



Jesus said to them,

*"Come after me, and I will make you
fishers of men."*

– Mark 1:17



ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | JANUARY 21, 2024

MASSES AND CONFESSION

Monday, January 22,

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

- 7 a.m. † Peter Schmidt by Michael & Jana Widmeyer
- 8 a.m. † Gwynedd & Frank Armstrong by Gindy Schnell
- 11:30 a.m. † Deceased Members of the Dominican Order

Tuesday, January 23, Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Jeanne Sterritt by Ruben & Leticia Cabrera
- 8 a.m. † Christa Brisken by Tom & Christin Spurr
- 11:30 a.m. † Alan Kotz by Nancy DeBrunner
- 7 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant (Dominican Rite Mass)

Wednesday, January 24, St. Francis de Sales (F)

- 7 a.m. † Suzanne Price by Dan & Lily Mullen & Family
- 8 a.m. Father Sean Wilson
by The Marriage & Family Evangelization Office
- 11:30 a.m. † Marie Burks by Kathy Sweeney

Thursday, January 25, Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle (F)

- 7 a.m. † Don Beimesche by Jim & Diane Tomaszewski
- 8 a.m. † Jim Schallick by The Hemak Family
- 11:30 a.m. † Mary Bartel by Debbie & Frank Merle

Friday, January 26, Sts. Timothy & Titus (M)

- 7 a.m. † Al Stevenson by Pete & Donna Marcello
- 8 a.m. † Tim Petric by Mary Petric
- 11:30 a.m. † David & Bridget Moreno by The Albers Family

Saturday, January 27, Blessed Virgin Mary (M)

- 8 a.m. † Mark Crouch by The Fitzpatrick Family
- 11:30 a.m. † Patricia Shannon by Kevin & Anne Lynch
- 4:30 p.m. † Marge & Jim Ferguson by The Hertlein Family

Sunday, January 28, 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8 a.m. † John Spilker by Jeanne Johantges
- 10 a.m. People of St. Gertrude
- 12 p.m. † Janice Koncius by Al Koncius
- 6 p.m. Rachel Citak by The Respect Life Committee

Confessions will be heard in the church Monday-Friday at 4 p.m.,
Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

Parish Information

6543 Miami Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45243
(513) 561-5954 | stgertrude.org
parishoffice@stgertrude.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

School Office Hours
Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Church Hours
Every day: 7 a.m.-9 p.m.



THIS SUNDAY!
**ALL YOU CAN EAT
Pancake Breakfast**

Join us for a delicious breakfast of pancakes, eggs, and sausage—and fellowship with your parish family! (Gluten-free pancakes and dairy-free scrambled eggs available.)

Children grades K-8*	\$5
Adult	\$10
Family	\$30

*Children 5 and under are free.

Credit cards accepted. All proceeds go toward Knights of Columbus Archbishop Elder Council's charitable programs.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024
Serving 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
St. Gertrude Parish Gym

Sponsored by  **Knights of Columbus**



**SENIOR'S
FUN BUNCH**

A group of men and women age 55+ that comes together for fellowship, activities, prayer, and education

Join us for lunch, fellowship, and a presentation by Jenny Jeffries, a docent from the Cincinnati Art Museum. Jenny will be bringing examples of Christian artwork from the museum's collection.

We will be having deli sandwiches for lunch. Please visit bit.ly/jan24potluck to sign up to bring a side dish, drink, or dessert.

No registration is necessary, but if you plan on attending, please contact Diane Kennedy at (513) 791-6075 or mkennedy06@aol.com so we can get an estimated headcount.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23 | 12:15-2:30 p.m.
Optional 11:30 a.m. Mass
St. Gertrude Parish Center



HUMANITY BEYOND WHAT THE EYE CAN SEE

This past Monday, our nation once again celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a federal holiday. We celebrate this day as a nation because there is no one more associated with the civil rights movement in our history. While he was neither the first nor the last to fight for equal legal rights for African-Americans, the effectiveness of his nonviolent approach to addressing the injustice of racial discrimination led to radical changes in our laws (and, at least *partially*, in our culture) through a process that involved far less violence than one could have ever expected. The fact that he was able to call America to an awareness of this issue and bring about a change—and do so from a primarily **moral** argument—is no small achievement. In light of this, I'd like to reflect, from a theological point of view, on the issue that was the passion of Dr. King.

