



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 17, 2023

MASSES AND CONFESSION

Monday, December 18, Advent Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Gregory Mates by Bob & Patricia Dieckman Family
- 8 a.m. † Barbara Myers by The Bursa Family
- 11:30 a.m. † Deceased Members of the Dominican Order

Tuesday, December 19, Advent Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Neil Bambrick by Friends
- 8 a.m. † Gregory Mates by Antonella & John Jemail
- 11:30 a.m. † Tommy Martino by Pete & Donna Marcello

Wednesday, December 20, Advent Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Peter Schmidt by Brad & Monica Wenstrup
- 8 a.m. † Charles Hertlein by Mark & Sherri Holland
- 11:30 a.m. † Olive & Joseph Rajaratnam by Dennis & Shirly Ramenaden

Thursday, December 21, Advent Weekday

- 7 a.m. Phyllis Yenke by Ann & Dave Spaeth
- 8 a.m. † Peter Cundall by The Wachtel Family
- 11:30 a.m. † Marie Burks by Rita Johantges

Friday, December 22, Advent Weekday

- 7 a.m. † Robert Thornberry by The Milroys
- 8 a.m. † Richard Schuckman by Mike & Elaine O'Connell
- 11:30 a.m. † Tom & Audrey Ruthman by Patty Connelly

Saturday, December 23, Advent Weekday

- 8 a.m. † Pat Shannon by Mr. & Mrs. Seamus Roche
- 11:30 a.m. † Alberta & Dick DeBrunner by Nancy DeBrunner
- 4:30 p.m. † Liselotte Gardner by Heidi & Ron Sparer

Sunday, December 24, 4th Sunday of Advent

- 8 a.m. People of St. Gertrude
- 10 a.m. † Denny McKeown by Peter Bertoli
- 12 p.m. † Joseph Silvers by Janet LaClair

The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve) (S)

- 3 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant
- 5:30 p.m. Intention of the Celebrant
- 12 a.m. Intention of the Celebrant

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.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve | Sunday, December 24

- 3 p.m. Vigil Mass (church) with Capella*
- 3 p.m. Vigil Mass (gym) with Laudare*
- 5:30 p.m. Mass (church) with Capella
- 12 a.m. Midnight Mass (church) with Parish Choir
- 11:30 p.m. Christmas Carols

Christmas Day | Monday, December 25

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

**The Capella is our choir of professional singers. The Laudare is our contemporary ensemble.*

For more information on Christmas at St. Gertrude Parish,
please visit stgertrude.org/christmas2023.



SENIOR'S FUN BUNCH

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

All adults 55 and older are invited to the next Fun Bunch meeting. Enjoy lunch, fellowship, Christmas carols and hymns with our music director Christopher Holman, and a Christmas meditation from Father Joseph Alobaidi, O.P. We hope to see you there!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 | 12:15-2:30 p.m.

Optional 11:30 a.m. Mass

St. Gertrude Parish Center

ADORATION CHAPEL CLOSED

The Mother of Mercy Adoration Chapel will be closed Friday, December 22, through Monday, January 1. The chapel will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, at 7:30 a.m.



LAST LETTER BEFORE CHRISTMAS: GIFTS YOU CAN GIVE YOUR PASTOR NEXT WEEKEND

It's hard to believe, but next weekend will be Christmas! That means that, for most of us, the days ahead are going to be quite busy. Some will be doing some final last-minute Christmas shopping; others might be, *ahem*, only beginning their Christmas shopping (!!!) Many will be either making travel plans for the holiday, or finalizing plans to receive guests over the days ahead. Our St. Gertrude School children are just days away from putting on their beloved annual Christmas Pageant. Soon, volunteers will be decorating the church for the Christmas Masses. All of these preparations are meant to enable us to be prepared to celebrate the birth of Our Savior in the best possible way.

