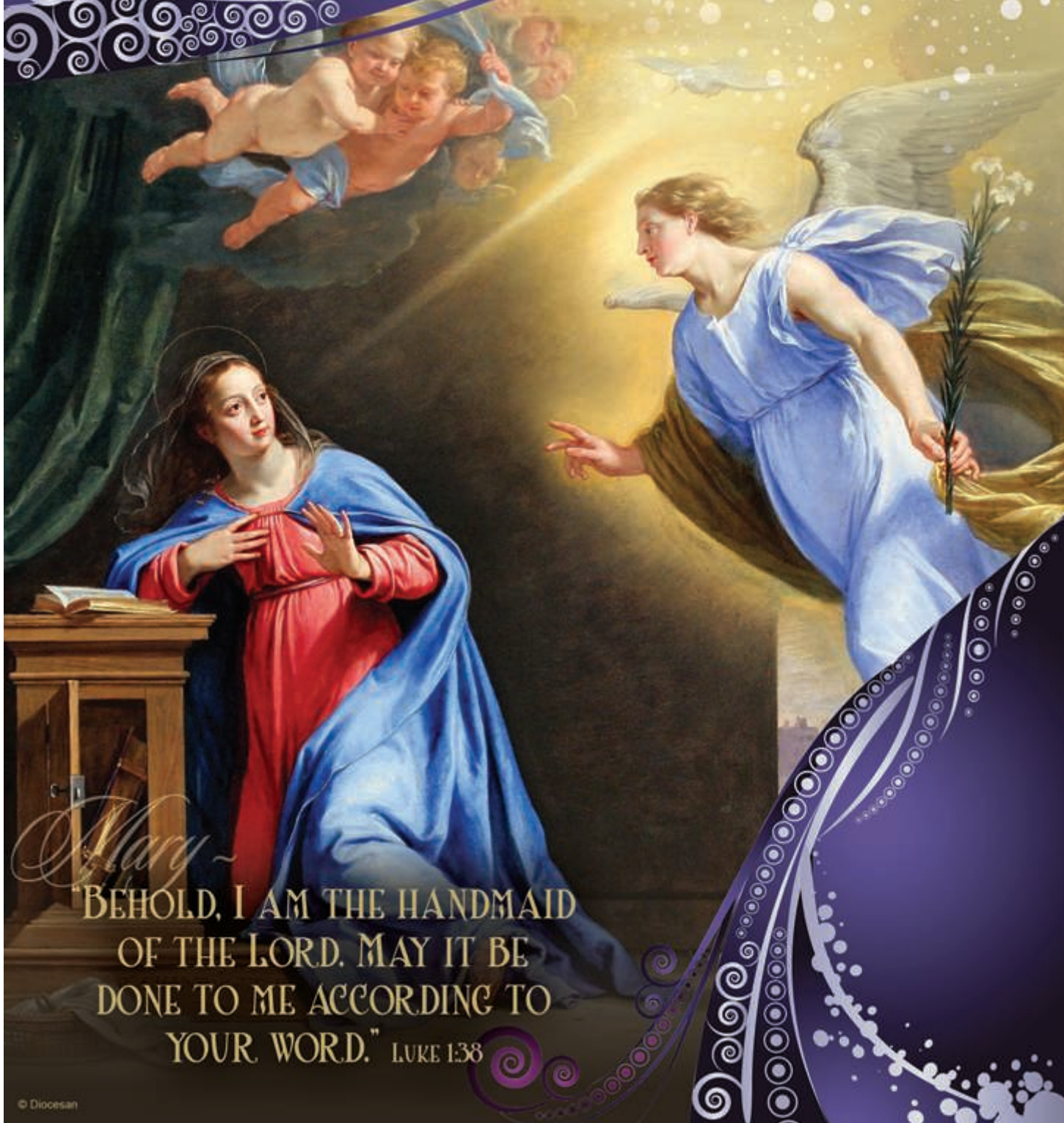


Fourth Sunday of Advent



Mary
"BEHOLD, I AM THE HANDMAID
OF THE LORD. MAY IT BE
DONE TO ME ACCORDING TO
YOUR WORD." LUKE 1:38



MISSION STATEMENT

St. Gertrude is a Roman Catholic Parish in the Dominican heritage of prayer, preaching, and teaching. Under our Lady's mantle, gathered as the Body of Christ, we celebrate Him in Sacraments, Sacred Scripture and in Catholic education. Serving our brothers and sisters in the New Evangelization, we seek to grow in love as we journey with Jesus to God the Father.

