



ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH

February 28, 2021

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

MASSES AND CONFESSIONS AT ST. GERTRUDE

Monday, March 1, Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. †Jack Schuler/Steve & Valerie Badinghaus
8:00 a.m. †Diannier Sanders/St. Gertrude School
Faculty & Staff
11:30 a.m. †Deceased Members of the Dominican Order

Tuesday, March 2, Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. The Zimmer Family/The Juergens Family
8:00 a.m. †Hank Wordeman/Peter Bertoli
11:30 a.m. †Lilly Alexander/Benny Alexander

Wednesday, March 3, Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. †Nancy Roberts/Courtney Roberts
8:00 a.m. †Leo J. Breslin/Kevin Breslin
11:30 a.m. †Tim Petric/Mary Petric

Thursday, March 4, Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. †Darryl Morgan/Travis & Kirsten Johnson &
Family
8:00 a.m. †Robert & Joan Rogers/The Hellers
11:30 a.m. †Jack Deimling/Carol Deimling

Friday, March 5, Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. †Virginia Schmidt/Paul & Eileen Ramstetter
8:00 a.m. †Betty Sullivan/The Stines Family
11:30 a.m. †John Dissel/Kevin & Jessica Conlon

Saturday, March 6, Lenten Weekday

- 8:00 a.m. †Ann Reilly/Dianna Moore
11:30 a.m. †Marilyn Voge/The Knights of Columbus

March 6-7, 3rd Sunday of Lent

Saturday – 4:30 p.m.

†Ed & Janet Tappel/AnnaMaria & Jim Spurgin

Sunday – 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

People of St. Gertrude, Living and Deceased

†Mary Kay Feighery/John Feighery

†Joan Vennemeyer/Tom & Peggy Frank

†Tim Petric/The Beinke Family

†Jane Thole/Sheila Saalfeld

Confessions will be heard in the church each week

**Monday-Friday at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
and Saturday at 3:30 p.m.**

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.

NOMINATIONS FOR PASTORAL COUNCIL OF ST. GERTRUDE

It is time once again to seek nominations for open positions on the Pastoral Council of St. Gertrude. The council represents the people of the parish and serves as a consultative body to the pastor. Council members are selected from among registered adults (age 21 or over) who have been parishioners for at least one year. The Council meets the fourth Monday of the month during the school year. Please consider nominating yourself or someone you feel may be called to this important ministry. Please do not nominate someone without first speaking with them.

Nominations will be accepted up to March 8th, 2021.

Submit nominations using the form below. Drop in the collection basket or bring/send to the parish office.
6543 Miami Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45243

I would like to nominate the following parishioner for consideration for St. Gertrude Parish Pastoral Council.

Name: _____

Contact Information: Telephone # _____ Email Address: _____

This person is being nominated by: _____



THE POWER OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

During the past two weeks, the young children of our school and Family Faith program came to the church with their families for their First Confession.

This sacramental encounter with Jesus gives them a personal experience of receiving divine mercy, the forgiveness of their sins, and the empowerment of new grace to live their lives as children of God. An important “feature” of their formation and experience with this sacrament is the connection that is made with Baptism. The children light a candle from the Paschal Candle (as is done in the ceremony of Baptism), put on a small white garment, and renew their baptismal promises – all with the assistance of their parents. These actions are a clear reminder of the power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation to restore us to baptismal innocence and identity.

Today’s Gospel reading that recounts for us the Transfiguration of the Lord helps us to understand that God brings us into personal encounters with Him for instruction and encouragement. Living as we do in our mortal bodies, we may not always see the transforming effects of grace in our lives. We may question whether God’s sacraments and the grace contained within them make any difference in our lives. Thus, we are invited



to live by faith and not by sight. Faith has its confidence that what God says and does through the sacraments is real. As St. Paul teaches us, “we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. This comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor 3:18)

The Sacrament of Reconciliation for children and adults is an encounter with the Lord that allows His glory in us to be

restored and strengthened. We come to share more fully in the divinity of Jesus with His glory as He humbles Himself to share in our humanity – and by it, to take our sins to the Cross. Our baptismal identity as a son or daughter of the Father is renewed.

