



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 10, 2023

MASSES AND CONFESSION

Monday, December 11, Advent Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Leo & Marian Breslin by Kevin Breslin
- 8 a.m. Steve Bay by Nancy Lucas
- 11:30 a.m. † Deceased Members of the Dominican Order

Tuesday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe (F)

- 6 a.m. Unborn Babies and Their Families
- 7 a.m. Octavio Flores Resendiz by Maria Resendiz
- 8 a.m. † Audrey Ruthman by Malissa & Nick Frohlich
- 11:30 a.m. † Tom Martino by Joe Martino

Wednesday, December 13, St. Lucy (M)

- 7 a.m. William Wallace by Anne Schirmer
- 8 a.m. † Pat Shannon by Doug & Robin Postler
- 11:30 a.m. † Teresa Muellenbach by The Albers Family

Thursday, December 14, St. John of the Cross (M)

- 7 a.m. Alan Henderson by The Henderson Family
- 8 a.m. † Vanessa Contreras by Christopher Holman
- 11:30 a.m. † John Christopher Imbus by Ray & Marylyn Clark

Friday, December 15, Advent Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Dennis Mark Dillon by Maureen & Joel Wolfe
- 8 a.m. † Barbara Myres by Ed & Mary Ann de St. Aubin
- 11:30 a.m. † Glenn Groh by Dr. & Mrs. David Zipfel

Saturday, December 16, Advent Weekday

- 8 a.m. † Greg Mates by David & Kathy Miller
- 11:30 a.m. † Anne Siebert by The Tartaron Family
- 4:30 p.m. Julia Marie Speicher by Tricia Speicher

Sunday, December 17, 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 8 a.m. † Edith Merle by Knights of Columbus
- 10 a.m. † Richard Wenstrup by The Wenstrup Family
- 12 p.m. † Deceased Members of Kohus & Bough Family
by John & Hilda Bough
- 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.



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

In celebration of the Advent season, the St. Gertrude Parish Choir, Schola Cantorum, and Novitiate Choir present one of the highlights of the year: a service of Advent Lessons and Carols. This contemplative hour-long service is based around a series of readings that trace salvation history until the birth of Christ, interspersed with powerful musical meditations from the Church's treasury of sacred music for Advent. All are welcome!

December 10 | 3 p.m.
St. Gertrude Church



PLEASE JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS MASS

Christmas Eve | Sunday, December 24

- 3 p.m. Vigil Mass (church, gym)
- 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass (church)
- 12 a.m.* Midnight Mass (church)
*11:30 p.m. Christmas Carols

Christmas Day | Monday, December 25

- 8 a.m. Mass at Dawn (church)
- 10 a.m. Mass During the Day (church)
- 12 p.m. Mass During the Day (church)

For information on the Christmas novena, addresses for past Dominicans, changes to our regular schedule, and more, visit stgertrude.org/christmas2023.



AN IMPORTANT REMINDER OF OUR BELIEF ABOUT CATHOLICISM AND JUDAISM

During these first days of Advent, the Church focuses our attention upon the second coming of Christ, and thus the end of the world and what comes after. Much of what we believe about the “end of all things” can be found in the Book of Revelation, which, despite being a Christian book written for Christians, is amazingly Jewish. For example, in the vision of those who were victorious “over the beast and its image,” it says that “[t]hey were holding God’s harps, and they sang the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb . . .” (Revelation 15:2). Notice it wasn’t simply the song of the Lamb (Jesus), but “the song of Moses, the servant of God, and of the Lamb.” Or in the majestic vision of the “New Jerusalem” come down out of heaven from God, it says “[i]t had a massive, high wall, with twelve gates where twelve angels were stationed and on which names were inscribed, [the names] of the twelve tribes of the Israelites.” (Revelation 21:12).

Passages like these convey something deep in our Catholic belief about ourselves and our faith: Christianity didn’t spring up out of a vacuum. It emerged from Judaism. Christ was, and is, the Jewish messiah, come to fulfill all of the prophecies of the Jewish prophets and the covenant God first made with Israel. As St. Paul says in his letter to the Romans, “To the Jews ‘belong the sonship, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ’” (Romans 9:4-5). In speaking about the relationship of the Church to the Jewish people, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, “When she delves into her own mystery, the Church, the People of God in the New Covenant, discovers her link with the Jewish People, ‘the first to hear the Word of God’” (CCC, n. 839).

