

# **MASSES AT ST. GERTRUDE**

# Monday, December 21, Advent Weekday

7:00 a.m. †Arthur Lacasse/Jim & AnnaMaria Spurgin

& Family

8:00 a.m. The Morris Family/The Butler Family

11:30 a.m. †Douglas Paul/Carol Deimling

# Tuesday, December 22, Advent Weekday

7:00 a.m. †Jack Schuler/Doug & Robin Postler 8:00 a.m. | Jacob Palcic/Jeanne & Phil Palcic

11:30 a.m. †Fr. Matthew Gamber, SJ/The Seasons of Hope Ministry

# Wednesday, December 23, Advent Weekday

7:00 a.m. †Victor Anthony Sabino/Charlene Rettig Bosken

8:00 a.m. †Liselotte Gardner/Heidi & Ron Sparer 11:30 a.m. †Steve Eddingfield/Bertie & Family

# Thursday, December 24, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. †Evelyn Remenowsky/Carol & Jeff Remenowsky

# December 24-25, The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)(S) Thursday

3:00 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant
5:30 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant
7:30 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant
11:30 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant

# **Friday**

8:00 a.m. Christmas Novena

10:00 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant12:00 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant

# Saturday, December 26, St. Stephen (F)

8:00 a.m. †Deb Bowling/Fred Bowling

11:30 a.m. Christmas Novena

# December 26-27, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (F)

Saturday †Edward Bartel/Sal & Teri Forlini

Sunday People of St. Gertrude, Living and Deceased

Christmas Novena

†The Deceased Members of the Kohus & Bough

Family/John & Hilda Bough

†Tony Moore/Dianna Moore & Family †Yvonne Parker/Mary Lee & Don Olinger

# **Parish Office Info**

# Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

School Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Church Hours

Every day: 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

# PUBLIC WORSHIP AT ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

Updated November 1, 2020

The Archbishop dispenses the faithful from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass. Please do not come if you feel sick. Those who are vulnerable may consider coming to a less crowded weekday Mass.

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

- Keep a prudent distance inside the church. Ushers will help ensure safe seating on Sundays.
- We ask that the faithful wear cloth masks for the sake of the common good. People with breathing difficulties and young children should not wear masks
- Only friars, sisters, novices, lay ministers and a limited number of staff members will be in the sanctuary and sacristy.
- Volunteers will help wipe down high-touch surfaces between Sunday Masses.

# HOLY COMMUNION

- You are not obliged to receive Holy Communion at every Mass you attend. Consider making a spiritual communion, or receiving at a weekday Mass.
- The faithful who choose to receive Holy Communion will come up to the altar rail, where one or two priests will distribute the sacred host. Keep space in line, and only remove your mask at the rail.
- You may receive in the hand or on the tongue, kneeling or standing. Note: the rail is a high-contact surface.

## Mass & Confession Schedule

## SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Mass

10:00 a.m. Conventual Mass

12:00 p.m. Mass 6:00 p.m. Mass

## WEEKDAYS

7:00 a.m. Mass 8:00 a.m. Mass

11:30 a.m. Conventual Mass

12:00 p.m. Midday Prayer in Church
4:00 p.m. Confessions in Church
7:30 p.m. Confessions in Church
(Wednesdays Only)

# SATURDAY

8:00 a.m. Conventual Mass

11:30 a.m. Mass

3:30 p.m. Confessions in Church4:30 p.m. Mass (Sunday Anticipated)

# **OUR WILLINGNESS TO SAY "YES"**



On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Gospel reading for Mass directs our attention to the moment of the Annunciation and the Incarnation of God in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The miracle of this event is the result of Mary's surrender to

and acceptance of God's will for her life. Her "yes" brings the savior and redeemer into our world. Each day of our lives, we are invited to imitate her and to say "yes" to the will of God for our lives. Doing so will obtain an abundance of grace for ourselves and make our lives a blessing to others.

