

2470 Miramar Blvd., University Heights, OH 44118

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist
appeared in the
desert proclaiming
a baptism of
repentance for the
forgiveness of sins.
- Mk 1:4

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Gesu Parish,
a Catholic community in
the Jesuit tradition, is committed to

Eucharistic **Living**
Lifelong **Learning**
Generous **Serving**

"All for the greater glory of God."

- AMDG -

TEMPORARY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekends

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Weekdays

Monday - Friday: 7:30 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00-4:00 pm
or by appointment

(Please see Pg. 3 for important information.)

PASTORAL STAFF

Reverend Karl Kiser, SJ

Pastor

Reverend Michael A. Vincent, SJ

Associate Pastor

Reverend Gregory Hyde, SJ

Priest in Residence

Reverend James K. O'Donnell

Deacon

Sr. Kathleen Flannery, OSU

Parish Life & Liturgy

Therese Blumenthal

Finance & Operations

Mary Kate Farrar

Development & Communications

Lucy Iemmolo

School Principal

Mary von Carlowitz &

Marcia Leous

Faith Formation

Amy Zucca

Outreach Coordinator

Mark Ehrbar

Music Ministry

Jenny Lee

Youth Ministry

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office

(216) 932-0617

Emergency Night Phone Service

(440) 942-6499

Parish Office Fax

(216) 932-0731

School Office

(216) 932-0620

School Fax

(216) 932-8326

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

New parishioners are invited to call the Parish Office to make an appointment to register. Current members are asked to notify the Parish Office when they move.

TEMPORARY OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

At other times, we will be checking email and phone messages.

Gospel Meditation

People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively. It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!

We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention? We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.

Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when he comes, do you? After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not?

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This Week at Gesu

MONDAY 12/7

Mass.....7:30 am - Church
Healing Rosary.....6:30 pm - Zoom
Booster Mtg.....7:30-9:30 pm - Zoom

TUESDAY 12/8

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.....
..... Masses at 7:30 & 8:30 am and 12:00 & 7:00 pm - Church
RCIA..... 7:00-9:00 pm - Zoom
African American Families of Gesu Mtg...7:00-8:30 pm - Zoom

WEDNESDAY 12/9

Mass.....7:30 am - Church
Legion of Mary.....8:00-9:00 am - Church Narthax

THURSDAY 12/10

Mass.....7:30 am - Church

FRIDAY 12/11

Mass.....7:30 am - Church

SATURDAY 12/12

Advent Angel Tree Drop-off (see page 7)
Bible Study.....12:00-2:00 pm - Zoom
Confession.....3:00-4:00 pm - Nativity Room
Vigil Mass.....4:30 pm - Church

SUNDAY 12/13

Advent Angel Tree Drop-off (see page 7)
Mass.....9:00 am & 11:00 am - Church

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is held each Saturday from 3:00-4:00 pm. To allow for social distancing, it's taking place in the Nativity Room. Please enter via the door inside the church. The room is set for both anonymous and face-to-face confessions. Please wear a mask.

BAPTISMS

To arrange a Baptism, please contact the Parish Office. Baptism instruction is necessary with the first child.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA)

The Gesu RCIA process welcomes anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and prepares you to become a member of the Catholic Church. Please inquire at the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE

Please contact one of the Gesu priests at the Parish Office at least six months in advance to arrange the use of the church and register for the marriage preparation program.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

We are unable to hold our usually monthly Anointing Masses at this time. You may make arrangements to receive the Sacrament of the Sick following any weekday or weekend Mass by calling the Parish Office in advance. That way, we will know which date and time you will be here.

ILLNESS & HOSPITAL CALLS

Please notify the Parish Office when a member of your family is hospitalized or ill. Sick calls have been suspended for the time being. Anointing will only be administered when a person is in danger of death.



