



*Behold*

, MAGI FROM  
THE EAST ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM,  
SAYING, "WHERE IS THE NEWBORN KING  
OF THE JEWS? WE SAW HIS STAR AT  
ITS RISING AND HAVE COME TO DO HIM  
HOMAGE."



**ST. GERTRUDE  
CHURCH**

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | JANUARY 7, 2024

## MASSES AND CONFESSION

### Monday, January 8, The Baptism of the Lord (F)

- 7 a.m. † Pat Shannon by Bill & Tish Shefcik  
8 a.m. † Susan Leonard by Pete & Donna Marcello  
11:30 a.m. † Deceased Members of the Dominican Order

### Tuesday, January 9, Weekday

- 7 a.m. Dr. Priscilla Suntay  
by Dante & Cora Raneses and Family  
8 a.m. † David Gregory by The Bursa Family  
11:30 a.m. † Maxine Daniel by The Daniel Family

### Wednesday, January 10, Weekday

- 7 a.m. John Pachuk by The Pachuk Family  
8 a.m. † Fran McIntosh by The Wachtel Family  
11:30 a.m. † Joan & Frank Huda by Moira & Jim Bonn

### Thursday, January 11, Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Leo & Marian Breslin by Kevin Breslin  
8 a.m. † Dan Riehle by Denny & Katy Riehle  
11:30 a.m. † Paul Schlie by Nancy DeBrunner

### Friday, January 12, Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Joseph & Marjorie Schirmer by The Schirmer Family  
8 a.m. † Scott Shappie by The Shappie Family  
11:30 a.m. † Rosemary Baele by The Baele Family

### Saturday, January 13, Blessed Virgin Mary (M)

- 8 a.m. † Marianne Klekamp by Donald Klekamp  
11:30 a.m. † Tom & Audrey Ruthman by Patty Connelly  
4:30 p.m. † Roger Palencia by The Henderson Family

### Sunday, January 14, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8 a.m. † Kathy Fischer by Peter Bertoli  
10 a.m. † David Moreno  
by Stephanie & Jack Harty and Frances Harty-Roman  
12 p.m. † Joe Silvers by Pat & Don Schoo  
6 p.m. People of St. Gertrude

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.

## Special Intention for Holy Hour

Wednesday, January 10 | 7:30 p.m.

Join us to pray for all those who came to St. Gertrude Parish for Mass this Christmas season who are distant from the Church or no longer actively practicing. We pray that they might be inspired by the joy of the nativity of Jesus to return to their true home.

There will be a prayer intentions book available in which you can write the names of loved ones, friends, and people you know whom you would like us to specifically pray for their return to the Church. The evening will also include preaching from one of the friars, and confessions will be heard as usual.



## 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





**A VENERABLE EPIPHANY TRADITION: CHALKING THE DOORS**

Blessing houses at the beginning of the year, on or near the celebration of Epiphany, is a long tradition in the Church, going back to the middle ages. Over time, this developed into a particular ritual in which blessed chalk

was used to mark the lintel above the front door (and, in some cases, above every door in the house).

Once again, we will have baskets of blessed chalk at the entrances to the church during this weekend's Masses. We invite every household to take one piece of blessed chalk home to bless their houses, although there is no need to take a new piece of chalk if you still have your blessed chalk from last year. There are a number of variations on the formula that a family can use for the occasion; the one below is short and simple, suitable even for families with small children (and thus small attention spans!). Longer, more elaborate forms of the blessing, which may include readings from Scripture, can easily be found online.

The blessing can begin with all present making the Sign of the Cross. The one leading the prayers then says:

**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.**

The leader then says:

**The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became man 2,024 years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.**

The lintel of the front door (either outside or inside) is then marked with:

**20 + C + M + B + 24**



The blessing concludes with everyone present praying the following prayer together:

**Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love. May we be blessed with health, gentleness, and kindness of heart. Fill us with the light of Christ, that we may grow in grace and in the love and knowledge of you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Side Note:** There are two meanings to the three letters used in the inscription, which are interspersed between the numerals of the current calendar year. They refer first to the names of the three Wise Men (whom we celebrate visiting the Christ Child on the feast of the Epiphany): Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also are an abbreviation for the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*—“May Christ bless [this] home.”



A blessed Epiphany and new year to everyone,

*Rev. John Paul Walker, O.P.*

Father John Paul Walker, O.P.

