

**MARY,
MOTHER OF LIFE
PRAY FOR US!**

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY 2026



**St. Gertrude
PARISH**

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | OCTOBER 4, 2026



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ST. GERTRUDE PARISH

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 (513) 561-5954  stgertrude.org

 parishoffice@stgertrude.org

 [stgertrudechurch](https://www.facebook.com/stgertrudechurch)

Church Hours

Daily, 7 a.m.–9 p.m.

Parish Office Hours

M-F, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

School Office Hours

M-F, 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.



WELCOME

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

Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or 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—our parish bulletin and website, stgertrude.org, are great places 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.

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.



ST. GERTRUDE PARISH PODCAST

Listen to our parish podcast on Spotify or Apple Podcasts!

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



Spotify



Apple



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.





THE JOURNEY FROM GUILT AND SHAME TO HOPE, HEALING, AND PEACE

As we kick off October as Respect Life month, I'd like to share a bit about a part of the abortion

conversation that doesn't, in my opinion, get nearly as much attention as it should.

Today, I'd like to reflect on a very different facet of the legacy of abortion: in its wake, abortion has left many profoundly wounded and regretful women (and men). There is a saying that hits this truth very accurately: "Every abortion leaves two casualties: one dead, and one wounded." This is especially true when a Catholic woman has made the choice to have an abortion.

I have seen this reality with my own eyes. I've had many conversations with women who have made this choice in their pasts. One described how, in the grocery store, she could not walk down the aisle that had diapers and other baby items without beginning to cry. Another told me that if she was watching TV and a show depicted a baby or a pregnant mom, she had to change the channel or else leave the room. One of my coworkers took a phone call on a hotline from a 74-year-old woman who broke down and could barely talk. She had had an abortion at age 17 and had never told another soul about it. Not even her husband, whom she had been married to for 50-plus years. She had been carrying around the guilt, regret, and utter shame of that decision totally alone for her entire life.

It doesn't have to be this way. *It ought not to be this way.*

In 1995, Pope St. John Paul II released an encyclical called *The Gospel of Life*. Toward the end of that encyclical, in paragraph n. 99, the saintly pope wrote these poignant words:

"I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the sacrament of Reconciliation."

I implore anyone reading this who has made this choice in the past and has not yet had this sin lifted in the sacrament of

Reconciliation to do so. I can promise that anyone who comes to St. Gertrude Parish for confession will not be yelled at, berated, belittled, or condemned; you will receive a warm welcome to be free of this burden and experience the mercy and forgiveness of God.

However, for many women, even receiving forgiveness and sacramental absolution doesn't fully heal the wound in their hearts. So often, there is healing that needs to happen on other levels. For anyone experiencing those continual wounds, I beg you to reach out to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Project Rachel ministry. As the website states, "The Project Rachel Ministry helps women and men journey to hope and healing by discovering God's love and grace through a network of spiritual counselors, advocates, and peer-to-peer ministry." Through a variety of options ranging from one-on-one counseling to support groups and special retreats for post-abortive women, our local Project Rachel offers multiple avenues to help women (and men), whether Catholic or not, to heal their wounded hearts and to find hope, healing, and peace so they can move on with life and not be haunted by a decision from their pasts.

You can find more information at projectrachelohio.org and confidentially reach out via phone at (513) 784-0531 or email at hopeandhealingcinci@gmail.com. If you don't need this information yourself, I ask you to please pass it along to someone you know who might.

Everyone who has been through an abortion deserves to know the peace and love of Christ.

God bless,

Rev. John Paul Walker, O.P.

Father John Paul Walker, O.P.

FROM THE DIARY OF ST. FAUSTINA



"I must always have a heart which is open to receive the sufferings of others, and drown my own sufferings in the Divine Heart so that they would not be noticed on the outside, in so far as possible. I must always strive for equanimity, no matter how stormy the circumstances might be. I must not allow anything to disturb my interior calm and silence. Nothing can compare with peace of soul. When I am wrongfully accused of something, I will not explain myself. . . . My concern is to accept everything with a humble inner disposition"

- Diary, #792



BECOMING CATHOLIC

Topic: Mary and the Saints

Have you ever wondered what your purpose is? Do you ponder the question, *What is the best way to live?*

Our Becoming Catholic program may be for you.

