

St. Gertrude Parish

6543 Miami Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45243





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 Pastor: Rev. André-Joseph LaCasse, O.P.
 Prior: 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
Archdiocese of Cincinnati Fr. Dan Schmittmeyer/421-3131
Dominican Friars Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P., DominicanFriars.org
Nashville Dominican Sisters Sr. Peter Marie, O.P./615-256-5486

PARISH MINISTRIES

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

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(513) 561-5954 • FAX (513) 561-7184 • www.stgertrude.org

A blessed Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, and a Very Merry Christmas to all!

I wish to express my grateful thanks for your generosity to the Christmas Collection, which we depend upon for the financial stability of our beloved parish. And a special thank you to all who have been generous in the Christmas flowers collection.

As we come to worship the new born King of Kings, Jesus Christ, we come in thanksgiving to God for his many blessings in our lives, especially the blessing of faith and family. In a very special way please remember those who are alone this Christmas and those who have lost loved ones since last Christmas. This Christmas please take some time to make a phone call or visit someone you know who is alone or mourning the loss of loved ones. Christmas is a joyful celebration, but for many it is also a challenge. Let us not forget them and let us pray for them.



Let us also remember one another and our parish this Christmas, we have so much to be grateful for, especially the Lord Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass and in Perpetual Adoration. We welcome so many new families worshipping here at Christmas for the first time,

and family members coming home for reunions. As I remind the children of the school every time I celebrate Mass for them: St. Gertrude Parish and School is a School of Love. Love for God and love for one another. This Christmas let us pray that every day we will grow in our desire to become "Intentional Missionary Disciples of Jesus Christ," telling others of the love that we have discovered in the Christ Child born for the salvation of the entire world.

Of course Christmas is not complete without taking the time to thank so many who have made our celebration so complete. First to the Dominican friars who have heard your confessions and prepared the Christmas liturgies and homilies; to our beloved Dominican sisters in our school, religious education program and youth ministry for preparing our children and young adults for Christmas; to our wonderful choir and cantors and to Mrs. Catherine Fishlock for beautiful music and song; to our ushers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, servers, and decorators. And to all of you who have come to celebrate with us. Together may we grow closer to our Divine Savior during the Christmas Season which begins the eve of Christmas and continues all the way to January 9, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Please remember that before Christmas we observe the Advent season, now we are in the Christmas Season. Now is the time to celebrate with Christmas parties and reunions. Let's make sure we keep in mind this wonderful liturgical season of Christmas right up its end on January 9, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

This Christmas I have selected a sermon by St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Africa, for you to take a few minutes of prayer and reflection:



"Awake, mankind! For your sake God has become man. *Awake, you who sleep, rise up from the dead, and Christ will enlighten you.* I tell you again: for your sake, God became man.

You would have suffered eternal death, had he not been born in time. Never would you have been freed from sinful flesh, had he not taken on himself the likeness of sinful flesh. You would have suffered everlasting unhappiness, had it not been for his mercy. You would never have returned to life, had he not shared your death. You would have been lost if he had not hastened to your aid. You would have perished, had he not come.

Let us then joyfully celebrate the coming of our salvation and redemption. Let us celebrate the festive day on which he who is the great and eternal day came from the great and endless day of eternity into our own short day of time.

He has become our justice, our sanctification, our redemption, so that, as it is written: Let him who glories glory in the Lord.

Truth, then, has arisen from the earth: Christ who said, *I am the Truth*, was born of a virgin. And justice looked down from heaven: because believing in this newborn child, man is justified not by himself but by God.

Truth has arisen from the earth: because *the Word was made flesh.* And justice looked down from heaven: because believing in this newborn child, man is justified not by himself but by God.

Truth has arisen from the earth: flesh from Mary. And justice looked down from heaven: for man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.

Justified by faith, let us be at peace with God: for *Truth has arisen from the earth.* Through whom we have access to that grace in which we stand, and our boast is in our hope of God's glory. He does not say: "of our glory," but *of God's glory:* for justice has not proceeded from us but has looked down from heaven. Therefore *he who glories, let him glory, not in himself, but in the Lord.*

For this reason, when our Lord was born of the Virgin, the message of the angelic voices was: *Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.*

For how could there be peace on earth unless *Truth has arisen from the earth*, that is, unless Christ were born of our flesh? And *he is our peace who made the two into one:* That we might be men of good will, sweetly linked by the bond of unity.

Let us then rejoice in this grace, so that our glorying may bear witness to our good conscience by which we glory, not in ourselves, but in the Lord. That is why Scripture says: *He is my glory, the one who lifts up my head.* For what greater grace could God have made to dawn on us than to make his only Son become the son of man, so that a son of man might in his turn become son of God?

Ask if this were merited; ask for its reason, for its justification, and see whether you will find any other answer but sheer grace."

God bless you, and a blessed week to all,

Rev. André-Joseph LaCasse, O.P.

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

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, 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

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

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.

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!

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/.

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

8:00am 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

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, January 1, is 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.

Merry Christmas from the Festival Auction Booth!

If you receive a gift or gift card you won't use, we are happy to accept donations to the 2018 Festival Auction. Please drop off at the Parish Office.

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.

St. Faustina's Diary

The Word becomes flesh; God dwells among us, the Word of God, Mercy Incarnate. By Your descent, You have lifted us up to Your divinity. Such is the excess of Your love, the abyss of Your mercy. Heaven is amazed at the superabundance of your love. No one fears to approach You now. You are the God of mercy. You have compassion on misery. (*Diary*, #1745)



OFFERING

Collection amounts will be published in the December 31 bulletin.