As we approach the celebration of Christmas and the custom of gift giving, I acknowledge and express my gratitude for the many financial gifts the parish has received during this time of pandemic. Many supported the effort earlier in the year to keep our parish school open and operational in a safe manner, still many others helped to Crush the Covid-19 Deficit on the recent Giving Tuesday initiative, and, most importantly, parishioners have been faithful in their regular offertory giving. Sustained offertory giving, whether electronically or in person, is the lifeblood of financial stewardship. Now that we have overcome the deficit in offertory giving, a commitment is needed from all parishioners to continue their support so that we can remain on budget. All these gifts sustain the operations of the parish in the fulfillment of our mission to announce the coming of God into our world and to invite everyone to encounter Jesus and follow Him as His disciple.

I received several comments from parishioners last weekend expressing their gratitude for success of the Giving Tuesday initiative. They see the success as a testimony to the vitality of our parish. I agree. The success was also the fruit of the competitive labors of Brad Bursa, our Executive Director of Evangelization. He came up with the slogan, made sure all the communications were done well and on time, set-up the Archdiocesan website and the St. Gertrude website that linked to the archdiocese. He was clearly the catalyst of the campaign. Together, we as a parish can work together and accomplish great things for the glory of God.

All who made a reservation for the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Masses should have received a confirmation notice with details regarding access and assigned seating. Hours of thought and conversation have been given to providing a process that is fair and orderly. With everyone's cooperation and patience, our Christmas

celebrations in a time of pandemic can be joyful, beautiful, and peaceful. Note that Christmas is a season lasting over 2 weeks' time. Each day gives us an opportunity to give thanks to God who manifests Himself to the world through His Son.

Let us love one another and pray for each other,

Fr. George, O.P.

# **WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS**

Mary Dickert
Alan & Dina Henderson
Emma Lindle
Lee & Cece Marshall
Francesco & Christy Occhipinti
Christy Panzarella
Dan & Liz Reed

Luke & Ashley Schmid



Monica Walker

FROM THE DIARY OF

ST. MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA



When I arrived at Midnight Mass, from the very beginning I steeped myself in deep recollection, during which time I saw the stable of Bethlehem filled with great radiance. The Blessed Virgin, all lost in the deepest of love, was wrapping Jesus in

swaddling clothes, but Saint Joseph was still asleep. Only after the Mother of God put Jesus in the manger did the light of God awaken Joseph, who also prayed. But after a while, I was left alone with the Infant Jesus who stretched out His little hands to me, and I understood that I was to take Him in my arms. Jesus pressed His head against my heart and gave me to know, by His profound gaze, how good He found it to be next to my heart. At that moment Jesus disappeared and the bell was ringing for Holy Communion. (*Diary*, #1442)

**COVER IMAGE:** "Brussels Annunciation" photo by the Very Rev. Lawrence Lew, O.P. Used with permission. Detail from an altarpiece in Brussels Cathedral.



# LEARNING FROM THE BEASTS AT THE CRIB

BY BRAD BURSA



There they are for all to see: the ox and the donkey. But why are these two beasts front and center in nearly every manger scene anyway?

To answer this question, one must return to the origins of the Nativity creche – not necessarily to *the* one with Mary and Joseph and the baby

Jesus, but to the replicas that emerged in the 13th century. It was the Christmas of 1223, in Greccio, where a certain Signor Johannes had a vision of a small child sleeping in the manger, a small child suddenly awakened by the nearness of St. Francis. This vision corresponded to what had happened at the time, as one of Francis' biographers, Thomas of Celano, writes, "The child Jesus really had sunk into the sleep of forgetfulness in many hearts. Through his servant Francis, the remembrance was revived and indelibly engraved in their minds."

How did Francis awaken an awareness of Christian realism? How did he call to mind and heart this real event, the manifestation of God in the concreteness of life, in the defenselessness of a baby? Well, Francis told Signor Johannes, "I wish to evoke remembrance of the child quite realistically, how he was born in Bethlehem, and of all the hardship he must have endured in his childhood. I would like to see with my bodily eyes how it was, to lie in a manger and to sleep on hay between an ox and an ass."

There we have it. We have St. Francis' desire to experience the Christian mystery in the weight of its reality to thank for the advent of the creche – the scene that dominates these days in our churches, certain public places, our homes, and our hearts in the days immediately leading up to Christmas.

But, why the ox and the ass? There is no explicit reference to a steer or a donkey in Matthew's or Luke's infancy narratives. So, are they simply fantastical elements layered into the scene over time? No. These animals actually show the unity of the Old and New Testaments and reveal something of our call as Christians.

