



St. Gertrude PARISH

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 21, 2025



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Spotify Apple

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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.



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.





LAST LETTER BEFORE CHRISTMAS: GIFTS YOU CAN GIVE YOUR PASTOR NEXT WEEK

It's hard to believe that this Thursday is Christmas! That means that, for most of us, the days ahead

are going to be quite busy. Some will be doing last-minute Christmas shopping; others might be, ahem, only beginning their Christmas shopping! Many will be either making travel plans for the holiday or finalizing plans to receive guests in the days ahead. Soon, volunteers will be decorating the church for Christmas Masses. All these preparations are meant to prepare us to celebrate the birth of Our Savior in the best possible way.

It is also a time of year when so many generously give gifts to the Dominican friars here at the parish. As pastor, I have a very *specific* set of gifts I would like to request from my parishioners this year. Here is my Christmas Wish List for this week.

1. Many people—who perhaps have not set foot in a Church in a long time—will be coming to Mass here on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the following weekend. If you see an unfamiliar face, please say hello, wish him or her a Merry Christmas, or, at the very least, smile at the person in welcome. Convey by your body language that you are happy he or she is here. If the person failed to grab a liturgy program on his or her way in or seems confused about what hymnal to use, do your best to give a helping hand. A little kindness goes a long way!

2. If you usually sit in the same pew and find someone else in “your” pew . . . relax. Don't get angry or give the person the side-eye. Peacefully move on, and find another place to sit.

3. If an infant begins wailing or a toddler makes a fuss, don't glare at the parents or whip around in your pew to stare backward, trying to figure out who the “offending party” is. Of all the days of the year, the day we celebrate the birth of Our Lord as a tiny baby is a day to rejoice because we have so many babies and small children in our parish.

4. We hope we have adequately planned to have enough programs for each of the Masses. If we run short and you see people without a program, please consider sharing a program with the family members or friends you are with and offering a program to someone without one.

5. Our ushers, especially at the busier Masses, will have their hands full trying to find seats for everybody. Please do all you can to assist them by moving closer together to free up seats if you see the pews are getting full.

6. A special request for the gentlemen: If you are at a Mass that has reached capacity—people standing because every seat in every pew is full—consider offering your seat to someone who is elderly, a pregnant mom, a mom with a baby, or anyone you see standing who might need that seat more than you (if you are in a position to do so).

7. I don't think I need to say this, but just in case, please reserve the blue handicapped parking spaces for those who are truly in need of them. Similarly, please reserve the front two pews on the Rosary Altar side of the church for those with limited mobility and their families.

8. If you are a lector, Eucharistic minister, usher, or server and are attending a Mass at which you are not assigned to serve—and if you arrive early enough—please kindly check in with the sacristy to see if your services may be needed. Inevitably at this time of year, plans change at the last minute or people fall ill and have to cancel. It makes the sacristan's life a lot easier if someone is ready to step in.

9. Have mercy on your priests and musicians! From 3 p.m. on Wednesday through 12 p.m. on Thursday, we will be offering seven Masses in less than 24 hours—all of them with music. It is inevitable at some point that exhaustion will set in and mistakes will be made. Please be understanding!

10. No matter what the circumstances around your arrival for Christmas Mass, once you are inside, remember the reason you are there. Do your best to ignore any distractions, let go of any frustrations, set aside any anxieties . . . and as much as possible, immerse yourself into the mystery we celebrate. “For today a Savior is born for us, who is Christ and Lord” (cf. Luke 2:11).

That is my Christmas Wish List. To whatever degree you can do these things in the days ahead, you'll fill my heart with great joy.

See you at the manger,

Rev. John Paul Walker, O.P.

Father John Paul Walker, O.P.



CAMPUS CLOSURES & SCHEDULE CHANGES

- **Adoration Chapel:** Closed December 24–January 4
- **Parish Office:** Closed December 24–26, open December 29–30 from 12:30 to 5 p.m., and closed December 31–January 2.
- **Confession:** No confessions December 24–26 and 31 or January 1–2
- **School Office:** Closed through January 4

CONFESSIONS—LAST CHANCE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

We have added an opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation this Tuesday, December 23, at 7:30 p.m. This is your last chance to go to confession before Christmas.

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 will feature dazzling performances by members of the Parish Choir, Schola Cantorum, and Capella, showcasing the extraordinary talent of singers who will represent our parish and the Catholic Church in the United States. 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.

CONGRATULATIONS, SISTER MARIANA!

