



St. Gertrude PARISH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 14, 2025



2025–2026 Parish Theme:
UNITY

In Illo uno unum
“In the one Christ, we are one.”

02 WELCOME

Become a Parishioner
Mission, Vision, Core Values
Become Catholic

03 FROM OUR PASTOR

Letter from Father John Paul
Parish Census Recap & Wrap-Up

04 PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Giving Tuesday Update
Parish Choirs Variety Show Gala
Giving Tree Thank-You Message
Welcome New Parishioners
Let Us Pray

05 PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Fun Bunch Gathering
Special Mass for Jerusalem
Parish Library
Do Your Littles Need a Break?
Christmas Novena

06 PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week
Way of the Star Recap
Become a Eucharistic Guardian
Miscarriage Kit Box
Create Your Will for Free
Are You in Need of Forgiveness?

07 PARISH EVANGELIZATION

Order All Things to Christ
Listen to Our Parish Podcast

08 PARISH EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Advent Lessons & Carols
Caroling in Madeira
Youth Ministry Christmas Skate
Handel's *Messiah*

09 PARISH EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Christmas Masses
Blood Drive
In the Footsteps of St. Dominic
Swing into Spring

10 SCHOOL NEWS

11 AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

E6 Men's Conference Discount
Consider Lay Missionary Ministry
Christmas Light Display
Christmas Gift for Couples
Bambinelli Sunday
Christmas in Bethlehem
Closing of the Jubilee Year
Fresh-Cut Christmas Trees

12 PARISH INFORMATION

Liturgical Schedule & Intentions
Care for Sick and Homebound
Prayer Ministry for the Dying

13 PARISH INFORMATION

Directory & Support Ministries
Financials & Bulletin Deadline

ST. GERTRUDE **PARISH**

6543 Miami Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45243

 (513) 561-5954  stgertrude.org

 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.



ENCOUNTER JESUS. TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

WELCOME

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

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

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

MISSION

Who We Are

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

VISION

Who We Aspire to Be

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

CORE VALUES

What We Cultivate

Reverence, Humility, Magnanimity, Generosity, Intentionality

BECOME A PARISHIONER

Ready to join our vibrant parish of missionary disciples?

Register as a parishioner at stgertrude.org/register. 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 TALE OF TWO ADVENTS

As I am sure most of you—well, hopefully *all* of you!—are aware, we are currently in the liturgical season of Advent. We often think of Advent as the season of preparation before Christmas. Which it is . . . partially.

But when we dig deeper and examine the season more closely, Advent is really two seasons. During the upcoming week—Wednesday, December 17, specifically—is the official “crossover” point where Advent makes a decided shift.

Rather than calling Advent the season of preparation before Christmas, it is really more accurate to call Advent the season where we prepare for the coming of Christ to Earth. With that as our overarching understanding of this liturgical season, the tale of two Advents comes into clearer view.

During the beginning portion of Advent, roughly the first two to three weeks, there are only occasional references to the coming celebration of Christmas and how Christ first came to Earth as the baby in the manger. During this first part of Advent, the focus instead has been on how Christ will come to the earth once again, his second coming, at the end of time. This is the focal point of many of the readings, both at daily and Sunday Masses, and is also very evident in the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer that is prayed at every Advent Mass from the beginning of the season until December 16. One portion of this Preface is especially beautiful:

*“...that, when he comes again in glory and majesty
and all is at last made manifest,
we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise
in which now we dare to hope.”*

These last weeks, therefore, the Church has been calling us to remember “the great promise” in which we hope, and to “watch for that day” when, in glory and majesty, Christ will return to the earth and all will at last be made manifest.

However, beginning on December 17—one week out from Christmas Eve—everything changes. The Church begins shifting our attention to the first coming of Christ in Bethlehem. The weekday readings, this coming week in particular, are filled with the various Old Testament prophecies of the coming of the Messiah, and the Gospel readings begin telling the story of the Savior’s birth. We also begin using Advent Preface II, which emphasizes this new focus:

*“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.”

During this last week before Christmas, let us all do our best to long for him “with love beyond all telling” and to remain watchful in prayer, so that we may rejoice with indescribable joy when we gather to celebrate his birth less than two weeks from now.

God bless,

Rev. John Paul Walker, O.P.

Father John Paul Walker, O.P.

PARISH CENSUS RECAP & WRAP-UP

Dear St. Gertrude Parish Family,
Thank you for participating in the 2025 St. Gertrude Parish Census & Survey! Thanks to you, we have successfully updated our parish records so that we can communicate the latest information to our whole parish community. Your feedback has been invaluable as we strive to better serve you in your journey with Christ. The comments you shared will help guide the decisions our pastor, parish leadership team, and staff make on behalf of the parish. And a big thank-you to our census team. Your input, help on weekends, and hours of service made this all possible!