Anyone interested in exploring the Catholic faith is welcome to attend our monthly group meetings or begin the process to become Catholic at any time.

Please scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/Becoming-Catholic to complete the online inquiry form, or email Tyler Castrucci at tcastrucci@stgertrude.org.

October 7 | 6:30–8:30 p.m.
St. Gertrude Parish Center | 6543 Miami Ave.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Why is Mary important to Catholics, and why have so many people been devoted to her over the centuries? Join us for the eight-part Bible study, *Mary: The Bible and the Mother of God*, which examines what the Old and New Testaments, the life of Christ, and the early Church Fathers reveal about the life and identity of Mary. Each session involves a video from Scripture scholar Dr. Brant Pitre, group discussion, and fellowship.



Second & Fourth Saturdays
October 10–March 13
(8 Sessions)
9:30 to 11 a.m.
School Cafeteria

COST: \$25
(includes workbook)



To sign up, scan or visit
tinyurl.com/TheBibleAndMary.




2026 MEN'S ADVENT RETREAT

Mary Mother of Our Savior

DECEMBER 4–5, 2026
Jesuit Spiritual Center (Milford)

All men ages 18-plus are invited to our annual Men's Advent Retreat. This year's retreat master, **Father Ken Letoile, O.P.**, will guide you to a greater intimacy with Jesus through the Advent intercession of Our Blessed Mother.

Scan the QR code or visit catholicmensretreat.org to learn more and register!

YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS PILGRIMAGE

Saturday, October 24 | 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.



Join us on a one-day pilgrimage to the Monastery of St. Clare in Cincinnati. The day includes talks, prayer, and veneration of a first-class relic of St. Francis. Space is limited! The cost is \$10, which covers lunch and snacks. Sign up at tinyurl.com/2026StFrancis.



A plenary indulgence may be obtained by satisfying the usual requirements.



MEET A PARISHIONER: THE PEARSON FAMILY

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

connected in Christ. This month, meet Doug, Liz, Nora, Isaiah, Felicity, Leo, Mary, and John Pearson!

Q: How did you first come to find St. Gertrude Parish, and how long have you been parishioners?

Liz Pearson: I grew up in St. Gertrude Parish and graduated from St. Gertrude School in 2003. When Doug and I were engaged, we knew we wanted our family to be St. Gertrude parishioners. We were married here in 2011 and have raised our family in the parish ever since. We have been blessed with six children who have all received sacraments here, and four of them currently attend St. Gertrude School.

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

Doug & Liz: There are so many things! St. Gertrude has been our spiritual home in many ways. We love the Eucharist-centered campus where we can daily attend Mass, spend time with our Lord in adoration, and come as a family to be renewed in the sacrament of confession. Our wonderful Dominican Friars provide the sacraments to us often and with such love and reverence. When we pull into the parking lot, there is truly a sense of entering holy ground.

The families we have met here have become our closest friends who provide support and fellowship in the journey toward heaven. The St. Gertrude community has been a rock for us through every major life event by providing prayer chains, meal trains, words of encouragement, and acts of service. We have encountered Christ here in a tangible way and are so grateful!

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

Doug & Liz: Throughout the years, we have been involved in and helped with various activities, including youth group, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS), OCIA, Cana Family, Bible studies, and parish committees. Currently, Liz helps coach fifth grade volleyball, and we're serving as a Baptism mentor couple.

Nora (12) and Felicity (10) are members of the St. Anne's Guild. Isaiah (11) loves being an altar server, and Leo (5) and Mary (3) attend CGS. We look forward to John (1) attending CGS in a couple years.

Q: How has the parish helped you grow as disciples?