Time and again, Jesus said that He came into the world to save sinners. Through the prophet Joel, we continually hear the invitation to return to our true self: “return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God. For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment.” (2:12-13) The Sacrament of Confession is available here at St. Gertrude Monday-Friday at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 3:30 p.m. All are welcome to encounter Jesus in this personal way and receive His mercy. He is ready to restore each one to the fullness of life.

Let us love one another and pray for each other,

Fr. George, O.P.

COVER IMAGE: “THIS IS MY BELOVED SON,” PHOTO BY VERY REV. LAWRENCE LEW, O.P. WOOD CARVING FROM THE CONFESSIONALS OF ST. DOMINIC CHURCH IN SAN FRANCISCO.

FROM THE DIARY OF ST. MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA



At the beginning of Lent, I also asked to have the subject of my particular examen changed, and I was told to do everything with the pure intention of reparation for poor sinners. This keeps me in continual union with God, and this intention perfects my actions, because everything I do is done for immortal souls. All hardships and fatigue are as nothing when I think that they reconcile sinful souls with God. (*Diary, #619*)

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(TRYING TO) LIVE THE MISSION: LIGHTS OUT

BY BRAD BURSA

It's Friday at 6:00 p.m. Our five-year-old rushes around the house announcing "lights out!" while abruptly flipping off every light switch in the house. Cell phones are powered down and laptop screens won't be lifted until morning. The gray, February twilight floods the house only to be eventually consumed by the cold dark blackness of a winter night. We light the candles and dig out a few flashlights.

It's a Friday during Lent. It's lights out.

I cannot take credit for this way of living the mission – of living into Lent. That goes to Ryan and Sarah Schilling, from whom we got the idea.¹

It's a simple practice really. At a predetermined time each Friday of Lent, we turn off the lights and shut off all electrical devices. It's a tech-free night. Usually this means finishing dinner and cleaning up in the dark, putting jammies on squirrely kids in the dark, not checking text messages, praying the Sorrowful Mysteries by candlelight, engaging in some highly competitive family game, not checking text messages, and reading stories aloud – oh, and not checking text messages. It's both incredibly annoying and incredibly liberating all at once.

The lights out experience anticipates the Easter Vigil, which begins in the depths of the darkened tomb signified by the pitch black church. We enter into the belly of the grave and feel the eeriness of the thing – a seemingly Godless space. But, we are quickly urged to gather around a fire, that great symbol of God's presence in Scripture, and follow the lightened Paschal Candle back inside the church, thus witnessing the most profound transformation of a space. The light of faith, signified by the flame of a candle, passes from one person to the next, illuminating the entire church. Then, we hear from that beautiful 'ode to the candle,¹ The Exsultet:

*This is the night,
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,
from slavery in Egypt
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.*

*This is the night
that with a pillar of fire
banished the darkness of sin.*

*This is the night
that even now, throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices
and from the gloom of sin,
leading them to grace
and joining them to his holy ones.*

*This is the night,
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death
and rose victorious from the underworld.*

In a rather simple, yet palpable way, the Lenten practice of "Lights Out," helps us to anticipate and to long for that divine breakthrough that only comes to us because of this dramatic Easter event which has shaped our entire existence.

"Lights Out" invites me to pray as it strips away distractions. "Lights Out" brings the family together, both because it's a legitimate and demanding challenge, but also because it opens new possibilities for engaging with one another. "Lights Out" also allows me to meditate on the theological significance of candles, which is cool in its own right. I mean, the thing sheds its light, it does what it was made to do only by expending itself – a powerful reminder of Christ and our Christian lives which are to become light and to bring His light into the dark places of this world.

Ultimately, "Lights Out" urges me toward that holy light of Easter amid this Lent that seemingly never had an appropriate end last year. Yes, we move through the long Lent we've been living, a difficult "lights out," though certainly one with its own bright spots, that began in March 2020, and we pine for the in-breaking of the Easter light which we experience so profoundly in the celebration of the Resurrection at Easter Mass, "that night when Christ broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious from the underworld."