If you did not get the chance to participate in the census and need to update or want to confirm your contact information, please visit stgertrude.org/census.

We are blessed to have a parish that is so dynamic and vibrant! Some people have been parishioners for years. I believe our longest-running parishioner joined the parish in 1945 when she was baptized! We have been blessed to have so many new parishioners join in the past couple of years. Whenever you joined the parish, know that we are grateful you are here! People’s comments and stories on the survey wove together St. Gertrude Parish’s beautiful history. This is a place where together people have rejoiced, mourned, started families, raised children, connected with God in a deeper way, come back to the faith—and through it all, have come to call St. Gertrude their spiritual home.

Thank you for being a part of this community. I pray that you will continue to find new ways to grow in your faith and encounter Jesus here.

Hope Ramundo
Director of Stewardship

GIVING TUESDAY: FINAL NUMBER

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2025 Giving Tuesday campaign. We are delighted to share that **we reached our \$100,000 goal** and are now able to refurbish the kneelers in the church, cover some church operating expenses, and defray some unexpected costs from the lightning strikes over the summer! We are very grateful for your generous support!

ST. GERTRUDE PARISH CHOIRS VARIETY SHOW GALA

Join us on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Gertrude School cafeteria for a memorable Gala in support of our choirs' upcoming tour to England. The night's entertainment will feature dazzling performances by members of the Parish Choir, Schola Cantorum, and Capella—jazz standards, musical theatre favorites, cabaret, grand opera, and more—showcasing the extraordinary talent of singers who will represent our parish and the Catholic Church in the United States abroad. Guests will enjoy a sumptuous dinner catered by Maggiano's. Tickets are \$100 per person, and all proceeds directly support choir members in financial need as they prepare for this landmark pilgrimage. In the weeks leading up to the event, we will be selling gala tickets and raffle tickets for an array of luxurious gourmet baskets after all weekend Masses. You don't want to miss this evening of unforgettable music, exceptional food, and generous community spirit. Purchase your tickets in advance at bit.ly/ChoirGala or after Mass beginning this weekend, December 13-14.

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE GIVING TREE

The Ladies of Charity extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone for helping to make this year's Christmas Giving Tree a success. The annual Giving Tree project supports Hope Emergency, Life Forward, St. Bernard Parish, Ivy Woods Nursing Home, and many local families. For details about these organizations or the Ladies of Charity, please contact Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085. We are grateful for your generosity and wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas season.

WELCOME

NEW PARISHIONERS

Matthew & Allison Arand
Patrick & Mary Cady
Katherine Drapp
Jimmy & Laura Honeycutt
Wayne & Mary Kadera
Patrick & Janelle Kennedy

Douglas & Ann Miller
Scott & Helen Mondt
Kylan Nelson
Brinna Otto
Martin Perez & Stephanie Alcantar



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, Mark Holland, 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

† Rita Johantges, mother of Cindy Hertzell
Jeanne Johantges, and Kate Werner



NEXT FUN BUNCH GATHERING

Everyone age 55+ is invited to join us on **Tuesday, December 16, at 12:15 p.m.** in the St. Dominic Lobby for a Christmas-themed Fun Bunch gathering! Our music director, Dr. Christopher Holman, will lead us in Christmas carols. We will also have a fun **gift exchange activity!** **To participate, please bring a gift (value \$5 to \$10) with you.** Lunch will be sandwich sliders, Italian sausage soup, and chicken noodle soup. All are invited to bring a side dish, dessert, or drink. Visit bit.ly/fundecember25 to let us know what you're bringing. If you plan to come, please RSVP to Diane Kennedy at (513) 791-6075 or mkennedy06@aol.com so we can get an estimated headcount for food. As usual, walk-ins welcome.



SPECIAL MASSES FOR PEACE IN JERUSALEM

Please join us for two special Masses offered for peace in the Holy Land:

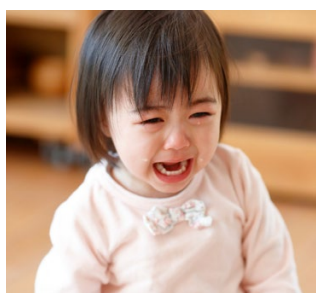
- Saturday, December 27, at 9 a.m. (in Hebrew)
- Saturday, January 3, at 9 a.m. (in Arabic)

Father Joseph Alobaidi, O.P., will be the celebrant, accompanied by the Dominican novices. Even though you may not speak Hebrew or Arabic, the Mass is the same regardless of the language in which it's celebrated. Handouts will be provided.