We have all heard by now of the Hamas terrorist attack on October 7 in Israel and of atrocities so horrific (especially against women and children) I dare not describe them in this letter. Rather than outraged, a shocking number of Americans—from college students to Hollywood actors—seem to be unconcerned, or even rejoice in the attack.

In recent weeks, it has been quite apparent that anti-semitism is alive and well in the United States. While Jewish people make up less than three percent of the population of our country, attacks against them account for 60 percent of the religious hate crimes committed annually. Since the Hamas attack, anti-Jewish hate crimes have risen by an additional 400 percent. A recent poll of American millennials shows that a shocking two-thirds have no idea what Auschwitz is.

In the past, some Christians (sadly, even some within the Catholic Church) have attempted to justify even violent anti-semitic behavior using the Bible. Let me say clearly: any such violence or hatred is

not only anti-semitic, *it is anti-Catholic*. Pope St. John Paul II said in one address on this topic, “No ancestral or collective blame can be imputed to the Jews as a people for ‘what happened in Christ’s passion.’ Not indiscriminately to the Jews of that time, nor to those who came afterwards, not to those of today. So any alleged theological justification for discriminatory measures or, worse still, for acts of persecution is unfounded.”

We as Christians, as Catholics, owe a profound debt to Judaism. This is especially true in our liturgy. Our Catholic understanding of things like priesthood, altar, sacrifice, tabernacle, covenant, even the Eucharist (the new Bread from heaven), all have their origins, at least indirectly, in realities that have been handed down to us through our Jewish forerunners. Quoting Pope St. John Paul II once again, in an address he gave when visiting the Jewish synagogue in Rome, “The Jewish religion is not ‘extrinsic’ to us, but in a certain way is ‘intrinsic’ to our own religion. With Judaism, therefore, we have a relationship which we do not have with any other religion. You are our dearly beloved brothers and, in a certain way, it could be said that you are our elder brothers.”

The Hamas attack on innocent Israeli civilians was an atrocity of the most depraved kind. The collateral damage from the Israeli military response against the terrorists has led to a humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Please join me in praying that Christ, the Prince of Peace, may bring a lasting and just peace to the land where Jesus walked. God bless,

Rev. John Paul Walker, O.P.

Father John Paul Walker, O.P.

FROM THE DIARY OF ST. MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA



I will spend this Advent in accordance with the directions of the Mother of God: in meekness and humility. I am reliving these moments with Our Lady. With great longing, I am waiting for the Lord’s coming. Great are my desires. I desire that all humankind come to know the Lord. I would like to prepare all nations for the coming of the Word Incarnate. O Jesus, make the fount of Your mercy gush forth more abundantly, for humankind is seriously ill and thus has more need than ever of Your compassion. You are a bottomless sea of mercy for us sinners; and the greater the misery, the more right we have to Your mercy. (*Diary, #793*)

COVER IMAGE: Our Lady of Guadalupe



**TEACHER Q&A
WITH MS. PUGLIANO (ART
TEACHER)**

St. Gertrude Bulletin: Why did you choose to work at St. Gertrude School?

Ms. Pugliano: The decision to teach at St. Gertrude School was an easy one! I could immediately sense the strong Catholic

identity of the SGS community. The loving teachers, students, and families of SGS are reflective of that Catholic identity and made me feel welcome from the start. I also was drawn to the strong academic reputation of the school and the value SGS places on the arts.

SGB: What is unique about St. Gertrude School?

Ms. Pugliano: The St. Gertrude School community is unique in many respects. First and foremost, St. Gertrude truly is a school for Christ. As educators at SGS, our purpose is very clear. Everything we do is aimed at enriching the lives of our children and leading them home to heaven. Our Virtues in Practice program is one of many examples of our commitment to authentic Catholic education.

SGB: What do you love most about teaching at St. Gertrude School?

