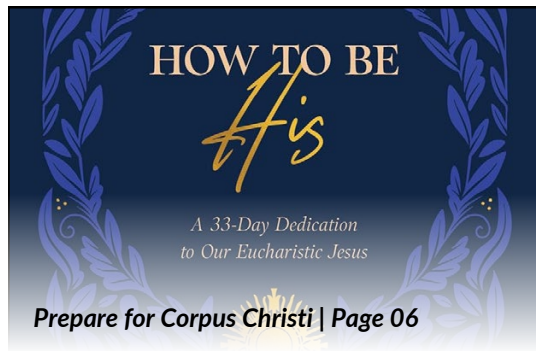





St. Gertrude PARISH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | MAY 3, 2026



Listen to our parish podcast on Spotify or Apple Podcasts!

Spotify Apple



If you have any suggestions for future episodes, email podcast@stgertrude.org.

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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.



ENCOUNTER JESUS. TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

WELCOME

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

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

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

MISSION

Who We Are

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

VISION

Who We Aspire to Be

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

CORE VALUES

What We Cultivate

Reverence, Humility, Magnanimity, Generosity, Intentionality

BECOME A PARISHIONER

Ready to join our vibrant parish of missionary disciples?

Register as a parishioner at stgertrude.org/register. Paper copies of the registration form are also available in the parish office.



Been away for a while or curious about Catholicism?

WE WOULD LOVE TO WALK WITH YOU.

To connect with us, get your questions answered, and learn about returning to the Church or becoming Catholic, scan the QR code or contact Tyler Castrucci tcastrucci@stgertrude.org.





A CAUSE OF GREAT JOY: SOME “NEW” MARTYRS

This past January, in news that mostly flew under the radar—even in our own country—, Pope Leo approved a decree from the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints

recognizing five early Franciscan missionaries to the United States as martyrs who were killed *in odium fidei* (hatred of the faith). These missionaries left Spain to evangelize the indigenous people along the coast of Georgia, known as the Guale, arriving and beginning their ministry more than 20 years before the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

At first, things were going wonderfully. The Guale people were very receptive to Christianity and converted in large numbers. The Franciscans felt completely safe among them and lived in their villages without any Spanish military or government presence. They traveled on foot, barefoot, between the various villages, baptizing and providing the sacraments. For the better part of two years, everything was going perfectly

Things took a drastic turn in 1597. Juanillo, the heir to the Guale chiefdom and already baptized as a Christian, desired to take a second wife, as was the custom of the Guale chiefs previous to the arrival of Christianity. Franciscan Pedro de Corpa spoke out against this, reminding the young man that polygamy was incompatible with the Gospel and telling him that going through with his plan would oppose Juanillo’s ascent to the chiefdom. Infuriated, Juanillo gathered a group of like-minded young men and murdered Friar Pedro in his hut at night. They then traveled to the other villages, killing any of the other missionaries they could find. In the end, five of the six Franciscans ministering to the Guale people were martyred. The sixth one was captured and tortured for 10 months before the Spanish governor in St. Augustine, Florida, was able to barter for his release.

On October 31, 2026, in Savannah, Georgia, papal legate His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo will celebrate the beatification Mass of the five martyrs: Pedro de Corpa, Blas Rodríguez, Miguel de Añon, Antonio de Badajóz, and Francisco de



Veráscola. They will become the second set of beatified missionary martyrs in our country, joining the eight Jesuits killed in New York and southern Canada between 1642 and 1649 (collectively known as the “North American martyrs”).

There is an old saying in the Church, dating back to Tertullian (c. 197 A.D.): “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.” In the supernatural order, the sacrifice of the martyrs, pouring out their blood in imitation of Christ, brings incredible graces—even if it is centuries later before those graces become evident. In an era where the Catholic population is shrinking in much of the country, the opposite is true in the southeast. Georgia, along with its bordering states, Florida and South Carolina, is experiencing a significant growth in the number of Catholics and the percentage of the population that is Catholic. Perhaps we can see in this trend the fruits of the sacrifice made by the martyrs of Georgia.

(Soon-to-be Blessed) Pedro, Blas, Miguel, Antonio, and Francisco, pray for us!

God bless,

Rev. John Paul Walker, O.P.

Father John Paul Walker, O.P.