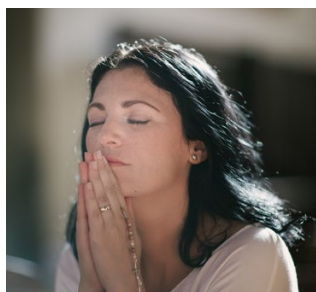
PARISH LIBRARY

The St. Gertrude Parish library (located in the St. Joseph Room in the Parish Center) is open 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. All are welcome to spend time in the library and browse our collection of books when parish groups are not using the St. Joseph Room. To check out a book, use the black self-checkout kiosk. To sign up for a library account and browse our online catalog, visit stgertrude.library.site/ or scan the QR code. Email parishlibrary@stgertrude.org with questions.



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.



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 15

12:15 p.m. | St. John Vianney Prayer Group (St. Joseph Room)
7 p.m. | Become Catholic (St. Dominic Lobby)
7 p.m. | Healing Rosary (Church)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

12:15 p.m. | Fun Bunch (St. Dominic Lobby)
7 p.m. | Boy Scouts (School Cafeteria)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

10:15 a.m. | St. Gertrude School Preschool Pups (School Library)
6:30 p.m. | Cub Scout Den Meeting (School Cafeteria & Classrooms)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:30 p.m. | St. Gertrude School Christmas Pageant (Church)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

5:30 p.m. | Christmas Caroling in Madeira (Parish Center)

WAY OF THE STAR EVENT RECAP

On Wednesday, December 3, The Vigil Project (TVP) returned to our parish to present Way of the Star. This one-night experience, anchored by original musical compositions, took us on a journey through Scripture and visual imagery deep into the story of Jesus' birth, culminating in a time of Eucharistic Adoration accompanied by songs of praise. This beautiful event was the perfect way to begin Advent. Learn more about TVP and their amazing work at thevigilproject.org.



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.



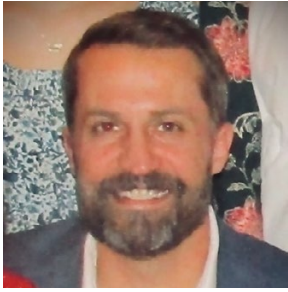
CREATE YOUR WILL FOR FREE

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**.



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.



HELPING MEN ORDER ALL THINGS TO CHRIST

By Joe Roebel

The Advent season is here, casting a spotlight on the three members of the Holy Family and their journey to Bethlehem. There is no question that Our Blessed Mother

and the Christ Child take prominence in this story, as shown in so many artistic depictions of the Nativity scene. Yet, this pivotal moment in salvation history can be credited, in part, to the protection offered by the least known of the three members: St. Joseph. In recent years, I—along with other St. Gertrude Parish men—have developed a personal devotion to this humble saint and foster father of Jesus as a member of the St. Joseph Society (SJS).

My initial connection with the SJS came in August 2021, prior to our family joining St. Gertrude Parish. Through an invite from my brother-in-law, I attended my first meeting, which was led by Mike Mason, Travis Johnson, and other like-minded laymen pursuing a deeper spiritual life through the model of St. Joseph. Seeing so many devout men taking their faith seriously left an instant impression on me. My wife and I were so touched by the entire St. Gertrude Parish community that we joined the parish that same year.

The St. Joseph Society is a lay apostolate with the mission to help men “order all things to Christ” by developing lives of virtue through **mind, body, and spirit**. This mission is put into action through our Rule of St. Joseph, which consists of daily and monthly practices meant to foster virtue in these three areas.

Mind – We make a firm commitment to intellectual, theological formation twice per week.

Body – We make a firm commitment to physical training three times per week, abstaining from meat every Friday, and periodic fasting throughout the year.

Spirit – We make a firm commitment to a prayer regimen every day, monthly adoration and confession, and observance of a Holy Sabbath. The following prayers are the foundation of our daily prayer regimen:

- **Morning Prayer** – Morning Offering of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- **Midday Prayer** – Memorare to St. Joseph for the intentions of the society
- **Evening Prayer** – Act of Contrition
- **Reading sacred Scripture, mental prayer, and daily rosary**

On the first Saturday of each month, we gather at St. Gertrude Church at 5:30 a.m. for a Holy Hour and confession, followed by fellowship and discussion that wraps up around 7:30 a.m. With spiritual guidance from Father Luke VanBerkum, we cover topics from spiritual theology to the various ways we can be stronger leaders for our families and the broader community. Along with our monthly meeting, SJS provides spiritual formation through weekly podcasts centered around growing in the interior life (see stjosephsociety.org for more details).

