

ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH

January 17, 2021

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

MASSES AT ST. GERTRUDE

Monday, January 18, Weekday

7:00 a.m. †Jack Schuler/Molly & Bruce Vollmer

8:00 a.m. †Tim Petric/Al Stevenson

11:30 a.m. †Deceased Members of the Dominican Order

Tuesday, January 19, Weekday

7:00 a.m. †Mr. Elmer William Gardner/Heidi & Ron Sparer

8:00 a.m. †For a Special Intention/Anonymous

11:30 a.m. †Fr. Matthew Gamber, SJ/The Seasons of

Hope Ministry

Wednesday, January 20, Weekday

7:00 a.m. †Patricia Mary Field/Leslie & Hartmann Young

8:00 a.m. †Jerry Seeger/Seeger Children 11:30 a.m. The Kang Family/The Isaacs Family

Thursday, January 21, St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr (M)

7:00 a.m. †Michael Niesen/Eileen Pope

8:00 a.m. †Barbara Hellman/Terry & Mary Smithers

11:30 a.m. †Patricia R. Barnes/Her Children

Friday, January 22, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

7:00 a.m. †Joan Fries/Don & Nancy Beimesche

8:00 a.m. †Victor Anthony Sabino/Charlene Rettig Bosken

11:30 a.m. †Arthur Sidell/Ray & Marylyn Clark

Saturday, January 23, Weekday

8:00 a.m. †Juanita McDaniel/The DeCaprio Family

11:30 a.m. †Tom Poland/The Poland Family

January 23-24, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday †Stan Clark/Joan Kunkel

Sunday People of St. Gertrude, Living and Deceased

†Jake Megois/Michael & Jana Widmeyer †Shirley Seeger/Diane & Jim Tomaszewski

†Mary Twigg/Peter Bertoli

†Vada Holscher/Elaine & Jeff Parker



Missa Cantata in the Dominican Rite

The Ancient and Unique Rite of the Order of Friars Preachers

The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

Monday, January 25, 2021 7:30PM St. Gertrude Catholic Church

> 6543 Miami Ave. | Cincinnati, OH 45243 www.StGertrude.org/DominicanRite



"The Conversion of St. Paul", Michelangelo Caravaggio (Rome, c.1601), Odescalchi Balbi Collection, Rome





ASLEEP BEFORE THE LORD

Have you ever fallen asleep during Mass? Have you fallen asleep during your prayer time? For those of us who have, there can be guilt and frustration. We had

expectations; we had so many things to pray about. We can be disappointed with ourselves and with God. But, is sleeping in the presence of the Lord such a bad thing? Perhaps not. The first reading for today's Mass tells us that "Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was." In modern words, he was sleeping in front of the tabernacle. St. Therese of Lisieux used to fall asleep during her mental prayer. However, she was not overly upset by this weakness. This is what she wrote in her Autobiography: I think how little children please their parents just as much when they are asleep as when they are awake; I think how doctors put patients to sleep in order to do operations. And finally, I think how "the Lord sees our weakness, he remembers that we are but dust" (Manuscript A). St. Joseph received clear instructions from the Lord in his dreams and St. Paul had a vision during the night of a man inviting him to bring the Gospel to Macedonia.



So, while we should not have the intention of taking a nap when going to Mass or to pray, we can learn that the Lord can call us to a vocation or a greater fulfillment of our vocation during our sleeping or just as we awake. Eli, the priest of the temple, taught Samuel to respond to God's call by saying, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." A simple prayer with life-changing consequences. The Psalm Response today offers the same theme: "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will." All of us, whatever our station in life, are called to the life-giving surrender of obedience. In different ways, the Lord calls us to discover the meaning and purpose of our lives through the continual choice

of following Him. Andrew, one of the two disciples of John the Baptist, responded to the Lord's invitation "Come, and you will see." (Today's Gospel) Thus began the encounter that would bear fruit in bringing many others into a relationship with Jesus, beginning with his own brother Simon Peter.

Memorize the Psalm response for today. Use it to pray whether you are awake or asleep. When the Lord speaks to you, you will be ready with a reply that fulfills the longing of the human heart. This is the adventure of discipleship with the One who created you to live in friendship with Him.

Let us love one another and pray for each other,

Fr. George, O.P.

