



ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH

Christmas Octave 2020



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

MASSES AT ST. GERTRUDE

Monday, December 28, The Holy Innocents (F)

- 7:00 a.m. †Dominic Marcello/Peter & Donna Marcello
8:00 a.m. †Lilly Alexander/Benny Alexander
11:30 a.m. Christmas Novena

Tuesday, December 29,

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

- 7:00 a.m. Christmas Novena
8:00 a.m. †Jean Casciaro/Brad & Katie Bursa
11:30 a.m. †Bev Oscar/Bill & Gindy Schneller

Wednesday, December 30,

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

- 7:00 a.m. †Jack Schuler/Molly & Bruce Vollmer
8:00 a.m. Christmas Novena
11:30 a.m. †Winetta Grimm/Mary Lou &
Charles Garner

Thursday, December 31,

Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

- 7:00 a.m. †Dennis Wegman/Bill & Kathy Watkins
8:00 a.m. †Martin Hebert/The Hebert Family
11:30 a.m. Christmas Novena

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (S)

- 7:30 p.m. WORLD PEACE

Friday, January 1,

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (S)

- Christmas Novena
†Jack Berger/Jane Wright
†Mary Lee/Thien Cao
†Frank Pope/Carol Deimling

Saturday, January 2,

SS. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen (M)

- 8:00 a.m. †Dr. Frank Cianciolo/Dee Cianciolo
11:30 a.m. Christmas Novena

January 2-3, The Epiphany of the Lord (S)

- Saturday †Rose Flannigan/Sal & Teri Forlini
Sunday People of St. Gertrude, Living and Deceased
†Steve Eddingfield/Bertie & Family
†Suzanne Stegman/Gary & Denise Crouch
†John Patrick Kinsella/The Family
†Carol Coors/Melanie & John Sheridan

COVER IMAGE: THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST -
VLADIMIR BOROVNIKOVSKY (1790-1825)

PUBLIC WORSHIP AT ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

Updated November 1, 2020

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

HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

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

HOLY COMMUNION

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

Mass & Confession Schedule

SUNDAY

- 8:00 a.m. Mass
10:00 a.m. Conventual Mass
12:00 p.m. Mass
6:00 p.m. Mass

WEEKDAYS

- 7:00 a.m. Mass
8:00 a.m. Mass
11:30 a.m. Conventual Mass
12:00 p.m. Midday Prayer in Church
4:00 p.m. Confessions in Church
7:30 p.m. Confessions in Church
(Wednesdays Only)

SATURDAY

- 8:00 a.m. Conventual Mass
11:30 a.m. Mass
3:30 p.m. Confessions in Church
4:30 p.m. Mass (Sunday Anticipated)

A YEAR DEDICATED TO ST. JOSEPH



In the heart of the Christmas Octave, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family (December 27, 2020). This celebration draws our attention to the grace and blessings that comes to a family whenever it welcomes Jesus into its midst. Mary and Joseph together welcomed the Divine Child into the family

they established with their marriage. They embraced their vocation to marriage and family life with faith, trust and confidence in God's love and providence. Thus, they are an example for every family.

Recently, on December 8th, our Holy Father Pope Francis proclaimed a "Year of St. Joseph" that will conclude on December 8, 2021. The entire Apostolic Letter is worth reading, with additional time for reflection and prayer. The document is available on the Vatican website (www.vatican.va), and the Flocknote message sent out this weekend. Below are excerpts from a decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on December 8, 2020:

The gift of special indulgences is granted on the occasion of the Year of St. Joseph, convened by Pope Francis to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as patron of the universal Church. . . . Plenary indulgence is granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the intentions of the Holy Father) to the faithful who, in a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph on occasions and in the way indicated by this Apostolic Penitentiary.

— a. St. Joseph, a true man of faith, invites us to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew our fidelity to prayer, to listen and respond with deep discernment to God's will. Plenary Indulgence is granted to those who meditate for at least 30 minutes in the prayer of our Father, or who participate in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph;

— b. The Gospel attributes to St. Joseph the title of "righteous man" (cf. Mt 1:19): he, guardian of the "intimate secret at the bottom of the heart and soul," the depositary of the mystery of God and, therefore, the ideal patron saint of the inner forum, impels us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in the fulfillment of our duties. The virtue of justice practiced in an exemplary way by Joseph is full adherence to the divine law, which is the law of mercy, "because it is precisely the mercy of God that brings true justice to fulfillment." Therefore, those who, following St. Joseph's example, perform a work of bodily or spiritual mercy, will also be able to attain the gift of plenary indulgence;

— c. The main aspect of Joseph's vocation was to be custodian of the Holy Family of Nazareth, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and legal father of Jesus. In order for all Christian families to be encouraged to recreate the same climate of intimate communion, love and prayer that was lived in the Holy Family, plenary indulgence is granted for the prayer of the Holy Rosary in families and among the bride and groom.