**FROM THE DIARY OF ST. MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA**



“Today during Holy Mass, I saw the Infant Jesus near my kneeler. He appeared to be about one year old, and He asked me to take Him in my arms. When I did take Him in my arms, He cuddled up close to my bosom and said, **“It is good for Me to be close to your heart.”** Although You are so little, I know that You are God. Why do You take the appearance of such a little baby to commune with me? **“Because I want to teach you spiritual childhood. I want you to be very little, because when you are little, I carry you close to My Heart, just as you are holding Me close to your heart right now.”** And with that, I was again alone, but no one can conceive the emotions of my soul, I was so fully plunged in God, like a sponge thrown into the sea. (*Diary, #1481*)



**ST. GERTRUDE SCHOOL**

# OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 28  
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



Gather in Faith. Guide in Truth. Grow in Excellence.

“

*This school environment is unlike any other. The academic curriculum is top notch and, more importantly, the teachers help prepare my children spiritually, ethically, and socially. Even though living a virtuous life starts in the home, St. Gertrude School provides a supportive environment that fosters high moral and intellectual standards. The class sizes are small, which enables a more personal approach. They see the child as a whole person, honing in on their strengths and refining their weaknesses. It's also nice to be surrounded by parents with like-minded goals.*

*-St. Gertrude School Parent*

”

## 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](mailto:businessmanager@stgertrude.org) with questions.





**NEVER ALONE—CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

CHRIS NACHTRAB, PARISHIONER

About 20 years ago, a man invited me to go to a Catholic men's conference down at the Colosseum. I didn't want to go, but my wife strongly encouraged me to attend. I couldn't believe what I experienced there. Thousands of men praying, singing, excited about their faith. Talking about . . . Jesus. I'm like, *What the heck is this? I thought these guys were Catholic?*

I ended up receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time since my Confirmation.

I was invited to attend a Catholic Men's Fellowship meeting at my parish at 7:30 on Saturday morning. I didn't want to go, but my wife strongly encouraged me to attend.

Again, I was blown away by what I experienced. Here were men. Real men. Veterans, guys with successful marriages and careers. Men who had raised their children. Men who were strong in their faith. I was 32 at the time, had a wife and two young daughters, and was absolutely clueless. I had no idea how to fulfill the responsibilities of my life and was not 100 percent sure that I even wanted to. Of course, there was no way I was going to tell anybody that. These men, however, were actually talking about their weaknesses, their challenges, their failures . . . in public. I didn't say a word.

Two weeks later, I went back. Encouragement from my wife was not needed.

Fast-forward 20-plus years, and I've been to probably 90 percent

of those Saturday morning Catholic Men's Fellowship meetings and have a leadership role in the group.

I was poorly catechized growing up (or maybe I just wasn't paying attention). While the Men's Fellowship is not a Bible study, Scripture plays a role in each meeting and **the topics served to increase my desire to learn more about the faith. After many years of study and discussion, I continue to be amazed at the depth and beauty of our Catholic faith.**

Each meeting has a different topic. The topics help me to learn how my faith can be active in all the roles of my life: husband, father, son, friend, and in my job. None of us are expected to be a scholar. "The sharing is the teaching" is one of the principles of the Catholic Men's Fellowship. I have learned so much from both the successes and the failures of the men in the group.

**These men have been there for me through difficulties in my career, my wife's successful battle against cancer, and the challenge of parenting three teenagers.**

Faith now has a central position in my life and manifests itself in ways that I didn't even know were possible 20 years ago.

**I honestly don't know where I would be right now without the friendship, witness, and accountability provided by my brothers in the Catholic Men's Fellowship group.**

Trying to live a life of faith can be enormously challenging. I don't think I could do it alone. Thankfully, I have not had to.

To learn more about the Catholic Men's Fellowship, visit [stgertrude.org/catholicmensfellowship](http://stgertrude.org/catholicmensfellowship). **All men are invited to the next Saturday morning meeting on January 27 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in the school cafeteria.**

**MOMS & LITTLES HOLY HOUR**

Are you a parent, grandparent, or babysitter of young children? Bring your little ones to a special hour of adoration just for you and your kids. Silence isn't expected, so don't worry if your youngsters cry, won't sit still, or talk.

**Tuesdays**  
**9:30-10:30 a.m.**  
*Resumes January 9, 2024*  
**St. Gertrude Church**  
6543 Miami Ave. Cincinnati



Scan the QR code to join the GroupMe group, receive reminders, and chat with other parents!



**St. Anne's Guild**

**A Spiritual Group for Girls in Grades 5-8**

All girls in grades 5-8 are invited to the next St. Anne's Guild meeting. We'll enjoy breakfast and social time, care for the church, hear a short talk, and do a fun activity or craft.



