



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13 and 14, 2025

St. Gertrude Parish, Cincinnati

Welcome

Welcome to St. Gertrude Church, a Roman Catholic parish of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati 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.

Using this Booklet

This booklet contains the order of Mass. Texts spoken by the priest (the celebrant) appear in regular type, and responses by the congregation are in **bold**. Instructions when to stand, sit, kneel, etc. are in *italicized gray* typeface, as are descriptions of liturgical action. Hymns are found in the blue *St. Michael Hymnal* in each pew.

For Visitors

If you are visiting today, know that you are most welcome. Restrooms may be found at the back of the church. Assisted listening devices and low gluten hosts are available; please speak with an usher, who will gladly assist you. If you are unable to stand or kneel, please feel comfortable remaining seated — your presence and prayer are what matter most. We use incense at Sunday Mass, an act of worship described in Scripture that symbolizes our prayers rising to God; those with breathing sensitivities are encouraged to sit toward the back of the church. Thank you for joining us today; we hope that you will return often to pray with us.

The Reception of Holy Communion

As Catholics, we believe that the Eucharist is not merely a symbol, but is truly the Body and Blood of Christ, the greatest gift he bestowed upon humanity. This sacred mystery is founded upon Jesus's own words at the Last Supper and has been affirmed in Christian writings since the first century. To receive this Blessed Sacrament, one should be a practicing Catholic, free from grave sin, and normally have fasted for one hour. Those Catholics who are not prepared to receive today and our non-Catholic guests are warmly invited to approach the altar with arms crossed over the chest to receive a blessing.



ORDER OF MASS

Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottessohn
Lord Christ, the Only Son of God

Dieterich Buxtehude

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PROCESSION *(Sunday)*

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

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

St. Michael Hymnal 727

INTROIT

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

Gaudete in Domino semper:
iterum dico, gaudete:
modestia vestra nota sit omnibus hominibus:
Dominus prope est. Nihil solliciti sitis:
sed in omni oratione petitiones vestrae
innotescant apud Deum.

*Rejoice in the Lord always:
again I say, rejoice.
Let your temperance be known to all men,
for the Lord is nigh. Be careful for nothing,
but in every prayer let your petitions
be made known to God.*

Words: Philippians 4:4–6

Music: Dominican Chant

GREETING

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

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

PENITENTIAL ACT

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

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

All strike their breast three times

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

KYRIE

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

The musical notation consists of three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are represented by black dots on the staff lines, with horizontal lines indicating the pitch contour. The lyrics are written below the notes, with Latin in italics and English in a standard font. The first staff has the lyrics "Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son." with "Lord," and "have mercy." below. The second staff has "Chri - ste, e - le - i - son." with "Christ," and "have mercy." below. The third staff has "Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son." with "Lord," and "have mercy." below. The music is a simple, melodic line with some ties and rests.

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

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

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

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

COLLECT

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING I

Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing. Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 146:6–10



ALLELUIA

All stand



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. *℟.*

Verse: Isaiah 61:1

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2–11

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” Jesus said to them in reply, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.* Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All sit

HOMILY

Friars of the Order of Preachers

CREDO *(Saturday)*

All stand

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

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

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

All bow

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

All stand

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

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

CREDO (Sunday)

All stand and sing:

Celebrant: *All:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All bow

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

All rise

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A - - - - - men.

Music: Gregorian Chant, Credo III

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Each petition concludes with:

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

After the final petition, all pray:

Almighty Father,

you have created us for some definite purpose.

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

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

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

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

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

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

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY *(Saturday)*

All sit as the cantor sings:

Benedixisti, Domine, terram tuam:
avertisti captivitatem Jacob:
remisisti iniquitatem plebis tuae.

*O Lord, you have favored your land,
and brought back the captives of Jacob.
You forgave the guilt of your people.*

℣. Operuisti omne peccatum eorum:
mitigasti omnem iram tuam.