FROM THE DIARY OF ST. FAUSTINA



Today I felt the nearness of my Mother, my heavenly Mother, although before every Holy Communion I earnestly ask the Mother of God to help me prepare my soul for the coming of Her Son, and I clearly feel Her protection over me. I entreat Her to be so gracious as to enkindle in me the fire of God’s love, such as burned in Her own pure heart at the time of the Incarnation of the Word of God.”

- Diary, #1114

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING ST. GERTRUDE SCHOOL

We are very grateful to all St. Gertrude Parish parishioners who have donated to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Education Foundation (CEF)—a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO)—for the benefit of St. Gertrude School. Their generosity is not only helping to provide scholarships for students who may not have the means to attend our wonderful parish school, but also earning them a dollar-for-dollar tax credit up to \$750 per taxpayer, per tax year!

We would like to recognize the following parishioners who gave to the CEF-SGO in April 2026:

Anonymous	Judy Hartmann	Robert Ragusa
Anonymous	Alyssa Peck	Michelle Rossmann
Anonymous	Matthew Peck	Robert Rossmann
Anonymous	Daniel Roberts	Scott Bentley
Anonymous	Lindsey Roberts	Susan Bentley
Anonymous	Gregory Feldman	Joy DeNicola
Anna Beckett	Karen Gerwel	Peter DeNicola
William Arthur Beckett	Les Kuglics	Susan Kane
John Condit	Emily Adams	Chad Lape
Rachel Condit	Benjamin Hoffmann	Haley Moore
Cristina Genung	Jamie Hoffmann	Amy Toft
Matthew Genung	Joan Ragusa	Marcus Toft

To make your donation, visit bit.ly/stgsgo or scan the QR code. Tax credits will now be applied to the 2026 tax year. Thank you for your generosity!



MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA

We will be offering a Mother's Day novena of Masses beginning on Mother's Day, May 10. Enrollment cards and envelopes are available at the church entrances. Please return remittance envelopes before Mother's Day. All donations support St. Gertrude Priory.

BAPTISMS - SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026



Child: Madelyn Grace Losekamp
Parents: Michele & Grayden Losekamp



Let Us
PRAY

THE SICK

Joy Belperio, Nikki Best, Johnny Burns, James Caldwell, Vicki Calonge, Patty Connelly, Meghan Craft, Triset Defonseka, Diana Doll, Mark Doran, Lisa Ely, Octavio Flores Resendiz, Ron Freudenberg, Will Freudenberg, Dick Gelhaus, Goad Family, Elsa Hall, Mark Holland, Hummel Family, Steve Kaimer, Andrea Kattel, Aiko Kimura, William Kimura, Karen Larkin, Kevin Lewis, Jim Lydon, Gertrude Maxwell, Kim McClung, Charles McCown, Tom McLaughlin, Elaine O'Connell, Sue Paas, Gert Patterson, Romualdo & Maria Pelle, Jerry Pfeiffer Family, Fran Pishotti, Paula Scalo, Pegge Schuermann, Nancy Silvers, Patricia Strauss, Judy Sullivan

THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Patrick Burke, Gabe Dorsey, Jacob Dorsey, Conner Duté, Cole Foster, Kyle Foster, Dominic Geraci, Daniel Holian, Mike Huber, Aaron Jacobson, Jacob Kramb, John Kramb, Kelly Leugers, Miles Mayer, Charles Mayer, John Murdock Jr., John Oscar, Dan Roseman, Andrew Shannon, Michael Stein, Ian Tester, Jack Thornton, and Gus Voto

THE RECENTLY DECEASED

- † Daniel R. Armstrong, brother of Gindy Schneller
- † Barb Effler Hershner, sister of Jan Wenzel
- † Gertrude Stuntebeck, mother of Mary Beth Stuntebeck



NOMINATIONS FOR ST. GERTRUDE PARISH ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

The St. Gertrude Parish Athletic Boosters is accepting nominations for our open secretary and treasurer positions, which have three-year terms. Candidates must be active members of St. Gertrude Parish, be a current Boosters member (which is defined as any parent with a child participating in sports through the Athletic Boosters in the current school year), and attend weekly Mass (if Catholic). Nominees will need to attend the May Boosters meeting on Monday, May 18, at 7 p.m. To nominate yourself or someone else or to ask any questions, please email the Boosters president, Heather Brizendine, at stgertrudeboosterspresident@gmail.com. Nominations are due by Friday, May 8.