Ms. Pugliano: I am passionate about art education and the connection between art and beauty and our Catholic faith. I am so grateful for the teaching opportunities I have every day at SGS in my beautiful art room. As the art teacher, it is unique that I teach many of the same children from year to year. It is a true joy watching the students create beautiful work and seeing the children grow each year.

SGB: Why should a parent consider a St. Gertrude School education?

Ms. Pugliano: St. Gertrude School is rooted in a rich Dominican tradition that guides the students and leads them to lives of virtue and joy. We truly aim to educate the whole child—spiritually, intellectually, and physically. We strive for excellence in everything we do.

SGB: What are your hobbies?

Ms. Pugliano: I have been playing golf since I was a child and still enjoy playing when I can. I also enjoy reading, working out, drawing and painting, and cheering on my favorite sports teams.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023 7 P.M. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023 9 A.M.

join us for the 62nd annual
CHRISTMAS
pageant

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. Thank you for our generosity!

Select "St. Gertrude School" from the dropdown menu and complete the rest of the form. Click "Preview Total" and then "Submit."

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



HOSPITALITY: A GIFT TO OTHERS AND YOURSELF

LYNN ALLEY, PARISHIONER

After spending many years away from the Church, the Eucharist is what drew me back to the Catholic faith. It was a long process, but my journey back to the Church made me realize what I had been missing for many years. In addition to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, being a part of a community of believers has helped me greatly. It was a huge change when my husband and I moved two years ago to Ohio from Virginia, but God worked miracles and helped me find my way to St. Gertrude Parish. Since becoming a parishioner, I feel like I have truly found a faith community. This is a place where parishioners not only attend Sunday Mass, but also actively live out their faith every day of their lives.

I found myself desiring to give thanks to the Lord through acts of service and charity, which led me to join the St. Gertrude Hospitality Team. It did not take long to realize the great gift I would also receive by being a member of this team. I was immediately welcomed with open arms by parishioners who have served here for many years. Whenever I volunteer I am showered with thanks and gratitude from the people I am serving and my fellow Hospitality Team members. Truly these people, and this team, are a gift from God.

Through the Hospitality Team, I have been blessed to serve and participate in many different ministry events, such as Drinking with Dominicans and the New Parishioner Dinners. Above all, my favorite memory to date has been greeting parishioners at our parish picnic this past summer. It was such a joy to see so many people with their families all together in one place to celebrate our parish’s centennial. Welcoming these hundreds of people brought such joy to my heart. Even though it was a large crowd and there were many people I had never met before, I truly felt like I was welcoming family—and I was . . . my St. Gertrude family.

I am so thankful to be a part of St. Gertrude Parish and look forward to continuing to serve you all through the Hospitality Team.



All 7th–12th graders are invited to join us!

December 17

6-8 p.m. | Drop off between 5:30 and 6:15 p.m. Pick up at 8 p.m.

Queen City Sportsplex
10765 Reading Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45241

\$ \$15 online, \$20 at door
Online registration ends
December 16



SCAN TO SIGN UP

If you have any questions, please contact Walter Plummer at (513) 561-5954, ext. 2122, or wplummer@stgertrude.org.

JOIN US FOR

Christmas Caroling in Madeira

Saturday, December 16
After 4:30 p.m. Mass

- 5:30 p.m.** Pizza dinner (gym)
- 6 p.m.** Opening prayer
- 6:30 p.m.** Head out for carols
- 7:30 p.m.** Hot chocolate and cookies (gym)

Learn more and RSVP at bit.ly/2023caroling or by scanning the QR code.





ADORATION & ADVENT REFLECTIONS

**DECEMBER 6, 13, 20 | 7:30-8:30 P.M.
ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH**

Join us on the three Wednesdays of Advent for a Holy Hour that will help you enter into this season of preparation and get to know the person of Jesus Christ in a new way. Each Holy Hour will begin with a 20-minute reflection from one of our friars, followed by a time of silent adoration.