— d. On 1 May 1955, the Servant of God Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, "with the intention that all recognize the dignity of work and that it inspires social life and the laws founded on the equitable sharing of rights and duties." Anyone who entrusts his work daily to the protection of St Joseph and to every believer who invokes with his prayers the intercession of the worker of Nazareth, may obtain plenary indulgence, so that those who seek work may find him and the work of all be more dignified.

— e. The flight of the Holy Family to Egypt "shows us God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he flees, where he experiences rejection and abandonment." Plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who pray the litany of St. Joseph (for Latin tradition), or the Akathistos to St. Joseph, in whole or at least part of it (for byzantine tradition), or some other prayer to St. Joseph, typical of the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church ad intra and ad extra and for the relief of all Christians who suffer all forms of persecution.

In order to reaffirm the universality of St. Joseph's patronage of the Church, in addition to the aforementioned occasions, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants plenary indulgence to the faithful who pray any prayer or act of piety legitimately approved in honor of St. Joseph, for example "To you, O Blessed Joseph," especially on March 19 and May 1, feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Sunday of St. Joseph (according to Byzantine tradition), the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, day dedicated to the memory of the Saint according to Latin tradition.

In the current context of health emergency, the gift of plenary indulgence extends particularly to the elderly, the sick, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons cannot leave their home, who, in the spirit detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions, in their own home or wherever the impediment holds them back, pray an act of mercy in honor of St. Joseph, comfort of the sick and patron saint of good death, confidently offering God the pains and difficulties of his life.

Prayer to St. Joseph composed by Pope Francis:

Hail, Guardian of
the Redeemer,
Spouse of the
Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted
His only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace,
mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil.
Amen.





ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN THE DOMINICAN TRADITION

ENROLLMENT

- Total enrollment: 302 students
- 48% male, 52% female
- Students come from 21 different school districts
- School day is from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Aftercare is available until 6 p.m.
- 28% of students receive financial assistance beyond parish subsidy; 13% receive state funding

FACULTY

- Total of 26 faculty members
- Average homeroom size: 20
- Average tenure of faculty 10 years

ALUMNI

Our alumni attend the following high schools:

- Archbishop Moeller
- Archbishop McNicholas
- Mount Notre Dame
- St. Xavier
- St. Ursula Academy
- Summit Country Day
- Ursuline Academy
- Public High Schools
- Royalmont Academy
- Homeschool Co-op

SPORTS & FINE ARTS

- Basketball, Cheerleading, Football, Track, Volleyball
- Music, Band
- Christmas Pageant & Passion Play
- SGS Players & Choir

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

- *Outdoor classroom:* Monarch butterflies, chickens, gardening, maple tree tapping
- *Engineering:* Rocket launches, egg drops, bridge building
- *Biology:* Dissection of frogs, sharks, & fetal pigs
- *Power of the Pen Competition*
- *Latin:* Greek & Latin roots, High School level curriculum
- *Fine Arts:* Cross-curriculum focus, painting, pottery, and fashion design
- *Technology:* 1 to 1 age-appropriate device ratio

FAITH FORMATION & LEADERSHIP

DEVELOPMENT

- Household Intergrade leadership
- Virtues in Practice monthly focus
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Annual Gallery of Saints
- Make a Difference Day
- Rosary Procession
- Emmaus Leadership
- Sacramental Preparation
- St. Joseph the Worker Society
- St. Anne and the Child Mary Guild

TUITION 2020-21 (Next year's rates published January 28)

\$100 non-refundable fee per child due at time of registration. This is not part of tuition.

Parishioner Tuition KFull-8

- One Child \$4,465
- Two Children \$8,614
- Three Children \$12,317
- Four or more children \$15,151
- Flex-Day Kindergarten \$3,615

Non-Parishioner Tuition Kfull-8

- One Child \$6,200
- Two Children \$11,966
- Three Children \$17,111
- Four or more children \$21,047
- Flex-Day Kindergarten \$5,350

6543 Miami Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45243
 Phone 513.561.802 Fax 513.561.7184
 stgertrudesch.org

(TRYING TO) LIVE THE MISSION: CHRISTMAS AND LONELINESS

BY BRAD BURSA



After reading my article last month (see “(Trying to) Live the Mission: Happy, Sad” in the November 22 bulletin), a parishioner asked me to write on the topic of loneliness during the holidays. I believe this parishioner had in mind those who are older and those whose lives have been stung by the death of a loved one. I do think, however, the whole

problem of loneliness is more pervasive this year. As I watch families cancel Christmas gatherings, schools go remote, people quarantine, get sick, and so forth, I realize that the strangeness of this “COVID-year” is making most people feel lonely and isolated and a bit odd.¹

We should feel strange when we’re alone. We weren’t made for it. “No human being is closed in upon himself or herself and...no one can live of or for himself or herself alone,” Joseph Ratzinger says. “Human beings are relational, and they possess their lives – themselves – only by way of relationship. I alone am not myself, but only in you and with you am I myself. To be truly a human being means to be related in love, to be *of and for*.”