REST IN PEACE

Stephen Burns

Husband of Helen; Father of
Mary Jo, Steve & Ellen

Jack Burke

Father of Bonnie, Patrick, Tim,
Carol; Grandfather of Rana,
Rina & Kevin



MARRIAGE BANNS

Jessica Lipold &

Gregory Fleming

December 12, 2020



NEWLY BAPTIZED

Emmett Luke Fulton

Son of Jason &
Lauren Fulton



PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

Healing Rosary

Monday, December 7
6:30 pm - Zoom



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the following sick members of our community. Sick persons or family members may phone Sr. Linda at (216) 932-0617 to have a name listed. Names will stay on the list for up to one year unless removal or continuation is requested.

Fred Beegle
William Anquillare
Jacob Gordon
George Martin
Ignatius Comella
Wayne Schmidt
Stacey Kelly
Fran Burrows
Mike Stinn
Mary Beth Miller
Andrew Kascsak
Cecilia T. Guccion
Edward P. Guccion
Howard Widmann
Jeff Stevenson
Grace Pressimone
Toni Consolo
Bill & Denise Miranda
Eleanor Bertagni
Marge Diemer
Sheila Flannery
Jeanne Horwath
Richard Rarick
Lydia
Reily G.
Baby Reese
Tom
Therese Hummer

Eileen Read
Gerri Greenfield
Abby Grealis
Marsha
Carole Baker
Verna Bencie
Cathy Kingsbury
Edison
George O'Hamill
Margaret Homoly
Beth
Heather
Jim T.
Anthony Galati
Victor Russell
Gina Hespen
Loretta Wiles
Catalina Santoscoy
Barbara Rossy
Claire Gascoigne
Sarah Kuhar
Michael Markiewicz
Janet Markiewicz
Mary Nero
Nick Gundersen
Joan Nuth
Sylvia Flammini

John Bastulli, Jr.
Samone Dean
Bill Kiser
Carol Litovec
Dale A. Scully
Bradley "Gray"
Gorman, Jr.
Helen Joyce
Ryan M.
Michael Manuszak
Marilyn Karlik
Leah Baker
Bernice Reed
Bill Reale
John
Jackie Friend
Danielle Goodridge
Allen King
Elizabeth Kealy
Shawn Sexton
Frank
Sandy Russell
Mike Kiely, Jr.
Marian
Marco Kaiser
Evelyn Shimandle Siess
John Hissong

PRAY FOR OUR SERVICEMEN & WOMEN

Please keep in your prayers the family and friends of Gesu Parish-ioners who are either activated reservists or active duty military personnel currently deployed. We're including names in our bulletin with family permission. If you'd like to include a relative, email bulletin@churchofthegesu.org.

Adam Thomas
Brendan Lucas
Nick Corsones
Kirklan Kudrna
Brady Smith
Kevin Comiskey
Christopher Scott
Combellick
Zack Veselick
Eric Aslakson
Patrick McGroarty

Brian Johnston
Randolph Kloos
Thomas P. Costello
Geffrey B. Slatter
Ellis Smith
Matthew Kreiter
Michael Heltzel
Andrew Rocco
Thomas Garvey
Mouna Lograsso

Captain William
Olmstead
Patrick Murphy
Richard Rose
Patrick Brodhead
R.J. Thacker
Samuel J. Driscoll
James Bruening
Kate Hogan
C.J. Haag

FR. KARL KISER, SJ, NAMED NEW LEADER OF MIDWEST PROVINCE JESUITS



Gesu's Pastor, Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ, has been appointed by Fr. General Arturo Sosa, SJ, as the next provincial of the USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). Fr. Kiser will assume his leadership role in 2021. He succeeds Fr. Brian G. Paulson, SJ, who was named provincial of the Chicago-Detroit Province in 2014 and became provincial of the new USA Midwest Province when the existing Chicago-Detroit and Wisconsin Provinces came together in June 2017.

You can read Fr. Brian G. Paulson's letter to the USA Midwest Province at <https://bit.ly/3lmm5qb>.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This Tuesday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, normally a Holy Day of Obligation. Four Masses will take place in the church: 7:30 am, 8:30 am, 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm. The 8:30 am Mass will be attended by Gesu 7th and 8th grade students. A reminder that, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass is still in place.