• I HAVE A DREAM •
MARTIN LUTHER KING



As we all know, human beings come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. We differ in the color of our eyes, hair, and skin. But what unites each and every one of us—the thing that we share in common and marks us as being what we are—is that each of us possesses an immortal human soul. *That* is what makes us human, and because every one of us has that, each of us is equally and fully human. Our bodies in themselves do not increase or decrease our humanity. A man who is 6'6" and 320 pounds is not “more human” than a petite woman who is 5' 1" and 130 pounds! (Though he may be a “bigger” human . . . haha.) Someone with a full head of thick, flowing hair is not more human than someone whose hair is thinning or entirely gone. (I can hear great sighs of relief from many of the middle-aged men in the parish.) Someone who was born blind or who lost their legs while serving in the Army in Iraq or who no longer has their mental faculties due to dementia is not *one bit* less human than the person whose body is whole and whose mind is sound. There is *nothing* about our physical bodies that can ever make us more or less human. This is also why an adult, a child, an infant, and a preborn baby—no matter how early in a pregnancy—are also all equally human. *It's not about the body . . . it's about the soul.*

And, as it took our nation (and even, honestly, our Church) far

too long to realize, someone whose skin is white is no more human than someone whose skin is black or brown or yellow or any shade in between. It is that beautiful, precious, irreplaceable, immortal human soul that makes us human. Fully human. And it is our humanity that guarantees us rights. Those rights—human rights—are thus given to us *by God*. This is a very important point. Human rights are not bestowed upon us by governments or kings or presidents or the United Nations. Human rights are bestowed upon us *by God*, in virtue of being made in his image and likeness and possessing a human soul. And thus, no government, ruler, or court has the authority to take those rights away. On the contrary, it is the task of every citizen and every leader of every nation to see to it that the “laws of the land” protect those God-given rights. While our nation has made some significant progress in this area, there is still much progress that needs to be made, especially in our cultural understanding of human rights.

There are so many issues that touch upon this reality: racism, abortion, assisted suicide, immigration . . . the list could go on and on. But the common foundation to them all can only be found in one thing: recognizing the full human dignity of every single person, made in the image and likeness of God and possessing an immortal human soul. So as we reflect back on our celebrations earlier this week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the March for Life, let us re-focus our attention upon this important teaching of our faith. To the degree we can unite to protect the human dignity of every single person, we have the possibility of constructing together “one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.”

God bless,

Rev. John Paul Walker, O.P.

Father John Paul Walker, O.P.

FROM THE DIARY OF ST. MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA



“I have become interiorly united with God. His presence penetrates me to my very depths and fills me with peace, joy and amazement. After such moments of prayer, I am filled with strength and an extraordinary courage. . . . Nothing terrifies me, even if the whole world should turn against me. All adversities touch only the surface, but they have no entry to the depths, because God, who strengthens me, who fills me, dwells there. All the snares of the enemy are crushed at His footstool. During these moments of union, God sustains me with His might. His might passes on to me and makes me capable of loving Him. A soul never reaches this state by its own efforts.” (*Diary*, #480)



OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 28, 2024
9 a.m.-12 p.m.



All parishioners are invited to come over to St. Gertrude School after Mass to meet our principal and students, view demonstration classes, and learn more about our terrific parish school!



Scan to RSVP
stgertrudesch.org

ALL PARISHIONERS INVITED!

Parent Information Session: Understanding SGS Finances

Tuesday, January 30 | 7-8 p.m.
School Cafeteria
Child care is available

Our school principal and members of the parish finance council and school advisory council's finance committee will share information about:

- our primary sources of revenue and categories of expenses,
- our budgeting process,
- teacher and staff compensation,
- upcoming capital expenses and budgeting priorities,
- scholarship opportunities and applications, and
- any other pertinent questions you might have.



Scan to RSVP

St. Gertrude Players Present

PETER PAN JR.

February 17 | 2:30, 7:30 p.m.
February 18 | 2:30 p.m.

Medert Auditorium (Madeira High School)
7465 Loannes Drive

Advance Tickets - \$9 each
At the Door - \$10 each

Scan the QR code or visit stgertrudesch.org/theatre to get your advance tickets.



Help Make an SGS Education More Affordable

While reducing your Ohio income tax liability!



How It Works

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

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Catholic Education Foundation (CEF) is a certified SGO, and St. Gertrude School is a participating school. That means that when you donate to the CEF and select "St. Gertrude School" as your school, your gift will directly benefit current and future SGS families in need.



Scan the QR code to visit the CEF website.



Enter your gift amount.