The key to dealing with the harsh reality of isolating loneliness, whether it is created by our own sinfulness, the sins of others, the problem of death, sickness, fear, etc. is actually to enter into the mystery of it *with* faith. Faith tells us that in Jesus Christ, God enters into the loneliness of death, into the hellish abyss, and that even when we find ourselves alone in this *Sheol*, He is there. If this is true, then we’re actually not alone; we’re never alone. In faith, therefore, the Christian can ask in every situation, even the most forlorn, “Where are you amid this?” and “Who are you, who would enter into this with me?” God’s presence in loneliness makes joy possible – to be a Christian is to be joyful. This fact, it seems to me, is the foundation from which CS Lewis could say with a grin, “Besides, Christians never say goodbye.” There is no such thing as goodbye.

Okay, so now for the brass tacks. How do you enter into loneliness and not just find yourself consumed, paralyzed, and overcome by it? Here are some considerations:

1. **A Daily “Appointment” with God:** Fr. Michael Scanlan bases his book *Appointment with God* on this premise: important meetings or appointments we have with doctors, business partners, or friends appear on our calendars. We know the *who, what, where, when, and how*

long of such engagements. On a daily basis, there is no “appointment” that is more important than one with God. The *Catechism* has a great treatment of this in §2697, which says, “Prayer is the life of the new heart. It ought to animate us at every moment. But, we tend to forget him who is our life and our all...‘We must remember God more often than we draw breath.’ But we cannot pray ‘at all times’ if we do not *pray at specific times*, consciously willing it.” Scanlan’s book gave me some genius insight for praying at a specific time amid a hectic schedule. If prayer is in my calendar, and if it is the first thing I do each day, it almost always happens. When we establish an appointment with God, we know who we’re meeting with (i.e. God!), and it’s up to you to decide when it happens, where it will happen, how long it will be (if you’re not praying each day, I’d recommend a small daily commitment that will challenge but not crush you – like 10 minutes), and what the appointment will entail – the contents of the thing. For help with this last aspect, see my next point!

2. **Get Vulnerable:** This sounds childish, though, really, it’s childlike: I’ve started referring to God as “Dad” in prayer. If I call my earthly father “dad,” and in Baptism, I’ve become an adopted son of God and Jesus refers to the Father as *Abba* (lit. Dad or Daddy), why not call God “Dad”? This shift in diction breaks down barriers and opens my prayer to a new level of vulnerability – a deeper intimacy. If you’re “stuck” in your life of prayer or looking to get one started, you might consider these simple prompts: (1) “Dad, you are _____” (fill in the blank with some expressions of praise like “awesome, almighty King of kings, Lord of lords,” etc.); (2) “Thank you for _____” (fill in this blank by naming ways in which your Dad has blessed you since your last appointment with Him); (3) “Dad, I am _____” (let Him know how you’re doing and what’s going on. Be as vulnerable as possible. This is where you bring your loneliness to bear with all its “weight”); (4) “Dad, I need _____” (let Him know what you need from Him and intercede for others who need His providential action in their lives).

3. **Make a Gift of Yourself:** Sometimes, when I’m lonely, I almost feel a slave to my circumstances. I begin to think I can’t do anything but wait around for someone to reach out. I also complain a lot, which never works. When I succumb to this mindset, I surrender that great gift of freedom. In truth, in every moment, I am free to choose love, I am free to choose to get out of myself and give myself for others (rather than waiting for someone to reach out to me). Many people during this time are alone. Is Dad giving you an opportunity to get out of yourself and visit with someone, call someone, write a letter, text a friend, send a Facebook message, etc.? The Vatican II document *Gaudium et spes*, claims that man “cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself.” If this is true, then we probably can’t fully find our way out of loneliness unless we make a sincere gift of self in the midst of it.

The 4th Sunday of each month, we’ll feature stories and tips for trying to live the faith in ordinariness of life.

¹ Note: I’m not talking about solitude, which implies being alone with an Other. Instead, I’m talking about those harrowing experiences of feeling truly alone.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass Schedule

-December 31, Vigil

Mass at 7:30 pm

-January 1, Masses at
8:00, 10:00, and 12:00
noon. There is NO
evening Mass on New
Year's Day.



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

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

ADORATION CHAPEL CLOSED

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

YOUNG FATHERS - THE TEMPERAMENT GOD GAVE YOU

Are you looking for a way to share ideas with other dads on how to raise faith-filled children and understand why they behave the way they do? We are considering



starting a new "Cana Family – The Temperament God Gave You" group for young fathers in January 2021! The recommended meeting schedule is twice per month from January through May. The format includes a Gospel reflection, short Catechism study, and Art Bennett's book on *The Temperament God Gave You*. Learn how to identify and understand the four temperaments that determine our reactions, guide our choices, color our understanding, and serve as the foundation of our moral and spiritual life. Babysitting will be provided for young children. Please contact Brad Bursa at bbursa@stgertrude.org.