It is also a time of year when so many generously give gifts to the Dominican friars here. But as the pastor, I have a very *specific* set of gifts I would like to request from St. Gertrude parishioners this year. What follows is my "Christmas Wish List" for next weekend:

1. Many people will be coming to Mass here next weekend who, to be honest, perhaps have not stepped foot in a Church in a long time. If you see an unfamiliar face, please say hello or wish them a Merry Christmas; or at the very least, smile at them in welcome. Convey by your body language that you are happy they are here. If they failed to grab a liturgy program on their way in or seem confused about what hymnal to use, do your best to give them a helping hand.
2. If you usually sit in the same pew and you arrive only to find someone else in "your" pew . . . relax. Don't get angry or give them the side-eye. Peacefully move on and find another place to be seated.
3. If an infant begins wailing or a toddler makes a fuss, don't glare at the parents or whip around in your pew to stare backwards to figure out who the "offending party" is. Of all the days of the year, the day in which we celebrate that Our Lord was born as a tiny baby is a day to rejoice with how many babies and small children we have in our parish.
4. While we hope we have planned adequately to have enough programs for each of the Masses, should we run short and you see people without, consider sharing with the family members or friends you are with and offering a program to someone without one.
5. Especially at our busier Masses, our ushers are going to have their hands full trying to find seats for everybody. Please do all you can to assist them by moving closer together to try to free up seats if you see the Mass is getting full.
6. A special request for the gentlemen: if you are at a Mass that has reached the point of people standing because every seat in every

pew is full, consider offering your seat to someone who is elderly, or to a pregnant mom or mom with a baby, or anyone you see standing who might need that seat more than you. (Obviously prudence is needed here; if you are a young dad with five little ones that you and your wife are struggling to corral as a team, then offering your seat to someone and letting your wife try to handle all five herself all Mass long is probably not a wise decision.)

7. I didn't think I would ever need to say this, but just in case: please reserve the blue handicapped parking spaces for those who are truly in need of them. Similarly, please reserve the front two pews on the Rosary Altar side for those with limited mobility and their families.
8. If you are a lector, Eucharistic minister, usher, or server and are attending a Mass but not assigned to serve at it, if you arrive early enough, kindly check in with the sacristy to see if your services may be needed. Inevitably, this time of the year plans change at the last minute, or people get sick and have to cancel. To have someone ready to step in makes the sacristan's life a lot easier.
9. Have mercy on your priests and musicians! During the period from 8 a.m. Sunday through 12 p.m. Monday, we will be offering **10** Masses in 28 hours! It is inevitable at some point that exhaustion will set in and mistakes will be made. Be gentle!
10. No matter what the circumstances around your arrival for Christmas Mass, once you are inside, remember the reason you are there. Do your best to ignore any distractions, let go of any frustrations, set aside any anxieties . . . and as much as possible, immerse yourself into the mystery we celebrate. "For today a Savior is born for us, who is Christ and Lord" (cf. Luke 2:11).

That is my Christmas Wish List. To whatever degree you can do this next weekend, you will fill your pastor's heart with great joy.

See you at the manger,

Rev. John Paul Walker, O.P.

Father John Paul Walker, O.P.

THE POWER OF THE ROSARY



"By its nature the recitation of the Rosary calls for a quiet rhythm and a lingering pace, helping the individual to meditate on the mysteries of the Lord's life as seen through the eyes of her who was closest to the Lord. In this way the unfathomable riches of these mysteries are unfolded."

— Pope Paul VI

COVER IMAGE: *Our Lady of Expectation*. Photo by Father Lawrence Lew, O.P. Photo used with permission.



**TEACHER Q&A
WITH MS. CORDIER
(2ND GRADE TEACHER AND
SGS ALUMNA)**

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

Ms. Cordier: St. Gertrude School has always, in my mind, been synonymous with home and happiness. I absolutely loved my time here as a student and appreciated all of the amazing teachers that I had over the years. As I was reflecting on their powerful impact, I wanted to give back and have a similar impact; what better place to do that than here at St. Gertrude, the place that gave me so much! I am blessed to be able to teach here at SGS, where I can do a small part to give back to the school.

SGB: What is unique about St. Gertrude School?

Ms. Cordier: Something unique about SGS is the Dominican presence in the school, with the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. Their beautiful witness of the faith is a constant reminder about our purpose. Their presence, witness, and devotion keeps the school truly Christ-centered.