- December 6 Father Luke VanBerkum
- December 13 Father John Paul Walker
- December 20 Father Joachim Kenney

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Remember your family, friends, and loved ones in a special way this Christmas with our annual Christmas novena of Masses, offered here at St. Gertrude Church. The novena will begin on Christmas Day, December 25, 2023, and go through Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Novena cards are available at the entrances of the church and in the parish office. Please return your novena offering envelope in the collection basket or to the parish office before Christmas.

BAPTISM

Sunday, November 26, 2023



Child: Sessylt Cornelius Davis
Parents: Dalton & Bailey Davis

SPECIAL MASS TO CELEBRATE OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Please join us on Monday, December 12, at 6 a.m., for a special candlelight Mass to celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Mass will be in English with Latin chants and take place at the Mary altar in the church. There will be a reception in the Parish Center following Mass; we encourage you to bring a treat or simple breakfast item to share.



Christmas 2023

Attend one Mass from each column

Fourth Sunday of Advent	Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Obligation may be fulfilled at any Mass after 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 23, through Sunday, December 24 at 2:59 p.m.	Obligation may be fulfilled at any Mass after 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 24, and throughout the day on Monday, December 25.
Obligation may be fulfilled at either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A vigil (Saturday evening) Mass, such as our 4:30 p.m. Mass. Any Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent before 3 p.m., such as our 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Masses. 	Obligation may be fulfilled at either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Vigil Mass for Christmas on Sunday, December 24, such as our 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and midnight Masses. Any Mass on Monday, December 25, such as our 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 12 p.m. Masses

LET US PRAY

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .

THE SICK:

Tina Bascom, Vicki Calonge, Carol Connors, Maureen S. Currens, Dan DeBow, Triset Defonseka, Pamela K. Dwyer, Lisa Ely, Lynn Fedele, 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, 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 Krumb, John Krumb, 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



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

The Ladies of Charity would like to thank all St. Gertrude Parish parishioners, families, and friends for a remarkably successful Christmas Giving Tree Project. Your generosity helps make Christmas special for so many needy families throughout our area.

As you decorate and prepare for Christmas this year, we ask that you keep us in mind if you come across a nativity set, individual nativity pieces, stars, or nativity creches that you would like to donate to our Nativities for Bread Program. All profits made from the program go directly to help charities around our surrounding area. If you have anything that you would like to donate, please contact Mary Lou Doran at (513) 543-3696. Thank you from the Ladies of Charity!

CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM

Come enjoy Christmas in Bethlehem at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood on Sunday, December 10, from 2 to 6 p.m. Walk through an interactive town of Bethlehem, gaze at the live nativity, enjoy snacks and hot chocolate, and shop at our Catholic gift store. Bring the whole family—grandkids, parents, and all who want to experience a little bit of the true spirit of Christmas. Adults: \$7; children ages 4-16: \$3; and children under 3 years old: free. Registration required. Visit ohlsc.org/events for more information and to sign up.

A DAY OF PRAYER AT OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE DISCIPLESHIP CENTER

All are invited to Our Lady of Guadalupe Discipleship Center in Peebles, Ohio, on December 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, for a special day of prayer. The morning will begin with 9 a.m. Mass in the Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until Benediction at 5 p.m. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on St. Juan Diego's tilma led to the conversion of nine million Indians over a nine-year period. This brought an end to the Indians' practice of sacrificing millions of humans to their pagan gods. Pray with us for millions of conversions to Jesus, especially those who support abortion. If you can commit to an hour or more of adoration, please email retreats@presentationministries.com or call (513) 373-2397.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?

On December 13, 14, and 15 from 6 to 9 p.m., Tim Francis will be at St. Maximilian Parish in West Chester answering the question: Can miracles stand up to the test of science? His talk will include exclusive film footage of a stigmatist who bleeds from her hands, feet, and head; a Eucharistic miracle; and the testimonies of those who saw a statue of Christ weeping and shedding blood. It's the same presentation each night, so choose which date works best for you! Learn more at saint-max.org/DoYouBelieve.

HELP FOR STRENGTHENING TROUBLED MARRIAGES

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Have you thought about separation or divorce? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential information about or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 5-7, 2024, please visit HelpOurMarriage.org.