**Saturday**  
**January 13**  
**9-11:15 a.m.**  
**Parish Center**

For more information, visit [stgertrude.org/stanneguild](http://stgertrude.org/stanneguild) or contact Ann McCormick at [ann.mccormick@gmail.com](mailto:ann.mccormick@gmail.com).

**IMPORTANT PRESENTATION REGARDING MISCARRIAGE AND STILLBIRTH**

St. Gertrude Parish's Respect Life Ministry is hosting an event for Heaven's Gain Ministries on Thursday, January 11, at 7 p.m. in the St. Gertrude Parish gym. Donna Marie Murphy, executive director of Heaven's Gain Ministries, will give an important presentation on why and how we need to help families who experience miscarriage and stillbirth. This presentation is for parents who have had a loss and want to help others; those in bereavement ministries, moms' ministries, dads' ministries, pro-life ministries, and Stephen ministries; priests, deacons, seminarians; and anyone else who wants to help. To RSVP or request more information, please contact [heavensgain.staff@gmail.com](mailto:heavensgain.staff@gmail.com) or call (513) 607-6083. An RSVP is not necessary, but it is preferred. There is no cost to attend.

**CATECHISM IN A YEAR - FINAL MEETING**

The final Catechism in a Year wrap-up meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Center St. Joseph Room. Looking for something to do in 2024 to help you understand the essentials of the Catholic faith, transform your relationship with the Church and Jesus, and get all your questions about what it means to be Catholic answered? Listen to the Catechism in a Year podcast on your own. You can find the podcast on any podcast app or YouTube, or at [ascensionpress.com/ciy](http://ascensionpress.com/ciy).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, when the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Thank you for bringing Jesus' love to our neighbors!

Here are some 2023 highlights from St. Gertrude Parish's Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

- Held two Food Drives to restock our food pantry and shared extra food with the NOC Food Pantry and St. William's Food Pantry.
- Installed a window air-conditioner/heater in a mobile home for a recently widowed neighbor
- Assisted neighbors who had been served eviction notices with rent, which allowed them to stay in their apartments.
- Helped a young family with a high utility bill, when the breadwinner was unable to work due to cancer treatments and a series of surgeries.
- Held a Coat Drive through St. Gertrude School for gently used hats, coats, gloves with amazing results. Thank you, Sister Maria Francesca and the student council for leading the way and making the Drive fun for the kids.



 A photograph of a woman in a light blue t-shirt and jeans holding a young girl in a bright pink sweater. They are outdoors, and the woman is looking down at the girl, who is looking up at her.
 

**Spiritual Renewal for Pregnant Moms & Family Blessing**

All pregnant women are invited to a special morning of renewal, which will include prayer, a meditation on the Annunciation, silence, and Mass—during which you, your unborn child, and your whole family will receive a blessing.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**  
**10:30-11:15 a.m.**  
**Prayer & Meditation**  
*St. Gertrude School Chapel*

**11:30 a.m.**  
**Mass & Family Blessing**  
*St. Gertrude Church*

Husbands and children are invited to Mass to take part in the four-part blessing—first over the baby, second over mom, third over dad, and fourth over the whole family.

**LET US PRAY**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .**

**THE SICK:**

Linda Burke, Vicki Calonge, Carol Connors, Dan DeBow, Triset Defonseka, Lisa Ely, Octavio Flores-Resendiz, Dick Gelhaus, Bob Gerwin, Goad Family, Elsa Hall, Hummel Family, Andrea Kattel, Aiko Kimura, Diane Kosobud, Ed and Karen Larkin, 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:**

† June Zappia, grandmother of Brian Zappia  
† Pamela Dwyer, sister of Maureen Curran



## **LADIES OF CHARITY SHARING VAN**

This weekend before and after all Masses, the Ladies of Charity will be collecting monetary donations (cash and/or check) for Bethany House, an agency that empowers homeless and at-risk families with solutions to achieve housing stability and long-term self-sufficiency. The money collected will help Bethany House provide each client family an “Exit Basket” containing household goods as they start a new life in more stable housing. Donations can be dropped off at the white van in the parking lot. Thank you for your generous support! If you have any questions about Bethany House or Ladies of Charity, please call Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085.

## **LADIES OF CHARITY MEETING**

The Ladies of Charity will hold an organizational meeting at 10 a.m. next Saturday, January 13, 2024, in the Parish Center St. Joseph Room to discuss plans for the coming year. Any interested Catholic woman is welcome to attend. Dues of \$13 and service hours will be collected from current members at the meeting—please plan on attending. If you have any questions regarding our organization or the meeting, please contact Jean Wilkinson at (513) 498-5085.