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

Ms. Cordier: My favorite part about teaching at St. Gertrude is the students. I love each and every one of my students.

SGB: How did a St. Gertrude School education positively impact your life?

Ms. Cordier: Words cannot fully describe the incredible impact that my education at St. Gertrude School had on my life. My education at St. Gertrude School reached far beyond academically preparing for the challenges ahead, but also prepared me to face the world with a moral, logical, and positive mindset. I would not be where I am today without St. Gertrude and its wonderful teachers.

SGB: What are some of your favorite memories of being a student at St. Gertrude School?

Ms. Cordier: I have so many wonderful memories; it's hard to pick just a few! I loved my time at the school, and when I think back on it, I just remember the joy I had while attending school here. If I had to choose, a few of the highlights would be performing in the Christmas Pageant in junior high, learning about and dressing up as St. Lucy for the Gallery of Saints in second grade, and the various Catholic Schools Week activities we had, like penny wars and the eighth grade volleyball game.

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

Ms. Cordier: St. Gertrude has a rigorous academic curriculum. Our graduates tend to be ahead of their peers when entering high school. Children who attend St. Gertrude are not only academically prepared, but also able to defend the tenets of the faith. SGS prepares students for not only academic success, but also success in life.

The 2023 Christmas Pageant will be professionally recorded! Scan the QR code to order a copy of your video now.

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.

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

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

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE

Recently, on Sunday December 3, at the 12 p.m. Mass, participants from our Become Catholic program completed the Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming. This combined rite was celebrated for both catechumens (those who are not baptized) and candidates (baptized Christians seeking full communion and Catholics seeking to complete their initiation). These 13 men and women have now taken their first formal step in which they publicly declared their intention to enter the Church this Easter. This next period of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is a time of deeper integration into the liturgical and communal life of the Church, in addition to a more in-depth handing on of the teachings of the faith (catechesis).

Please join us in welcoming these 13 men and women to our St. Gertrude Parish community and include them in your prayers as they continue throughout this period of discernment!

Catechumens: Adam Caldwell, Hayley Michael, Hanhan Olsen

Candidates: Derek Elliot, Ali Falcon, Brett Liming, Kurt Merling, William Moeggenberg, Jamie Perdue, Sharla Spear, Jessica Yehnert, Jordan Yehnert




Christmas Skate

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 THE
QR CODE
TO SIGN UP!**



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





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

VETERANS DAY COLLECTION – THANK YOU

The Knights of Columbus Elder Council 1195 graciously thanks you for your generous contribution to their Veterans Day Collection. St. Gertrude parishioners donated 30 bags of personal items, toiletries, stationery products, puzzles, and detergent. Parishioners also gave \$1,400 in cash and checks and \$210 in gift cards. All items and money go directly to the veterans in the Cincinnati area, who are very appreciative. Thank you for showing our veterans your gratitude for all they have done for our country.

SPECIAL MASSES FOR PEACE IN JERUSALEM

Please join us and Father Joseph Alobaidi, O.P., for two special Masses offered for peace in the Holy Land:

- Saturday, December 30, at 9 a.m. (in Hebrew)
- Saturday, January 6, at 9 a.m. (in Arabic)

Both Masses will end by reciting the Hail Mary in Aramaic, the language of the Mother of God. Even though you may not speak Hebrew, Arabic, or Aramaic, the Mass is the same regardless of the language in which it's celebrated. Handouts will be provided.

SCHEDULE CHANGES THIS WEEK

The St. Gertrude School annual Christmas Pageant is taking place in the church the evening of Tuesday, December 19, and the afternoon of Wednesday, December 20. **All daily Masses on those two days will be in the gym.** Confession will still take place in the church as usual.

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.

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, Linda Burke, Vicki Calonge, Carol Connors, Maureen S. Currens, Dan DeBow, Triset Defonsecka, 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, 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



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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ROSARY SOCIAL

Join the Knights of Columbus Archbishop Elder Council #1195 and their families on Tuesday, December 19, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby to pray the rosary. After the rosary, stay for a Christmas-themed social with Christmas music, stories, memories, and cookies. There is even a rumor that Santa Claus will stop by! Refreshments will be provided.