COMBONI MISSIONARIES
NATIVITY EXPERIENCE
 6-8 P.M. DAILY DECEMBER 15-30, 2023
 CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE AND DAY
 Cincinnati Mission Center 1318 Nagel Road
ComboniMissionaries.org/Nativity 513.474.4997



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 p.m. on Sunday). The Shrine is closed December 24, 25, and 31 and January 1.

LEARN, LIVE, AND LOVE YOUR FAITH

You can hear the most sought-after Catholic speakers and authors anytime, anywhere—just scan this QR code to download the free Sacred Heart Radio app. No radio required! Your local Catholic media connection, Sacred Heart Radio, helps you learn, live, and love your faith every hour of every day.

LISTEN LIVE ON THE APP



To help you enter into the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas, we are running a four-part series on the infancy narratives. This is part two in the series. Please see the December 3 bulletin at stgertrude.org/bulletin for part one.



THE GENEALOGY OF THE LORD ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

FATHER JOSEPH ALOBAIDI, O.P.

The infancy narrative of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew is often eclipsed by the same narrative mentioned in St. Luke's Gospel. Yet the description of the Lord's genealogy (the annunciation, the flight to Egypt, the Magi's worship), indeed, the whole first Gospel, adds a necessary element to the understanding of the Lord's identity. For St. Matthew, the Lord is the New Moses who is superior to the one who led his people out of Egypt. Accordingly, all of his Gospel can be read as a comparison between the two Moses. Let us briefly examine a few of the major points contained in the first two chapters of St. Matthew's Gospel.

Chapter 1: The Genealogy of Jesus

Two aspects are characteristic of St. Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. **First**, its conservative Israelite beginning. Unlike St. Luke, Matthew does not trace the genealogy of the Lord back to the beginning of the human race. His starting point is Abraham. In so doing, he shares with the conservative Judaism belief that the world was created in order that the Law and the land be given to Israel. **Second**, there are four women mentioned: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba. Four women with irregular, even scandalous, marriages. Yet four female heroes of Israel's faith, whose glorious names are often sung in the Jewish tradition. Here are the Bible's passages where they are mentioned and the specifics of their marriages:

- **Tamar** - Genesis 38: "She had a relation with Judah, her father-in-law."
- **Rahab** - Joshua 2 and 6: "She was a prostitute."
- **Ruth** - Ruth, especially Ruth 3: "She was intimate with Boaz before marrying him."
- **Bathsheba** - 2 Samuel 11: "She was intimate with David while she was still married to Uriah whose death was planned by David in order to marry his wife."

What grave sins, what scandalous and immoral acts! So, why are they mentioned in the Hebrew Bible and, later, in St. Matthew's genealogy? The only answer is *God's mercy*. God chooses men and women to convey his message of salvation out of love for his people. His love and his choice will never be stopped by our sins. Sinners, the most disgraceful included, can still become heralds of his mercy. However, the reason for mentioning the four women in Matthew's genealogy seems to be more circumstantial. Matthew, writing almost 50 years after the death and resurrection of the Lord, knew of the attacks against the Lord and particularly against his mother. Addressing

the Christians as followers of an illegitimate child and speaking of his mother as the one who became pregnant before marriage, were common insults against Christians. Matthew, who knew very well the tradition of Israel, was reminding the early detractors of Christianity that women whose sins were outrageous became the heroes of Israel. He is taking from the new religion's opponents any reason to criticize the Mother of God. What a marvelous lesson of faith that our sins cannot stand before God's mercy!

The Birth of Jesus

St. Matthew writes about the Annunciation and the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective, not from Mary's perspective as St. Luke did in his Gospel. It is St. Joseph who was told in a dream (Matthew 1:18-25) that his wife-to-be is with child. He was told not to fear and to take her in marriage, because she is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Two aspects should be mentioned for their direct link to the Law of Moses:

- Joseph is described as "righteous." It is a technical word and means that he was living according to the Law of Moses. He knew well that it is forbidden to take for a wife a woman already pregnant.
- Joseph lived in the midst of a society that abides by the precepts of Moses' Law. He knew that he would be ostracized by his fellow Israelites if he broke the Law by having Mary for a wife. He obeyed God, nevertheless.

