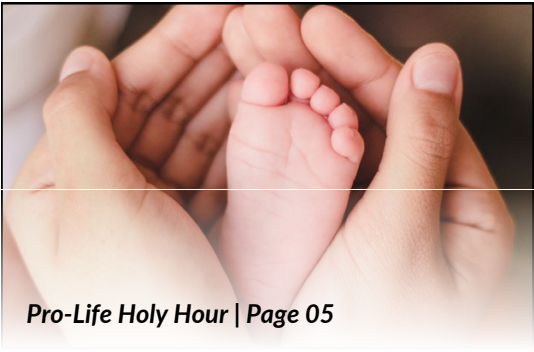




# St. Gertrude PARISH

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | JANUARY 4, 2026





Pro-Life Holy Hour | Page 05



Parish Choirs Variety Show Gala | Page 07



Return Night | Page 08

Listen to our parish podcast on Spotify or Apple Podcasts!



SpotifyApple

02 WELCOME

Become a Parishioner  
Mission, Vision, Core Values  
Become Catholic

03 FROM OUR PASTOR

Letter from Father John Paul  
Parish Theme  
The Power of the Rosary

04 PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Healthy Moms & Babes Collection  
Ladies of Charity Meeting  
Baptisms  
Let Us Pray

05 PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

K-2 Instructional Basketball  
Pro-Life Holy Hour  
Walking with Moms in Need  
Next Fun Bunch Gathering  
Parish Library

06 PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

07 PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Choirs England Tour & Gala

08 PARISH EVANGELIZATION

Return Night  
CGS Catechist Training

09 PARISH EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Pancake Breakfast  
Harpsichord Recital  
Ash Wednesday  
Swing into Spring

10 SCHOOL NEWS

11 AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

January Retreats at JSC  
Program for High Schoolers  
E6 Men's Conference  
Pre-Planning Seminar  
Retreat with Father David Endres

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](http://stgertrude.org)
-  [parishoffice@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishoffice@stgertrude.org)
-  [stgertrudechurch](https://www.facebook.com/stgertrudechurch)

Church Hours

Daily, 7 a.m.–9 p.m.

Parish Office Hours

M-F, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

School Office Hours

M-F, 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.



# 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](http://stgertrude.org/register). Paper copies of the registration form are also available in the parish office.



## Been away for a while or curious about Catholicism?

### WE WOULD LOVE TO WALK WITH YOU.

To connect with us, get your questions answered, and learn more about returning to the Church or becoming Catholic, contact Tyler Castrucci at [tcastrucci@stgertrude.org](mailto:tcastrucci@stgertrude.org) or scan the QR code.







## A VENERABLE EPIPHANY TRADITION: CHALKING THE DOORS

Blessing houses at the beginning of the year, on or near the celebration of Epiphany, is a longstanding Church tradition that dates back

to the Middle Ages. Over time, this developed into a particular ritual, in which blessed chalk was used to mark the lintel above the front door (and, in some cases, above every door in the house).

Once again, we will have baskets of blessed chalk at the entrances to the church during this weekend's Masses. We invite every household to take one piece of blessed chalk to bless their house. If you still have your blessed chalk from last year, there is no need to take a new piece. There are a number of variations on the formula that a family can use for the occasion; the one below is short and simple, suitable even for families with small children (and thus small attention spans!). Longer, more elaborate forms of the blessing, which may include readings from Scripture, can easily be found online.

The blessing can begin with all present making the Sign of the Cross. The one leading the prayers then says:

**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.**

The leader then says:

**The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became man two thousand and twenty-six years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.**

The lintel of the front door (either outside or inside) is then marked with:

**20 + C + M + B + 26**

The blessing concludes with everyone present praying the following prayer together:

**Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love. May we be blessed with health, gentleness, and kindness of heart. Fill us with the light of Christ, that we may grow in grace and in the love and knowledge of you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Side note: There are two meanings to the three letters used in the inscription, which are interspersed between the numerals of the current calendar year. They refer first to the names of the three Wise Men (whom we celebrate visiting the Christ Child on the feast of the Epiphany): Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. The letters are also an abbreviation for the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*—"May Christ bless [this] home."