Doug & Liz: We have received so much love, support, and encouragement from the St. Gertrude Parish community, and it inspires us to want to offer the same for others. We encounter

Christ in the people here and feel encouraged in our mission as a Catholic family.

Q: How has St. Gertrude School impacted your family?

Doug & Liz: Our Dominican Sisters and amazing St. Gertrude School faculty are a gift! We feel blessed to send our children to a school that reinforces and assists us in our vocation as Catholic parents. We know they are receiving a true education aimed at growing the whole person and leading them always to God and his plan for them. They are not only receiving an excellent academic foundation, but also encouraged to grow in their relationships with God and to live as gifts to others. They have weekly all-school Mass, regular confession, adoration, daily prayers, virtue programs, and student households to help form them as disciples of Christ.

Q: How does your family live out the faith at home?

Liz: For many years, we have committed to a family Holy Hour on Sundays. Sometimes just Doug or I go, but other times we bring our older children. This hour with our Lord at the beginning of each week has been a constant source of grace and peace. It helps keep our focus on Christ in the midst of busy family life. We also try to begin and end each day in prayer together. Most days, our morning prayer time happens in the car on the way to school. We often listen to the *Catholic Sprouts* podcast to learn about the saint of the day, liturgical seasons, lessons on Scripture, and truths of our Catholic faith. It's amazing how car prayers can transform an otherwise hectic time of day into something peaceful and unifying. At night, we try to pray a family rosary or just a decade. It's a time for us to share our intentions and thanksgivings and pray for each other.

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

Liz: We love scavenger hunts! On birthdays and other holidays, you'll find us solving Doug's riddles and searching in some crazy places for hidden gifts.

Q: Does your family have a patron/favorite saint?

Doug & Liz: We have devotions to several saints. Joseph has always been our special patron and model for protection, chastity, and providing for our family. Doug and our sons have Joseph as their middle names. We also have special devotions to St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Francis de Sales, St. Gianna Molla, and our children's patron saints.



NEEDS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION—THIS WEEKEND

Before and after all Masses (except 6 p.m.) this weekend, October 3–4, the Ladies of Charity will be at the white van in the parking lot collecting items for NEEDS Food Pantry in Kenwood. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about NEEDS, please contact Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085.

Most needed items at this time of year:

- Canned/Packaged Goods: Collard or mixed greens, clam chowder, beef soups, tomato (not pasta) sauce.
- Personal Care Items: Shampoo, tampons, pump hand soap, toilet paper, paper towels, shaving cream.

Always needed: Gift cards (Aldi, Kroger, Walmart, Meijer) and check/cash to help purchase things when the need is urgent.

DO YOU LOVE TO BAKE?

The St. Gertrude Parish Ladies of Charity are inviting bakers to help with the Bake Sale at their annual Craft and Gift Show on Saturday, October 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Baked goods may be dropped off in the Parish Center on Friday, October 16, and on the day of the event. All proceeds go to help charities around the Cincinnati area. If you have questions about the Ladies of Charity or our events, please contact Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085.

Memorial Mass for Pregnancy Loss

Anyone who has suffered the loss of a baby—born or pre-born, recently or many years ago—is invited to attend a memorial Mass in remembrance of their little one. Candles will be available for families to bring up during the offertory in commemoration of their lost children. There will be a reception in the Parish Center lobby following Mass.

Saturday, October 10 | 11:30 a.m.

Sponsored by the St. Gertrude Parish Respect Life ministry.