PARISH STAFF

Dominican Friars	<i>Pastor:</i> Rev. André-Joseph LaCasse, O.P. <i>Prior:</i> Very Rev. Allen Moran, O.P.
Parochial Vicars	Rev. Gabriel Torretta, O.P. Rev. Clement Dickie, O.P.
In Residence	Rev. Paul J. Keller, O.P. Rev. Joseph Alobaidi, O.P. Rev. Giles Dimock, O.P. Rev. Michael Mary Dosch, O.P. (Novice Master)
Parish Office/561-5954 (parishoffice@stgertrude.org)	
Receptionists	Susan Kane and Teri Forlini
Business Office	Mike Muse /ext 2102
Asst. Business Mgr. & Safe Environ./Child Protection	Mary Tappel/ext 2103
Music Director	Catherine Fishlock/ext 2116
Bulletin Coordinator (bulletin@stgertrude.org)	Gayle Bibisi
Office of Evangelization:	
Director of Adult Evangelization/Pastoral Services	Lawain McNeil/ext 1123
Director of Primary Youth Evangelization	Shari Siebert/561-8369
Director of Jr. High Youth Evangelization	Bryan Wells/ext 2110
Director of High School Youth Evangelization	Megan Dickert/ext 2109
Wedding/Bereavement Coordinator	AnnaMaria Spurgin/ext 1124
St. Gertrude School/561-8020 (stgertrudesch.org)	Sr. Mary Aquinas, O.P.
Vocation Directors	
<i>Archdiocese of Cincinnati</i>	Fr. Dan Schmittmeyer/421-3131
<i>Dominican Friars</i>	Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P., DominicanFriars.org
<i>Nashville Dominican Sisters</i>	Sr. Peter Marie, O.P./615-256-5486

PARISH MINISTRIES

<i>Athletic Boosters/Sports Leaders</i>	Marc Gerwel/774-7779
<i>Baptism Coordinators</i>	Mike & Mary Clare Peck/497-4783
<i>Benedictine Oblate</i>	Clyde & Pat Dorn/791-0988
<i>Catholic Men's Fellowship</i>	Chris Nachtrab/312-7841
<i>Choir</i>	Catherine Fishlock/561-5954
<i>Cincinnati Frassati Fellowship</i>	John Dumas IV/ contact@cincinnatiassati.com
<i>Circle of Prayer</i>	Barbara Rose/ prayercirclesg@gmail.com
<i>Communion to the Sick</i>	Judy Hartmann/984-8003
<i>Dominican Laity: Bishop Fenwick</i>	Jonathan Ring/ ringjp@gmail.com
<i>Dominican Laity: Our Lady of Peace</i>	Patty Connelly/793-2246
<i>Ex. Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	Rob Lockwood/319-0543
<i>Familia</i>	Anita Pappalardo/248-8237
<i>Ferro Acuitur</i>	Rick Sammons/675-1122
<i>Finance Council</i>	Tim Paulin/248-0441
<i>Gertie Moms</i>	Leslie Stahlberger/250-8480/ jstahlbergerfam@att.net
<i>Holy Family Prayer Group</i>	Malissa Frohlich/519-5197
<i>Knights of Columbus</i>	Tom Hahn/702-9354
<i>Ladies of Charity</i>	Jean Wilkinson/498-5085
<i>Lectors</i>	Casey Huber/675-7375
<i>Little Flower Library</i>	Susan Santos/504-0205
<i>Mater Filius Queen City</i>	Maria Resendiz/260-8055
<i>Natural Family Planning</i>	Dave & Ann Stein/561-5751
<i>Parent/Teacher Organization</i>	Sarah Holt/677-2122
<i>Parish Health</i>	Jeanne Palcic/317-4123
<i>Pastoral Council</i>	Dwight Stephenson/351-1769
<i>Perpetual Adoration</i>	561-5954, ext. 2136
<i>Prayer Ministry for the Dying</i>	Pat Collins/265-1897
<i>R.C.I.A.</i>	Rev. Gabriel Torretta, O.P./561-5954
<i>Regina Veritatis Healing Prayer</i>	Cornelia Mechley/340-4586
<i>Respect Life</i>	Debbie Graham/984-4766
<i>Rosary Makers</i>	Larry Ball/646-8523
<i>School Advisory Council</i>	Leah Naumann/260-5441
<i>Scouts</i>	Jim Pappalardo/248-8237
<i>Soup Kitchen</i>	Andy Cordier/248-1005
<i>St. Vincent de Paul</i>	Larry Ball/646-8523
<i>Stewardship Committee</i>	Brad Schueler/386-8935
<i>Ushers</i>	Douglas Postler/791-6298
<i>Website</i>	Sal Forlini/831-9265
<i>Women's Group</i>	Anne Marie Schmidt/859-486-3183
Pregnancy Center East (for all pregnancy needs)	321-3100