℣. *You have covered all their sins.
You averted all your rage.*

Antiphon: Psalm 85:2–3a

Verse: Psalm 85:3b–4a

Music: Dominican Chant

OFFERTORY *(Sunday)*

All sit and sing:

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

St. Michael Hymnal 489

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

All stand

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

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

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete
what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PREFACE DIALOGUE AND SANCTUS

Saturday: St. Michael Hymnal 101

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

The celebrant says the preface. At the end, all sing:

The musical score is written for a Cantor and an All group. It is in G major (one sharp) and common time. The Cantor's part is on a single staff, while the All group's part is on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in italics. The score is divided into two main sections: the Preface Dialogue and the Sanctus. The Preface Dialogue includes the words "San - ctus, Holy, ctus, Do - mi - nus De - us Sa - ba - oth. Lord God of hosts. Ple - ni sunt cae - li et ter - ra glo - ri - a tu - a. Full are heaven and earth of your glory. Ho - san - na in ex - cel - sis. Hosanna in the highest. Be - ne - dic - tus qui ve - nit in no - mi - ne Do - mi - ni. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in ex - cel - sis."

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

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

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

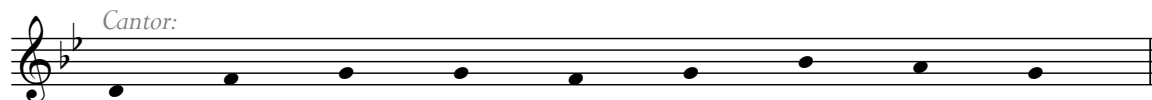
THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

All kneel

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


The mystery of faith.

Cantor:



When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,

All:

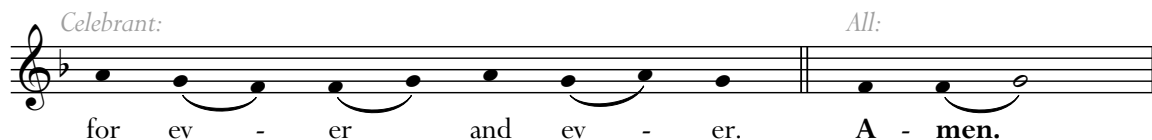


we pro-claim your Death, O Lord, un-til you come a-gain.

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

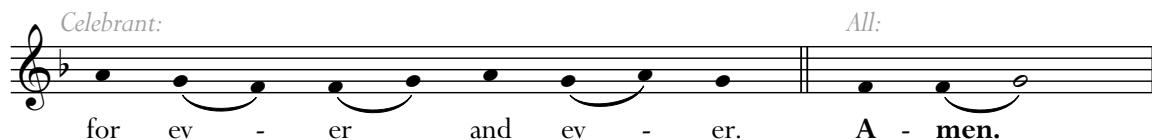
Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours,

Celebrant:



for ev-er and ev-er.

All:



A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All stand

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

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

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

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

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All offer one another a sign of peace

AGNUS DEI

Saturday: St. Michael Hymnal 104

Cantor/choir: *All:*

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

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

Cantor/choir: *All:*

Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun-di:
 mi - se - re - re no - bis.

Cantor/choir: *All:*

Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun-di:
 do - na no - bis pa - cem.
 grant us peace.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All kneel

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

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

COMMUNION

Dicite pusillanimes: confortamini,
et nolite timere: ecce Deus noster veniet,
et salvabit nos.

℣. Populus, qui ambulant in tenebris,
vidit lucem magnam.

℣. Parvulus enim natus est nobis,
filium datus est nobis.

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

The cantor/choir sings:

*Say to the faint of heart: be strong
and do not fear. Behold, our God will come,
and he will save us.*

℣. *The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.*

℣. *For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.*

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

Antiphon: after Isaiah 35:4

Versicles: Isaiah 9:1a, 5a

Music: Dominican Chant

MOTET (10 A.M.)

In what torn ship so ever I embark,
That ship shall be my emblem of Thy ark;
What sea soever swallow me, that flood
Shall be to me an emblem of Thy blood;
Though Thou with clouds of anger do disguise
Thy face, yet through that mask I know those eyes,
Which, though they turn away sometimes,
They never will despise.

I sacrifice this island unto Thee,
And all whom I love there, and who loved me;
When I have put our seas 'twixt them and me,
Put thou Thy seas betwixt my sins and Thee.
As the tree's sap doth seek the root below
In winter, in my winter now I go,
Where none but Thee, the eternal root
Of true love, I may know.

The Parish Choir sings:

Words: John Donne

Music: Imogen Holst

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All stand

We implore your mercy, Lord, that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

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

Amen.

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

All kneel

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

HYMN

All sing:

People, Look East

St. Michael Hymnal 712

POSTLUDE

Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottessohn, BWV 601

Johann Sebastian Bach