Finally, our patron saint’s significance in Catholic tradition is summarized well in the Litany of St. Joseph. Titles such as “Terror of Demons,” “Protector of the Holy Church,” and “Head of the Holy Family” express his significance to the Church. As Catholic men, we are called to follow St. Joseph’s lead—characterized by consistent prayer, self-sacrifice, and saying yes to God’s will.

All men interested in learning more about the St. Joseph Society are welcome to come to our next meeting on Saturday, January 3, at 5:30 a.m. to experience the society first-hand, or you can visit stgertrude.org/stjosephsociety or scan the QR code to contact our group and learn more.



Joe Roebel is a St. Gertrude Parish parishioner and a member of the St. Joseph Society. He and his wife, Erin, have five daughters.



Listen to the St. Gertrude Parish podcast on Spotify or Apple Podcasts!



Spotify



Apple



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

JOIN US FOR

Christmas Caroling in Madeira

Saturday, December 20
After 4:30 p.m. Mass

- 5:30 p.m. Pizza dinner (gym)
- 6:15 p.m. Head out for caroling
- 7:15 p.m. Hot chocolate and cookies (gym)

Visit bit.ly/2025carols or scan the QR code to RSVP.

Christmas Skate

All 7th–12th graders are invited!

December 21 | 5:15–7:15 p.m.
Arrival starts at 4:45 p.m. Pick up at 7:15 p.m.

Queen City Sportsplex
10765 Reading Rd

\$15 online, \$20 at door
Online registration ends December 19

Contact Shannon Loughrey, coordinator of youth ministry, at sloughrey@stgertrude.org or (513) 561-5954 with questions.



SCAN TO
SIGN UP

Handel's *Messiah*



As the annual choral prelude to our Christmas Midnight Mass, the St. Gertrude Parish Choir presents excerpts from the Advent-Christmas portion of Handel's beloved oratorio *Messiah* with orchestra, culminating in the famous Hallelujah Chorus. Free admission.

DECEMBER 24 | 11:30 P.M.



JOIN US FOR
Christmas Mass

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24

3 p.m. Vigil Mass
5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
12 a.m. Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25

8 a.m. Mass at Dawn
10 a.m. Mass During the Day
12 p.m. Mass During the Day



UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29
9-11 A.M. | 12:15-3 P.M.
St. Gertrude Parish Gym

To schedule your appointment, scan the QR code, visit hoxworth.org/groups/stgertrude, or call Hoxworth at (513) 451-0910.

Appointments suggested, but walk-ins welcome.

All donors receive a Hoxworth backpack

Hosted by St. Gertrude Parish and Knights of Columbus
Archbishop Elder Council #1195.



Hoxworth
BLOOD CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI



In the Footsteps of St. Dominic
with Father John Langlois and Father John Mark

MAY 11-22, 2026

Travel to Spain, France, and Italy with two of our Dominican friars on a very special pilgrimage. You will visit St. Dominic's birthplace, Toulouse, Rome, Bologna, and the Marian shrine of Lourdes. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will introduce you to places, churches, and landscapes that most American tourists never see!

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/footsteps2026 to learn more and sign up!



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.





ADVENT IN A WORLD THAT REFUSED TO WAIT

Recently, I lamented to my wife how difficult it is to enter and live in the season of Advent. To more fully embrace the spirit of preparation and the coming of

Christ is, no doubt, fraught with challenges. While the Church exhorts us to this end, our consumeristic, sappy, and secular culture lures our focus, steals our silence, and replaces the quiet, prayerful, and peaceful with noise, freneticism, and a steady undercurrent of holiday-season delicacies, distractions, and disruptions.

Believe me—I get it! Some of the trappings of rushing headlong into Christmas, months before December 24, are unavoidable and beyond our control. Society and popular culture have a growing allergy, it seems, to anything that honors self-restraint, self-denial, or just merely waiting on the right day and time. I don't want to make excuses here, but the reality is that this is the society that we live with and live in, and while sometimes we wish we could, none of us lives under a rock.

Beyond just complaining about the difficulties of living in Advent, what do I try to do? *Something*. I try to do *something*, as doing something is better than doing nothing at all. I try to incorporate into my daily routine some act of penance, some devotion, or some prayer that pulls me away from the distractions and noise and helps to focus my attention on the *adventus* ("coming") of Christ. As a family, we decided to give

up watching television. Yikes! During the week, this is a manageable feat and fairly easy to pull off. The rubber hits the road (or things "get real") on the weekends, especially with an endless stream and heavy dose of nostalgic Christmas movies and those oh so important and final football games aglow. It was our two oldest children who came up with the idea of giving up television during Advent, I am very proud of them for suggesting it.