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.



St. Gertrude Parish & Knights of Columbus Archbishop Elder Council #1195

BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, December 27
9-11 a.m. | 12:15-3 p.m.

St. Gertrude Parish Gym

6543 Miami Ave., Madeira, OH 45243

To schedule your appointment, call (513) 451-0910 or visit hoxworth.org/groups/stgertrude. Appointment are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

If you are unable to donate blood on December 27, you can donate anytime using the St. Gertrude group code "SEQ" at registration.

Every donor receives a pair of Hoxworth lounge pants!



LISTEN LIVE ON THE APP



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.

WWME AT OUR LADY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CENTER

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your spouse? 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. If you have any questions or need more details, contact Andy or Melanie Reinersman at (859) 653-8464, application@esharing.org, or visit esharing.org.



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 three in the series. Please visit stgertrude.org/bulletin to read part one and part two in the December 3 and December 10 bulletins respectively.



THE INFANCY NARRATIVE ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

FATHER JOSEPH ALOBAIDI, O.P.

St. Luke, most likely, is the Bible's only author who is not from Israeli origin. However, his knowledge of the Hebrew Bible is so thorough that the hypothesis of his conversion to the religion of Israel,

before his adherence to the faith in Jesus Christ, seems probable. He is pagan and of Greek descent, and there are traces of Greek epic literature in the structure of his writings. His work is twofold: The life of the Lord Jesus Christ (Gospel of Luke) and the beginning of the Church following the Resurrection (Acts of the Apostles).

The Role of the Virgin Mary, According to St. Luke

The first two chapters of St. Luke's Gospel are the origin of the devotion to the Mother of God in the old churches (or in Christianity before the Reformation). The Annunciation, the Visitation, the Magnificat, the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple and his reception by Simeon and Anna, the finding of Jesus in the temple . . . all of these are events found in the Gospel according to St. Luke. They are passages that narrate the early life of the Lord. In so doing, they also underline the role of the Virgin Mary. Let us examine some of the often ignored aspects concerning the Mother of God, since it is impossible to speak of the child Jesus, or any child, without mention of the mother.

The Annunciation

Unlike St. Matthew who speaks about the Annunciation from Joseph's perspective, Luke speaks of the Annunciation from Mary's point of view. Let us limit our short investigation to four aspects, usually treated lightly, while speaking about the encounter between the angel Gabriel and the young Mary.

Mary's Age: If we take into consideration the age at which girls in the Middle East more than two thousand years ago got married, young Mary was probably 13. It is at this age, the beginning of her womanhood, that Mary agreed to have a child by the Holy Spirit. The icons, presenting Mary as a mature young woman, do not correctly reflect the true age of the Mother of God.

Mary's "Yes": With St. Luke, we admire Mary's acceptance of the will of God, and we imagine the whole event happening in a peaceful and serene atmosphere. The truth is, when Mary accepted the angel's offer, she knew that she was risking her life. While the iconography presents her peacefully hearing what is proposed to her, the reality is much more dramatic. It is only her strong faith in God that allowed her to overcome the anxiety and fear that the angel's words provoked in her. Many facts were unknown to her: she didn't know if Joseph would still take her as his

wife, she didn't know how her family and neighbors would react . . . It is with uncertainty about the future and life-threatening dangers that Mary said "yes" to God's will. The law and customs of her time sentenced to death any woman having a child before living with her husband. It is only in placing Mary's "yes" in its historical and social setting that we can truly measure the greatness of her trust in God.

The Angel's Words: Everything the angel Gabriel said about the child Jesus was in the future and unverifiable. Yet, Mary had chosen to believe. In other words, Mary's faith does not concern her miraculous motherhood alone, but extends to envelop the future of the child who will be born to her. All that she heard from the angel were "words" about the child's future. The glorious future of the child Jesus was announced to a poor and homeless family with no guarantee whatsoever. Nevertheless, Mary believed. She never doubted the realization of God's promises, becoming the exemplar for those who believe, the perfect illustration of the definition of faith: "believing in the existence of realities that at present remain unseen" (Hebrew 11:1).