Select "St. Gertrude School" from the dropdown menu.

Contact Don Regan at businessmanager@stgertrude.org with questions.

MOMS OF SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP—EXTENDING GOD’S GRACE TO OTHERS

LAURA NANISTA,
PARISHIONER AND CURRENT GROUP FACILITATOR

The title of our group may be self-explanatory. But, while we have scheduled monthly meetings, our group is anything but conventional. Our members and children are young and old, they have health conditions that are severe and not so much, intellectual and physical disabilities, not able to be very active and overactive, verbal and non-verbal, common, rare and even some unknown diagnoses. Though our health care needs may be diverse, we share many common feelings and experiences—and primarily our faith. We fully understand the God-given dignity and value of every human person, regardless of his or her abilities. And, we rely on the gifts, graces, sacraments, and traditions of the Catholic Church, especially in times of hardship and suffering.

When my family joined St. Gertrude Parish in the fall of 2020, I saw the Moms of Special Needs Support Group in the bulletin. I contacted Tina Rolfes who had started the group just prior to the start of the pandemic. She told me that there weren’t really any meetings at that time. She and I would continue to call each other and talk from time to time. While our “special needs” children have vastly different health conditions, I found myself saying, “Yes!” and “You get it!” Over the next few years, we would laugh and cry together, pray for each other, and remind ourselves of God’s eternal love and presence.

Now our group consists of more than a dozen amazing women, for whom I am greatly appreciative and often pray. Attendance and structure of meetings are somewhat irregular. I’d say that we are more of a network of women, connected in fairly unique ways.

Tina says it best in the following paragraphs. If you can relate to or are inspired by her words, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us.

TINA ROLFES,
PARISHIONER, FOUNDER OF GROUP AND CURRENT MEMBER

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

– 2 Corinthians 12:9

When referring to Paul, we often think that if we don’t deal with the pressures and stresses of the day we are failing. We just must not have the grace Paul refers to because we continue to struggle with our problems. When God gives us a child who has many different medical conditions or severe mental delays, we often think there must have been some mistake. “There is no way I can handle this, Lord. There is no way I can watch my child go through this medical procedure alone or suffer in pain again. How do I love my child when they are violent towards me? Where, Lord, is your grace, and how can I possibly become a saint when I am so ill-equipped to deal with these problems?”

That is the key! We can’t fix these problems. All we can do is accompany our children through the problems and love them as best we can. But what if it’s not enough? That, hopefully, is when God steps in and shows us how to love. We aren’t meant to do this alone. We are meant to have other mothers who accompany us along the way, to cry and laugh with us, to have someone else to pray with us for both medical and physical problems, to call us to holiness, and have someone to lean on when our child gets hospitalized or decides to do something dangerous because of developmental delays. No matter what the medical or physical issue, the Moms of Special Needs Support Group is here to help you and your family grow in holiness and to support you so that God’s grace may be extended through others. This is how we live together as a community.



To join or learn more about this beautiful group, please scan the QR code or visit stgertrude.org/momsofspecialneeds.

CALLING ALL MEN!
The St. Gertrude Parish Catholic Men’s Fellowship meets every second and fourth Saturday from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in the school cafeteria for prayer, fellowship, Scripture, and to discuss faith topics as they apply to our lives as Catholic men. **All men are welcome to join us at our next meeting on Saturday, January 27.** Come, and bring a friend! For more information, contact Stan Lloyd at (513) 289-5268 or stan.lloyd@gmail.com.

DOMINICAN ROSARY PILGRIMAGE NOVENA

Please join the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph and Catholics across the country in praying a nine month novena in preparation for the 2024 Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage. The novena will be prayed on the last Saturday of each month, starting January 27, and ending September 28, the day of the pilgrimage at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. You do not need to go on the pilgrimage to pray the novena, and St. Gertrude Parish will not be organizing a trip this year. Novena cards will be available at the entrances to the church. To receive a reminder email on the last Saturday of the month with the novena prayer, please sign up at bit.ly/drpnovena2024 or scan the QR code.



PRAYER WORKSHOP

In preparation for the Jubilee of 2025, Pope Francis has announced that 2024 will be a year dedicated to prayer. At the heart of prayer is an encounter with God that deepens our relationship with him. Join Anne Collins and JoAnne Lacey (St. Gertrude Church parishioners and Encounter Ministry students) for a Prayer Workshop on Saturday, February 3, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. We will explore ways of encountering God in our prayer through praise and worship, listening to God's voice, Lectio Divina, contemplative prayer, and intercessory prayer. There will be short talks followed by activations. To register, email your contact information to stgertrudetdm@gmail.com by January 31.