BAPTISMS – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 (2 OF 4)



Child: Daniel Benedict Ford
Parents: Lucas & Emma



Child: Nora Grace Gurda
Parents: Mathew & Erica



Let Us PRAY

THE SICK

Gloria Bell, John & Joy Belperio, Johnny Burns, James Caldwell, Vicki Calonge, Meghan Craft, Triset Defonseka, Diana Doll, Lisa Ely, Stefanie Flynn, Ron Freudenberg, Will Freudenberg, Dick Gelhaus, Goad Family, Mark Holland, Hummel Family, Steve Kaimer, Andrea Kattel, Aiko Kimura, William Kimura, Karen Larkin, Kevin Lewis, Jim Lydon, Gertrude Maxwell, Kim McClung, Tom McLaughlin, Elaine O'Connell, Sue Paas, Gert Patterson, Romualdo Pelle, Jerry Pfeiffer Family, Fran Pishotti, Octavio Flores Resendiz, Paula Scalo, Don Schoo, Nancy Silvers, Chuck Stalzer, Sy Swart, Beth Stoll, 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

† Rosella Sacher, mother of Joan Ratajczak



ROSARIES SALE | OCTOBER 4

Members of the St. Gertrude Parish Rosary Makers ministry will be selling rosaries and other religious items this Sunday, October 4, after the 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 12 p.m. Masses. Depending on the weather, their table will be located either outside the church in the breezeway or in the Parish Center lobby. Cash only; no credit cards or checks please. Items include:

- Rosaries – \$5/each (regular), \$3/each (pocket/keychains)
- Bracelets – \$5/each (one strand), \$10/each (two strands); special-order bracelets available
- Bookmarks – \$1/each



PRO-LIFE HOLY HOUR | OCTOBER 7

The next St. Gertrude Parish Respect Life Ministry-sponsored Holy Hour will be this Wednesday, October 7, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the church. The specific intention for this Holy Hour is, “That Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Gianna Molla, St. Gerard Majella, and St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta will intercede for us and plead with Our Lord to bring an end to abortion in our country and in the world.” All are welcome and encouraged to join us for this dedicated time of prayer and adoration. As usual, priests will be available for confessions.



INSTALLATION OF THE CROSSES OF THE INNOCENT | OCTOBER 10

Parishioners of all ages are invited to help install 2,000 Crosses of the Innocent on our parish grounds on Saturday, October 10, after the 8 a.m. Mass. (Please bring a hammer.) These small white crosses serve as a reminder of all the innocent children who have lost their lives to abortion.

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Archbishop Elder Council #1195 and the St. Gertrude Parish Respect Life ministry.



YOUNG ADULT GROUP MONTHLY HOLY/HAPPY HOUR | OCTOBER 15

All young adults ages 18–35 are invited to spend time in Eucharistic Adoration during a Holy Hour beginning at 7 p.m. at St. Gertrude Church, followed by drinks at Hoppin' Vines (8150 Montgomery Road). Priests will be available for confession. At 6:45 p.m., there will be a short altar server training for young adult men who are interested in assisting with these Holy Hours. No prior experience is required!



LECTOR TRAINING | OCTOBER 17

Anyone wishing to join the lector ministry is invited to attend our lector training on Saturday, October 17, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in the church. The training is not mandatory for current lectors; however, you are more than welcome to come to receive feedback on your lectoring. If you have any questions, contact the parish office at (513) 561-5954 or parishoffice@stgertrude.org.

This WEEK

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

6:30 p.m. | Becoming Catholic (St. Dominic Lobby)
6:30 p.m. | St. Gertrude School Rosary Procession
 (Campus Grounds, Church)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

7 p.m. | Young Adult Group (St. Joseph Room)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

7:30 a.m. | The Search (School Cafeteria)
8:30 a.m. | Installation of the Crosses of the Innocent (Front Lawn)
After 11:30 a.m. Mass | Respect Life Reception (St. Dominic Lobby)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

After 8 a.m., & 10 a.m. Mass | Coffee & Doughnuts (Gym)
7 p.m. | L'alto: High School Youth Ministry Night (Parish Center)

SEASONS OF HOPE

Mourning the loss of a loved one is never easy. To comfort you in your sorrow, St. Gertrude Parish offers Seasons of Hope, a unique, adult support group for the bereaved. This free program, rooted in Catholic tradition, conveys God's consolation through Scripture, prayer, reflection, faith sharing, and fellowship. Anyone who has suffered a loss, whether it be recent or years ago, is invited to join us for our next session of Seasons of Hope, beginning Monday, October 5, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Here is the full schedule for the session (all meetings are from 7 to 8:30 p.m.):