Isaiah 1:3 reads: "The ox knows its owner, and the ass its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." The Church Fathers saw this as a prophetic statement that the new people of God, the Church, would consist of both Jews and Gentiles, with the ox, a "clean" animal signifying the Jews, and

the ass, an "unclean" animal representing the Gentiles. The point is clear, "before God all men, Jews and Gentiles, like oxen and asses, lacked understanding and reason," Ratzinger says, "but the child in the crib opened their eyes, so that they now recognize the voice of the master, the voice of the Lord."

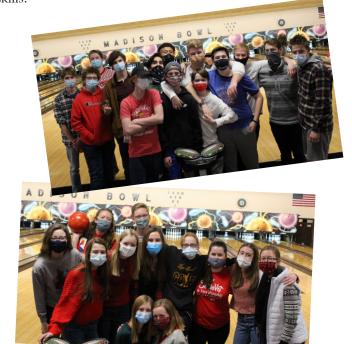
As we prepare for Christmas during this final week, may we, too, settle down like these two beasts, near the manger and wait. May we, like the steer and the donkey, draw close to the reality of the Christian mystery on that glorious morning, a real, concrete manifestation of God in the humblest of all settings, a presence who draws close to us even in the midst of all the chaos and confusion of 2020, and recognize again the voice of the Lord.



"Nativity" by Fabriano, 1423

# **CHRISTMAS BOWLING**

On December 13, the Jr. High and High School Youth Ministries hosted Christmas Bowling at Madison Bowl. Here, the teens gathered together in friendship and showed off their bowling skills!



# Crushin' COVID: Final Numbers

# Total Number of Donors: 250

# Total Amount Raised: \$133,686

Thank you for your generous support!



# CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed December 24, 2020-January 3, 2021.

# ADORATION CHAPEL CLOSED

The Adoration Chapel will be closed December 23, 2020-January 3, 2021. The chapel will reopen at 7:30 a.m. on January 4.

# **CALLING ALL MAKERS**

The St. Gertrude Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to invite you to cozy up in the chilly months ahead with knitting, crochet, or sewing projects to be donated to those who need a physical reminder of our community and God's love during difficult times. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 20 at 10:30 a.m. in the St. Joseph Room. Masks and distancing will be observed. Materials for crochet and knitting provided, as well as instruction for those who would like to learn! Come pray and create with us! Contact with questions or to be added to the email list stgertrudeprayershawl@gmail.com.

# **LET US PRAY**

# PLEASE PRAY FOR...

# THE SICK:

Anthony Alvarez, Lisa Bertke, Bettie Caudill, Larry & Pat Collins, Marguerite Crema, Triset Defonseka, Jean Ellert, Kathy Elsbernd, Bob Gerwin, Andrew Goad, Glenn Grismere, Loretta Holden, Joe Holly, Hummel Family, Aiko Kimura, Ed Kinney, Janice Koncius, Carlos LaTorre, Sophia LaTorre, Ann Lukey, Frank Merle, Sandra Munyon, Leo Napuri, Gerry Patterson, Michelle (Lydon) Ruscher, Jane Sansalone, Ellen Schaengold, Patricia Scherer, Pegge Schuermann, Richard Seifert, Teddie Slaper, Alex Smithers, Jack Spilker, Jim Spurgin, Patricia Strauss, Judy Sullivan, John Sweeney, Mary Saul, Mary Valker and Bill Van Hise

# THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES:

Patrick Burke, Cole and Kyle Foster, Dominic Geraci, Daniel Holian, Mike Huber, Aaron Jacobson, Jacob Kramb, John Kramb, Kelly Leugers, John Oscar, Sarah Ries, Dan Roseman, Andrew Shannon, and Ian Tester

# PRAY FOR THE DECEASED:

Leo Plum – father of Jay Plum Bill Harrison – husband of Nancy

# **BAPTISM**



Child: Edward James Fischer Parents: Laura & Edward Fischer

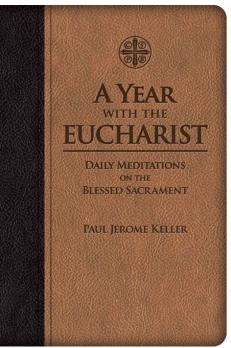


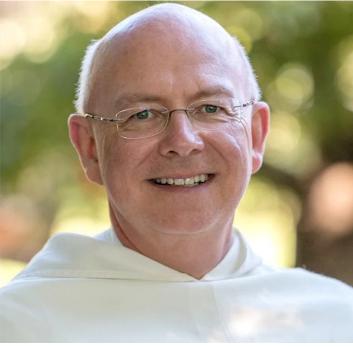
Child: Patrick Joseph Johnson Parents: Travis & Kirsten Johnson