Sister Mariana recently completed a master's degree in Catholic educational leadership from Ave Maria University. This is a big accomplishment for Sister Mariana! She will use the knowledge and experience gained in service to the evangelical mission of the Church, the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, and all those whom they serve. Well done and congratulations, Sister Mariana!

BAPTISMS – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025



Child: Anthony Mark Fisher
Parents: Nicholas & Allyson Fisher



Let Us
PRAY

THE SICK

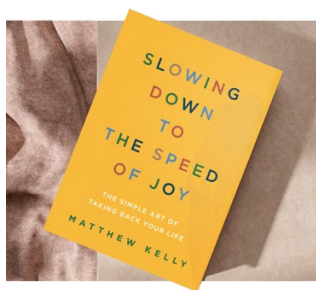
Joy Belperio, Johnny Burns, Vicki Calonge, Triset Defonseka, Diana Doll, Mark Doran, Lisa Ely, Octavio Flores Resendiz, Ron Freudenberg, Will Freudenberg, Dick Gelhaus, Goad Family, Elsa Hall, John Holden, Mark Holland, Hummel Family, Steve Kaimer, Andrea Kattel, Aiko Kimura, Robert Lantz, Karen Larkin, 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

† Charles Lakatos, father of Carl Lakatos
† Joan Gaydash, mother of Justine Lakatos



CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM ARCHBISHOP CASEY AND DYNAMIC CATHOLIC

In collaboration with Archbishop Casey, Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic Institute have donated copies of Matthew's book *Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy* to each of the parishes in the archdiocese for distribution at Christmas Masses. There is a Christmas message from Archbishop Casey on the inside back cover of each book. We have received just under 1,000 copies of the book—**please take just one book per family.**



SPECIAL MASSES FOR PEACE IN JERUSALEM

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

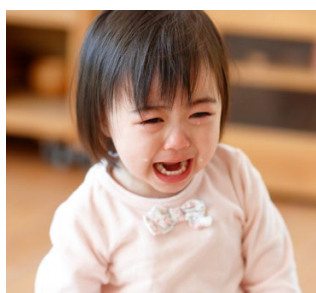
- Saturday, December 27, at 9 a.m. (in Hebrew)
- Saturday, January 3, at 9 a.m. (in Arabic)

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 22

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Adoration Chapel Closed
Parish Office Closed

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

Adoration Chapel Closed
Parish Office Closed

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

Adoration Chapel Closed
Parish Office Closed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

Adoration Chapel Closed
7:30 a.m. | Catholic Men's Fellowship (School Cafeteria)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Adoration Chapel Closed

HEALTHY MOMS & BABES COLLECTION

The weekend of January 3-4, the Ladies of Charity will be at the white van in the parking lot collecting items for Healthy Moms & Babes, an organization that serves at-risk women of childbearing age and their children. Needed items:

For Babies and Toddlers

- outfits (sizes 0-3, 3-6, 6-9, and 12 months) and booties/socks
- sleepers and onesies (sizes 0-3, 3-6, and 6-9 months)
- diaper bags and wipes
- infant car seats (pumpkin seats with handle preferred)
- Pack 'n Plays
- receiving blankets
- baby lotion and body wash
- rattles, educational toys (0-3 years), coloring books, crayons, and books

For Moms

- gift cards (increments of \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20, etc.) to Walmart, Kroger, and dollar stores
- lotion, body wash, body spray, deodorant, toothpaste, and toothbrushes
- feminine hygiene products
- journals

If you have any questions, please call Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085. Thank you for your generosity and support!

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.



ADVENT: THE MERCY OF DISAPPOINTMENT

By Lawain McNeil

Recently, I gave a talk on prayer. In preparing for it, I came across this quote from Simon Tugwell, O.P., written in an old journal:

“Christianity has to be disappointing, precisely because it is not a mechanism for accomplishing all our human ambitions and aspirations; it is a mechanism for subjecting all things to the will of God.”

At first, this quote may seem **discouraging**. Maybe even bleak. Who hasn’t asked God, on more than one occasion, **“Lord, what are you doing? To me? To them?”** As we are in this season of waiting, we begin to notice something. There can be disappointment in waiting. **But disappointment is not a sign of God’s absence.** It is often the moment of his intervention. A kind of meeting place between sadness and surrender.

When I read Tugwell’s quote, I thought of the rich young man [in the Bible]. He is the one who kept the commandments and sought the highest good. He came to Jesus looking for a way to complete his own project of righteousness. It seemed like he was seeking a final seal of approval for a life that was well lived, well organized, and well built.

But Jesus offered something different. **A way to subject all things to the will of God. The call was simple. Sell everything. Detach. Cut the cord. Turn completely to Jesus.**

He was invited to a life of abandonment and total surrender.