- October 5 (Parish Center, St. Joseph Room)
- October 12 (Parish Center, St. Joseph Room)
- October 19 (Church Vestibule)
- October 26 (Church Vestibule)
- November 2 (Parish Center, St. Joseph Room)
- November 9 (Parish Center, St. Joseph Room)

There is no cost to join, and you can join at any time. To sign up or request additional information, please contact Cindy Hertzelt at (513) 368-8941.

SHARE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS (CHARISMS) WITH US

Have you discerned your charisms through Called & Gifted or in another way? Add your spiritual gifts to your St. Gertrude Parish Portal account so we can assist you in utilizing your gifts to the fullest potential within the parish. Simply visit stgertrude.org/parish-portal to get started.

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.

As we approach the November elections, there are many issues that Catholics need to be aware of. Neither political party has a monopoly on Catholic teaching, and it is therefore each person's responsibility to judge candidates by their adherence to sanctity of all life and their care for all people, especially the poor and vulnerable. To support you in this discernment, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati developed iVoteCatholic: tools for Catholic communities to use over the months prior to election day. Every weekend leading up to the November elections, we will share ivotecatholic.org content that looks at the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching—what they are, how they are defined, how they apply to our lives, and how to use them to determine for whom you will vote. Here is the third theme. (See the September 20 and 27 bulletins at stgertrude.org/bulletin to view the first and second themes respectively.)

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Theme 3: Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers

During this third week, we focus on the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers. In our Catholic tradition, work is more than just a way to make a living; work is one of the ways we participate in the ongoing work of creation in our world. Those who are responsible for employment of people have a special responsibility to uphold the dignity and safety of workers and their rights. Those rights include being able to earn fair wages, to have productive work, and to have a say in decisions that affect them, including the right to organize. Under this principle fall issues such as living wages, fair hiring practices, availability of job training/skills, discrepancy in employment for women and minorities, and job availability for thriving not just surviving. Find out more at ivotecatholic.org.

Every weekend until the November elections, our Respect Life ministry will share bits of information to help you understand the dignity of every human life and take action to uphold it from conception to natural death.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

Living Our Call to Defend Life



SCRIPTURE

God's Word on Human Dignity

"God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female, he created them." – Genesis 1:27

CHURCH TEACHING

What Our Faith Calls Us to Know

"The human body shares in the dignity of the image of God . . ." – Catechism of the Catholic Church #364

TAKE ACTION

Put Your Faith into Practice

Prepare for Voting in November

- Make sure you are registered to vote.
- Scan the QR code to watch a video on how to go on the offense against the abortion pill proliferation by praying and fasting.
- Pray on the sidewalk outside the Auburn Avenue clinic in Cincinnati.
- During the 40 Days for Life Campaign (September 23–November 1), pray one hour (or more) or try some type of simple fasting.



GIFT OF LIFE Collection

During October (Respect Life 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:

- newborn girls' sleepers and onesies
- infant and toddler-size (2T-5T) coats, hats, mittens, warm clothing, and socks
- blankets

Items that are always needed: Wipes, baby wash and lotion, bath towels and wash cloths (cotton preferred), bottles, sippy cups, pacifiers, bibs, and diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6). No toys, books, or diapers in sizes newborn, 1, 2, or 3 at this time.

Sponsored by the St. Gertrude Parish Respect Life ministry.



APPLY FOR THE 2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR *Parishioner Window Now Open!*

Applications for the 2027–2028 school year opened October 1 for St. Gertrude parishioners. As a parish school, SGS exists first and foremost to serve our parish families and assist parents in the Catholic education and formation of their children. St. Gertrude Parish parishioners, therefore, receive priority access before applications open to the general public on October 28, 2026.