As an aside, it dawned on me during my lamentation about Advent that, even as we wait with anticipation for the feast of Christmas, the Church, in her wisdom, gives us big and little tidbits and tastes here and there and celebrations along the way. I'm thinking of the feasts of St. Nicholas, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Lucy, and above all, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, which we just celebrated this past Monday, December 8.

So, as we more deeply enter into the Advent season, I encourage you, if you have not done so already, to *do something*. There is still time. Do something with your family and do something yourself to prepare your mind, body, and heart for the coming of Christ. Do something to "prepare the way of the Lord" and for the celebration that is sure to come.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mr. Travis Johnson
St. Gertrude School Principal



INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Support Catholic education at St. Gertrude School (SGS) through a gift to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Catholic Education Foundation, a certified Scholarship Granting Organization. Your contribution directly benefits our students and qualifies for a dollar-for-dollar Ohio state tax credit, effectively reducing your state tax liability while supporting families pursuing a rigorous, faith-rooted education. To ensure your gift supports SGS families, please designate our school when giving online or by check.

Scan the QR code to contribute online today!



E6 CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE—DISCOUNT

Give the gift of faith this Christmas! Throughout December, E6 Catholic Men's Conference tickets are \$10 off with the promo code CHRISTMAS. The conference is February 21, 2026, at East Central High School in St. Leon, IN, and offers powerful speakers, fellowship, Confession, Adoration, and incredible formation for men.

11TH ANNUAL

E6 CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

Put on the Armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. -Ephesians 6:11

Four Pillars for Godly Men

FAITH INTEGRITY WITNESS SACRIFICE

Fr. Jonathan Meyer Tim Francis Ryan Olohan Devin Schadt Kevin Wells

8AM TO 3:30PM

FEBRUARY 21 Saturday 2026

EAST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

35 minutes NW of Cincy
60 minutes SE of Indy
1 Trojan Place
St. Leon, IN 47022

WWW.E6CATHOLICMENSCONFERENCE.COM

CONSIDER LAY MISSIONARY MINISTRY

There are dozens of Catholic lay missionary programs seeking volunteers ages 17-75 for short- or long-term service in the United States or overseas. For more information, please contact the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Mission Office director, Dr. Mike Gable, at mgable@catholicaoc.org or catholicvolunteernetwork.org/begin/. Thank you for your interest in serving!

Bright Lights

FREE! DRIVE-THRU CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAY

EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 28TH - JANUARY 4TH
6PM - 10PM (CLOSES 9PM SUNDAYS)
ST. TERESA BRIGHT, IN
23345 Gavin Lane, Bright, IN 47025
www.brightlightsindiana.com 513-788-2326

NOV. 28TH
FREE CONCERT
MY BROTHER'S
KEEPER

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Do you want to give your spouse something really special this Christmas—a gift filled with romance and excitement? That's just the beginning of what you'll receive on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is March 13–15, 2026, at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Cincinnati, and is for those who wish to enrich their marriages and return to that newlywed feeling. Visit esharing.org/applyWeekend.php to apply today. For more details, visit esharing.org or contact Andy and Melanie Reinersman at (859) 653-8464 or application@esharing.org.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

The Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains parish is beginning a new annual tradition: Bambinelli Sunday. (Bambinelli is Italian for “baby Jesus.”) Bring your baby Jesus figurines to Mass on December 20 and 21 for a special blessing. This blessing and the new tradition remind us that Jesus is the true gift of Christmas and at the center of the holiday.

CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM

Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center is hosting its annual Christmas in Bethlehem on Saturday, December 13 and 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can enjoy an interactive town of Bethlehem and shopping. Space is limited, and registration is required. Visit olhsc.org/events for more information and to sign up.

CLOSE THE JUBILEE YEAR WITH ARCHBISHOP CASEY

Join Archbishop Casey as he celebrates Mass for the closing of the Jubilee Year on Sunday, December 28, at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. A collection for the poor will be taken.

FRESH-CUT CHRISTMAS TREES

Boy Scout Troop 18 is selling fresh-cut Christmas trees through Christmas—or until they run out of trees. The Christmas Tree lot is located at St. Savior Church. Learn more at BoyScoutChristmasTrees.com. Buy a tree while they last!