LET US PRAY

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

THE SICK:

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

THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES:

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

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED:

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

BAPTISM



Child: Caroline Alice Davison
Parents: Shannon & Brian Davison



You've heard of the peach truck, yes?
 Daisy Jane's Flower truck or
 The Book Bus?
 Guess what? **The Soupe Mobile**
 will be coming to a neighborhood
 near you. Pre-order online, and you
 can pick your order up at the
 following locations:

Tuesdays: 1-3pm
 2718 Observatory Ave.
 Comey & Shepherd/PrimeLending
 (Park at 2716 Observatory Ave.)

Thursdays: 1-3pm
 Mariemont
 Behind Mio's Pizzeria

Fridays: 12:30 - 2:30 PM
 Madeira
 St. Gertrude Church



Knights of Columbus – St. Gertrude recently undertook an initiative to purchase an ultra-sound machine for Life Forward – Loveland. This led to the first pregnancy care center ultra-sound in that zip code or any zip code touching it. This act of profound generosity will positively impact many women and their babies and will renown to the glory of our Lord.

Thank you St. Gertrude Knights of Columbus and parishioners for your passionate investment in Life for this generation and the next.

- From Your Friends at Life Forward



Psalm 139:13



† St. Vincent de Paul The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization that helps those in need or those living in poverty. We grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those individuals and families. Most of the assistance provided by St. Vincent de Paul is through parish-based Conferences, which are made up of small groups of men and women who are looking to grow in their faith through service to others. Each Conference serves people in need that live right in the neighborhood. The members of the St. Gertrude Conference respond to requests for help from people who are their neighbors here in Madeira.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international organization founded in Paris, France in 1833. Its founder was a young college student, Frederic Ozanam, who then said to a few fellow students, "Let us go to the poor." 185 years later, the Society is active in over 150 countries. In Cincinnati, we have 56 Conferences as well as two Outreach Centers, eight Thrift Stores, and a Charitable Pharmacy.

We invite you, as men and women of faith, to be part of our Conference. Through the work of St. Vincent de Paul, we can be a visible sign of God's love and mercy, as well as that of this parish family, through our caring for those in need. Volunteering with St. Vincent de Paul does not have to be time-consuming and there is a great deal of flexibility. You can choose how you would like to participate, matching it with your schedule and interests. If you cannot be part of the Conference, we would love for you to support our mission with your prayers and by donating to St. Vincent de Paul so that we can continue to assist those in need. If you have questions or are interested in joining SVDP, please leave a message at 513-561-5954, ext 2112 and a member will contact you.

ASK A PRIEST - HOW TO CELEBRATE ALL TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



Q. So apparently there really are “12 Days of Christmas” recognized by the Church. How do Catholic families celebrate the other eleven days after December 25th?

Fr. John Mark: Yes, if you count the days from Christmas until the traditional date for Epiphany (January 6), there are indeed twelve days! This reminds us of the time

leading up to Jesus’ circumcision and naming on the eighth day after His birth (cf. Lk 2:21), in addition to the time it took for the Magi to arrive before Herod began his dreadful persecution. The readings at Mass during these twelve days take on a variety of subjects as the Church peacefully gazes upon the Incarnate Son of God and then grapples with the variety of reactions His birth provoked and continues to provoke. It shouldn’t be surprising that Catholic culture over the centuries has developed countless traditions to celebrate the twelve days of Christmas. Flowing from participation in splendid liturgies and recollection through quiet moments spent in prayer, these days from Christmas Day to Epiphany can be joy-filled for each of us and our families.

Since no one wants to be a Scrooge with regard to the “keeping” of Christmas, here I recommend some basic principles to inspire and cultivate a true and full Christmas spirit. Here I admit to enlisting one of the most un-scooge-like moms in the parish, Mrs. Christy Kellner, to help give us some ideas about celebrating the Christmas Season in a Catholic home:

A spirit of sharing and giving. In the midst of festivity, we are often tempted to gorge ourselves on sweets or binge-watch our favorite TV series. No doubt, celebratory food and entertainment has its place at Christmas. Yet to enjoy these things with a true Christmas spirit, it is best to see them as gifts best shared in human company for edifying ends. What do I mean? The greatest joys we are promised at Christmas are spiritual, the fruits of divine love received in our hearts and shared: joy, peace, and mercy. These gifts originate from an encounter with God who “loved the world so much that he gave his only begotten Son” (Jn 3:16) and they blossom when we enjoy them in companionship with others. Christy recommends a withdrawal from purely materialistic or commercial pursuits. Family time, enhanced by games and other creative pastimes, is something worth cultivating. Activities that bring us “outside our bubble” are highly significant too, like singing carols for the poor and those confined to nursing homes. Even during COVID-19, we can find ways to imitate Jesus who, even though He was the Son of God, took on our lowly humanity so that we could partake in His divinity.