Parish families are encouraged to apply during this priority window, as our school has hit record enrollment and has limited space in several grades. We also invite all parishioners to our Fall Open House on October 28 from 9 to 11 a.m. to experience St. Gertrude School firsthand.



Apply for the
2027-2028
School Year.



Register for
the Fall Open
House.

Admissions Timeline

OCTOBER

- 1 Priority application opens for parishioners.
- 28 Fall Open House from 9 to 11 a.m.
- 28 Applications open to the general public.

NOVEMBER

- 1 General applicants are given a four- to eight-week application processing window, during which time they will receive communications regarding acceptance on a rolling basis.

JANUARY

- 15 Enrollment window opens.
- 31 Winter Open House from 9 to 11 a.m.

FEBRUARY

- 15 Enrollment window closes.

APRIL

- 13 Kindergarten Screening.
- 14 Kindergarten Screening continued.

MAY

- 6 New Family Welcome Mass.

Admissions Process

TOUR

Discover why St. Gertrude School stands as a model of Catholic education in the Cincinnati area.

APPLY

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Create an account to access the application at stgertrudesch.org.

ENROLL

Email communication will be sent to all current families and accepted new applicants regarding enrollment. Enrollment must be completed before February 12, 2027.

FINANCIAL AID

Enrolled families will receive separate communication regarding financial aid deadlines and frequently asked questions.

Liturgical SCHEDULE & Mass INTENTIONS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 | BLESSED RAYMOND OF CAPUA, O.P. (M)

7 a.m. | Mass – † Madeline Wiggins by Mary Vetter

8 a.m. | Mass – † David Mueller by Tricia Speicher

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Deceased Members of the Dominican Order

4 p.m. | Confessions

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 | WEEKDAY

7 a.m. | Mass – † George & Dorothy Normand
by John & Marilyn Scherpenberg

8 a.m. | Mass – Joseph Duncan by The Schmid Family

9 a.m. | Moms & Littles Holy Hour

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Thomas Sedler by Patricia Connelly

4 p.m. | Confessions

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 | OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY (F)

7 a.m. | Mass – † Lindsey Collett by St. Gertrude Parish

8 a.m. | Mass – Sophia & James Henderson by Alan & Dina Henderson

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Carol Borchert by The Stines Family

4 p.m. | Confessions

7:30 p.m. | Holy Hour & Confessions

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 | WEEKDAY

7 a.m. | Mass – † Nancy & Tony Ragusa by Robert & Joan Ragusa

8 a.m. | Mass – † Marianne Klekamp by Donald Klekamp

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Rita Johantges by Pat Dorn

4 p.m. | Confessions

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 | ST. LOUIS BERTRAND, O.P. (M)

7 a.m. | Mass – The 2026 Camino-Fatima Group
by Jim & Anita Pappalardo

8 a.m. | Mass – † Barbara Powers by Charlotte Schaengold

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Laura Beauchamp by Peggy Frank & Family

4 p.m. | Confessions

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 | BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (M)

8 a.m. | Mass – † Dorothy Rasfeld by Laura Ringenbach

11:30 a.m. | Mass – † Megan Clark Johnson by Marylyn Clark

3:30 p.m. | Confessions

4:30 p.m. | Mass – Jo Anne Nordloh by The Carrington Family

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 | 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8 a.m. | Mass – The People of St. Gertrude Parish

10 a.m. | Mass – † Gerry Patterson by Gertrude Patterson

12 p.m. | Mass – † Aida Gort by The Nieto Family

6 p.m. | Mass – † Mark Johnson by The Hester 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.

GATE OF HEAVEN CEMETERY FALL OPEN HOUSE

Gate of Heaven Cemetery is having a Fall Open House on Sunday, October 11, from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Explore Catholic history and notable burials throughout the cemetery, and learn how thoughtful planning can provide peace of mind for you and your loved ones. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome! Learn more at gateofheaven.org.