A blessed Epiphany and New Year to everyone,

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

Father John Paul Walker, O.P.



## THE POWER OF THE ROSARY



Guided, in fact, by divine inspiration and grace, he [St. Dominic] foresaw that this devotion, like a most powerful warlike weapon, would be the means of putting the enemy to flight, and of confounding their audacity and mad impiety."

- Pope Leo XIII



## HEALTHY MOMS & BABES COLLECTION—THIS WEEKEND

This weekend, the Ladies of Charity will be at the white van in the parking lot collecting items for Healthy Moms & Babies, 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 generous support!

## LADIES OF CHARITY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Ladies of Charity will hold an organizational meeting on Saturday, January 10, at 10 a.m. in the Parish Center St. Joseph Room. Any Catholic woman interested in the Ladies of Charity is invited to attend; all current members should plan to attend as well. We will be discussing our plans for the coming year and collecting annual dues (\$15) and 2025 service hours from current members. If you have any questions about the Ladies of Charity or the meeting, please contact Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085.

## BAPTISMS – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025



### Children

James Michael and  
Henry Leo Buckley

### Parent

Katie Buckley



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, Conner Duté, 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

† George Walter, father of Beth Pavloff and Sarah Holt





### K-2 INSTRUCTION BASKETBALL PROGRAM REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

All boys and girls of St. Gertrude Parish are invited to participate in our K-2 instructional basketball program! The program, hosted by the St. Gertrude Parish Athletic Boosters and our longtime coach Jim Collins and his crew of high school assistant coaches, is an opportunity for youngsters to learn the game of basketball. There are 10 sessions between January 18 and April 12 (no sessions during Lent), and all sessions take place on Sunday afternoons in the St. Gertrude Parish gym. Registration ends Monday, January 5. Learn more and register at [teamsideline.com/sites/stgertrude/home](https://teamsideline.com/sites/stgertrude/home). If you have any questions, please contact Robert Franer at [franersports@gmail.com](mailto:franersports@gmail.com).



### PRO-LIFE HOLY HOUR—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

The next St. Gertrude Parish Respect Life Ministry-sponsored Holy Hour will be this Wednesday, January 7, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the church. The specific intention for this Holy Hour is, "For an end to chemical abortion and all manufacturing of abortion drugs and in thanksgiving for the creation of the abortion pill reversal and those who quickly administer it." All are welcome and encouraged to join us for this dedicated time of prayer and adoration. As usual, priests will be available for confessions.



### WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED

We invite all parishioners to join us as we embark on Walking with Moms in Need, a national outreach of the Catholic Church to promote better communication of available resources to pregnant and parenting moms facing difficult circumstances in our communities and to accompany those women on their journeys. We are looking for core team members to help discern our parish's unique role and for volunteers to walk with moms in our community. For more information and to learn how you can get involved, please email [wwmin@stgertrude.org](mailto:wwmin@stgertrude.org). May Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us to become instruments of God's love and compassion to all mothers in need.



### NEXT FUN BUNCH GATHERING—TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

Everyone age 55 and older is invited to join us on Tuesday, January 20, in the St. Dominic Lobby at 12:15 p.m. for the next Fun Bunch gathering. There will be fun games, prizes, and a lot of time for fellowship. Lunch will be baked ziti and garlic bread. All are invited to bring a side dish, dessert, or drink. Please sign up at [bit.ly/funjanuary26](https://bit.ly/funjanuary26) to let us know what you plan to bring. As usual, walk-ins are welcome. If you plan to come, please RSVP to Diane Kennedy at [mkenedy06@aol.com](mailto:mkenedy06@aol.com) or (513) 791-6075 so we can have an estimated headcount for food. We hope you will join us and bring a friend!