2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Your 2023 contribution statement will be available online near the end of January. More information will be available soon.

DOMINICAN RITE

Please join us on Tuesday, January 23, at 7 p.m. in the church for a special Mass in honor of St. Raymond of Peñafort, O.P.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

All boys in grades four and up who want to become altar servers—or who are currently altar servers and want a refresher—are invited to our next altar server training on Friday, January 26, from 3 to 4 p.m. in the church.

BOYS SPRING VOLLEYBALL REGISTRATION

All boys in grades 3-8 for the 2023-2024 academic year are invited to join the St. Gertrude Parish boys volleyball team! This is a recreational rather than competitive program. Practices will begin the week of February 6, and regular season games run from March 6 through April 25. Learn more and register at stgertrude.org/boysvolleyball.

K-8 TRACK AND FIELD REGISTRATION

All students in grades K-8 are invited to join the St. Gertrude Parish track and field team! Practices begin the week of March 4 for students in grades 5-8 and the week of March 11 for students in K-4. The season runs through mid-May. For more information and to register your child(ren), visit stgertrude.org/trackandfield. Registration ends February 23. We are also in need of assistant coaches and parent helpers for K-4. If you would like to help with our program, contact Cameron Simoneau at cameron@tristaterunning.com (no track experience needed). If you know high school age children who are looking to earn service hours, this is a fun way to get hours while helping out the track program!

Are You Interested in Going?

This summer, the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years is happening in Indianapolis! St. Gertrude Parish is looking to help you take advantage of this special opportunity by coordinating a group for adults and a group for youth to attend the Congress.

National Eucharistic Congress
July 17-21, 2024
Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN
eucharisticcongress.org

If you are interested in being a part of one of the two groups, please visit the links or scan the QR codes to complete an interest form.



Group for Adults

forms.gle/bs9uLFy4EQ6BwX4A

forms.gle/Vk4HEteyPg8EXHkF7

Group for Youth



Questions? Contact Tyler Castrucci (adults) at tcstrucci@stgertrude.org, or Walter Plummer (youth) at wplummer@stgertrude.org.



LET US PRAY

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .

THE SICK:

Linda Burke, Vicki Calonge, Carol Conners, Dan DeBow, Triset Defonseka, Beth Egbers, Lisa Ely, Octavio Flores-Resendiz, Ron Freudenberg, Dick Gelhaus, Bob Gerwin, Goad Family, Elsa Hall, Hummel Family, Andrea Kattel, Aiko Kimura, Diane Kosobud, Robert Lantz, Ed and Karen Larkin, Ted Leugers, Kevin Lewis, Gertrude Maxwell, Kim McClung, Elaine O'Connell, Sue Paas, Gerry Patterson, Gert Patterson, Pegge Schuermann, Richard Seifert, Judy Sullivan, Jim Tappel, Naoma Thomas, Debbie Van Hise, Brigitte Vielhauer, Kerry Walden, and Viktor & Mary Wilhelmy

THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES:

Patrick Burke, Gabe Dorsey, Jacob Dorsey, Curtis Flores, Luis Flores, Jr., Cole Foster, Kyle Foster, Dominic Geraci, Daniel Holian, Mike Huber, Aaron Jacobson, Jacob Kramb, John Kramb, Kelly Leugers, Dominic Lloyd, Seth McGann, John Murdock, Jr., John Oscar, Sarah Ries, Dan Roseman, Andrew Shannon, Ian Tester, and Gus Voto

THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

† All Our Beloved Dead

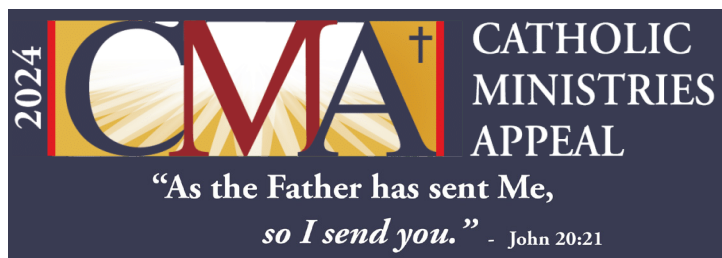


GATE OF HEAVEN CEMETERY

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

BEING PREPARED IS EVERYTHING

Learning, planning, and being prepared is part of life. Gate of Heaven Cemetery is here to help you understand Church teachings so that planning end-of-life decisions can be made with peace of mind. Attend a complimentary pre-planning seminar at Gate of Heaven Cemetery on Tuesday, January 23, at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., or 6 p.m. Please RSVP to community@gateofheaven.org or (513) 489-0300, and let us know how many family and friends will be coming with you, which parish you are from, and which seminar you plan to attend. The seminar will be in the St. Peter Chapel (11000 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, OH 45249).