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

Monday, December 15 | Advent Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – † Joan de St. Aubin by Ed & Mary Ann de St. Aubin
8 a.m. | Mass – † Deceased Members of the Kehoe Family by Pat Kehoe
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Deceased Members of the Dominican Order
4 p.m. | Confessions

Tuesday, December 16 | Advent Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – † Jane Keevil by William Chelman
8 a.m. | Mass – † Lillian Claire Rentrop by The Carrington Family
10 a.m. | Moms & Littles Holy Hour
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Deceased Members of Kohus & Bough Family
 by John & Hilda Bough
4 p.m. | Confessions

Wednesday, December 17 | Advent Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – † Patricia Varner by Sherry Schuler
8 a.m. | Mass – † Maria Gruszka by Barbara & Roger Silbersack
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Dino Pelle by Anne Marie Schmidt
4 p.m. | Confessions
7:30 p.m. | Holy Hour and Confessions

Thursday, December 18 | Advent Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – † Ed Larkin by Diane & Jim Tomaszewski
8 a.m. | Mass – † Mark Wolter by The Bursa Family
11:30 a.m. | † Owen Hughes by Steve Leverone
4 p.m. | Confessions

Friday, December 19 | Advent Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – † Stella Noelle McClellan by The McClellan Family
8 a.m. | Mass – Lisa Bertke by Vicky Segrist
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Doug Ollinger by Anne & David Hoffmann
4 p.m. | Confessions

Saturday, December 20 | Advent Weekday

8 a.m. | Mass – † Robert Bentley by Susan Bentley
11:30 a.m. | † Joseph & Marjorie Schirmer by The Schirmer Family
3:30 p.m. | Confessions
4:30 p.m. | Mass – † Ted Bayer by Judy Bayer & Family

Sunday, December 21 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

8 a.m. | Mass – † Max Schneider by Peter Bertoli
10 a.m. | Mass – † Ronald Nieto by The Nieto Family
12 p.m. | Mass – The People of St. Gertrude Parish
6 p.m. | Mass – † Bob Molenda by Bill & Ginny Schneller



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
April Deocariza, Evangelization Administrative Assistant
evangelization@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954, ext. 2109
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

ST. GERTRUDE PARISH SUPPORT MINISTRIES

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

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Sunday, December 7, 2025

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Collection | \$70,795 |
| Weekly Budget | \$47,059 |
| Weekly Surplus | \$23,736 |

Fiscal Year-to-Date

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Year Ending June 30, 2026 | |
| Fiscal YTD Actual | \$1,012,720 |
| Fiscal YTD Budget | \$1,082,353 |
| Fiscal YTD Deficit | (\$69,633) |



To give online, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/GiveToSTG.

Thank you for your generosity!

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Bulletin: January 4
Materials Due: December 24

Please submit your bulletin information and Mass announcements to bulletin@stgertrude.org.



STRAWSER & STALEY
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATION SERVICE



Meet Eli and Bennett, our two fur-children! We understand how much pets mean to people, and we are proud to offer pet death care to the area with the same dignity that we show for all we serve!

Area's Oldest Death Care Leader
StrawserFuneralHome.com
513-791-7203



St. Gertrude Parishioner
Providing Legal Counsel for Businesses and Individuals
TAX | TRANSACTIONS | ESTATE PLANNING

Nick Eusano

Partner, DBL Law
513-357-5292
neusano@dbllaw.com



DBL Law

CALL US FOR FREE NURSE Consultation!

WE OFFER:

- Meal preparation
- Light housekeeping
- Companionship
- Laundry
- Medication and therapy reminders
- Eating/feeding
- Bathing/Dressing
- Continence/toileting
- Dementia Care
- Transferring and Ambulation

CINCINNATI

(513) 321-4444

Right at Home
In Home Care & Assistance
22 YEARS

All caregivers are highly screened, including drug testing, thorough background checks, continuous training, insured and supervised by nurses. We're here to help make care accessible. Our services are private pay, but we also honor VA benefits, long-term care insurance, and other aging benefit programs.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY

(859) 328-1647

Premier Pools & Spas

Largest pool builder in the country
In ground fiberglass...

concrete...

vinyl...

New, remodel, service

Call us for a free in-home consultation

513-416-4533



St. Columban Parishioners

CASTRUCCI COLLISION



MILFORD

Body Shop Direct Call
831-5460

OPEN HOUSE
OCTOBER 26 & 27

Litwin
CUSTOM JEWELERS
(513) 621-1123 • litwins.com

KLEKAMP PAVING
Asphalt Paving
Patching
Asphalt
Sealcoating
513-561-4600
www.klekamp.com



McCord
Insurance Agency

Paul Stucker, Agent
513-746-9144
Home-Auto-Life-Business
Former Catholic Missionary

ERIC D. BENDER
Attorney at Law
Moeller (1984)
University of Notre Dame (1988)
U.C. Law (1991)
Family Law • Wills & Probate
Lawsuits • Guardianship
Adoption
(513) 891-5630
9764 Kenwood Road in Blue Ash
Visa/Mastercard Accepted

GEO. H. ROHDE & SON
Funeral Home Since 1910
STEVE ROHDE, DARRELL SCHNEIDER & BELINDA HARPER
115 Years of family service to Eastern Cincinnati & Beyond
3183 Linwood Avenue
Mt. Lookout Square
321-0404
ROHDEFUNERAL.COM

For all your real estate needs please contact me, a faithful and hard-working St. Gertrude parishioner and professional realtor.