### 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/](https://stgertrude.library.site/) or scan the QR code. Email [parishlibrary@stgertrude.org](mailto:parishlibrary@stgertrude.org) with questions.





## This WEEK

### MONDAY, JANUARY 5

- 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, JANUARY 6

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

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

- 10:15 a.m.** | St. Gertrude School Preschool Pups (School Library)  
**6:30 p.m.** | Cub Scouts Den Meeting (School Cafeteria & Classrooms)  
**7 p.m.** | Stewardship Committee Meeting (St. Joseph Room)

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

- 7:30 a.m.** | Catholic Men's Fellowship (School Cafeteria)  
**10 a.m.** | Ladies of Charity Organization Meeting (St. Joseph Room)

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

- 9 a.m.** | Coffee & Doughnuts (Gym)  
**11 a.m.** | Coffee & Doughnuts (Gym)  
**7 p.m.** | L'alto: High School Youth Ministry Night (Parish Center)

### BECOME A EUCHARISTIC GUARDIAN

Eucharistic guardians are people who sign up for and commit to a weekly Holy Hour in our Mother of Mercy Adoration Chapel. The chapel is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and overnight on Wednesday. **We need at least two people signed up for every hour; many spots are available.** To learn more or sign up, scan the QR code, or visit [stgertrude.org/adoration](http://stgertrude.org/adoration).



### MISCARRIAGE KIT BOX

Are you or someone you know facing a first trimester miscarriage? You are not alone. Heaven's Gain Ministries has provided our parish with a box of free miscarriage kits to support your physical and emotional needs during your tragic loss. The box is located in the landscape bed to the left of the circle drive in front of the church. If you have questions about the kit, call Heaven's Gain at (513) 888-4200. Learn more about Heaven's Gain's services at [heavensgain.org](http://heavensgain.org). We also encourage you to contact one of our parish priests so we can help you along your grieving journey.



## Help Make an SGS Education More Affordable

**While reducing your Ohio income tax liability!**

Ohio taxpayers who donate to a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) are able to claim a dollar-for-dollar, non-refundable tax credit on their state income tax return for up to \$750 per donor (up to \$1,500 for joint filers).

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Education Foundation (CEF) is a certified SGO, and St. Gertrude School is a participating school. That means that if you pay Ohio income tax, you can choose whether you pay taxes to the state or donate to our parish school.

**Please consider joining your fellow parishioners who have claimed the tax credit. Donate today at [bit.ly/stgsgo](http://bit.ly/stgsgo). You have until April 15, 2026, to make your donation for the 2025 tax year. Your gift will go directly to tuition assistance for SGS students.**



### CREATE YOUR WILL FOR FREE

As a Catholic, your faith is your most valuable asset. Thanks to St. Gertrude Parish's partnership with MyCatholicWill.com, you can pass on your Legacy of Faith and plant seeds for the next generation of Catholics in an incredible way. Scan the QR code or visit [MyCatholicWill.com/StGertrude](http://MyCatholicWill.com/StGertrude) to start writing your will for free today! Use referral code **STGERTRUDE**.



### ARE YOU IN NEED OF FORGIVENESS?

God is always ready to forgive. Experience his merciful love through the sacrament of Reconciliation. Priests are available to hear confessions Monday-Friday at 4 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 3:30 p.m., or by appointment.





## ST. GERTRUDE PARISH CHOIRS ENGLAND TOUR AND GALA

*By Christopher Holman*  
*Director of Music*

Later this year, singers from St. Gertrude Parish's Parish Choir and Schola Cantorum will travel to England on an extraordinary musical pilgrimage—not simply to perform concerts, but to serve as musical ambassadors of the Church in the United States. The choirs have been invited to sing with some of the most distinguished liturgical institutions in the English-speaking world, including St. George's Cathedral Southwark, the Catholic cathedral of London; New College; Winchester College; the Rosary Shrine and St. Dominic's Priory in London; and Blackfriars Hall, a major Dominican intellectual center in England and northern Europe. Through shared liturgy and sacred music, our singers will build relationships across Catholic and Anglican traditions, offering prayer in sound while representing St. Gertrude Parish, Cincinnati, and the wider American Church abroad.