MASS, CONFESSION AND DEVOTION SCHEDULE

Monday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) (S)

A Holy Day of Obligation

8:00am	Christmas Novena
9:30am	Intentions of the Celebrant
11:00am	Intentions of the Celebrant
12:30pm	Intentions of the Celebrant

NO 6:00PM MASS

Tuesday, December 26, St. Stephan, The First Martyr (F)

7:00am	Christmas Novena
8:00am	Daniel LaCasse/Beinke Family
11:30am	Mark Poland/Poland Family
12:00pm	Midday Prayer

Wednesday, December 27, St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (F)

7:00am	Catherine Abele/Marifran & Bill Dirkes
8:00am	Christmas Novena
11:30am	Robert Yeager/Marylyn & Ray Clark
12:00pm	Midday Prayer
7:00pm	Vocations, Holy Hour, Confessions & Benediction

Thursday, December 28, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (F)

7:00am	William Rust/Laura Ringenbach
8:00am	Joseph A. Chovan, Sr./Chovan Family
11:30am	Christmas Novena
12:00pm	Midday Prayer

Friday, December 29, St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

7:00am	Christmas Novena
8:00am	Russell Smith/Glenn & Mary Paul
11:30am	Matthew Lustenberger/Joan Ratajczak
12:00pm	Midday Prayer

Saturday, December 30, Sixth Day within the Octave of the

Nativity of the Lord

8:00am	Mel Burbrink/Pam Farrell & Family
10:30am	Confessions
11:30am	Christmas Novena
3:30pm	Confessions

Dec. 30-31 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (F)

Sat. 4:30pm	Loretta Heuberger/Ed & Linda Witte
Sun. 8:00am	People of St. Gertrude, Living and Deceased
9:30am	Kohus & Bough Families/John & Hilda Bough
11:00am	Helen & Fred Robertshaw/Mary Weymouth
12:30pm	Christmas Novena
6:00pm	Willis & Bernadette McIntyre/Scott & Carrie McIntyre

BULLETIN DEADLINE

January 7 bulletin • December 27 Noon
Please submit your Mass announcements and bulletin articles to: bulletin@stgertrude.org
6543 Miami Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45243
(513) 561-5954 • FAX (513) 561-7184 • www.stgertrude.org

A very blessed 4th Week of Advent. Many times the 4th Week of Advent is very short because Christmas falls sometime during that week. Well this year it is the shortest possible. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is being celebrated on Saturday and Sunday, December 23-24, and then the Christmas Vigil Masses begin the very same Sunday, December 24 at 3:00pm! What a decorating nightmare for your pastor! Things are very busy around here as we make last minute plans for our Christmas celebrations. May God



bless and protect all of you during this Christmas Season, especially if you will be travelling.

Please remember St. Gertrude Church this Christmas and please be as generous as you can to the **Christmas Collection**. Please notice that we are in a \$14,127.74 deficit in collections for the year. We hope to make up this deficit with the Christmas Collection. We depend on your generosity during this time of year to balance our budget.

Every year I print this wonderful sermon by St. Bernard. I do so because it is so beautiful. I look forward to reading and meditating over it each year when it comes up in the Office of Readings of the Divine Office. I hope you find some time this week to read it slowly, pray and meditate over this beautiful homily composed by a saint who had a true love and devotion to the Mother of God.

From a homily In Praise of the Virgin Mother by St. Bernard, abbot

You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a son; you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady for your word of compassion; the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us.