Break through our darkness and gloom, Lord. Crash through the locked doors of our fear, cast out the darkness of anger and division, banish the hell of loneliness, and let your light triumph in our hearts, our families, our parish family, and our Church.

¹I've heard from a credible source (my wife), that the Schillings practice lights out through the whole of Advent. We tried that leading up to Christmas this year and failed miserably. We are pretty decent at making it happen on Lenten Fridays, however.

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





Get your fill of Winter yet?



It's time to plan for a HOT Summer!

The Bulldog Football program is gearing up for the 2021 season. Be a proud part of the Dog Pack and please join our long tradition of player safety, character formation, and competitive excellence. We are THE flagship youth football program of the nationally-recognized GCYL...Powered by volunteers, Inspired by SportsLeader, and always ready to Fight the Good Fight!

Registration opens:

March 1st
and will close on
March 31st

Deposit \$75 before April
and avoid late fees!



Register directly on the
St. Gertrude Booster's site:

www.sgsbulldogs.org

and to find contacts
& more information



ST. GERTRUDE ATHLETIC BOOSTERS IS LOOKING FOR YOU!

We have volunteer positions available on our board. If you are interested in getting involved with our athletic program, now is the time.

We are accepting nominations for: President, Treasurer, Interim-secretary, and Cheer coordinator.

For questions, nominations, or other information: please contact Marc Gerwel, Athletic Booster President at 513-774-7779.

ST. GERTRUDE TRACK & FIELD

Registration is NOW open for all children in Grades K-8. Practices begin the week of March 8th and the season runs through May.

To register your child and for more information, go to: sgsbulldogs.org. Click on "online registration" to the left of the home page and scroll down for Track. Registration ends on March 1st.

We are also in need of assistant coaches and parent helpers. If you would like to help out with our program, no Track experience needed, contact Cameron Simoneau at: cameron@tristaterunning.com. If you know high school age children who are looking to earn service hours, this is a fun way to get hours while helping out the Track program!



LENTEN FISH-FRY DRIVE-THRU

Save the date for our next Fish Fry at St. Gertrude coming up on March 12 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Check out the menu and get all the details at stgertrude.org/fishfry.

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, Michael John, Aiko Kimura, Ed Kinney, Janice Koncius, 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 Valke 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:

Tim Ney – husband of Julie
Jackie Burnett – Mother of Joe, Melissa, Cindy, Bobby, Christie and Suzie

CALLING ALL LADIES OF CHARITY

Our annual Investiture Ceremony for all new members will take place on Saturday, March 13th at the 11:30 a.m. Mass followed by our Annual Luncheon in the School Cafeteria. Please make every effort to attend this important event. Invite a friend. Any practicing Catholic woman who is 18 or older from any parish in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati is welcome to join! There are currently women in the organization who range from young professionals to retired senior citizens. Whatever your age, whatever you do, you will find life's greatest fulfillment comes through serving those who need you. There is no strict time commitment! It's as little or as much time as you have available and there are plenty of opportunities throughout the year to help. New (and/or prospective) members should contact Jean Wilkinson at 513-498-5085, before March 3rd. Please RSVP for lunch to Marilyn Scherpenberg at jmscherp@yahoo.com or 513-831-4667 by March 6th.



MOTHER OF CHRIST FOOD PANTRY

The Ladies of Charity will be collecting at the white van in the parking lot the weekend of March 6th & 7th. This collection benefits Mother of Christ Food Pantry which serves the poor and needy families in the St. Bernard-Winton Terrace area who are struggling to make ends meet by providing food and personal care items. Your donations are so very appreciated! In addition to all nonperishable food items, the pantry has special needs for toilet paper, paper towels, cleansers like Pine-Sol, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, personal hygiene items, and practical household items. Donations of cash or check are also welcome. Please call Jean Wilkinson at 513-498-5085 with any questions about Mother of Christ Food Pantry or Ladies of Charity. Thank you so much for your help!



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ASK A PRIEST – “THE TRIDUUM OF ST. JOSEPH”

BY FR. JOHN MARK SOLITARIO, O.P.