FROM THE DIARY OF ST. MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA



Jesus loves hidden souls. A hidden flower is the most fragrant. I must strive to make the interior of my soul a resting place for the Heart of Jesus. In difficult and painful moments, O my Creator, I sing You a hymn of trust, for bottomless is the abyss of my trust in You and in Your mercy! (Diary, #275)

COVER IMAGE: PHOTO BY NICK STARESINIC.

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.







St. Gertrude School invites you to our

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WHAT WOULD FATHER MATT DO?

BY: JOHN STEIN, SJ

Editor's Note: Fr. Matthew Gamber, S.J. (1959-2020) was a good friend of the Dominican community and a father-figure and friend of many of our parishioners.

"More and more, the desire grows in me simply to walk around, greet people, enter their homes, sit on their doorsteps, play ball, throw water, and be known as someone who wants to live with them. It is a privilege to have the time to practice this simple ministry of presence." - Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)

I was greeted with heartbreaking news the morning of October 17, 2020: Fr. Matthew Gamber, S.J. had died suddenly the previous day at the age of 61.

I first met Fr. Matt when I was two years old. I don't remember much from those early days, but I do recall that on quiet Saturday afternoons in the late 1990s, when he was teaching at Xavier University and I was in primary school, Fr. Matt often stopped by our house just to say hello. He usually arrived unannounced, and he always brought gifts: a sweet treat for the kids, sometimes flowers for my mom or a re-gifted sweater for my dad.

With a smile and plenty of hearty laughs, Fr. Matt would greet each member of the family in turn, and he made it a point to receive a full update on how everyone was doing. His memory always impressed me; in more than two decades he never seemed to forget what all seven of my siblings and I were up to - where we were in school, what our majors were, which jobs we were starting. His distinctive way of saying the word "Oh-kay" while sipping his wine or nibbling on a cookie as he listened to our life updates still rings in my ears.

Fr. Matt was part of the family. Since our extended family lived hours away, he took on the role of Uncle Matt. When he came over, he simply relaxed with us. We ate, drank, chatted, prayed together. Before everyone

smartphones, Fr. Matt would use my dad's computer to check his email. In the summer he came to the pool with us to swim laps. Occasionally, I even found him taking a nap on the living room couch.

Like any good Jesuit, Fr. Matt's ministry as a priest took him



all over the world - Chicago, Tampa, Spokane, Rome - and yet he found a way to be with us for important family events: a vacation to the Outer Banks in 1999, my sister's baptism in 2001, my brother's wedding in 2011, grandma's funeral in 2018. Despite his wanderings, his priestly friendship never wavered.

In the Formula of the Institute, the founding document of the Society of Jesus, St. Ignatius exhorts his Jesuit sons to work for "the spiritual consolation of Christ's faithful." In difficult moments of discernment, Fr. Matt did precisely this for my family. When my parents were trying to decide whether to move the family to a new house, Fr. Matt pronounced a confident, "Of course you should!" We moved shortly thereafter. When I was agonizing with a decision to leave the diocesan seminary, Fr. Matt sat me down at an Italian bistro and calmed me down. I joined the Jesuits a year later.

Like many of his Jesuit predecessors who were famous letter-writers, Fr. Matt stayed in touch better than almost anyone I know. He always sent a note, a postcard, a job update. Most recently, in August he wrote to congratulate me on my first vows as a Jesuit. As I opened his note, memories rushed back from early childhood; he had included a gift card for (what else?) but a delicious dessert: Ted Drewes Frozen Custard, a St. Louis specialty. I made a mental note to send a thankyou, but I hesitated. Now it's too late.

Fr. Matt was, of course, a spiritual father to more than just my family. He had a deep devotion to Pope St. John Paul II, and he emulated the late pontiff in his ministry to young people, leading trips to several World Youth Days. In just the last few years, he had become one of the most relied-upon confessors in Cincinnati. At every youth retreat, conference, or event, Fr. Matt was there, bringing reconciliation to God's people.

Only recently, since following Fr. Matt into the Society of Jesus, have I come to realize how unique it was to have had such a terrific mentor in my youth. He was a good priest who was simply there; he brought the presence of Christ right into our home. I never knew him in any formal capacity – he was neither my teacher nor my parish priest – yet his example sowed the seeds of a religious vocation in me. In his love for the Lord and for my family, his infectious laugh and unshakeable joy, and, perhaps most importantly, in his sheer presence, he gave me a model of how I too might care for the people of God.