LADIES OF CHARITY MEETING

The next Ladies of Charity organizational meeting is Saturday, May 9, from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Parish Center St. Joseph Room. We will make plans for the upcoming summer and fall activities, including Treasure Mart & Craft Fair. All current members should plan to attend—and invite a friend. Any woman who is 18 years old or older, a practicing Catholic, and interested in learning more about the Ladies of Charity is welcome to join us. For more details, contact Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085.



PLAYFUL PITCH UKULELE CAMP—JUNE 1-4 | 9-11 A.M. (ST. DOMINIC LOBBY)

All children ages 7-12 are invited to our first Ukulele Camp at St. Gertrude Parish! Over four fun and faith-filled days, children will enjoy eight hours of learning and playing the ukulele. Campers will learn three to five faith-based and folk songs, making this camp perfect for beginners and intermediate players who want to keep their skills fresh. No ukulele experience necessary. Register with your own ukulele, or grab one from our shop! Cost is \$150; families registering two or more children get a 10 percent discount. Register at bit.ly/UkuleleCamp2026 or scan the QR code.



MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE

St. Gertrude Parish's Respect Life Ministry will be selling hanging flower baskets after all Masses on Mother's Day weekend, May 9 and 10. All proceeds benefit Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati. These beautiful baskets are \$25 each and are a perfect Mother's Day gift or addition for your own garden. Cash or checks made out to Cincinnati Right to Life accepted. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy LeFevre at (513) 709-8991.



EXPLORE SCOUTING AMERICA

Families are invited to explore Scouting America through two upcoming opportunities at our parish:

- **Cub Scouts (Grades K-Grade 5) | May 20, 6:30 p.m. (School Playground):** Watch a Raingutter Regatta, where Cub Scouts race their handmade boats. Contact Cubmaster Matt Frye at mrmattfrye@gmail.com with any questions. RSVP at bit.ly/RaingutterRegatta26.
- **Scouts BSA (Boys Ages 11-18) | May 5, 7 p.m. (School Cafeteria):** Boys are invited to attend a Troop Open House to experience troop life—plus a campfire with fire-building and snacks. Email Jim Collins at omarplace@aol.com with questions. RSVP at bit.ly/ScoutsTroopOpenHouse.

— This —
WEEK

MONDAY, MAY 4

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, MAY 5

7 p.m. | Boy Scouts (School Cafeteria)

FRIDAY, MAY 8

St. Gertrude School Closed
6 p.m. | Junior High Youth Ministry Event (Parish Center)

SATURDAY, MAY 9

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

SUNDAY, MAY 10

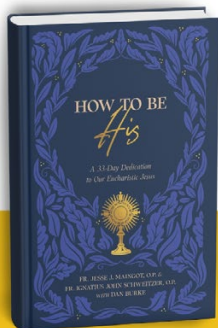
9 a.m. | Coffee & Doughnuts (Gym)
11 a.m. | Coffee & Doughnuts (Gym)

FEASIBILITY STUDY TOWN HALL MEETINGS

All parishioners are invited to attend one of our two feasibility study town hall meetings on **Tuesday, May 12**, in the school cafeteria and **Tuesday, May 19**, in the gym. Both meetings are at 7 p.m. Learn more and get your questions answered.

Prepare for Corpus Christi

Father John Paul invites everyone to read *How to Be His: A 33-Day Dedication to Our Eucharistic Jesus*, by Father Jesse Maingot, O.P., and Father Ignatius John Schweitzer, O.P., to prepare for Corpus Christi, which is on June 7. This 33-day dedication is a powerhouse of grace to help you grow in loving union with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, to experience and foster an ongoing Eucharistic revival.



Begin reading the book on May 5 to finish it by Corpus Christi. The book includes a dedication that you can privately make on the feast day.

To get your copy, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/BeHis.



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.



GIFT OF LIFE *Collection*

As we honor the Blessed Mother and all moms during May, please consider the moms who are struggling to meet the needs of their babies. **For the entire month, there will be a Pack 'N Play outside the relic chapel in the church to collect new baby items** for Old St. Mary's Pregnancy Center in Over-the-Rhine.

Most needed items include:

- Sleepers (new, 0-3 months)
- Baby bottles (5 oz. and 9 oz.)
- Diapers (sizes 5 and 6)
- Summer clothes for toddler boys

No toys or books. Thank you for your generosity!