Q: You mentioned a couple weeks back that we would celebrate a “Triduum of

St. Joseph” from March 17-19. What will that involve?

A: It’s hard to believe we’re already moving into March! Yes, since March is traditionally designated for special devotion to St. Joseph and March 19 is the Solemnity of St. Joseph (a high holy day, although not obligatory for Mass attendance), what better time than to celebrate this great saint and foster-father of Jesus?

Our “Triduum of St. Joseph” will involve a three-day period of special reflection and more focused prayer, in order to learn from St. Joseph’s example and ask for his help as we aspire to be loving, obedient to God, accepting of others, courageous, industrious, and chaste like him. It is our response as a parish to Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation, *Patris Corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), which designated this year especially to such spiritual exercises.

Here’s what you can expect March 17-19 at St. Gertrude’s:

March 17 & 18 at 7:30 p.m.

- solemn Exposition and Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament
- 20 minutes of preaching on the person and virtues of St. Joseph, to help you live as a better disciple of Jesus in 2021
- public recitation of the Litany of St. Joseph
- time for Adoration, silent reflection, and Sacramental Confession

March 19 at 7:30 p.m.

- Sung Mass (*Missa Cantata*) in the Dominican Rite
- special homily for the feast of St. Joseph
- beautiful chant and choral music to help you pray for all the special intentions you bring to this Mass

This “Triduum of St. Joseph” should serve as a time of communal reflection and prayer, and is offered in place of our normally-scheduled Lenten parish retreat (postponed due to the pandemic). **We will record each service on YouTube, as available through links on the parish website.** Given the unpredictability of the past year and our daily need for the wisdom, peace, and protection that God grants through the prayers of the saints, we hope this extended celebration of St. Joseph will be helpful for every member of the parish community.

Our “Triduum of St. Joseph” will involve a three-day period of special reflection and more focused prayer, in order to learn from St. Joseph’s example and ask for his help as we aspire to be loving, obedient to God, accepting of others, courageous, industrious, and chaste like him.

“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 or one of our Dominican priests to answer in the bulletin!



Monday, March 1	Tuesday, March 2	Wednesday, March 3	Thursday, March 4	Friday, March 5	Saturday, March 6	Sunday, March 7
Religious Education 3:30 p.m. School Atrium	Children's Choir 3:00 p.m. Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby	Cana Family Training 6:30 p.m. Parish Center St. Joseph Mtg. Rm.	Cana Family 9:30 a.m. Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby	Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m. Church	Mother of Christ Food Pantry <i>After 4:30 p.m. Mass</i> Sharing Van	Mother of Christ Food Pantry <i>After Morning Masses</i> Sharing Van
Healing Rosary 7:00 p.m. Church	Religious Education 4:30 p.m. School Atrium	Adult Choir 7:00 p.m. Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby	Regina Veritatis Team Meeting 6:30 p.m. Parish Center Music Room			Rosary Sales <i>After Morning Masses</i> Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby
RCIA 7:00 p.m. Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby	Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. School Cafeteria	Peer Ministry Meeting 7:00 p.m. School Cafeteria				Religious Education 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. School Cafeteria & Atrium
	Real Friendship 7:30 p.m. Parish Center St. Dominic Lobby	Confessions and Adoration 7:30 p.m. Church				HSYM Discipleship Cells 7:00 p.m. Parish Center
		Benediction 8:50 p.m. Church				

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 February 14

Weekly Budget	\$	38,235
Collection	\$	36,499
Weekly Deficit	(\$	1,786)

Collection for February 21

Weekly Budget	\$	38,235
Collection	\$	24,254
Weekly Deficit	(\$	13,981)

Fiscal Year-To-Date (for year ending June 30, 2021)

Fiscal YTD Budget	\$	1,340,000
Fiscal YTD Actual	\$	1,338,631
Fiscal YTD Deficit	(\$	1,369)

BULLETIN DEADLINE

BULLETIN
3/14/21

MATERIALS DUE
3/3/21

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

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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

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 – Jim Spurgin 513.561.5954, ext 2112
 Visitation of the Sick – Judy Hartmann 513.984.803

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 513.984.803
 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 513.885.593
 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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