORD, the mighty the valiant;
the LORD, the valiant in war.

℣. Gloria Patri, et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat
in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

℣. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: Isaiah 7:14

Versicles: Psalm 24:7, 8

Music: Dominican Chant

MOTET (10 A.M.)

Alma Redemptoris Mater,
quae pervia caeli porta manes,
et stella maris,
succurre cadenti surgere
qui curat populo:
Tu quae genuisti,
natura mirante,
tuum sanctum Genitorem:
Virgo prius ac posterius,
Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud «Ave»,
peccatorum miserere.

The Parish Choir sings:

*Loving Mother of the Redeemer,
who remain the open gate of heaven
and the star of the sea,
come to the aid of your people
who have fallen and strive to rise.
You who gave birth,
while nature stood in wonder
to your own holy Creator,
Virgin before and after,
who received from the lips of Gabriel that "Hail",
have mercy on us sinners.*

Words: Hermannus Contractus

Music: Isabella Leonarda

VOLUNTARY (Saturday and 12 P.M.)

Dixit Maria ad Angelum
Mary Replied to the Angel

The organist plays:

Heinrich Scheidemann

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All stand

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

All kneel

**Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle,
be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.**

HYMN

All sing:

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

St. Michael Hymnal 610

Descant: Christopher Holman

POSTLUDE

Lob sei dem allmächtigen Gott, BWV 602

Johann Sebastian Bach