Those of you who attend the 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Sunday Masses have heard our choirs every week as they sing the great sacred music of the Catholic Church—plainchant, Palestrina, Mozart, and beyond. But if you have ever wondered what the musicians of St. Gertrude Parish sound like *outside* of the choir loft—or if you simply enjoy a fabulous night out with dinner, drinks, and live entertainment and want to support first-rate entertainment that benefits the arts and international musical-cultural exchange and ecumenical dialogue—you do not want to miss our Choir Gala and Variety Show on January 31 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Gertrude School.

To be clear: this is not a formal recital nor a typical fundraiser program. The evening will delight, surprise, and entertain from start to finish. Think of it as equal parts elegant dinner party, cabaret-style concert, and parish celebration—all in support of an extraordinary musical mission. The Variety Show is exactly that: a lively, expertly curated evening of music spanning Broadway favorites, operatic scenes, jazz standards, grand opera, and more, presented with warmth, wit, and flair. Performers include members of the Parish Choir, children of the Schola Cantorum, our high school choral scholars, and of course our professional staff singers, many of whom have performed on Broadway and at the Metropolitan Opera.

The evening begins with a catered dinner from Maggiano's, a favorite for good reason. Each guest will receive one complimentary drink ticket, with a cash bar available thereafter. The dress code is business casual—dress nicely, but

comfortably, and be ready to enjoy yourself.

Throughout the night, guests will also have the chance to buy raffle tickets on a wide assortment of spectacularly assembled gift baskets, ideal for gifts or indulgence. If you can't make the gala, we'll be selling raffle tickets for these baskets after Masses in the coming weekends. The themes of the baskets are as follows: The Big Game, Girl Power, Ultimate Party, Party Adventure, Movie Night, Garden Perfection, For Mom and Baby, Bourbon, Scotch, Fine Italian Wine, and Valentine's (three themed baskets).

Whether your interests lean festive, cozy, celebratory, or refined, there will be something that catches your eye.

### Why We're Celebrating—and Fundraising

As enjoyable as the evening promises to be, it also serves a meaningful purpose. Proceeds from the gala support the Parish Choir and Schola Cantorum's upcoming England tour—a once-in-a-generation opportunity for our singers to serve as musical ambassadors abroad.

This inaugural Choir Gala and Variety Show is a celebration of talent, generosity, and shared joy. It is an evening meant for longtime parishioners, choir families, supporters of the arts, and anyone who enjoys excellent food and unforgettable live performances.

**Tickets are \$100 per person and may be purchased online at [bit.ly/ChoirGala](https://bit.ly/ChoirGala), by scanning the QR code below, or at the gala table after Mass. Seating is limited, and interest is high.**

Join us on January 31 for a night that promises laughter, beauty, and brilliance—and help send the sound of St. Gertrude Parish and the Church in America across the Atlantic.





## RETURN NIGHT

By Tyler Castrucci

Director of Evangelization

For Catholic parishes, Christmas Mass is one of the most well-attended Masses of the year. St. Gertrude Parish is no exception.

Taking all our Christmas Masses into consideration, Christmas Mass attendance is typically 50 percent higher than our average Mass attendance on a regular Sunday. In real numbers, nearly 1,000 "extra" people show up on Christmas. That's an astonishing number! This bump in attendance certainly has something to do with the grace and enduring mystery of God becoming Man in the Person of Jesus Christ. But there is also a certain cultural "inertia" from longstanding traditions of going to church on Christmas. It's a day when many people who do not regularly attend Mass choose (for varied reasons) to show up. In short, Christmas is one of the rare times when a "fallen away" Catholic (a person who is not regularly practicing their Catholic faith) might choose to come to Mass. This, in and of itself, is a good thing and a result of God's grace. It also presents an opportunity for evangelization.