BULLDOGS FOOTBALL REGISTRATION IS OPEN

All boys in K-8th grade are invited to join the Bulldogs football program for the 2026 fall season! Registration between now and May 15 is \$200; late fees apply after May 15. Registration closes after May 30. Practices begin in the second half of July. Visit teamsideline.com/sites/stgertrude/home to sign up, or scan the QR code. If you have questions, contact Jake Dummermuth at jdummermuth@stgertrudesch.org or Rob Gruber at (513) 256-2566



MARY MAGDALEN HOUSE COLLECTION

Before and after all Masses (except 6 p.m.) **this weekend**, the Ladies of Charity will be at the white van in the parking lot collecting items for Mary Magdalen House (MMH) in Over-the-Rhine. The center is in need of the following items, in addition to cash donations and Walmart and Amazon gift cards:

- **Men's Clothing (gently used unless noted)** – Thermal tops and bottoms, shirts/tops, gym shoes, new underwear (sizes 30-36, most needed 32-34), T-shirts, sweatshirts/hoodies (large and up), sweatpants (medium and up), work pants/jeans/shorts (sizes 30-36), belts, new white socks, work boots
- **Women's Clothing (gently used unless noted)** – Thermal tops and bottoms, shirts/tops, gym shoes, bras (especially new sports bras), new underwear (sizes 5-9), washable pants
- **Cleaning Supplies** – Liquid Drano, liquid Lysol, HE laundry detergent, dryer sheets, Clorox II, window cleaning supplies, cleaning cloths, Top Job/Mr. Clean, plastic trash bags (13-55 gallon), paper towels, toilet tissue, Kleenex
- **Personal Care Items** – Disposable razors, spray deodorant, toothbrushes, Vaseline Petroleum Jelly, bath towels, wash cloths, combs, and brushes

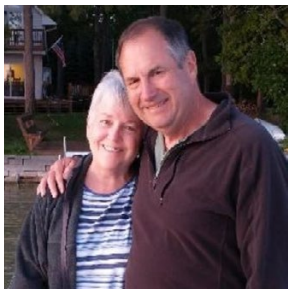
If you have any questions about Mary Magdalen House or the Ladies of Charity, please contact Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085. Thank you for your help!

SCHOLA CANTORUM BAKE SALE

After all Masses on May 16 and 17, the children from our Schola Cantorum will be selling baked goods to raise funds for their summer England tour, coming up June 9-19, 2026. Thank you for your support!



The Walking with Moms in Need core team has been diligently working behind the scenes, completing an assessment, identifying gaps, and discerning areas of concentration to assist pregnant and parenting moms in our parish and surrounding communities who are facing difficult circumstances. We are now ready to enlist a wider network of volunteers to help us in the following focus areas: prayer network, accompaniment team, meal train preparation team, meal delivery team, and events. Please scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/WWMINform to learn more about each focus area and to sign up to share your special, God-given gifts. Please contact our core team at wwmin@stgertrude.org with questions.



**MEET A PARISHIONER:
THE TELLER FAMILY**

This is the fourth installment of our bulletin feature, Meet a Parishioner! Each month, we will spotlight a parishioner or family to help you get to know your fellow parishioners, build a

sense of community, and stay connected in Christ. This month, meet Dan, Maureen, Emma, Micah (Father Jonah), Will (Father Simon), Jack, Lucy, Mary Clare, Meg Teller!

St. Gertrude Parish: Would you please tell us a little bit about yourselves and how you first found St. Gertrude Parish?

Dan & Maureen Teller: We have been very happily married for almost 45 years. Having raised seven wonderful children, all of whom are now post-college and finding their ways in the world, we are enjoying a quieter yet very active life together. We still feel 25 years old on the inside!

We came to St. Gertrude Parish in 1994. The rich liturgy, good preaching, and presence of religious attracted us. Soon after joining the parish, Father Holt baptized our fourth child, Jack, at a Sunday Mass and held his little body aloft, proclaiming in his booming voice, “Let us welcome our newest brother in Christ!”

SGP: Two of your seven children are Dominican friars—and members of The Hillbilly Thomists(!)—correct? What has been the greatest blessing of having priests in your family?

Dan & Maureen: Like any parents, we are grateful that our sons found their vocations, and so we are happy for them. We love praying the Liturgy of the Hours with our sons and, of course, going to any Mass that they celebrate is a beautiful experience—especially the intimate private Masses we have when we are together as a family. Finally, we love being “adopted” into the Dominican order—not only being welcomed by the friars but also getting to know many of them as true friends.