# **GROW IN EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION**

We are happy to make available A Year with the Eucharist: Daily Meditations on the Blessed Sacrament by Fr. Paul Keller, O.P. for purchase

at the Church Office in these weeks leading up to Christmas. In this work, Fr. Keller offers daily meditations drawn from the riches of the Tradition for the good of the reader's Eucharistic devotion. This list price for the book is \$44.95. We have it on sale for \$30.00 in the Church Office. All proceeds support the Dominican Friars at St. Gertrude Priory.







# **SVdP**

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving....

Please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

The food barrel is located right inside the side sacristy entrance door. There is a donation box located at the far end of the parking lot near the school.

# ADDICTION RECOVERY PROGRAM AT CATHEDRAL BASILICA

Catholic in Recovery is a nonprofit organization that serves those suffering from addictions and unhealthy attachments — including alcoholism, drug addiction, pornography addiction, sex and relationship addiction, compulsive overeating and food addictions, gambling addiction, etc. The Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains offers this program, based on twelve-step recovery and the sacramental love and mercy provided by the Catholic Church, on Sundays, 7:00-8:00 p.m., in the Undercroft. For more information, contact Stephanie Ramsey at 513-331-0358 or skb steph@yahoo.com.

# SURVIVING DIVORCE

The Eastside Region is pleased to announce that registration for the winter session of "Surviving Divorce: Hope & Healing for the Catholic Family" is now open. Surviving Divorce is for newly separated and divorced individuals as well as those still struggling with issues many years later. The winter session takes place January 27 to April 28 on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 p.m., at St. Cecilia Church in Oakley. Register at https://eastsidefaith.org/surviving-divorce. If you have any questions, contact Stephanie Ramsey at 513-331-0358 or skb\_steph@yahoo.com.

# ASK A PRIEST - WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO SING "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"?

BY FR. JOHN MARK SOLITARIO, O.P.

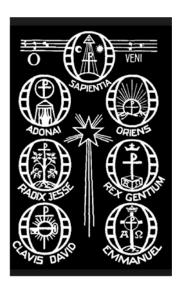


**Q.** I'm wondering when you're supposed to sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"? Isn't it connected to the days immediately before Christmas?

Fr. John Mark: The hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" or "Veni, Veni,

Emmanuel" in Latin is a beautiful hymn-version of the Church's ancient "O Antiphons." These poetic prayers have been chanted since the first millennium, especially in monasteries, at the time of the evening *Magnificat* canticle on the days immediately leading up to Christmas Day. In the liturgy today, the O Antiphons appear both at Vespers (Evening Prayer) between December 17-23 and as a verse sung with the Alleluia at daily Mass from December 17-24.

The hymn, like the antiphons, is structured so that singers can gradually work through the verses, perhaps one day at a time for the seven days leading up to Christmas. As I mentioned in this column last week, the days beginning on December 17 are sometimes called "Greater Advent" and are especially anticipatory of Christmas Day. Each verse, or O Antiphon, calls out to Christ to "come" under some special title:



Emmanuel / God-with-us (December 23 – See Isaiah 7:14)

Rex Gentium / King of the Nations (December 22 – see Isaiah 2:2-4)

Oriens / Dayspring from on High (December 21 – see Isaiah 9:2)

Clavis David / Key of David (December 20 – see Isaiah 22:22)

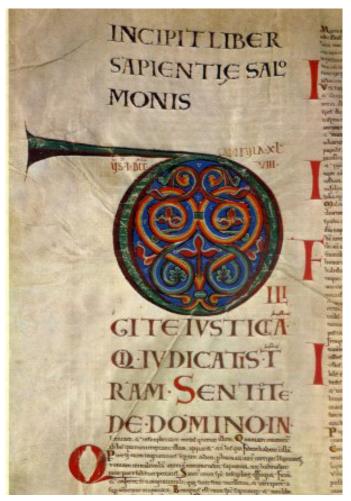
Radix Iesse / Root of Jesse (December 19 – see Isaiah 11:1-10)