I've been reflecting on this reality—specifically how we, as a parish, could welcome someone who has fallen away and invite him or her to return. To be honest, we haven't really had a lot of options at St. Gertrude Parish. This year, we would like to try something different. On Wednesday, January 14, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., we will host Return Night. This is an evening specifically designed for what we think fallen-away Catholics might need: community, friendship, a joyful proclamation of

the Gospel, and an opportunity to encounter Jesus in prayer and/or confession.

Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) missionaries have a simple way of describing the process of evangelization: Win, Build, Send. **Return Night is firmly in the "Win" category—all we want to do is reintroduce people to Jesus and his Church.** The evening will include dinner, conversation, a kerygmatic talk, a witness testimony, and the end of the parish Holy Hour, which will allow the fallen away to spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist and/or receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. **I invite you to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you the name of a person in your life whom you could invite to Return Night . . . and then invite him or her to attend Return Night with you.**

No matter what, please pray for all of the lost, the seekers, and the fallen away, who walked through our doors this past Christmas and for the success of Return Night. Here is a simple prayer you can use:

O Holy Spirit of Truth, we beseech You to enlighten the minds of unbelievers in the midst of us, to incline their hearts to love Your word, and to believe the teachings of Your Church. Give them the courage to accept the faith and openly profess it; that they may come into union with You and the Father, through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

## Are you interested in being a catechist for CGS?

### Register Now for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 Courses!

#### Level 1, Part A

Teaching children ages 3–6

June 28–July 3, 2026

St. Gertrude School

Formation Leader  
Sister Mary Rose Bingham, O.P.

#### Level 1, Part B

Teaching children ages 3–6

June 14–19, 2027

St. Gertrude School

Formation Leader  
Sister Mary Rose Bingham, O.P.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Sister Mariana Thayer, O.P., vice principal of St. Gertrude School, at [smariana@stgertrudesch.org](mailto:smariana@stgertrudesch.org) or (513) 561-8020, ext. 1162.



ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT  
**Pancake Breakfast**

Enjoy pancakes, eggs, sausage, and fellowship with your St. Gertrude Parish family! (Gluten-free pancakes and dairy-free scrambled eggs available.)

Children 5 and Under . . . . . FREE  
Children Grades K-8 . . . . . \$5  
Adult . . . . . \$10  
Family . . . . . \$35



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18**  
**8:30 A.M.–12 P.M.**  
**GYMNASIUM**

All proceeds go to the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids Program, an initiative that provides new winter coats for needy children.

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Elder Council #1195.



**HARPSICHORD  
RECITAL**

Christopher Holman presents a solo harpsichord recital exploring the expressive depth and exuberant brilliance of baroque keyboard music.

**FRIDAY | 7 P.M.**  
**JANUARY 30, 2026**  
**St. Gertrude Church**

Scan the QR code or visit  
[stgertrude.org/sacredmusic](http://stgertrude.org/sacredmusic)  
to learn more and buy  
tickets!



*Ash Wednesday*  
**FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

Ashes will be distributed at 7 a.m.,  
8 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 7 p.m. Masses.

*"For you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*  
– Genesis 3:19



**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

**Pricing**

\$75/person or \$390 for a team of six players.  
Registration ends April 11, 2026.

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





# Discover the *Dominican* Difference



**OPEN HOUSE | JANUARY 25 | 9 A.M. – 12 P.M.**

For more than 90 years, St. Gertrude School has been an integral part of the life of St. Gertrude Parish, forming children in truth, virtue, and joy through a Catholic education rooted in the Dominican tradition. If you have never walked through the doors of the school or if it has been some time since your last visit, we invite you to our upcoming Open House to experience a school that—first and foremost—exists to serve its parishioners.