DONATIONS FOR POINSETTIAS



We will be accepting donations for Christmas poinsettias in memory of your loved ones. You may mail or drop off your donations at the parish office, or put your contribution in an envelope marked *Christmas Flowers* and place the envelope in the collection basket. Be sure to include the name(s) for your intention. Thank you for honoring your loved ones by making our church even more beautiful at

Christmas, especially during these pandemic times!

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

Out of consideration for the health and well-being of our parishioners, we will not hold an Advent Communal Reconciliation Service this year. Those wishing to go to Confession may do so on Saturdays at 3:00 pm or by appointment. During the season of Advent, a priest will also be available in the Nativity Room immediately following 7:30 am weekday Masses. *Just a reminder: if there is no serious sin, there is no obligation to go to Confession before Christmas.*

Mass Intentions

& SCRIPTURE READINGS

MONDAY 12/7

St. Ambrose

Is 35:1-10; Ps 85;

Lk 5:17-26

7:30 am Jim DeChant

TUESDAY 12/8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98;

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

7:30 am Thomas Curran

8:30 am Kenneth Seifert

12:00 pm Dorothy Allred & Gertrude Malloy

7:00 pm Cat St. John

WEDNESDAY 12/9

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103; Mt 11:28-30

7:30 am Vivi Rose Zaratsian

THURSDAY 12/10

Our Lady of Loreto

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145; Mt 11:11-15

7:30 am Jim DeChant

FRIDAY 12/11

St. Damasus I

Is 48:17-19; Ps 1; Mt 11:16-19

7:30 am Donald A. Bianchi

SATURDAY 12/12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17; Ps: Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38

SATURDAY VIGIL & SUNDAY 12/13

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Ps: Lk 1: 46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

4:30 pm James Lavelle

9:00 am Ed & Dorothy Hawkins

11:00 am James Volpe, Sr. & Family

FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE



Week of 12/6/20 -
The Second Sunday of Advent

GATHER: Begin simply by saying "Bless Us, O Lord!" and make the Sign of the Cross.

LISTEN: Use a portion of the reading this week to read aloud.

Our Gospel for today is Matthew 1:1-5, 7-8. We meet the cousin of Jesus, John, who was known by the name John the Baptist. He was and is considered a prophet, just like Isaiah in the first reading today. He announces the coming of the Lord, and instructs them that he might be different than the one they might be expecting. But he would be even more; he would be the Son of God. John preached baptism, but in a different way that we might have explained it - a baptism of repentance, a baptism of water and the Holy Spirit.

Pause a little,

SHARE: Use this thought or question for family sharing:

Many came to be surprised at this Jesus about whom John preached. They were expecting perhaps a military leader or strong aggressor to help them face the difficult times of Roman rule in their land. Instead, they discover a man who taught, healed, and urged them to turn from their ways to follow him with their entire lives. And many did! Did you ever wonder if you would follow Jesus if you were there then? What does it mean to follow Jesus with all our heart? What would that look like in our family, among our friends?

Can you think of one thing you and your family could do this week that expresses following Jesus? Maybe you could choose something from the parish Advent giving tree? (It is virtual this year! Look in the bulletin and website for more information!)

PRAY FOR: After sharing, consider all those you want to remember in prayer today.

Light the second candle on your Advent wreath. Thank God for all the blessings you and your family share, great and small! Give thanks for them, and then add anyone in need who could use support, or encouragement, or a prayer of hope!

(Continued)

GIVE THANKS: Conclude with: "Bless Us, O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive from your bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Enjoy your meal!

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY FOR TODAY



The 26 days of the Church's season of Advent began on November 29. This time of preparation for recalling the birth of Jesus and anticipating his Second Coming invites us to slow down and observe "the holiness of the season in our everyday lives." Visit the following link for practical ways to do this in the tradition of Ignatian spirituality: www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent/.