Living liturgically. Christy explains that the Church’s liturgy in the Christmas season can be highly formative and beneficial: “We go to daily Mass more often as a family... One of my favorite Masses is the Mass for the Holy Family. And I always appreciated [the] pro-life, pro-

marriage, pro-family homily during that Mass... Living liturgically in general helps to keep our family Christ-centered... In fact, we keep this tradition alive all year round. Our day starts with praying through the Mass readings and the Saint of the Day. When time and energy allows, I will craft the whole homeschool day around the Saint or Mass reading, but usually those types of days are saved for Saints to whom we have a special devotion. But I do typically cook to that Saint and their geographical region or incorporate a craft or art project related to the Saint.” From Christy’s involvement with the *Become Catholic* program, I know how excited she gets about bringing the Church’s daily saints and seasons into family celebrations. This leads to a final recommendation.

A spirit of celebrating. Everyone knows the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” Christy has used this fun carol to inspire the ongoing, faith-centered observance of Christmas in the home at least up to the start of Epiphany (a.k.a. “Twelfth Night”). Can you guess the hidden Catholic meaning behind the twelve drummers drumming, eleven pipers piping, ten lords a-leaping, nine ladies dancing, eight maids a-milking, seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, five golden rings, four calling birds three French hens, two turtle doves, and the partridge in the pear tree (See below)? Some “foodies” have developed Epiphany menus based off this list to enjoy with family and friends during these days. Others extend gift-giving throughout this time. Christy recommends continuing to play Christmas music and keeping the Christmas tree, lights, decorations, and Nativity scenes at least until the celebration of Epiphany.



To end, I borrow the penultimate sentence from Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*, in hopes that Scrooge’s discovery and transformation would be ours in the full celebration of this grace-filled season: “And it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us!”

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

12 Days of Christmas Catholic Key

- Partridge = Christ
- Turtle Doves = Old & New Testaments
- French Hens = Faith, Hope, & Love
- Calling Birds = Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John
- Golden Rings = Torah (Gen., Ex., Lev., Num., Deut.)
- Geese Laying = Days of Creation
- Swans Swimming = Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Maids Milking = Beatitudes
- Ladies Dancing = Fruits of Holy Spirit
- Lords Leaping = Ten Commandments
- Pipers Piping = Eleven Faithful Apostles
- Drummers Drumming = Twelve pts. of Apostles’ Creed

Monday, December 28	Tuesday, December 29	Wednesday, December 30	Thursday, December 31	Friday, January 1	Saturday, January 2	Sunday, January 3
Parish Office Closed	Parish Office Closed	Parish Office Closed	Parish Office Closed	Parish Office Closed		Rosary Sales <i>After Morning Masses</i> Outside (weather permitting) or Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby
Healing Rosary 7:00 p.m. Outside (weather permitting) or Church		Benediction 8:50 p.m. Church				Religious Education 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. School Cafeteria, Atrium
						HSYM Discipleship Cells 7:00 p.m. Parish Center

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

OFFERING

St. Gertrude Parish Weekly Collection and Budget Report

At the time of printing for the December 27, 2020 (Christmas) bulletin, the financial report from December 20 was not available.

Parish Office Info

Parish Office Hours

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

School Office Hours

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

Church Hours

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

FROM THE DIARY OF ST. MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA



During the Midnight Mass, I saw the Child Jesus in the Host, and my spirit was immersed in Him. Although He was a tiny Child, His majesty penetrated my soul. I was permeated to the depths of my being by this mystery, this great abasement on the part of God, this inconceivable emptying of Himself. These sentiments remained vividly alive in my soul all through the festive season. Oh, we shall never comprehend this great self-abasement on the part of God. (*Diary, #182*)

BULLETIN DEADLINE

BULLETIN
1/10/20

MATERIALS DUE
12/30/20

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

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

Parish Staff

Rev. George Schommer, O.P., pastor
 Rev. Clement Dickie, O.P., parochial vicar
 Rev. John Mark Solitario, O.P., parochial vicar

Dominican Friars in Residence

Very Rev. John Langlois, O.P., prior
 Rev. Joseph Alobaidi, O.P.
 Rev. Paul J. Keller, O.P.
 Rev. Michael Mary Dosch, O.P., novice master

St. Gertrude School – 513.561.8020

Principal – Sr. Maria Christi Greve, O.P. ext 1101
 Vice Principal – Mr. Travis Johnson ext 1101
 PTO President – Sarah Schilling 513.315.1053
 School Advisory Council

Office of Administration – 513.561.5954

Receptionists – Susan Kane & Teri Forlini ext 2101
 Business Manager – Don Regan ext 2102
 Wedding/Bereavement Coordinator –
 AnnaMaria Spurgin amspurgin@stgertrude.org
 Bulletin Editor bulletin@stgertrude.org
 Sacristan – Sheila Saalfeld ext 2401
 Director of Music – Catherine Fishlock ext 2116