At the Open House, parishioners are able to tour the school campus, experience live classroom demonstrations, meet our mission-driven and ministry-focused faculty, and speak with the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, who enliven our school each day. This is an opportunity to encounter a school where prayer shapes the rhythm of the day, study is ordered toward truth, community is intentional, and service naturally flows from a life

rooted in Christ.

At St. Gertrude School, faith and reason are united, children are known and loved, and the goodness of God's creation is joyfully proclaimed. The beauty of the classrooms, the clarity of the curriculum, and the warmth of the community all point to a singular goal: forming students to become saints.

Whether you are actively discerning education options for your family or simply wishing to see the life and mission of your parish school firsthand, you are most welcome. All parishioners are encouraged to attend the Open House following the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses on January 25, 2026.

We look forward to welcoming you into your parish school and sharing the life and mission that have formed generations of St. Gertrude Parish families.





## JANUARY RETREATS AT THE JESUIT SPIRITUAL CENTER

**Silent Retreat for Men & Women:** 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](http://jesuitspiritualcenter.com/iwr) for details.

**Sacred Story Retreat:** Do you want to learn how God is present even in the messy or wounded areas of your life? Sacred Story Retreat, a silent retreat for women who seek healing and renewal in Christ, will be held January 16–18 at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford. Eileen Wieck will guide you through the process of seeing your life through God's eyes, reconciling your past, and finding peace and freedom through God's love. For details, visit [jesuitspiritualcenter.com/iwr](http://jesuitspiritualcenter.com/iwr).

## CATHOLIC SUMMER PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

Wayfinders is a four-day, overnight Catholic summer program for rising high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors that takes place on the University of Dayton's campus. Participants learn about Catholic theology, reflect, converse with peers and professors, do service work, and explore other aspects of the Catholic tradition. Wayfinders helps young people explore questions such as: What is my life all about? What is faith? What does God have to do with our lives?

Directed by four Catholic theology professors, Wayfinders participants earn one college credit for completing the program. The program will be June 5–8, 2026, and is \$150 (payable upon registration). The cost includes college credit fees, campus housing, meals, a T-shirt, a journal, other materials, and all outings. Scholarships are available. Visit [udayton.edu/artssciences/endowedchair/gudorf-cit/wayfinders.php](http://udayton.edu/artssciences/endowedchair/gudorf-cit/wayfinders.php) to learn more and register.

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  
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## Pre-planning Seminar



Saturday, January 17th, 2026 | 9:00 AM | St Peter's Chapel, Main Office

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- Gate of Heaven Cemetery is here to help you understand Church teachings, so that planning end of life decisions can be made with peace of mind.
- Join us in our main office for an informative morning. Coffee and pastries will be served.
- Please RSVP to Jeanne Young at 513-927-6971



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**Feb. 7, 2026, 9am to 4pm at**  
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**First Saturday Mass and talk by Fr. David Endres,**  
academic dean, professor of church history and historical theology at  
Mt. St. Mary's Seminary, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and author.

Other speakers and witnesses from Presentation Ministries,  
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**Cost: A donation – Pray and “do whatever he tells you”**

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

### **Monday, January 5 | St. John Neumann (M)**

7 a.m. | Mass – Father Robert Altier by Martha Hanna  
8 a.m. | Mass – † Max Schneider by Bill & Ginny Schneller  
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Deceased Members of the Dominican Order  
4 p.m. | Confessions

### **Tuesday, January 6 | Christmas Weekday**

7 a.m. | Mass – † Ruth Lydon by The Family  
8 a.m. | Mass – † Patricia Zickes by Susan Bentley  
10 a.m. | Moms & Littles Holy Hour  
11:30 a.m. | Mass – The Henderson Family by Dina Henderson  
4 p.m. | Confessions

### **Wednesday, January 7 | St. Raymond of Peñafort (M)**

7 a.m. | Mass – † Adam Castrucci by The Castrucci Family  
8 a.m. | Mass – † Melencio Guzman Dato  
by The Deocariza Family & Virginia Dormidon  
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Al Castrucci by Knights of Columbus  
4 p.m. | Confessions  
7:30 p.m. | Holy Hour & Confessions