Fr. Matt was truly a friend in the Lord. I often ask myself, "What would Fr. Matt do?" and it has not led me astray. I pray for his repose and that one day he will intercede for us as well.

John Stein, SJ, is a Jesuit scholastic from Cincinnati, OH. He attended St. Gertrude School, St. Xavier High School and the University of Dallas. He is currently studying philosophy at Saint Louis University. He enjoys singing, playing ultimate frisbee, and watching the Cincinnati Bengals.— jsteinsj@thejesuitpost.org/Post Archive This article was originally published in The Jesuit Post (www.thejesuitpost.org). It has been reproduced here with permission from the online journal.

LET US PRAY

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

THE SICK:

Anthony Alvarez, Lisa Bertke, Bettie Caudill, Larry & Pat Collins, Marguerite Crema, Kylee Dawson, 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, Tim Ney, 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:

Barbara Dugan – mother of Anne Collins William Fentress – father of Scott Fentress

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS



Edgar & Jane Cox Jayne Meyer Jay & Ashley Ratajczak John & Patricia Kilgore

HOLY COMMUNION WITH LOW-GLUTEN HOST

The parish is happy to minister Holy Communion with low-gluten hosts for those who require it. Such persons should approach the altar the end of the procession for Holy Communion and identify themselves to the minister at that time. On Sundays, such persons should make themselves known to an usher before Mass and follow the instructions above.

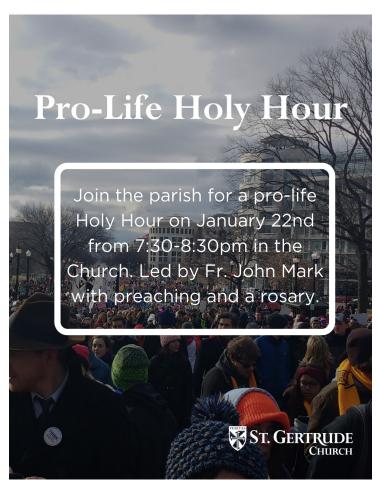


2021 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (CMA)

It is time to kick off the 2021 Catholic Ministries Appeal throughout the archdiocese! The CMA is our opportunity each year to support the work of six vital ministries all of which operate right here in our archdiocese. This year our parish goal is \$93,470.

Also, if we exceed our parish goal for the CMA, 50% of our overage comes back to the parish to be used toward new evangelization initiatives at St. Gertrude.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's CMA. Your help is needed as we stand with the thousands of people served throughout our archdiocese. For more information or to donate online, please visit www.AOCstewardship.org. Thank you!



K OF C - ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE

2020 Raffle for Life - Recap Raffle Drawing

On Saturday, December 12, 2020, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, our Pastor, Fr. George drew the winning raffle ticket from the 220 tickets that were sold. Congratulations to Kevin and Jessica Conlon and their lovely family as the grand prize winners of the 2020 Raffle for Life.

Blessing of the Ultrasound Machine

On Saturday, December 19, 2020, Fr. George blessed the GE Voluson S8 ultrasound machine at the Care Center in Loveland, OH. He was joined by parishioners, members of the Knights of Columbus, and personnel from LIFE FORWARD.

Thanks to the parishioners and friends of St. Gertrude, this was the 1,304th ultrasound machine placed by the Knights of Columbus since the inception of Ultrasound Initiative Program in January 2009.

In future bulletins, we will provide status updates about the number of ultrasounds performed and babies born to LIFE FORWARD

clients.



Picture #1 - Fr. George and Grand Knight Phil Motz present the \$5,000.00 check to Kevin Conlon.



Picture #2 - Fr. George blessing the ultrasound machine.



Picture #3 - 4 parishioners and Knights participating in the celebration.

A NEW YEAR/A NEW OPPORTUNITY

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ASK A PRIEST - INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN BIBLE AND CHURCH TEACHING?

THIS WEEK, FR. JOSEPH ALOBAIDI, AN EXPERT IN THE BIBLE, ANSWERS A QUESTION FROM A PARISHIONER.

Q: In Exodus 21, God seems to say that killing a slave (v 20) or even an unborn child (v 22) is not as serious as killing "a man" (v 12), because the punishments are less severe. This seems to imply the former have less intrinsic value and dignity than the latter. Or else God contradicts Himself later such as through Church teaching on human dignity. Obviously neither is true, and I wondered how these verses should be interpreted in a Catholic light.