Adonai / Lord of Might (December 18 – see Exodus 3 + 24)

Sapientia / Wisdom (December 17 – see Wisdom 8:1)

If it appears I have jumbled the order of the hymn's verses a bit, that's because both the popular hymn and the Alleluia verses at Mass change the traditional ordering of the O Antiphons. If considered backwards (as I have written them out here), the first letter of each spells out the Latin words "Ero cras" or "I will come tomorrow." This is a lovely acrostic to help Catholics remember these titles of the Savior. I included a scripture reference with each. It's important to realize that these titles were not just "made up" but reflect the deep longing for Christ especially as portrayed in the Old Testament.

It's worth making the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (or alternatively, the Vespers O Antiphons or Alleluia verses in the seven days leading to Christmas) a way of building up your anticipation for Christmas. It would be great practice to sing a verse each day with your family before or after dinner as you light your Advent wreath or sit around the Nativity scene (hopefully still waiting for Baby Jesus to arrive!). Don't worry if you didn't start this on December 17 this year... "jump in" now, you can perfect the tradition next year!



"Ask a priest" will be a regular format for our Holy Teaching section in the coming months. Submit your own question to bulletin@stgertrude.org for one of our Dominican priests to answer in the bulletin!

Monday, December 21	Tuesday, December 22	Wednesday, December 23	Thursday, December 24	Friday, December 25	Saturday, December 26	Sunday, December 27
Religious Education 3:30 p.m. School Atrium		Adoration Chapel Closed December 23-January 3	Parish Office Closed	Parish Office Closed	Catholic Men's Fellowship 7:30 a.m. School Cafeteria	
SportsLeader 6:00 p.m. Parish Center St. Joseph Mtg. Rm.		Adult Choir 7:00 p.m. Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby				
<b>Boosters</b> 7:00 p.m. Parish Center St. Joseph Mtg. Rm.		Benediction 8:50 p.m. Church				
Healing Rosary 7:00 p.m. Outside (weather permitting) or Church						
RCIA 7:00 p.m. Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby						

For guidelines about meetings on campus and scheduling information, please visit: stgertrude.org/covid-19-guidelines/.

# **OFFERING**

# St. Gertrude Parish Weekly Collection and Budget Report 12/13/20

Weekly Budget:	\$ 40,000
Weekly Deficit:	\$ (3,887)
Year to Date Budget:	\$ 902,000
Year to Date Actual:	\$ 809,387
Giving Tuesday:	\$ 133,686
Year to Date Surplus:	\$ 41,073

\* This number includes the December 8 (Immaculate Conception) collection.

# **BULLETIN DEADLINE**

BULLETIN 1/3/20 MATERIALS DUE 12/23/20

Please submit your Mass announcements & bulletin articles to: bulletin@stgertrude.org

6543 Miami Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45243 513.561.5954 | FAX 513.561.7184 | www.StGertrude.org

Collection:

\$ 36,113\*

# PARISH DIRECTORY

# Parish Staff

Rev. George Schommer, O.P., pastor

Rev. Clement Dickie, O.P., parochial vicar

Rev. John Mark Solitario, O.P., parochial vicar

# Dominican Friars in Residence

Very Rev. John Langlois, O.P., prior

Rev. Joseph Alobaidi, O.P.

Rev. Paul J. Keller, O.P.

Rev. Michael Mary Dosch, O.P., novice master

# St. Gertrude School - 513.561.8020

Principal - Sr. Maria Christi Greve, O.P.ext 1101Vice Principal - Mr. Travis Johnsonext 1101PTO President - Sarah Schilling513.315.1053

School Advisory Council

# Office of Administration - 513.561.5954

**Receptionists** – Susan Kane & Teri Forlini ext 2101 **Business Manager** – Don Regan ext 2102

Wedding/Bereavement Coordinator -

AnnaMaria Spurgin amspurgin@stgertrude.org
Bulletin Editor bulletin@stgertrude.org
Sacristan - Sheila Saalfeld ext 2401
Director of Music - Catherine Fishlock ext 2116

# Office of Evangelization - 513.561.5954

Executive Director - Brad Bursa, PhD ext 2109

Primary Evangelization: PK-2nd Grade & Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Cindy Wurzelbacher

ext 2109

Jr. High Evangelization: 3rd-8th Grade - Bryan Wells ext 2109

Jr. High Youth Ministry: 7th-8th Grade - Bryan Wells ext 2109

High School Youth Ministry - Megan Dickert ext 2109

**Executive Assistant -** Kristen Eggers 513.561.8369

Aquinas Society of Cincinnati (Adults & Families) -

Rev. Clement Dickie, O.P.