SGP: Dan, you are a convert, right? What led you to the Catholic Church, and when did you become Catholic?

Dan: This is a long story. I grew up in an active Jewish household and, as a young adult, explored Zen Buddhism while living at a Zen monastery for 18 months. What led me to the Church was my zeal for encountering the mystery of God. I was attracted by some prayerful priests; found great encouragement in St. John of the Cross, St. Francis, and Pope St. John Paul II; and then came to deeply appreciate the truth and beauty that permeates every corner of the Church. I eventually converted in 1984.

SGP: In what ways are you involved at St. Gertrude Parish?

Dan & Maureen: Dan serves as a lector and is active in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) program as a catechist

for children, a formation leader for adult catechists, and a collaborator with the parish staff.

SGP: You both actively serve the community outside the parish, too. Dan, what inspired you to start Good Shepherd Catholic Montessori (GSCM)? Maureen, as a founding member of The Angelico Project, would you share how Angelico has evolved over the years and what we have to look forward to?

Dan: As a trained Montessori teacher, I experienced how superb Montessori education is for children—but in a secular setting, I felt the absence of spiritual formation for the growth of the whole child. I desired to have both Montessori and Catholic education in an integrated program. Upon discovering the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, I knew that this was the missing link. So, by the grace of God and a lot of work, GSCM started in 1998 and has flourished ever since.

Maureen: Starting with a vision to evangelize through the arts, thought, and culture, Angelico is now completing its seventh season with a variety of programs: visual arts, sacred and popular music, film, dance, poetry and writing, lectures, architecture tours, pub nights, and more. In addition to continued programming, we are looking to create a permanent space as a Catholic cultural center.

SGP: What do you love about St. Gertrude Parish?

Dan & Maureen: We love the rich liturgy, the good preaching, and the general vibrancy of the parish. At the Easter Vigil this year (and at many other Masses as well), experiencing the resounding responses from the congregation, we felt like we had a taste of the multitudes standing before God in heaven!

SGP: What is a fun or unique fact about your family?

Dan & Maureen: We used to be great cornhole players. We love word games, but only a couple of us will sit down with Father Jonah for word games because he totally annihilates us. We all love music—from the Hillbilly Thomists to Taylor Swift (some of us) to jazz, classical, and folk (especially Greg Brown).

SGP: Do you (or does your family) have a patron/favorite saint?

Dan & Maureen: Dan loves Pope St. John Paul II and St. John of the Cross. Maureen loves the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and Blessed Fra Angelico!

**KNOW SOMEONE WE SHOULD SPOTLIGHT
IN OUR MEET A PARISHIONER FEATURE?**

On February 1, we launched Meet a Parishioner, a new monthly bulletin feature that spotlights a St. Gertrude Parish parishioner or family. If you have a suggestion for someone we should spotlight in an upcoming bulletin, please email bulletin@stgertrude.org.



Young Adult

PENTECOST VIGIL MASS & SOCIAL

Saturday, May 23 | 7 PM

ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH & PARISH CENTER
6543 Miami Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45243

All 18- to 35-year-olds in the archdiocese are invited to a vigil Mass, followed by a bonfire and social from 8:30 to 10 p.m. We will have burgers, hot dogs, and more; all are invited to bring a side dish to share. Scan the QR code to RSVP and to sign up to bring a dish.



Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Archbishop Elder Council and St. Gertrude Parish's Catholic Men's Fellowship ministry.



THE SEARCH

IS LIFE'S JOURNEY TAKING YOU SOMEWHERE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR LIFE?



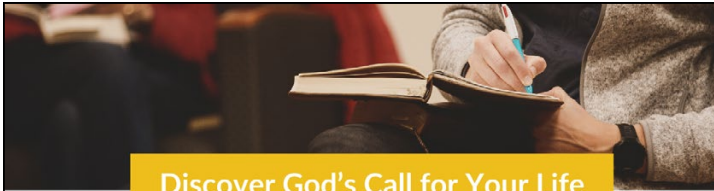
Through interviews with astrophysicists, psychologists, astronauts, neuroscientists, professors, athletes, artists, and the beauty of the cosmos, you will examine life and death, sorrow and happiness, and science and faith.