The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God we all come to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life.

Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise. Abraham begs it, David begs it. All the other holy patriarchs, your ancestors, ask it of you, as they dwell in the country of the shadow of death. This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captives,



freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race.

Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word.

Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. This is the time for virginal simplicity to forget prudence. In this matter alone, O prudent Virgin, do not fear to be presumptuous. Though modest silence is pleasing, dutiful speech is now more necessary. Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to raise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all the nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. Behold, the handmaid of the Lord, she says, be it done to me according to your word.

God bless you, and a blessed week to all,

Rev. André-Joseph LaCasse, O.P., Pastor

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Obligations

Christmas, December 25, is a holy day of obligation, even though it falls on a Monday this year. Catholics must attend separate Masses for both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and for Christmas. **Attendance at one Mass does not fulfill both obligations.**

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, January 1, is also on a Monday this year, but the obligation to attend Mass has been dispensed. Therefore, the only Masses on January 1 will be at 7:00am, 8:00am, and 11:30am.

OFFERING

Offering for Sunday, December 17, 2017

Collection:	\$31,794.70
Year to Date (starting July 1):	\$925,872.26
Year to Date Budget:	\$940,000.00
Offering Deficit:	(\$14,127.74)
Children's Collection:	\$3.00

The year to date totals include stock and other large donations.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

The Sick

Anthony Alvarez, Lisa Bertke, Lynne Blake, Mary Lou Brockman, Bettie Caudill, Frank Cianciolo, Marguerite Crema, Triset Defonseka, Agnes Dryer, Kathy Elsbernd, Peggy Eshman, Marge Ferguson, Joe Holly, Hummel Family, Erin Kelly, Peggy Kindt, Cecilia Lemming, Ann Lukey, Linda Merkley, Leo Napuri, Marlene Ney, Bill Quattrone, Therese Rieger, Jane Sansalone, Richard Seifert, Patricia Scherer, Joe Schirmer, Pegge Schuermann, George Sullivan, Judy Sullivan, John Sweeney

Those in the Armed Forces

Chris Babcock, Adam Benvie, Patrick Burke, Cole Foster, Dominic Geraci, Daniel Holian, Mike Huber, Aaron Jacobson, Jacob Kramb, John Kramb, John Oscar, Drew Pearson, Ian Tester

The Deceased

Teresa Muellenbach, mother of Mary Pung

If you know of anyone who should be added or removed from the Prayer Column, please contact: bulletin@stgertrude.org.

Christmas Novena of Masses

Remember your family and friends, both living and deceased, in a special way for Christmas by enrolling them in our Christmas Novena of Masses. This nine-day series of Masses will begin on Christmas Day. Novena cards are available at the entrances of the church and in the Parish Office in the school. You can return your novena offering envelope in the collection or send it to the Parish Office.

Attention all 8th Grade Confirmation Candidates

Sunday, January 7 is our Ignite Candidate/Sponsor event in the Parish Center from 12:00 to 4:30pm. ALL candidates and sponsors are required to come. If your sponsor is unable to attend, a parent can fill-in. We will be attending the 12:30pm Mass together. Lunch will be provided along with prayer and breakout sessions. For questions, email Bryan at bwells@stgertrude.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sewing Help Needed for St. Gertrude School

St. Gertrude School has two wonderful traditions — the Christmas Pageant and the Passion Play. Some of our costumes are beginning to deteriorate beyond repair and need to be replaced. We are looking for a few people with sewing skills to help make new costumes for the Christmas Pageant and Passion Play. We will provide the pattern and materials if you will provide the skill. If you are interested in helping after the new year, please contact Stephanie Roma at mmroma01@gmail.com.