Rites of Christian Initiation (R.C.I.A.) -

Rev. John Mark Solitario. O.P.

# Corporal Works of Mercy

Helping Hands - Nancy Lucas stgerthh@gmail.com Knights of Columbus - Phil Motz 513-444-5072 Ladies of Charity - Jean Wilkinson 513.498.5085 Parish Health Ministry - Jeanne Palcic 513.317.4123 Pregnancy Center East (for all pregnancy needs) 513.221.3100 Soup Kitchen - Andy Cordier 513.248.1005 St. Vincent De Paul Society - Mark Findley 513.561.5954, ext 2112 Visitation of the Sick - Judy Hartmann 513.984.8003

# **Vocations Directors**

Archdiocese of Cincinnati - Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer 513.421.3131 Dominican Friars -

Fr. Jacob Bertrand Janczyk, O.P. DominicanFriars.org Nashville Dominican Sisters - Sr. Mara Grace, O.P. 615.256.5486

# Spiritual Works of Mercy

Baptism Team -

Circle of Prayer - Barbara Rose prayercirclesg@gmail.com
Communion to Sick - Judy Hartmann 513.984.8003
Natural Family Planning - David & Ann Stein 513.561.5751
Pastoral Council - Mark Kosobud 513.469.0852
Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration 513.561.5954 ext 2136
Prayer Ministry for the Dying - Pat Collins 513.265.1897
Regina Veritatis Prayer & Healing - Nealy Mechley 513.505.1740

Respect Life - Debbie Graham 513.984.4766
Rosary Making - Larry Ball 513.831.8572
Unbound Ministry - Nealy Mechley 513.505.1740

# Liturgical Ministries

Adult Choir - Catherine Fishlock 513.561.5954 Contemporary Music Ensemble - Paul Kindt 513.697.9208 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion -513.561.5954 513.561.5954 ext 1123 Resurrection Choir - Marty Cunningham 513.891.4226 The St. Anne and the Child Mary Guild -Cristina Genung 513.404.6011 St. Joseph the Worker Society -Rev. Clement Dickie, O.P. 513.561.5954 Ushers - Douglas Postler 513.791.6298 Viri Selecti - Ben Hoffmann pxaw@hotmail.com Youth Choir - Catherine Fishlock 513.561.5954

# Spiritual Groups

Adult Bible Study - 513.561.5954

Amiguitas del Corazón de Jesús -

Nora Klopp-Frias noraklopp08@gmail.com

Angelic Warfare Confraternity -

Rev. John Mark Solitario, O.P. 513.561.5954

Benedictine Oblates - Mark Milliron 513.536.6275

Catholic Men's Fellowship - Paul Rieger 513.885.5903

Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary -

Brian Zappia 513.791.7299

Dominican Laity (Bishop Fenwick) -

Jonathan Ring ringjp@gmail.com

Dominican Laity (OLP) -

Mr. Fred Thomas, O.P. 513.335.1700 or fth5131119@aol.com

FAMILIA/CANA Family For Mothers -

Anita Pappalardo 513.248.8237 **Holy Family Prayer Group** - Malissa Frohlich 513.519.5197

Special Needs Moms Support Group -

Tina Rolfes tina.rolfes123@gmail.com

True Devotion to Mary - Anne Collins 513.984.4708

# Parish Groups

Athletic Boosters - Marc Gerwel	513.774.7779
Boy Scouts - Robert Dinga	612.616.8242
Cub Scouts - Chris De Brunner	513.379.1010
Garden Club - Susan Brokaw	513.702.6877
Lenten Fish Fry - Rob Mancini	513.520.6360
Little Flower Library - Susan Santos	513.504.0205
Parish Coffee - Mark Findley	513.417.9227

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