2024 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (CMA)

This weekend kicks off the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA). By supporting the CMA, you will stand with the ministries that teach, feed, and heal throughout the archdiocese. Thank you to all St. Gertrude Parish parishioners who generously gave to the CMA last year. This year, St. Gertrude Parish's goal is \$99,541. Families will be receiving a CMA mailing from Archbishop Schnurr in the coming week or so. Please prayerfully complete your pledge card and return it in the envelope provided, or bring your completed pledge card and envelope to Mass. For more information or to donate online, please visit CatholicAOC.org/CMA. Thank you!

14TH ANNUAL HEALING TOUCH FOR SELF-CARE WORKSHOP

Are you curious about healing touch and wanting to relax? Learn principles and techniques from the Healing Touch Program™ that can reduce stress and pain for yourself and others at the annual Healing Touch for Self-Care Workshop on Saturday, February 3, at The Community of the Good Shepherd. Doors open at 9 a.m., and the workshop (lecture and demonstrations) is from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Theresa Kajas, Ph.D., M.A., HTCP/I will be the speaker. To register for this FREE workshop, visit good-shepherd.org/healing-touch-for-self-care-workshop by Monday, January 29. If you have any questions, please contact Patti Cecere at htselfcare@gmail.com or call (513) 535-1925.



IRRESISTIBLE JOY MEN'S RETREAT

All men are invited to South Clermont Catholic Region Irresistible Joy Men's Retreat on Saturday, February 3, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church (3398 St. Rt. 125, Bethel, Ohio 45106). Led by Father John Langois, O.P., and featuring St. Gertrude

Church parishioner Brad Bursa, the retreat will include inspiring talks, adoration, Mass, and lunch. Early bird pricing through February 2 is \$25 for adults, \$10 for students, and free for clergy. Day of event pricing is \$30 for adults, \$15 for students, and free for clergy. Space is limited, so register today at sccrohio.org/mens-retreat/ or scan the QR code.



THE FUTURE OF PRO-LIFE MEDICAL CARE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Each year, the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists has a keystone conference called The Matthew Bulfin Educational Conference, which brings together pro-life researchers, physicians and other medical professionals, medical students and residents, and policy makers to review important topics related to the pro-life movement. Many medical students sadly cannot afford to attend. However, **these students are the most in need of the conference to help connect them with a large pro-life medical community, give them tools to navigate pro-life issues, and feel brave enough to choose obstetrics and gynecology and battle for pre-born children.** You can help by contributing any amount you can to a scholarship to sponsor a medical student's attendance! For more information, visit conference.aaplog.org, or donate today at give.cornerstone.cc/aaplog.



LAETARE CLASSIC— 5K RUN & WALK

Join St. Gertrude Parish's Father Luke VanBerkum, O.P., and people across the Cincinnati area in the Laetare Classic, a 5K run and walk presented by The Pantaleon Project and benefiting The Angelico Project! Father

Luke will not only do the opening prayer at the beginning of the race, but also run in the Classic! The Laetare Classic will take place from 3 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, at Corwin Nixon Park in Mason. The entry fee is \$25. To register, visit thelaetareclassic.com or scan the QR code.



Once a month over the next few months, we are going to feature “The Bible Ladies,” Father Joseph Alobaidi’s short series on women in the Bible. You’ll read about our mothers of faith, including Eve, Sarah, Hagar, Mariam, Ruth, and Esther. This is the first article.



THE BIBLE LADIES — EVE FATHER JOSEPH ALOBAIDI, O.P.

The mother of humans, Eve, is a central figure because of who she is and because of how she is perceived in history, which led to unjust characterization of her and of women in general. A full treatment of such a theme should take into consideration not only the biblical passages, but also the history of their interpretation. Many in the church, including Church Fathers, perpetuated a negative image of Eve. Studying the biblical passages and how they were understood in history is primordial in rendering justice to Eve and to rehabilitate women’s image. This cannot be done in a short article. What we can do is to initiate a reflection that takes the main Bible passages for a starting point. Three passages taken from the early chapters of the Book of Genesis will help us achieve such a goal.