**URGENT — Adorers Needed**

Monday and Tuesday from 3:00-4:00am; Wednesday from 1:00-2:00am; Thursday from 3:00-4:00am; and Saturday from 1:00-2:00am. To sign up for these hours, please contact Anita Pappalardo at 248-8237 or pappacinci@gmail.com.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, December 25 — PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26

Wednesday, December 27

8:30am Resurrection Choir Practice: St. Joseph Room

5:30pm Mater Filius Prayer Group: Church

7:00pm Adult Choir Practice: PC Music Room

Thursday, December 28

6:30pm Regina Veritatis Prayer Meeting: PC Music Room

7:00pm Cincinnati Frassati Fellowship: St. Dominic Lobby

8:00pm Ferro Acuitur: School Classroom

Friday, December 29 — PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

7:30pm Communion & Liberation: St. Dominic Lobby

Saturday, December 30

Sunday, December 31 — Little Flower Library Closed

10:30am RCIA/Breaking Open The Word: St. Joseph Room

Monday, January 1 — PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Prayer Shawl Ministry

During this Christmas season and into January, the Prayer Shawl ministry will be working on a new community project, **Little Hats, Big Hearts**. We will knit and crochet red newborn hats for the American Heart Association, to hand out to newborns in the month of February, American Heart Month. These little hats will help support and inspire moms to take their family's heart health to heart while also raising awareness about heart defects. The link will give more information, patterns are listed in the link for the hats, they ask you to use washable yarn. Prayer Shawl will have red skeins of yarn if needed. Here is the link: www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Affiliate/Little-Hats-Big-Hearts_UCM_487734_SubHomePage.jsp

Our next meeting is January 17 at 9:00am in the St. Joseph Room. Free Prayers Shawls are also available if you need one this Christmas season. Please contact Rebecca Diwan for any questions, 513-575-6658 or rebeccadiwan@gmail.com.

St. Faustina's Diary

When I arrived at Midnight Mass, from the very beginning I steeped myself in deep recollection, during which time I saw the stable of Bethlehem filled with great radiance. The Blessed Virgin, all lost in the deepest of love, was wrapping Jesus in swaddling clothes, but Saint Joseph was still asleep. Only after the Mother of God put Jesus in the manger did the light of God awaken Joseph, who also prayed. But after a while, I was left alone with the Infant Jesus who stretched out His little hands to me, and I understood that I was to take Him in my arms. Jesus pressed His head against my heart and gave me to know, by His profound gaze, how good He found it to be next to my heart. (*Diary*, #1442)



STEWARDSHIP

Give Back to St. Gertrude

Use the AmazonSmile unique charity link
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0616477>

where Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to St. Gertrude Church. When you sign up for AmazonSmile, you're asked to select one of over a million charities to support. When you click on the unique link, you skip this charity selection process. Instead, you're taken to smile.amazon.com and are automatically asked if you want to support St. Gertrude Church.



New Album From the Student Brothers

The student brothers of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph have produced a new album of folk music, *The Hillbilly Thomists*.




Following upon four previous albums of sacred music, including last year's Christmas album, *Christ Was Born to Save*; this new album features friars sharing their Gospel joy through Americana music. Your support of this album will aid the formation of the many Dominican student brothers in Washington, DC (including Brothers

Jonah and Simon Teller, sons of this parish). CDs can be purchased for \$15 from Br. Simon after Masses on December 31 or dominicanajournal.org/music/.

Ferro Acuitur

This new men's ministry will be meeting on December 28 at 8:00pm in the school's Lower Level (Room 16). We will have teachings on the virtues of piety and fear of the Lord, as we celebrate Advent and prepare for Jesus' arrival on Christmas. If you are looking for someone to strengthen your faith with and to build trust and a relationship with other men, we hope you will come out and see what we are about. contact Rick Sammons at rightpathcfo@gmail.com or 675-1122.



Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.

Saint Vincent de Paul is an organization dedicated to helping those in our community who are less fortunate than ourselves. We accept donations of non-perishable food items in a blue barrel located inside the sacristy entrance. We also accept clothing donations in a large container in the school parking lot adjacent to the maintenance building.

Baptisms

Please congratulate these couples whose children were baptized at St. Gertrude Catholic Church on Sunday, December 10, 2017.



Colin and Amanda Riley (Leann Marie)



Michael and Katherine Storms (Patrick Watkins)

2018 St. Gertrude Festival

The Festival Auction Committee is starting to prepare for the 2018 festival. If you received a gift card or gift this holiday season, that you don't think you will use, please consider donating it to the auction! Items can be dropped off in the Parish Office.

St. John Vianney

A performance depicting St. John Vianney by actor Leonardo DeFilippis (St. Luke Productions) may be a possibility next year in Cincinnati. Anyone interested in committing to assist in coordinating this evangelistic event in a facility yet to be decided, please call Joe Martino at 513-891-7301.