CAROLYN TRAUTH
Realtor
SIBCYCLINE
513-706-4239
www.sibcycline.com/ctrauth

MEDICARE QUESTIONS? I HAVE ANSWERS!
Contact me for a no-obligation consultation. Never a fee for services!

Bohlen Benefits
Insurance Agency
Your Trusted Insurance Teacher



SHARON BOHLEN
Your Medicare Resource
513-476-4062
SharonBohlen65@gmail.com

SCHUMACHER DUGAN
CONSTRUCTION, INC.
513-777-9800
General Contractors and Land Development Company

TO ADVERTISE HERE, CALL DEE PRINTING AT 800-292-9020

SUMMIT
FIRE & SECURITY
510 W Benson St., Cincinnati, OH 45215
Phone: 513-948-1030

SULLIVAN
FLOWER FARM
Specialty Cut Flowers
Weddings • Events
603-727-2590
Anne & Ryan Sullivan
Parishioners
www.sullivanflowerfarm.com

ROYALMONT ACADEMY
OPEN HOUSE
Nov 13 | 5:00-7:30 PM
Preschool | High School
Royalmont.org | 513-754-0555

Skyline Chili
Skyline Chili, Loveland Ohio
10640 Loveland Madeira Rd.
Bring this bulletin in to receive a **FREE Cheese Coney**
With the Purchase of a (3,4,5) Way
Feeling good, it's Skyline Time!



TRANSFORMED INTERIORS
At Transformed Interiors, we don't design interiors; we create soulful spaces that support a more harmonious way of living.
513-403-2120
diana@transformedinteriordesign.com
transformedinteriordesign.com

James M. Schirmer, DDS
The Center for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
at Countryside



513-932-9991
1726 Deerfield Rd. Lebanon OH, 45036
www.schirmeroralsurgery.com



AHP Anderson Hills Plumbing
Residential – Commercial – **FREE ESTIMATES**
Over 69 Years Experience & Satisfaction
Ernie, Jack, Ralph & Barb Vilardo
6229 Beechmont Avenue **513-232-3821**

OVERBECK Auto Services
Your Automotive Expert Since 1976
Now 3 Locations!
6403 Madison, Madisonville-271-1570
1793 E Ohio Pike, Amelia-797-4888
11452 Springfield Pk. Springfield-386-7800

T&J Electric and Controls
513-368-2700
www.TJElectric.com
7441 Shawnee Run Road
Madeira, Ohio 45243

Thomas-Justin Memorial
Four Generations of Service
to the Community

7500 Montgomery Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio 45236
ThomasJustinMemorial.com
513-791-5353
Jay T. Justin and Jane M. Ludlow, Directors



Treating Your Home
Like Our Own
CALL TODAY! 513-755-ROOF
7663
10 Year Workmanship Warranty
Locally Owned & Operated
7100 Sennet Place
West Chester, OH 45069
titan
SIDING AND ROOFING
TitanSidingAndRoofing.com
0% INTEREST
for 24 months Financing Available

Hand made **table linens** crafted for hospitality.
BAREFOOT HOME
TABLES & TREASURES
scan to shop
Tablecloths, napkins, runners and much more..
Here in Madeira!
barefoothomemade.com

Dial ONE Security, Inc.
(513) 527-4400 • DialOneSecurity.com
Servicing Maderia and Indian Hill since 1979

TRADITIONS
AT CAMARGO
INDEPENDENT LIVING
ASSISTED LIVING • MEMORY CARE
7650 CAMARGO ROAD • MADEIRA, OH 45243
513-422-5499 • WWW.TRADITIONSATCAMARGO.COM

beatrice
HOME IMPROVEMENT
TIM BEATRICE
HANDYMAN
513-254-5620
timbeatrice5@yahoo.com

Dr. Frederick A. Heiselman
General • Implant
Dentistry
Parishioner
513-561-8600
7140 Miami Ave., Ste. 201
fheiselmandds.com

WCI
Woodward Construction, Inc.
Jeff Woodward,
Parishioner
513-247-9241
Celebrating 30 years in business
www.wciconstruction.com