Jesus was asking him to pass through the dark night and be stripped of all sensory and spiritual appetites. So that he would not rest in the spiritual gifts but in God himself.

This is what Advent slowly trains the heart to do.

This is a season that calls us to live with our eyes ahead. To wait in hope. Not a shallow hope that things will go according to our plans. But the deeper, sometimes quieter, hope that God is already at work. And yes, even in what feels empty or unclear.

Jesus said, **“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God”** (Luke 9:62).

That’s not a threat. It’s an invitation. To put your hand to the plow is to choose to trust him. To keep walking forward even when the ground is hard, even when you cannot see the harvest. Looking back means clinging to your own map. Your own storyline. Your idea of what you thought God was supposed to do.

But Advent is a turning. It is a long gaze into the horizon. A holy straining forward. Not because we’re escaping something behind us, but because we are expecting someone ahead of us. So the real spiritual question is not, “Why is this hard?” but, “Where is he leading?”

The disappointment of our ambitions can be the beginning of real conversion. It is the mercy of God making room for himself.

Lawain McNeil is a St. Gertrude Parish parishioner, the founder of thecalltoholiness.com, and the co-founder of the evangelization apostolate The Surrender Initiative. He and his wife, Pamela, live in Maineville.



Christmas Skate

All 7th–12th graders are invited!

December 21 | 5:15-7:15 p.m.

Queen City Sportsplex
10765 Reading Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45241

\$20 at door
Online registration ended December 19.

Arrival starts at 4:45 p.m. Pick up at 7:15 p.m.

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

FROM THE DIARY OF ST. MARIA FAUSTINA



“The Mother of God has taught me how to prepare for the Feast of Christmas. I saw her today, without the Infant Jesus. She said to me, ‘My daughter, strive after silence and humility, so that Jesus, who dwells in your heart continuously, may be able to rest. Adore Him in your heart; do not go out from your inmost

being. My daughter, I shall obtain for you the grace of an interior life which will be such that, without ever leaving that interior life, you will be able to carry out all your external duties with even greater care. Dwell with Him continuously in your heart. He will be your strength.”

- Diary, #785

WITNESS TO LOVE

We are excited to announce the launch of *Witness to Love*, our new marriage preparation program for **engaged couples preparing for marriage in the Catholic Church** and **civily married couples seeking convalidation**.

Witness to Love is a parish-based marriage prep renewal movement designed to help build strong, Christ-centered marriages. It equips parishes, dioceses, and mentor couples with tools to support engaged couples not only before the wedding day, but also throughout early married life. At its heart is a simple conviction: **successful marriages require intention, formation, and community support**.

A unique feature of the program is that **engaged couples choose their own mentor couples**—married at least five years and active in parish life. With training and guidance, mentor couples accompany engaged couples for approximately six months leading up to the wedding and continue walking with them afterward. Together, the couples participate in a virtue-based formation process that includes prayer, fellowship, attending Mass, and other shared activities to integrate the couples into parish life. This approach strengthens a crucial element often missing from marriage preparation: a sense of belonging. Many engaged couples are young, busy, and not yet

rooted in a parish community. *Witness to Love* helps them experience healthy marital and family life through lived example so that after the honeymoon, newlyweds feel at home and supported in their parish families.

Diocesan policy asks engaged couples to contact a priest or deacon at least six months before the anticipated wedding date. Our goal is to complete preparation at least two months before the wedding to reduce unnecessary stress. As our parish implements this program, there will be learning curves, growth, and grace. We invite the entire community to pray for our engaged couples, mentor couples, coordinators, and clergy. **Married parishioners may also be invited to serve as mentors in the future.**

Receiving a sacrament in the parish means being welcomed into the parish community—*Witness to Love* helps make that welcome real, lasting, and life-giving. **Our prayer is that couples formed here will build strong, joyful, God-centered marriages that enrich the life of the Church for years to come.**

If you are engaged, civily married and seeking convalidation, or interested in serving as a mentor couple, please call the parish office at (513) 561-5954 or email marriage@stgertrude.org. We would love to accompany you.



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

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

JANUARY 1, 2026

Join us for Mass to honor our Blessed Mother and kick off the New Year.

Wednesday, December 31
4:30 p.m. (Vigil)

Thursday, January 1
8 a.m., 10 a.m., or 12 p.m.

*This is a Holy Day
of Obligation.*



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.



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.