## **CHRISTMAS NATIVITIES AT MARIA STEIN SHRINE**

From now through January 10, 2024, the Maria Stein Shrine will again be hosting a Nativity Exhibit. View more than 60 nativity sets and see how the simple scene of Christ in the manger with Mary and Joseph has been interpreted in many cultures over the years. Bring the whole family for this wonderful reminder of the reason for the season. The exhibit is free and open to the public during the normal Shrine hours (Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and 12 to 4 pm on Sunday).



### **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](mailto: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).

## **THE CHURCH IN DIALOGUE**

Glenmary Home Missioners is pleased to partner with The Church in Dialogue to host a theological discussion on the topic of justification. Taking place on January 12 at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains, this gathering will include theologians from the Reformed, Lutheran, and Catholic traditions to discuss the topic and to seek to foster greater understanding on a point that has brought much division throughout the centuries. More information and registration can be found at [fb.me/c/6ogtoiztG](https://fb.me/c/6ogtoiztG).

## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY GATHERING**

The Week of Prayer is held internationally and invites all Christians to pray for a deepening of unity. Glenmary Home Missioners is excited to host a Cincinnati-based service on January 18 at 7 p.m. at St. James of the Valley Catholic Church in Wyoming, Ohio. A social will follow and will include representatives from ministries such as Catholic Charities, City Gospel Mission, Young Life, and others. The event is free to attend. For more information and to reserve your spot, visit [bit.ly/2024weekofprayer](https://bit.ly/2024weekofprayer).

## **WWME AT OUR LADY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CENTER**

Would you like to resolve to improve your relationship and communication in 2024? Give the gift of yourself, better communication, and more romance with a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. The WWME Experience is a weekend to be alone with your spouse to energize your relationship and communication in 2024. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend Experience is February 16-18, 2024, at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center, right here in Cincinnati! Sign up today at [esharing.org/applyWeekend.php](https://esharing.org/applyWeekend.php). If you have any questions or need more details, contact Andy or Melanie Reinersman at (859) 653-8464, [application@esharing.org](mailto:application@esharing.org), or visit [esharing.org](https://esharing.org).

### **LISTEN LIVE ON THE APP**



### **LEARN, LIVE, AND LOVE YOUR FAITH**

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### **ASK A PRIEST—THE SIGN OF THE CROSS**

FATHER DAVID ENDRES, PROFESSOR AT MOUNT ST. MARY'S SEMINARY & SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

**Q: What is the origin and meaning of the Sign of the Cross?**

**A:** The holiest of signs is the Sign of the Cross. As Catholics, we make it so often that perhaps we take it for granted. It is a profound and powerful act that invokes the Trinity, Jesus' crucifixion, and the promise of salvation.

The Sign goes back to the Church's earliest days, likely to apostolic times. It quickly spread as a practice to accompany prayer everywhere there were followers of Christ—whether in the Middle East, North Africa, Asia or Europe. At a time when most were illiterate, Christians embraced the Sign of the Cross readily. It required no particular possessions, knowledge or skill—only faith.

The practice of the Sign began with marking one's forehead and, later, making a small sign on the lips and the forehead (as is done during Mass before the Gospel is read). Eventually, it became a larger gesture that was more visible.

#### **THE SIGN'S MEANING**

The Sign communicates belief in the Trinity, not just the words spoken but also the form of the action. The Sign begins at the forehead by invoking the Father, the first person of the Trinity, then moves to the chest, to show how the Son came down from the Father and took flesh in the Blessed Virgin Mary's womb. Finally, a sign made between the shoulders shows how the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

The Sign represents salvation through Jesus. On the cross, Christ conquered sin and death and redeemed humanity. As the spiritual writer Romano Guardini wrote, "By the cross, He sanctifies man to the last shred and fiber of his being." We make the Sign as we begin any prayer to remind ourselves to whom we are praying. And we similarly conclude prayer in the same way, invoking God to remain with us, to be our strength and protection.

#### **THE SIGN AS SACRAMENTAL**

The Sign of the Cross is a "sacramental"—like holy water or the rosary. Sacramentals are sacred signs that resemble the sacraments and prepare us for the sacraments. The Sign of the Cross has a special connection to baptism, the sacrament by which we are claimed for Christ. At baptism, the Sign is made by the sacrament's minister and (in most cases) parents and godparents.