A: Your question is very clever and touches the essence of biblical inspiration. It is also a question that I "worked" a lot in my classes and gave many conferences about, especially in my retreats for priests. All this to say that many faithful are troubled by certain passages of the Bible and find contradictions, either within the Bible or between the Bible and the Church's teaching. I will mention a few of the principles that help to understand the problem of violent passages in the Bible. I will avoid commenting on particular passages; instead, here are few principles:

1. When God inspires the biblical scribe, He does not disrespect the human nature or the human conditions. On the contrary. At the time of Abraham for example (34-35 centuries ago?), children were considered the property of their parents and child sacrifice in one of the two major religions in the Middle-East, the Babylonian religion, was acceptable. In other words, the child was at the disposal of his father. Therefore, Abraham did not object when he was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac (Gen 22). At that time in history, the life of a child had no recognized value. In contrast, fifteen centuries or so later, in Luke 18:17, children become the role model of faith and the recipient par excellence of the Kingdom of God.

2. Human conditions change. Their modification has consequences on the writing of the Bible. For example, the

condition of slavery was considered positive in a poor society where the fundamental problem was having daily food and surviving. The slave could be sure that his master would secure for him and his family food and protection. By contrast, in modern society where the fundamental problem is human dignity and equality between individuals (not any more having daily food and protection), slavery has become intolerable. If you apply that to the Virgin Mary who in the *Magnificat* says: "I am the slave (often translated by "servant") of the Lord" (see Lk 1:38), she is saying that the Lord is the One who secures her survival and her protection.

3. In the Catholic Church, we believe that Inspiration is continued, after the Bible, through Tradition and the Magisterium. Between the child that has no human value (see Gn 22) and the child role model of faith (see Luke 18) and the twentieth-century Church teaching *Humanae Vitae* there is no contradiction. Rather, there has been development in human conditions and our understanding of human nature with its inherent dignity. Thanks to His mercy and grace, God had used human beings in different stages of their history and self-understanding to convey the message of salvation.



"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!

Monday, January 18	Tuesday, January 19	Wednesday, January 20	Thursday, January 21	Friday, January 22	Saturday, January 23	Sunday, January 24
Religious Education 3:30 p.m. School Atrium	Children's Choir 3:00 p.m. Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby	Prayer Shawl 10:30 a.m. Parish Center St. Joseph Mtg. Rm.	Cana Family 9:30 a.m. Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby		Catholic Men's Fellowship 7:30 a.m. School Cafeteria	Religious Education 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. School Cafeteria, Atrium
SportsLeader 6:00 p.m. Parish Center St. Joseph Mtg. Rm.	Religious Education 4:30 p.m. School Atrium	Rosary Makers 3:00 p.m. Parish Center St. Joseph Mtg. Rm.	Regina Veritatis Team Meeting 6:30 p.m. Parish Center Music Room			Confirmation Preparation 9:00 a.m. School Cafeteria
Boosters 7:00 p.m. Parish Center St. Joseph Mtg. Rm.	Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. School Cafeteria	Adult Choir 7:00 p.m. Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby				
Healing Rosary 7:00 p.m. Outside (weather permitting) or Church	Real Friendship 7.30 p.m. Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby	Benediction 8:50 p.m. Church				
RCIA 7:00 p.m. Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby			-			

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

Collection for January 3

Collection	Э	40,864				
Wkly Bdgt	\$	50,000				
Wkly Deficit	(\$	9,136)				
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$	1,075,000				
Fiscal YTD Actual	\$	1,096,987				
Fiscal YTD Surplus	\$	21,987				
Collection for January 10						

Collection for January 10					
Collection	\$	40,828			
Wkly Bdgt	\$	40,000			
Wkly Surplus	\$	828			
Fiscal YTD Budget	\$	1,115,000			
Fiscal YTD Actual	\$	1,137,815			
Fiscal YTD Surplus	\$	22,815			

BULLETIN DEADLINE

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

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PARISH DIRECTORY

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. John Corbett, O.P.

Rev. Paul J. Keller, O.P.

Rev. Michael Mary Dosch, O.P., novice master

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Office of Administration - 513.561.5954

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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

Jr. High Youth Ministry: 7th-8th Grade – Bryan Wells

High School Youth Ministry – Megan Dickert ext 2109

ext 2109

ext 2109

ext 2109

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.

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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 -

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513.505.1740

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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

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