The Creation

There are two creation stories in the Book of Genesis. The first one, more recent, is contained in Genesis 1. The second one, slightly older, is contained in Genesis 2. Let us, for the sake of brevity, limit our investigation to one of the two.

God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

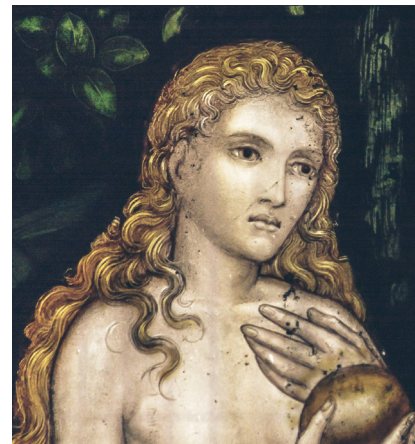
There are two facts, usually overlooked, that shape our understanding of mankind’s creation as depicted by this passage. **First**, the creation happened, according to Genesis 1:27, in two stages. The initial stage saw the creation of a being that was not specified. Then, the same being was separated into male and female. **The second fact** is that the image of God and his likeness concern the human being of the first stage, before the separation into male and female. Accordingly, Adam alone does not reflect the image of God; Eve alone does not reflect the image of God. It is only when they are united, unseparated, that they are in the likeness of God. It is when we are *in relation* to someone else that we really show the image of God. Ancient history of humanity, written exclusively by men, attributed a second, even secondary role to women. The truth is, that it is only with the presence of Eve that Adam mirrors the image of God.

The Temptation

Eve is presented as the one who sinned first then convinced Adam to sin with her. This traditional summary of the first transgression does not do justice to the biblical text that is less incriminating to Eve than what the history of interpretation implies. Two passages

will help us to have a more nuanced image of Eve’s role in the first human act of disobedience. Here is the first passage:

The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. (Genesis 3:6)



This is a crucial text, full of lessons that contradict that traditional and incriminating narrative of Eve. She was certainly duped by the serpent, yet she, wrongly, has a positive experience of the fruit of the tree: *good to eat, pleasing to the eyes, desirable for knowledge*. She first experienced these three positive aspects of the tree. What is more natural, in such a case, than to share the experience with the person you love? If it was out of malice that she shared the fruit with her husband, she would not be the first to eat then, afterward, give the fruit to her husband. We don’t even know whether she truly perceived the gravity of her act. She certainly was wrong in obeying the serpent, but her motivation in passing the fruit to her husband was not to associate him in an act of transgressing God’s command. It was an act of sharing a positive experience with the man she loves. The other textual element, traditionally ignored, is that *her husband was with her*. It is mentioned explicitly in Genesis 3:6 and there is nothing in the whole passage of Genesis 3:1-6 that suggests that Adam was elsewhere. In other words, he was consenting to all that Eve had done: *he was with her in her discussion with the serpent, with her when she looked at the tree and picked up some fruit, and with her while she ate it*. It is only this element, his consenting presence, that explains why Adam’s punishment (Genesis 3:17-19) was harsher than Eve’s punishment (Genesis 3:16).

The Bride

One of the descriptions of the Bible that I relish is “*The Bible is a love story*.” Indeed, the whole Bible is contained between two shouts of joy. The first shout of joy belongs to the husband, Adam, who, in Genesis 2:23, declares his love and admiration for his bride, Eve. It is the first time, according to the Bible, that a human being opens his mouth to say something. Then the Bible ends by the second shout of joy that belongs to the bride welcoming her bridegroom in Revelation 22:17. It is the last time, according to the Bible, that a human being opens his mouth to say something.

Have a question about faith, life, theology, the Church, or something else? Submit your question to bulletin@stgertrude.org for one of our Dominican friars, brothers, or sisters; experts; or theologians to answer in an upcoming bulletin.