Office of Evangelization – 513.561.5954

Executive Director – Brad Bursa, PhD ext 2109
 Primary Evangelization: PK-2nd Grade & Catechesis of the
 Good Shepherd
 Cindy Wurzelbacher ext 2109
 Jr. High Evangelization: 3rd-8th Grade – Bryan Wells ext 2109
 Jr. High Youth Ministry: 7th-8th Grade – Bryan Wells ext 2109
 High School Youth Ministry – Megan Dickert ext 2109
 Executive Assistant – Kristen Eggers 513.561.8369
 Aquinas Society of Cincinnati (Adults & Families) –
 Rev. Clement Dickie, O.P.
 Rites of Christian Initiation (R.C.I.A.) –
 Rev. John Mark Solitario, O.P.

Corporal Works of Mercy

Helping Hands – Nancy Lucas stgerthh@gmail.com
 Knights of Columbus – Phil Motz 513-444-5072
 Ladies of Charity – Jean Wilkinson 513.498.5085
 Parish Health Ministry – Jeanne Palcic 513.317.4123
 Pregnancy Center East (for all pregnancy needs) 513.321.3100
 Soup Kitchen – Andy Cordier 513.248.1005
 St. Vincent De Paul Society – Mark Findley 513.561.5954, ext 2112
 Visitation of the Sick – Judy Hartmann 513.984.8003

Vocations Directors

Archdiocese of Cincinnati – Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer 513.421.3131
 Dominican Friars –
 Fr. Jacob Bertrand Janczyk, O.P. DominicanFriars.org
 Nashville Dominican Sisters – Sr. Mara Grace, O.P. 615.256.5486

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Baptism Team –
 Circle of Prayer – Barbara Rose prayercirclesg@gmail.com
 Communion to Sick – Judy Hartmann 513.984.8003
 Natural Family Planning – David & Ann Stein 513.561.5751
 Pastoral Council – Mark Kosobud 513.469.0852
 Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration 513.561.5954 ext 2136
 Prayer Ministry for the Dying – Pat Collins 513.265.1897
 Regina Veritatis Prayer & Healing – Nealy Mechley 513.505.1740
 Respect Life – Debbie Graham 513.984.4766
 Rosary Making – Larry Ball 513.831.8572
 Unbound Ministry – Nealy Mechley 513.505.1740

Liturgical Ministries

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

Spiritual Groups

Adult Bible Study – 513.561.5954
 Amiguitas del Corazón de Jesús –
 Nora Klopp-Frias noraklopp08@gmail.com
 Angelic Warfare Confraternity –
 Rev. John Mark Solitario, O.P. 513.561.5954
 Benedictine Oblates – Mark Milliron 513.536.6275
 Catholic Men’s Fellowship – Paul Rieger 513.885.5903
 Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary –
 Brian Zappia 513.791.7299
 Dominican Laity (Bishop Fenwick) –
 Jonathan Ring ringjp@gmail.com
 Dominican Laity (OLP) –
 Mr. Fred Thomas, O.P. 513.335.1700 or fth5131119@aol.com
 FAMILIA/CANA Family For Mothers –
 Anita Pappalardo 513.248.8237
 Holy Family Prayer Group – Malissa Frohlich 513.519.5197
 Special Needs Moms Support Group –
 Tina Rolfes tina.rolfes123@gmail.com
 True Devotion to Mary – Anne Collins 513.984.4708

Parish Groups

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



Robert L. Franer III, AAMS®
Offering financial planning services and investment advice to Catholic families to help them pursue and use wealth morally.
513-334-1621 | robert.l.franer@lpl.com
www.franerfinancialadvice.com
8044 Montgomery Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45236
Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC

TRADITIONS AT CAMARGO
Every family has their traditions...
Traditions can be a part of yours.

**INDEPENDENT LIVING
ASSISTED LIVING • MEMORY CARE**

7650 CAMARGO ROAD • MADEIRA, OH 45243
513-422-5499 • WWW.TRADITIONSATCAMARGO.COM

KLEKAMP PAVING
Asphalt Paving
Patching
Asphalt
Sealcoating
513-561-4600
www.klekamp.com

ERIC D. BENDER
Attorney at Law
Moeller (1984)
University of Notre Dame (1988)
U.C. Law (1991)
www.ericbenderlaw.com

Family Law • Wills & Probate
Lawsuits • Guardianship
Adoption
891-5630
9764 Kenwood Road
in Blue Ash
Visa/Mastercard Accepted

gertz law
YOUR FAMILY'S LAWYER

GERTZLAW.COM

Reading Office (513) 554-1868
Loveland Office (513) 583-1549

Susan Marie Allspach, Esq.
Anthony J. Gertz, Esq.
Anthony J. Gertz II, Esq.