### **Thursday, January 8 | Christmas Weekday**

7 a.m. | Mass – † Jennifer Swope by Knights of Columbus Elder Council  
8 a.m. | Mass – † Grace Rock by Mary Beth Thiemann  
11:30 a.m. | Mass – Thanksgiving by Dennis & Shirley Ramenaden  
4 p.m. | Confessions

### **Friday, January 9 | Christmas Weekday**

7 a.m. | Mass – † Sister Marian, O.P., by Martha Grumbley  
8 a.m. | Mass – † Maxine Daniel by The Daniel Family  
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Mary Grace Bartel by Sal & Teri Forlini

### **Saturday, January 10 | Christmas Weekday**

8 a.m. | Mass – † Connie Woodbury by The Runk Family  
11:30 a.m. | Mass – † John Dugan by Jim & Anne Collins  
3:30 p.m. | Confessions  
4:30 p.m. | Mass – † Steve Crawford  
by Harold & Coleen Glorius and Family

### **Sunday, January 11 | Baptism of the Lord (F)**

8 a.m. | Mass – † Sheila Clanton by St. Gertrude Class of 2026  
10 a.m. | Mass – The People of St. Gertrude Parish  
12 p.m. | Mass – † Gerry Patterson by Gertrude Patterson  
6 p.m. | Mass – † Matt Haney by Bill & Tish Shefcik



## **PASTORAL CARE**

Are you or a loved one unable to attend Mass due to illness or being homebound? As a sign of Christ's love, our parish community earnestly desires to bring comfort and healing to these individuals. **Please call the parish office at (513) 561-5954, and we will direct you to the most appropriate ministry.**

### **Here are ways we can help you:**

#### **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**

This healing sacrament is given to those facing serious physical or mental illness, advanced age, or surgery due to one of these. When one is near death, anointing is offered as part of the Last Rites, along with the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

#### **Communion to the Sick or Homebound**

Our priests and lay ministers are available to bring Holy Communion to individuals who are unable to attend Sunday Mass due to illness or being homebound. This important ministry is a vital sign of the parish community's love and support for all of our members.

#### **Prayers for the Sick or Deceased**

Each week, our bulletin lists the names of individuals who are sick or recently deceased so that our entire parish community may pray for them. Simply contact the parish office to add yourself or a family member to this list.

## **PRAYER MINISTRY FOR THE DYING**

Is your loved one actively dying? Contact our Prayer Ministry for the Dying. Members of this ministry pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for those approaching death. To request prayers for your loved one, please call Pat Collins at (513) 265-1897. If you would like to join this ministry, visit [stgertrude.org/prayersforthedying](http://stgertrude.org/prayersforthedying) to learn more.



PARISH STAFF DIRECTORY

CLERGY

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  
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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  
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wplummer@stgertrude.org | (513) 561-5954, ext. 2122  
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Mary Beth Thiemann, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Coord.  
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Lauren Mays, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Assistant  
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OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP

Hope Ramundo, Director of Stewardship  
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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

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Sister Mariana Thayer, O.P., Vice Principal  
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Madeline McCauley, Dir. of Marketing & Community  
Engagement  
community@stgertrudesch.org | (513) 561-8020, ext. 1138

ATHLETICS

Jake Dummermuth, Athletic Director  
jdummermuth@stgertrudesch.org

ST. GERTRUDE PARISH SUPPORT MINISTRIES

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

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Sunday, December 21, 2025	
Collection	\$46,255
Weekly Budget	\$47,059
Weekly Deficit	(\$804)
Second Collection - School	\$5,630
Fiscal Year-to-Date	
Year Ending June 30, 2026	
Fiscal YTD Actual	\$1,120,577
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$1,176,471
Fiscal YTD Deficit	(\$55,894)



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BULLETIN DEADLINE

Bulletin: January 18  
Materials Due: January 7

Please submit your bulletin  
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