WITTE
LANDSCAPE SPECIALISTS, INC.
Hardscape Landscape
• Walkways & Patios • Installations
• Driveways • Renovations
• Retaining Walls • Maintenance
• Drainage Systems • Snow Clearing
Quality Service for Over 35 years
396-6400
Ed Witte, Parishioner

Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
Kinsella
561-5285
7880 Camargo Rd.
kinsellakitchens.com

GILSON'S
ENGRAVING
ELEGANT GIFTS
Engraved gifts for all occasions
7116 Miami Ave.
891-0730
www.gilsonsonline.com

Gilligan
Funeral Homes
Family Owned
& Operated
ESTABLISHED 1877

MRW INSURANCE
MORRISSEY RIES WINTER
Auto, Home, Business, Health
513-984-5565
mail@mrwinsurance.com
7713 Camargo Road Cincinnati, OH 45243
www.MRWinsurance.com

MADEIRA DENTISTRY
Keith D. Jackson DDS
Laura K. Jackson DDS
7113 Miami Avenue
Madeira, OH 45243
Tel: (513) 561-5318

KANE LAW LLC
small businesses • nonprofits
Contact@Kane.Law

8225 MONTGOMERY RD
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45236
513-891-8373
PETER J. GILLIGAN, SR.

Walter St. Clair Roofing
Serving Cincinnati Since 1923
Roofing & Sheet Metal Work
Slate & Tile Repair
Box Gutters & Seamless Gutters
JERRY ST. CLAIR, PARISHIONER
641-3265

REDDEN
FINE MEATS
(513) 407-8998

Certified Arborist OH-6592A
Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ)
Tree Care • Consultations • Diagnostics
513-675-0024 mcastator@gmail.com
Mark Castator, Parishioner

Howard Hanna
Real Estate Services
Largest Real Estate
Broker in Ohio
513-335-4039
charles.borchers@gmail.com
chuckborchershomes.com

Chuck Borchers
Parishioner
REALTOR SINCE 2009

Evans Funeral Home
Traditional Funeral & Cremation Services
Funeral Pre-Planning Available
www.evansfuneralhome.com
741 Center St., Milford 1944 St. Rt. 28, Goshen
513-831-3172 513-722-3272

Pendery
CONSTRUCTION, INC.
Remodeling by professionals
Kitchens • Bathrooms
Room Additions
Screen & Covered Porches
Lower Levels & Basements
513.492.8429
2321 West US Highway 22/3
Maineville, Ohio 45039
www.PenderyConstruction.com

CRISTINA GENUNG
REAL ESTATE
513-404-6011
Cristina@Genung.realtor

Comey & Shepherd
REALTORS
Contact me today for all
your Real Estate needs!

Secure the Future
Protecting your unique and special
needs loved ones with tailored
financial solutions.

Kristina Markiewicz, FIC
(513) 540-0329
kmarkiewicz@blackbulcapitalpartners.com
www.blackbulcapitalpartners.com

Castellum Financial Advice
Robert L. Franer III, AAMS®
513-434-3583 (C)
robert@castellumfinancialadvice.com
castellumfinancialadvice.com
Parishioner & Founding Member
of The Catholic Financial Planners Network
Securities offered through LPL Financial, a Registered
Investment Advisor, member FINRA/SIPC

LawnPhD • Donnelly Lawn Service •
Services Offered
• Mowing
• Herbicide Application
• Fertilizer Application
Madeira Resident - Contact Us Today
513-315-6648
Lawn PhD
lawnphd.donnellylawnservice@gmail.com

HALPIN
PLUMBING, INC.
"WE'LL MAKE IT HALPIN"
513-631-2001

AMADA
SENIOR CARE
Services we provide:
• Non-medical home care
• Dementia care
• Companionship care
• Long-term care insurance
claims management
We are experts in helping seniors use their long-term
care insurance to fund home care services.

Better Hearing is Better Living
As a proud member of Saint Gertrude Catholic Parish, I'm dedicated to helping
our community hear life's precious moments. Whether it's listening to Sunday
Mass or chatting with loved ones, better hearing can make all the difference.
Schedule your free hearing consultation today!
513-561-4327
10615 Montgomery Rd., Suite 202 | Cincinnati
Jennifer Katafiasz, Au.D. Doctor of Audiology

Schedule your
COMPLIMENTARY long-term
care insurance policy review.
513-548 5512
www.AmadaCincinnati.com

Monika DeRoussel
Get the latest market
scoop in MADEIRA
Scan here!
No.1 eXp Realtor in Ohio
+20 years of experience.
513-289-1039