- Probate Administration/Estate Planning/Wills/Trusts
- Divorce/Family Law/Litigation
- Business/Corporate Transactions/Contracts

VOTED BEST OF CINCINNATI 2018

DELUXE
NAIL SALON & SPA

Mon-Fri 9:30a-8:00p
Sat 9:30a-6:30p
Sun 11:00a-6:00p

Now Offering Permanent Makeup
(513) 429-3110
7835 Camargo Road, Madeira, OH
www.thedeluxenailspa.com

MATT BONHAUS PAINTING
305-1021
mattbonhauspainting.com

FREE PICK UP & DELIVERY SERVICE

WIDMER'S
Premier Dry Cleaners Since 1910

513-321-5100
Widmerscleaners.com
7700 Shawnee Run Rd.,
Cincinnati, 45243

OVERBECK Auto Services
Your Automotive Expert Since 1976

Now 2 Locations!

6403 Madison, Madisonville • 271-1570
1793 Ohio Pike, Amelia • 797-4888

Would Jesus **SUPPORT** Taxpayer-Funded **ABORTION?** On Demand Until Birth

CincinnatiRighttoLife.org

AHP Anderson Hills Plumbing
Residential – Commercial – FREE ESTIMATES
Over 51 Years Experience & Satisfaction
Ernie, Jack, Ralph & Barb Vilardo
6229 Beechmont Avenue 513-232-3821

Compliments of
A Friend of the Parish

ROYALMONT ACADEMY
200 Northcrest Drive, Mason, OH
Catholic Preschool • High School • Full and 1/2 day Preschool
Open House | January 24 | 2-4:30 PM
513-754-0555 • www.Royalmont.org

STRAWSER & STALEY FUNERAL HOMES
BLUE ASH
9503 Kenwood Rd., Blue Ash OH 45242
513-791-7203 • www.strawserfuneralhome.com
Traditional Burial, Pre-Arranged Planning, Green Burial, Cremation Service and Pet Death Care.

Cincinnati organized
Organizing & decluttering support for homes & small businesses
702-1849
A life better organized has more time for living!

Homeography Real Estate and Commercial Photography INC
513.225.6428
www.homeography.biz

- *Photos
- *Video
- *Drone

Walter St. Clair Roofing
Serving Cincinnati Since 1923
Roofing & Sheet Metal Work
Slate & Tile Repair
Box Gutters & Seamless Gutters
JERRY ST. CLAIR, PARISHIONER 641-3265

SECO
Electric Company Inc.
350 Pike Street, Covington, KY
859-491-2984

CASTRUCCI COLLISION

MILFORD
Body Shop Direct Call
831-5460

CIS Central Insulation Systems, Inc.
FULL SERVICE INSULATION
Environmental Company
Asbestos & Mold Removal
(513) 242-0600

JEFF STANLEY
Portfolio Manager
Financial Advisor
513-762-5317
Jeff.stanley@morganstanley.com
http://www.morganstanleyfa.com/thestanleyedwardsgroup
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC. CRC 3268006 10/2020

The Stanley Edwards Group at Morgan Stanley

NMLS# 287975
CRC 3268006 10/2020

GEO. H. ROHDE & SON
Funeral Home
Since 1910
3183 Linwood Ave., Mt. Lookout Sq.
Serving Eastern Hills, Mt. Lookout & Hyde Park
513-321-0404
www.rohdefuneral.com
Directors:
Steve Rohde, Denise Mercier & Darrell Schneider

ATECH Fire Services
Commercial Fire Protection Services
Fire Extinguisher/Exit Lights/Fire Alarm
Sprinkler/Backflow/Special Hazard
513-755-1222

Compliments of
SCHUMACHER DUGAN CONSTRUCTION, INC
General Contractors and Land Development Company

HALPIN PLUMBING, INC.
513-631-2001
REMODEL/REPAIR

DESIGNS of NATURE
Landscape Design & Installation
Lawn & Bed Care
Gary Bergman
OCNT-Landscape
(513) 200-9141
designsofnature@embarqmail.com

Sharon Nursery
7319 Columbia Road
Garden Center & Landscaping
398-1008
www.sharonnursery.com

Treating Your Home Like Our Own
Roofing • Siding • Gutters
Windows • Storm Restoration
10 Year Workmanship Warranty
Locally Owned & Operated

CALL TODAY! 513-755-ROOF 7663

titan SIDING AND ROOFING
7103 Hamilton Mason Rd. West Chester, OH 45069
TitanSidingAndRoofing.com

0% INTEREST for 24 months Financing Available

513-574-0005
www.andersonautomatic.com

Anderson Automatic Heating & Cooling
Residential & Commercial
"Since 1929"

Providing Heating & Cooling Services to Parishioners of St. Gertrude since 1929.

Carrier Turn to the experts

Please Patronize Our Advertisers - To Place an Ad, Call 1-800-292-9020.