All men (high school-age and older) are invited to participate in this free 7-video series, narrated by Chris Stefanick! Join us for one, two, or all seven sessions—no commitment necessary. This is a great opportunity for fathers and their sons or grandsons, as well as for those who are away from the Church, new to the Church, or not part of the Church.

May–November 2026
Second Saturday of the Month, Beginning May 9
7:15–9 A.M. | St. Gertrude School Cafeteria



To sign up and learn more, visit bit.ly/Search26 or scan the QR code.



Discover God's Call for Your Life

CALLED & GIFTED

In Baptism and Confirmation, you received special spiritual gifts—charisms—through which God intends his love to reach others. Discern your charisms through our Called & Gifted workshop and begin to discover God's unique purpose for your life. Open to all adults—only 50 spots available!

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026
9 A.M.-3:30 P.M.
St. Gertrude Parish Gym

Cost: \$49
(Includes a workbook, spiritual gifts inventory, unlimited access to the Catherine of Siena Institute learning platform, and lunch)



Save the Date

**CORPUS
CHRISTI**
JUNE 7, 2026

**10 A.M. MASS
EUCCHARISTIC
PROCESSION**
From the church, down Miami Avenue to City Hall; Benediction outside City Hall

SOCIAL
Following procession, in the gym; ice cream and ice pops will be provided

More details to come.

SGS Celebrates

First Holy Communion

In the Gospel of John, Our Lord promises, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." On Sunday, April 26, we witnessed that promise fulfilled in the lives of the St. Gertrude School students who received their First Holy Communion. There was something unmistakable in their faces, a stillness and joy that spoke of a mystery greater than words.

This sacred moment was the fruit of many months of careful preparation. Throughout the year, Mrs. Marie Foreman and Sister Rosaria guided, with remarkable devotion, our second-grade students. In the spirit of St. Dominic, they led their students to know the Lord more deeply, love him more fully, and approach him with reverence and understanding. The fruit of their faithful work was clearly visible in the children's prayerful attention and the confidence with which they approached the altar.

The joy of Sunday morning did not fade once the Mass had ended. On Monday, the same brightness filled the school halls, evident in their beaming faces. Perhaps the most moving witness came from the children themselves. Their own words reveal the simplicity and depth of faith with which they approached this sacrament: "Thank you, Jesus, for laying down your life for my soul and life. It was the happiest day of my whole life," "Thank you, Jesus, for coming to me in the Eucharist even though I am not worthy," "I want to receive First Communion because I want to be as close to Jesus as possible." In these simple prayers, we hear echoes of the Gospel itself. These children gave voice to what lives in every faithful heart. Their longing to be close to Jesus, their trust in his mercy, and their thanksgiving remind us of the gift we are given each time we receive him in the Eucharist.

We offer heartfelt gratitude to all who helped guide these children to this sacred day. Thank you to the Dominican Friars for their faithful preaching and sacramental care and to our Dominican Sisters, whose life of prayer and study continues to shape the faith of our students. We thank Brother Matthew, Brother Ignatius, Brother Maximilian, and the novice brothers for their joyful service and witness within our classrooms. We also give thanks for the devoted faculty and staff of SGS, whose daily prayers and labor shape the quality of education our students receive.

We also extend special thanks to the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) catechists and assistants (Patty Hook, Holly Hemak, and Molly Bonilla), whose careful guidance helped the children grow in love for the Good Shepherd. A big thanks to Dr. Holman and the choir for leading us in sacred song, lifting our hearts in prayer. We are also grateful to the many parent volunteers who generously gave of their time throughout the year, during the retreat, and in preparation for the Mass.

As a parish community, we ask that you please continue to pray for these children. May this First Holy Communion be the beginning of a lifelong friendship with Christ in the Eucharist. May they return to the altar again and again, strengthened by the Bread of Life, until the day when the journey of faith gives way to the joy of heaven.



Thursday, May 7 | 6:30-7:15 p.m.

MAY CROWNING

We invite all parishioners to join us for a special evening of prayer and procession as we place a crown of flowers on Our Lady.



SACRED ART AT THE CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM

Join The Angelico Project for a special evening at the Cincinnati Art Museum's Fath Auditorium on Tuesday, May 5, from 7 to 9 p.m.! Through lecture and video, beloved local art historian Dr. Ceil Dorger will lead us on an in-depth, multi-media exploration of the Cincinnati Art Museum's exceptional Sacred Art Collection. After her presentation and live Q&A, attendees will be treated to an after-hours walk-through of the exhibit, accompanied by live sacred music. Ticket prices vary. Learn more and reserve your seat at angelicoproject.org.