Monday, January 22	Tuesday, January 23	Wednesday, January 24	Thursday, January 25	Friday, January 26	Saturday, January 27	Sunday, January 28
Walking with Purpose Bible Study 8:30 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Cana Family – Year 2 9 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Resurrection Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	CGS Level 1 11 a.m. Atrium I & II	Walking with Purpose Bible Study 8:30 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby, St. Joseph Room	Catholic Men’s Fellowship 7:30 a.m. School Cafeteria	CGS Classes 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Atrium I & II, School Music Room
CGS Level 1 & 2 3:30 p.m. Atrium I & II	Moms & Littles Holy Hour 9:30 a.m. Church	Schola Cantorum 3:30 p.m. PC Choir Room	Hospitality Team Meeting 7 p.m. School Cafeteria	Altar Server Training 3 p.m. Church	Acts of the Apostles Bible Study 9:30 a.m. School Cafeteria	CGS Parent Groups 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. SGS Classroom 15
Schola Cantorum 3:30 p.m. PC Choir Room	Seniors Fun Bunch 12:15 p.m. St. Dominic Lobby	CGS Level 1, 2 & 3 3:45 p.m. Atrium I & II, School Music Room	Parish Choir 7 p.m. PC Choir Room			St. Gertrude School Open House 9 a.m.-12 p.m. School Building
Become Catholic (RCIA) 7 p.m. St. Dominic Lobby	CGS Level 1 & 2 6 p.m. Atrium I & II	Cub Scouts – Pack Meeting 6:30 p.m. School Cafeteria				Confirmation Candidate Session 10 a.m. Parish Center
Healing Rosary 7 p.m. Church	CGS Parent Groups 6 p.m. SGS Classroom 15	Holy Hour with Confessions 7:30 p.m. Church				Baptisms 1:15 p.m. Church
L’alto: HS Core Team Meeting 7 p.m. St. Joseph Room	Boy Scouts 7 p.m. School Cafeteria					Benedictine Oblates 2 p.m. St. Joseph Room
	Dominican Laity (Fenwick) Council Meeting 7 p.m. Holy Family Conference Room					L’alto: HS Youth Night 7 p.m. Parish Center

INTERESTED IN JOINING ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH?
 We would love to welcome you into our parish family! Visit stgertrude.org/register to fill out a new parishioner registration form. You can also find paper copies of the registration form in the church and the parish office. We look forward to meeting you!

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?
 Contact Tyler Castrucci at tcastrucci@stgertrude.org or Father Luke VanBerkum at frluke@stgertrude.org to learn more about our Become Catholic (RCIA) program and get your questions answered.

OFFERING

St. Gertrude Parish Weekly Collection and Budget Report
Collection for January 14

Collection	\$ 40,360
Weekly Budget	\$ 37,000
Weekly Surplus	\$ 3,360
Second Collection – Pregnancy Center Plus: \$1,080	
Fiscal Year-To-Date (for year ending June 30, 2024)	
Fiscal YTD Actual	\$ 1,172,821
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$ 1,086,000
Fiscal YTD Surplus	\$ 86,821

BULLETIN DEADLINE

BULLETIN
2/4/24

MATERIALS DUE
1/24/24

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

STAY INFORMED ON PRO-LIFE ISSUES
 Want to get more involved in pro-life ministry or simply want to be more *in the know*? Email stgertrudeprolife@gmail.com to be added to the St. Gertrude Respect Life Ministry email list.



SUPPORT FOR MISCARRIAGE
 Have you experienced a miscarriage? You are not alone. Heaven’s Gain Ministries is here to provide for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of families experiencing pregnancy loss. Call Heaven's Gain at (513) 607-6083 for support, or visit HeavensGain.org for more information.

Parish Staff

Father John Paul Walker, O.P., pastor
 Father Joachim Kenney, O.P., parochial vicar
 Father Luke VanBerkum, O.P., parochial vicar

Dominican Friars in Residence

Father John Langlois, O.P., prior
 Father Joseph Alobaidi, O.P.
 Father John Corbett, O.P.
 Father Darren Pierre, O.P., novice master

St. Gertrude School – (513) 561-8020

Principal – Sister Mary Agnes Greiffendorf, O.P. ext 1101
 Vice Principal – Mr. Travis Johnson ext 1101
 PTO President – Ashlee Wooten ashleebwot@hotmail.com
 School Advisory Council

Office of Administration – (513) 561-5954

Receptionists – Susan Kane & Teri Forlini parishoffice@stgertrude.org
 Business Manager – Don Regan businessmanager@stgertrude.org
 Business Office Admin Assistant – Emma Golias egolias@stgertrude.org
 Bereavement ext 2101
 Bulletin Editor bulletin@stgertrude.org
 Director of Music – Christopher Holman cholman@stgertrude.org
 Safe Environment Coordinator – Emma Golias egolias@stgertrude.org