Mary's Virginity: There is discussion amongst exegetes about the word "virgin." A passage in the Book of Isaiah (7:14) speaks about a "maiden" who will be pregnant. When the Greek Jewish community of Alexandria (North of Egypt) translated this passage, instead of "maiden," the translators chose the word "virgin." Many, especially in the Reformation, think that the veneration of the original churches for the Virgin Mother of God comes from this imprecise translation of this Hebrew word. It is sad, if not ridiculous, to reduce more than 20 centuries of veneration for the Virgin Mary to an error of translation. It is sad also because it ignores the obvious. Indeed, it is her question to Gabriel, "How can this be, since I do not know any man" (Luke 1:34) that is at the heart of our Marian devotion.

Magi or Shepherds?

St. Matthew speaks about the magi who came from the east to venerate the Child Jesus. St. Luke speaks about the angels and the shepherds who venerate the Child Jesus. How do we reconcile the difference? The answer becomes possible if we consider the end of the Gospel according to St. John. In the last verse of his Gospel, John states: "There were many other things that Jesus did, if all were written down the world itself, I suppose, would not hold all the books that would have to be written" (John 21:25). In other words, the Gospel writers had to make choices between many stories about the Lord. Matthew and Luke, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wanted to say that the birth of the Child Jesus is not only a local event concerning Mary and Joseph alone, but also a universal event. To express this meaning, St. Matthew spoke about the magi who are wise men from the east, not Israelites, coming to show their allegiance to the Child Jesus and to worship him. St. Luke, expressing the same meaning, chooses another event. He speaks about the rejoicing of the angels and shepherds at the birth of the Savior. The writers chose different events to express the same meaning: the cosmic dimension of the birth of the Son of Mary.

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 18	Tuesday, December 19	Wednesday, December 20	Thursday, December 21	Friday, December 22	Saturday, December 23	Sunday, December 24
Walking with Purpose Bible Study 8:30 a.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Daily Masses Moved to Parish Center 7, 8 & 11:30 a.m. Masses Gym	Daily Masses Moved to Parish Center 7, 8 & 11:30 a.m. Masses Gym	St. Gertrude School No School	St. Gertrude School No School	Adoration Chapel Closed	Adoration Chapel Closed
CGS Level 1 & 2 3:30 p.m. Atrium I & II	Catechism in a Year Discussion Group 9 a.m. St. Joseph Room	Rosary Makers 3 p.m. St. Joseph Room	Parish Choir 7 p.m. PC Choir Room	Adoration Chapel Closed	Catholic Men's Fellowship 7:30 a.m. School Cafeteria	
Schola Cantorum 3:30 p.m. PC Choir Room	Seniors Fun Bunch 12:15 p.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Advent Reflections with Holy Hour & Confessions 7:30 p.m. Church				
Become Catholic (RCIA) 7 p.m. St. Dominic Lobby	Boy Scouts 7 p.m. School Cafeteria					
Healing Rosary 7 p.m. Church	K of C Rosary & Social 7 p.m. St. Dominic Lobby					
K of C Executive Meeting 7 p.m. Knights of Columbus Hall	SGS Christmas Pageant 7 p.m. Church					

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
12/31/23

MATERIALS DUE
12/20/23

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

OFFERING

St. Gertrude Parish Weekly Collection and Budget Report
Collection for December 10

Collection	\$	55,726
Weekly Budget	\$	37,000
Weekly Surplus	\$	18,726

Immaculate Conception: \$5,331
 Retirement Fund for Religious: \$7,522

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

Fiscal YTD Actual	\$	879,539
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$	888,000
Fiscal YTD Deficit	(\$	8,461)

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

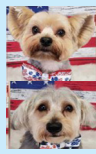
Angelic Warfare Confraternity – (513) 561-5954
Benedictine Oblates – Mark Milliron mmilliron@fastmail.com
CANA Family For Mothers –
Anita Pappalardo pappacinci@gmail.com
Catholic Men's Fellowship – Stan Lloyd stan.lloyd@gmail.com
Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary –
Brian Zappia brian.zappia@gmail.com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