HEARTBEATS FOR LIFE 5K RUN

Cincinnati Right to Life is excited to announce our Annual Heartbeats for Life 5K Run on Saturday, May 9, at Lunken Airport Playfield! Bring your family and friends together to defend human life at its most vulnerable stage. Registration opens at 8 a.m., and the race begins at 9:30 a.m. The morning includes a 5K run, a 5K walk, a Family Fun Run, food, live music, and a basket raffle! For more info or to register online, please visit runsignup.com/Race/OH/Cincinnati/HearbeatsForLife5k, CincinnatiRightToLife.org, or contact Adam Schad, event director, at aschad@cincinnatirighttolife.org or (513) 728-7870.

SPRING ANDREW DINNERS

Andrew Dinners are opportunities for high school- and college-age men to learn about the priesthood and seminary, speak with Archbishop Emeritus Dennis Schnurr and vocation director Father Michael Willig, and share a meal together. Upcoming dates include:

- Wednesday, May 6, St. Francis of Assisi Parish (Centerville)
- Tuesday, May 12, St. Gertrude Parish (Madeira)

To register, visit catholicaoc.org/andrew-dinners.

MEMORIAL DAY PRESENTATION & FIELD MASS

Join us on Monday, May 25, at Gate of Heaven Cemetery for the annual Memorial Day Presentation at 10 a.m. and Field Mass at 11 a.m. Alison Estes, CPT, US Army, will be the guest speaker, and Archbishop Casey will be the celebrant. To learn more, visit gateofheaven.org.

SERENELLI PROJECT MASS, PROCESSION, BLESSING & RECEPTION

The Serenelli Project invites you to 10 a.m. Mass at The Serenelli House (725 Delhi Ave.) on Saturday, May 9, followed by a procession to Maria's Garden, a special blessing, and a reception at Assunta Center (642 Sedam Street). The reception will feature fresh gluten-free BLTs from Behemoth Bakery and a bourbon auction. Firehouse Nursery will be present, offering 10 percent off plants as part of its Mother's Day sale. RSVP at serenelliproject.org/event/blessing-of-marias-garden.

CHOOSING HOPE ADOPTIONS

Choosing Hope Adoptions, a faith-based nonprofit adoption agency in Central and Southwest Ohio, is seeking adoptive families, specifically for babies and children who have or are at high-risk of developing special medical or developmental needs. To learn more, contact Jenna Everson at (513) 390-0584 or jenna@choosinghopeadoptions.com, or visit choosinghopeadoptions.org/special-needs-adoption-ohio. Choosing Hope Adoptions exists to provide life-affirming options to parents in crisis and, when needed, place infants and children into licensed Christian families.

SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE TRAINING

Cincinnati Right to Life invites you to become a sidewalk counselor. To RSVP for the training on Saturday, May 16, visit cincinnatirighttolife.org or scan the QR code. The training is from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Cincinnati Right to Life office (2406 Auburn Avenue).

Parking is available behind the building or at Holy Name Church. If you have any questions, call the office at (513) 728-7870 or email Adam Schad at ASchad@cincinnatirighttolife.org.



ST. PHILOMENA MOTHER-DAUGHTER RETREAT

All girls ages 10-14 and their moms are invited to the St. Philomena Mother-Daughter Retreat August 7-9, 2026, at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein (Maria Stein, OH). The mission of the retreat is to help participants grow closer to Christ and one another while exploring God's gift of femininity. Based on biblical wisdom, Catholic teaching, and Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body, our retreat offers a whole-person approach, celebrating and educating on the changes happening to the body, mind, spirit, and social aspects of young women in this age group. Key objectives include quality mother-daughter time and opening pathways for important discussions. Participants reflect on the gift of their female identity, the gift of friendship, the gifts of marital intimacy and holy chastity, the gift of the Holy Spirit and, most importantly, the precious gifts they are created to be. To register, visit philomenaretreat.org.