CHRIST & THE CLASSROOM

Moments from Life at SGS

As our students head into Christmas break, we pause with grateful hearts for the year behind us. In classrooms, hallways, and the chapel, Christ has been quietly at work forming minds, shaping hearts, and drawing our children ever closer to himself. From joyful learning to quiet moments of prayer, our students show us what it looks like when faith takes root in ordinary days. The moments captured below reflect more than a school year recalled—they represent the fruit of daily faithfulness, lived within a community where Christ remains at the center.



50Years
CLASS REUNION
CELEBRATION

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

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

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

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

WWW.E6CATHOLICMENSCONFERENCE.COM

JANUARY RETREAT AT THE JESUIT SPIRITUAL CENTER

Are you seeking some time with our Lord? Father Michael Graham S.J., former president of Xavier University and popular speaker, will direct a silent retreat for men and women at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford January 9–11, 2026. Father Graham will discuss the life of St. Francis Xavier and draw parallels, which apply to all of our lives, from his spiritual path. Visit jesuitspiritualcenter.com/iwr for details.

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.

THE ARCHDIOCESE IS HIRING!

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is seeking a managing editor of *The Catholic Telegraph*. This role is responsible for maintaining an editorial pipeline and producing content for digital, print, and social media platforms that engages, informs, and inspires Catholic audiences. The managing editor oversees all content on *The Catholic Telegraph* website and weekly production of *The Ember* newsletter, as well as assists the editorial director with monthly production of *The Catholic Telegraph* magazine. View the full job description and apply at bit.ly/TCTmanagingeditor.

FOOD FOR ALL

Hunger exists in our communities. Are you interested in reducing hunger and food insecurity, volunteering at a mobile pantry, or learning more about hunger in our area? Call April Hoak, Food for All coordinator, at (513) 672-3720 or email ahoak@ccswoh.org.

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 22 | Advent Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – † Ed Larkin Jr., by The Cordier Family
8 a.m. | Mass – † Owen Hughes by The Wright Family
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Sheila Clanton by Frank & Debbie Merle
4 p.m. | Confessions

Tuesday, December 23 | Advent Weekday

7 a.m. | Mass – † Hilda Bough by John Bough
8 a.m. | Mass – † Charles Rettig by Charlene Bosken
11:30 a.m. | Mass – Anne Collins by The Fun Bunch
4 p.m. | Confessions
7:30 p.m. | Confessions

Wednesday, December 24 | Advent Weekday

8 a.m. | Mass – † Thomas Valerius by Charlene & Jim Swingle
3 p.m. | Christmas Eve Mass (Church) – Intentions of the Celebrant
3 p.m. | Christmas Eve Mass (Gym) – Intentions of the Celebrant
5:30 p.m. | Christmas Eve Mass – Intentions of the Celebrant
12 a.m. | Christmas Midnight Mass – Intentions of the Celebrant

Thursday, December 25 | The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (S)

8 a.m. | Mass – Christmas Novena
10 a.m. | Mass – Intentions of the Celebrant
12 p.m. | Mass – The People of St. Gertrude Parish

Friday, December 26 | St. Stephen (F)

7 a.m. | Mass – Christmas Novena
8 a.m. | Mass – † Barbara Dugan by The Collins Family
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Joyce Meiners by St. Gertrude Parish

Saturday, December 27 | St. John the Apostle & Evangelist (F)

8 a.m. | Mass – Christmas Novena
9 a.m. | Mass in Hebrew – For Peace in the Holy Land
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Carmen Conlin by Ed & Mary Ann de St. Aubin
3:30 p.m. | Confessions
4:30 p.m. | Mass – Mike O'Connell by Anne Spaeth

Sunday, December 28 | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (F)

8 a.m. | Mass – Christmas Novena
10 a.m. | Mass – † Gerry Patterson by Gertrude Patterson
12 p.m. | Mass – † Kim Caswell by The Caswell Family
6 p.m. | Mass – The People of St. Gertrude



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

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Father Luke VanBerkum, O.P., Parochial Vicar
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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

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Christopher Holman, Director of Music
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Pam Chmiel, Administrative Assistant
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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 Hertzal | (513) 368-8941
St. Vincent de Paul
Jennifer Mansfield | (513) 561-5954, ext 2112

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Collection	\$61,082
Weekly Budget	\$47,059
Weekly Surplus	\$14,023
Immaculate Conception	\$5,384

Fiscal Year-to-Date

Year Ending June 30, 2026	
Fiscal YTD Actual	\$1,073,802
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$1,129,412
Fiscal YTD Deficit	(\$55,610)



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BULLETIN DEADLINE

Bulletin: January 4
Materials Due: December 24

Please submit your bulletin
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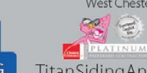
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