The beauty of St. Joseph's character is manifested not only in taking Mary for a wife, but also by risking his own reputation in raising the Son of God.

Chapter 2: The Flight to Egypt—and Back

The comparison between the old Moses and the new Moses, Jesus Christ, starts with the episode of the flight to Egypt and the coming back to the Holy Land. According to Exodus 12:37, the Israelites who fled Egypt were six hundred thousand men, without counting women and children. If we multiply the number by three or four, we easily reach two to three million. Yet, with such a great number, Moses failed to enter the Holy Land. Matthew, slowly building up the comparisons between the old and new Moses, insists on the superiority of the Holy Family which, with one man, one woman, and a child—plus the often forgotten donkey—had succeeded to achieve what Moses could not accomplish: reaching the Holy land.

Many other aspects of St. Matthew's infancy narrative could be analyzed (the numbering of the generations, the presence of the Magi and the meaning of their gifts, the symbol of the guiding star, the hostility of king Herod), but we'll save those for another Advent.

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, December 11	Tuesday, December 12	Wednesday, December 13	Thursday, December 14	Friday, December 15	Saturday, December 16	Sunday, December 17
Walking with Purpose Bible Study 8:30 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Our Lady of Guadalupe Reception <i>Following 6 a.m. Mass</i> St. Dominic Lobby	Resurrection Choir Practice 8:45 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	SGS PTO Meeting 8:10 a.m. School Cafeteria	Walking with Purpose Bible Study 8:30 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Christmas Caroling 5:30 p.m. Gym	CGS Classes 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Atrium I & II
CGS Level 1 & 2 3:30 p.m. Atrium I & II	Cana Family – Year 2 9 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Schola Cantorum 3:30 p.m. PC Choir Room	CGS Level 1 11 a.m. Atrium I & II			Little Flower Library Open 8:45-11:15 a.m.
Schola Cantorum 3:30 p.m. PC Choir Room	Moms & Littles Holy Hour 9:30 a.m. Church	CGS Level 1, 2 & 3 3:45 p.m. Atrium I & II	Hospitality Team 7 p.m. School Cafeteria			Family Faith – Child Only Session 10 a.m. & 11:30 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 – Pack Meeting 6:30 p.m. School Cafeteria	Parish Choir 7 p.m. PC Choir Room			NFP Class – Post Partum 1 p.m. St. Joseph Room
Become Catholic (RCIA) 7 p.m. St. Dominic Lobby	CGS Level 1 & 2 6 p.m. Atrium I & II	Advent Reflections with Holy Hour & Confessions 7:30 p.m. Church				Baptisms 1:15 p.m. Church
Dominican Laity – Our Lady of Peace 7 p.m. School Cafeteria	Dominican Laity – Bishop Fenwick Chapter 6:30 p.m. Church					
Healing Rosary 7 p.m. School Chapel	Boy Scouts 7 p.m. School Cafeteria					

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 firluke@stgertrude.org to learn more about our Become Catholic (RCIA) program and get your questions answered.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

BULLETIN
12/24/23

MATERIALS DUE
12/13/23

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

OFFERING

St. Gertrude Parish Weekly Collection and Budget Report
Collection for December 3

Collection	\$ 48,767
Weekly Budget	\$ 37,000
Weekly Surplus	\$ 11,767
Christmas Flowers: \$1,541	
Fiscal Year-To-Date (for year ending June 30, 2024)	
Fiscal YTD Actual	\$ 823,813
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$ 851,000
Fiscal YTD Deficit	(\$ 27,187)

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 DIRECTORY

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

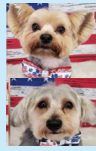
Angelic Warfare Confraternity – (513) 561-5954
Benedictine Oblates – Mark Milliron mmilliron@fastmail.com
CANA Family For Mothers –
Anita Pappalardo pappacinci@gmail.com
Catholic Men's Fellowship – Stan Lloyd stan.lloyd@gmail.com
Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary –
Brian Zappia brian.zappia@gmail.com
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 wwp.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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