Liturgical SCHEDULE & Mass INTENTIONS

Monday, May 4 | Easter Weekday

- 7 a.m. | Mass – † Carol Borchert by Jim & Anita Pappalardo
 8 a.m. | Mass – † Roy Cowan by Diane & Jim Tomaszewski
 11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Deceased Members of the Dominican Order
 4 p.m. | Confessions

Tuesday, May 5 | St. Vincent Ferrer, O.P. (M)

- 7 a.m. | Mass – † Ronald Gunn by Sherry Schuler
 8 a.m. | Mass – † Rita Johantges by John & Julie Abraham
 10 a.m. | Moms & Littles Holy Hour
 11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Tom Rink by Alison Rink
 4 p.m. | Confessions

Wednesday, May 6 | Easter Weekday

- 7 a.m. | Mass – † Robert & Leonard Cremonesi by John & Jan Cremons
 8 a.m. | Mass – † Patricia Gallo by The Stines Family
 11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Deceased Members of the Forlini Family
 by Sal & Teri Forlini
 4 p.m. | Confessions
 7:30 p.m. | Holy Hour & Confessions

Thursday, May 7 | Easter Weekday

- 7 a.m. | Mass – † Nicholas VanderMolen
 by Ellie & Michael VanderMolen
 8 a.m. | Mass – † Jane Ortiz by St. Gertrude Parish
 11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Don Kunkel by Joan Kunkel
 4 p.m. | Confessions
 6:30 p.m. | May Crowning

Friday, May 8 | Easter Weekday

- 7 a.m. | Mass – † Norbert Kohus by John & Marilyn Scherpenberg
 8 a.m. | Mass – † Kim Caswell by The Stuebbe Family
 11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Jane Sansalone by Keke & Tony Sansalone
 4 p.m. | Confessions

Saturday, May 9 | Easter Weekday

- 8 a.m. | Mass – † Jerry Schuermann by Doug & Robin Postler
 11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Tami Ann Pels by Michael & Mary Jo Voto
 3:30 p.m. | Confessions
 4:30 p.m. | Mass – † Hilda Bough by Diana & Ed Doll

Sunday, May 10 | 6th Sunday of Easter

- 8 a.m. | Mass – Mother's Day Novena
 10 a.m. | Mass – † Joseph & Marjorie Schirmer
 by The Schirmer Family
 12 p.m. | Mass – The People of St. Gertrude Parish
 6 p.m. | Mass – † Mary Jean Alf by The Woodward Family



PASTORAL CARE

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

Here are ways we can help you:

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

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

Communion to the Sick or Homebound

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

Prayers for the Sick or Deceased

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

PRAYER MINISTRY FOR THE DYING

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

PARISH STAFF DIRECTORY

CLERGY

Father John Paul Walker, O.P., Pastor

frjohnpaul@stgertrude.org

Father Reginald Hoefer, O.P., Parochial Vicar

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Father Luke VanBerkum, O.P., Parochial Vicar

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Deacon Mike Muse, Deacon & Love in Action Coordinator

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Teri Forlini, Parish Secretary

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OFFICE OF EVANGELIZATION & FAITH FORMATION

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Lauren Mays, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Assistant

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Hope Ramundo, Director of Stewardship

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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

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Sister Mariana Thayer, O.P., Vice Principal

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Madeline McCauley, Dir. of Marketing & Community

Engagement

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Jake Dummermuth, Athletic Director

jdummermuth@stgertrudesch.org

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Brian Clifford, Pastoral Council Chair

pastoralcouncil@stgertrude.org

ST. GERTRUDE PARISH SUPPORT MINISTRIES

Annulments

Deacon Mike Muse | dcnmike@stgertrude.org, (513) 504-8442

Parents of Precious Pearls (Children with Special Needs)

Laura Nanista | laura_nanista@outlook.com

Seasons of Hope (Bereavement)

Cindy Hertzelt | (513) 368-8941

St. Vincent de Paul

Jennifer Mansfield | (513) 561-5954, ext 2112

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Collection	\$38,966
Weekly Budget	\$47,059
Weekly Deficit	(\$8,093)
Second Collection – Music Program	\$2,627

Fiscal Year-to-Date

Year Ending June 30, 2026

Fiscal YTD Actual	\$2,110,440
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$2,076,471
Fiscal YTD Surplus	\$33,969



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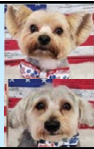
Bulletin: May 17

Materials Due: May 6

Please submit your bulletin
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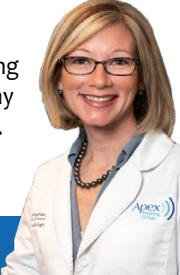
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