Continued from page 40B

SHEFCIK LAW

Business, Estate & Tax Planning: Wills, Trusts, Companies, Contracts etc. *Parishioner since 2000*

BOOK A FREE CONSULTATION AT SHEFCIKLAW.COM



beatrice
HOME IMPROVEMENT
513-254-5620
timbeatrice5@yahoo.com

TIM BEATRICE
Parishioner
513-254-5620
timbeatrice5@yahoo.com



Dr. Frederick A. Heiselman
General • Implant
Dentistry
Parishioner
513-561-8600
7140 Miami Ave., Ste. 201
fheiselmandds.com



HYDE PARK PAINTING and CARPENTRY
321-4100
Remodeling
Roofing/Gutters • Concrete
Plumbing/Electric
Drywall • Int./Ext. Painting
Your Complete Home Repair Company



Knights of Columbus
Archbishop Elder Council
elderkofc.org
Join today.
Visitkofc.org/joinus

WCI
Woodward Construction, Inc.
Jeff Woodward, *Parishioner* 513-247-9241
Celebrating 30 years in business
www.wciconstruction.com

Kitchen & Bath Remodeling



561-5285
7880 Camargo Rd.
kinsellakitchens.com



Engraved gifts for all occasions
7116 Miami Ave.
891-0730
www.gilsonsonline.com

GILSON'S
ENGRAVING
ELEGANT GIFTS



Keith D. Jackson DDS
Laura K. Jackson DDS
7113 Miami Avenue Madeira, OH 45243
Tel: (513) 561-5318

Thomas-Justin Funeral Homes, Inc.
Four Generations of Family Service to the Community

KENWOOD, 7500 MONTGOMERY RD.
513-791-5353
MADISONVILLE, 4418 WHETSEL AVENUE
513-271-0732



513-472-1985
www.bestplumbercincinnati.com
BEST PLUMBING
\$25 OFF with this Ad



Chuck Borchers
REALTOR, *Parishioner*
513-335-4039
charles.borchers@gmail.com
www.chuckborchers.com **Experts Realty**



Pendery CONSTRUCTION, INC.
Remodeling by professionals
Kitchens • Bathrooms
Room Additions
Screen & Covered Porches
Lower Levels & Basements
513.492.8429
7264 Columbia Rd., Ste. 600, Maineville
www.PenderyConstruction.com



Let's make it happen!
THE AMERICAN DREAM
The Monika DeRoussel Group
They Make It Happen!
513-289-1039
Monika DeRoussel
mderoussel@hotmail.com REALTOR®
exp REALTY
UNIQUE LUXURY LIVING



ENDRES GATEWAY DENTISTRY
Accepting New Patients
Dr. Eleanor Endres
Parishioner
513-791-8880 • www.endresdentistry.com
"Oral Health is the Gateway to Healthy Living"



Jim Volz
CPA & Trusted Advisor
794-1551
9900 Carver Rd., Blue Ash

Larry's LOCK, SAFE & SECURITY CENTER
791-9163

8005 Plainfield Road
Cincinnati, OH 45236

WITTE LANDSCAPE SPECIALISTS, INC.
Hardscape Landscape
• Walkways & Patios • Installations
• Driveways • Renovations
• Retaining Walls • Maintenance
• Drainage Systems • Snow Clearing
Quality Service for Over 30 years
396-6400
Ed Witte, *Parishioner*

Gilligan Funeral Homes
Established 1877
8225 Montgomery Road • 891-8373
Traditional & Cremation Services
www.gilliganfuneralhomes.com

T&J Electric and Controls
513-368-2700
www.TJElectric.com
7441 Shawnee Run Road
Madeira, Ohio 45243

FASTSIGNS
More than fast. More than signs.
513-396-7446
fastsigns.com/352
3248 Highland Avenue,
Cincinnati, OH 45213
Madeira Owned



STEPHEN K. SHAW LAW LLC
513-561-2400
Stephen K. Shaw (513) 673-8258
skshawlaw@gmail.com | skshawlaw.com
8157 Camargo Rd., Madeira, OH 45243
WILLS | TRUSTS | PROBATE

TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL
Joe Semrad,
*Local Resident Since 1987/
Certified Arborist*
Scapes
513.631.4442
www.ScapesOhio.com



The BMW Store
Passion Loves Company



CINCINNATI MINI
Passion for the Drive

6131 Stewart Rd.
Cincinnati OH 45227
513.271.8700
bmwstore.com cincinnati.mini.com



the BAUTE | ROBERTS GROUP
kw ADVISORS
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY

Nick Baute
Parishioner
513-236-2234
Nick@tbrgincincy.com



Cristina Genung
Parishioner
513-404-6011
Cristina@tbrgincincy.com

OH HVAC Lic. #30854 KY HVAC Lic. M04694
OH Plumbing Lic. #46270



Process Construction
MECHANICAL CONTRACTOR
Specializing in Piping, HVAC/R,
Plumbing & Service • Commercial & Industrial
www.processconstruction.com
(513) 251-2211 1421 Queen City Avenue

Please Patronize Our Advertisers - To Place an Ad, Call 1-800-292-9020.

#9-14606-CH-10/20