JUSTIFICATION TODAY FREE LECTURE & Q&A EVENT

Glenmary Home Missioners, Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology, and United Theological Seminary will host a lecture and Q&A-styled gathering, Justification Today, at Mount St. Mary's on October 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. Mike Root and Joel Chopp will discuss the document The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. Learn more and RSVP at athenaeum.edu/justification.

ST. GERARD MASS OF HOPE AND HEALING

Married couples, families, and friends are invited to the archdiocese's annual St. Gerard Mass of Hope for the Blessing of Children on Friday, October 16, at 7 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church in St. Marys, OH. This event—on the feast of St. Gerard, patron saint of expectant mothers—is a way to prayerfully support married couples experiencing infertility or pregnancy loss. A reception with fellowship, hors d'oeuvres, and resources will follow. For more details, scan the QR code or email Deacon David Ulmer at dulmer@catholicaoc.org.



FATHERHOOD WORKSHOP

Join men from Greater Cincinnati on Saturday, October 17, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center for a day of fellowship, encouragement, and faith as you explore the vital role of fathers, mentors, and Christian brotherhood. This workshop will feature local ministries and organizations dedicated to strengthening men, families, and our community. Learn more and register at olhsc.org/events.

ADULT SPIRITUALITY INSTITUTE FALL CLASS

Looking to deepen or grow your faith? The Adult Spirituality Institute (ASI) offers short, non-credit courses at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. Our first class, *The Book of Revelation*, begins October 26 and runs for four weeks on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more details or to register, please visit spirituality-institute.com.

PREGNANCY CENTER WEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of volunteer client advocates to work 1:1 with moms, providing compassion, education and resources to assist with their needs in pregnancy and choosing life. This position is a four-hour shift; weekly or bi-weekly. Contact Judy or Ruth at (513) 244-5700, or visit supportpcw.org—click get involved, and go to the volunteer application.

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL CATHOLIC MEN'S

Eucharistic Procession

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026

All men are invited to join in a spirit of reverence and prayer.

8 AM | Mass with Archbishop Robert Casey at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains.

Following Mass | A two-mile procession through downtown Cincinnati

11 AM | Final Benediction at Old St. Mary's Church led by Fr. Jon-Paul Bevak and the priests of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri.

For more info, contact David Willig at (513) 305-6719 or Doug Jaeger at (513) 417-2503 or visit CMEPS.org.

Synod 2027

Where is the Holy Spirit Leading Us?

As part of Synod 2027, Archbishop Casey invites each of us to participate in a Conversations in the Spirit listening session. Join others across our archdiocese in prayerfully considering what the Holy Spirit is asking of our Church at this time, thereby assisting Archbishop Casey as he establishes pastoral priorities for the future.

There are approximately 60 sessions scheduled between Labor Day and Thanksgiving.

Register today at catholicaoc.org/conversations

PARISH STAFF DIRECTORY

CLERGY

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frjohnpaul@stgertrude.org

Father Louis Bethea, O.P., Parochial Vicar

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Father Luke VanBerkum, O.P., Parochial Vicar

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Deacon Mike Muse, O.P., Deacon & Love in Action Coordinator

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Lauren Mays, Coordinator of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

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OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP

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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

smariana@stgertrudesch.org | (513) 561-8020

Madeline McCauley, Director of Marketing & Community Engagement

community@stgertrudesch.org | (513) 561-8020, ext. 1138

ATHLETICS

Jake Dummermuth, Athletic Director

jdummermuth@stgertrudesch.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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 Hertzfel | (513) 368-8941

St. Vincent de Paul

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

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Collection	\$35,740
Weekly Budget	\$49,020
Weekly Deficit	(\$13,280)
Second Collection (Mission Co-op)	\$9,051

Fiscal Year-to-Date

Year Ending June 30, 2027	
Fiscal YTD Actual	\$603,900
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$637,255
Fiscal YTD Deficit	(\$33,355)



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BULLETIN DEADLINE

Bulletin: October 18

Materials Due: October 7

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



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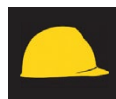
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