Office of Evangelization & Faith Formation – (513) 561-5954

Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation –
 Walter Plummer wplummer@stgertrude.org
 Coordinator of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd –
 Mary Beth Thiemann mbthiemann@stgertrude.org
 Coordinator of Adult Evangelization –
 Tyler Castrucci tcastrucci@stgertrude.org
 Director of Communications –
 Michelle Dushensky mdushensky@stgertrude.org
 Office Coordinator – Kristen Eggers kristen@stgertrude.org

Corporal Works of Mercy

Helping Hands (Funeral Reception Ministry) –
 Nancy Lucas stgerthh@gmail.com
 Knights of Columbus – Pete Marcello grandknight@elderkofc.org
 Ladies of Charity – Jean Wilkinson jeanhwilkinson@gmail.com
 Parish Health Ministry – Jeanne Palcic jpalcic@fuse.net
 Pregnancy Center East (for all pregnancy needs) (513) 321-3100
 Soup Kitchen – Andy Cordier soupkitchen@stgertrude.org
 St. Vincent de Paul Society – Jennifer Mansfield (513) 561-5954, ext 2112

Vocations Directors

Archdiocese of Cincinnati – Father Dan Schmitmeyer (513) 421-3131
 Dominican Friars – Father Mario Calabrese, O.P. DominicanFriars.org
 Nashville Dominican Sisters – Sister Mara Grace, O.P. (615) 256-5486

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Circle of Prayer – Barbara Rose prayercirclesg@gmail.com
 Communion to Sick – Judy Hartmann jhartma2002@yahoo.com
 Eucharistic Adoration adoration@stgertrude.org
 Natural Family Planning – Jenna Bernardo nfp@stgertrude.org
 Pastoral Council – Ryan Schilling rryanschilling@gmail.com
 Prayer Ministry for the Dying – Pat Collins (513) 265-1897
 Respect Life – Lisa Campbell lisaredig61@gmail.com
 Rosary Making – Larry Ball (513) 831-8572
 Unbound (Ministry of Forgiveness and Healing) –
 Nealy Mechley (513) 505-1740

Liturgical Ministries

Parish Choir – Christopher Holman cholman@stgertrude.org
 Contemporary Music Ensemble – Paul Kindt pkindt@zoomtown.com
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion frluke@stgertrude.org
 Resurrection Choir – Marty Cunningham martyc.music@gmail.com
 The St. Anne and the Child Mary Guild –
 Ann McCormick ann.mccormick@ymail.com
 Sons of St. Joseph (Altar Servers) pxaw@hotmail.com
 Ushers – Douglas Postler postman8905@gmail.com
 Viri Selecti – Ben Hoffmann pxaw@hotmail.com
 Youth Choir – Christopher Holman cholman@stgertrude.org

Spiritual Groups

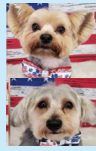
Angelic Warfare Confraternity – (513) 561-5954
 Benedictine Oblates – Mark Milliron mmilliron@fastmail.com
 CANA Family For Mothers –
 Anita Pappalardo pappacinci@gmail.com
 Catholic Men's Fellowship – Stan Lloyd stan.lloyd@gmail.com
 Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary –
 Brian Zappia brian.zappia@gmail.com
 Dominican Laity (Bishop Fenwick) –
 Mrs. Margaret Brecount, O.P. stgertrude.org/bishopfenwickfraternity
 Dominican Laity (Our Lady of Peace) –
 Mr. Fred Thomas, O.P. stgertrude.org/ourladyofpeace
 Healing Rosary – Cindy Hertz (513) 368-8941
 Moms of Special Needs Support Group –
 Laura Nanista laura_nanista@outlook.com
 Seasons of Hope – Cindy Hertz (513) 368-8941
 True Devotion to Mary – Anne Collins acollins4mary@aol.com
 Walking with Purpose Bible Study (Women) –
 Martha Thompson www.st.gertrude@gmail.com

Parish Groups

Athletic Boosters – Rob Gruber rlgruber5@gmail.com
 Boy Scouts – Rob Schuette (513) 333-0040
 Cub Scouts – Matt Frye (574) 529-0427
 Garden Club parishoffice@stgertrude.org
 Lenten Fish Fry – Rob Mancini rbmancini73@gmail.com
 Little Flower Library – Susan Santos susansantos2@gmail.com
 Parish Coffee – Mark Findley mark.findley@epilepsy-ohio.org
 Seniors' Fun Bunch – Tyler Castrucci tcastrucci@stgertrude.org



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