In the first centuries, the Sign was described as a ritual action and a weapon in spiritual battle. The writings of

Hippolytus of Rome in the third century advise Christians: "If you are tempted to sin, seal your foreheads reverently with the Sign of the Passion. It will render the devil powerless, provided that you do it with faith, not to be seen by men, but by presenting it with skill like a shield."

Later, it became a way to call down God's blessing on people, places and things (like food). By signing them with the cross, they are claimed for Christ, and evil is commanded to depart.

#### **A PUBLIC WITNESS**

Making the Sign of the Cross is an opportunity to witness to the Christian faith publicly. While performing the action quickly or discreetly may be tempting, especially in public, we are reminded that this is one of the clearest and oldest indicators of belief in Christ. As a visible sign of faith, it is intended to remind us of and communicate to others Christ's victory over sin and death and His promise of eternal life.

*Father David J. Endres, a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, is academic dean of the Athenaeum of Ohio and professor of Church history and historical theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary and School of Theology. He holds a doctoral degree from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., and is editor of the scholarly quarterly U.S. Catholic Historian. In addition, Father Endres is a regular contributor to The Catholic Telegraph.*

*This article appeared in the November 2023 edition of The Catholic Telegraph Magazine and is reprinted here with permission. For your complimentary subscription, visit [thecatholictelegraph.com](http://thecatholictelegraph.com).*

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





Monday, January 8	Tuesday, January 9	Wednesday, January 10	Thursday, January 11	Friday, January 12	Saturday, January 13	Sunday, January 14
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	Catholic Men’s Fellowship 7:30 a.m. School Cafeteria	Parish Coffee & Donuts After 8 & 10 a.m. Masses Gym
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	Heaven’s Gain Ministry presentation 7 p.m. Gym		LofC Board Meeting 9 a.m. St. Joseph Room	CGS Classes 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Atrium I & II, School Music Room
Schola Cantorum 3:30 p.m. PC Choir Room	Moms & Littles Fellowship Gathering 10:30 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	CGS Level 1, 2 & 3 3:45 p.m. Atrium I & II, School Music Room			St. Anne & Child Mary Guild 9 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Confirmation Parent & Child Session 10 a.m. School Cafeteria
Dominican Laity – Our Lady of Peace – Formation 6 p.m. Holy Family Conference Room	True Devotion to Mary 12:30 p.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Cub Scouts – Den Meeting 6:30 p.m. School Cafeteria			Acts of the Apostles Bible Study 9:30 a.m. School Cafeteria	Baptisms 1:15 p.m. Church
Become Catholic (RCIA) 7 p.m. St. Dominic Lobby	CGS Level 1 & 2 6 p.m. Atrium I & II	Holy Hour with Confessions 7:30 p.m. Church			LofC Organizational Meeting 10 a.m. St. Joseph Room	Sacramental Formation (2nd Sunday) 1:30 p.m. Atrium II
Dominican Laity – Our Lady of Peace 7 p.m. School Cafeteria	Dominican Laity – Bishop Fenwick Chapter 6:30 p.m. Church					L’alto: HS Youth Night 7 p.m. Parish Center
Healing Rosary 7 p.m. Church	St. Vincent de Paul 7 p.m. St. Joseph Room					
	Boy Scouts 7 p.m. School Cafeteria					

**BULLETIN DEADLINE**

BULLETIN  
1/14/23

MATERIALS DUE  
1/3/23

Please submit your Mass announcements and bulletin articles to [bulletin@stgertrude.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://HeavensGain.org) for more information.

**OFFERING**

**St. Gertrude Parish Weekly Collection and Budget Report  
Collection for December 24**

Collection	\$ 90,603
Weekly Budget	\$ 50,000
Weekly Surplus	\$ 40,603
Sunday, 12/24: \$45,938 – Christmas: \$44,665	

**Fiscal Year-To-Date (for year ending June 30, 2024)**

Fiscal YTD Actual	\$ 1,021,777
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$ 975,000
Fiscal YTD Surplus	\$ 46,777

**Collection for December 31**

Collection	\$ 42,125
Weekly Budget	\$ 37,000
Weekly Surplus	\$ 5,125

5th Sunday: \$1,141 – Solemnity of Mary: \$1,849

**Fiscal Year-To-Date (for year ending June 30, 2024)**

Fiscal YTD Actual	\$ 1,065,112
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$ 1,012,000
Fiscal YTD Surplus	\$ 53,112

## 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. Joan Ratajczak, O.P. jsratajczak@gmail.com  
 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

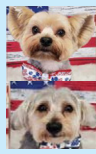
## Parish Groups

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  
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