IGNATIAN THREADS

Advent presents a great opportunity to re-align our hopes and goals with what God wants us to become. Let's ask ourselves: Do I feel gratitude for the blessings and gifts I already have? Am I aware of God's constant care and presence in my life? Am I open to the direction that God will take me? In this time of waiting for Christ's coming, do I share the journey with Mary, my model of hope and trust? Will I let this be an opportunity for my faith to grow and deepen? A suggestion: Explore the numerous Advent Resources on the Ignatianspirituality.com website. As we wait for the promised Messiah, we enter into the mystery of the Incarnation. We wait for God, as Ignatius expressed in the Spiritual Exercises, to "work the redemption of the human race" (SE 107). This all-knowing and all-powerful King will come to save us amid the beauty and suffering in our world, in the details of our daily living. For what graces might we pray in this season of Advent?



GESU Angel Tree PROJECT

We would like to invite you to participate in this year's Virtual Angel Tree Project. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, signing up to participate looks a little different this year. You have two ways to help families and individuals with your generous support. Please see the two choices below. We thank you in advance for your generosity and willingness to make a difference during this especially difficult year!



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

On-line Family and Individual Choice-Making and Gift Purchasing for drop-off.

Please visit SignUpGenius at <https://bit.ly/2KIUFhy> and follow these instructions:

- Choose one or more organization families to purchase gifts for and then click on the button to sign up. Click Submit and Sign Up to complete the sign-up process.
- Important: If you are purchasing for one of La Sagrada Familia families, University Heights families, or Cleveland Heights families, the drop-off dates are for the weekend of **December 12-13** in McAuley Hall. All other organization gifts can be dropped off in McAuley Hall over the weekend of **December 19-20**.
- Important: Gifts should be wrapped and labeled with the recipient's name and age. All the same family's gifts should be placed in a box or gift bag/s with a tag stating organization and family#. If you don't do this we will not know where to send it.
- If you have any questions, the contact information for each organization's Gesu liaison can be found at the SignUpGenius link above.

Direct Donations to Local Organizations:

Several local organizations that we have supported over the years are asking for direct donations via their websites, or a purchase of supplies for one of their locations. If you would prefer one of these options the information is listed below.

If you decide to purchase supplies they can be dropped off at McAuley Hall the weekend of December 19-20 with a tag attached stating what organization they are for. The contact person for all of the organizations below is Deb Bruening, who can be reached at: debbruening1@gmail.com or (216) 702-5674.

Womankind: www.womankindcleveland.org

Every dollar donated generates four dollars in services to women in need.

- \$500 sponsors prenatal care for one mom
- \$400 provides internet access, e-mail and phone service for one month.
- \$250 supplies us with 100 pregnancy test kits
- \$100 supports one hour of counseling
- \$50 toward client educational materials
- Gift cards: Office Max, Giant Eagle, Walmart, Target, Amazon
- Diapers-all sizes & Baby Wipes
- Gerber Gentle (this type of formula only please)

Zelie's Home: www.zelieshome.org

- \$50.00 - could provide one night of housing for a pregnant mom
- \$100.00 - could provide one carseat for a newborn baby
- \$250.00 - could provide groceries for our home for 2 weeks

Zelie's Home Continued

- \$500.00 - could provide bus passes for 8 moms for a month
- \$1,000.00 - could provide an 8-week parenting class for 12 moms
- \$2,000.00 - could provide one month of rent and all utilities

Hattie Larlham: www.hattielarlham.org

Visit SignUpGenius at <https://bit.ly/2KIUFhy> to sign up to purchase supplies or gift cards.

L'Arche: www.larchecleveland.org

\$115,000 of renovation costs and a wheelchair van are needed for this organization that supports independent living for developmentally disabled adults. Online donation is preferred.

Christ Child: www.christchildscocietycleveland.org

"My Stuff Bag" Virtual donation program has been established to help children in shelters. Often these children arrive with only the clothes on their back.

IGNATIAN PRAYER & FAITH SHARING



The next virtual Zoom gathering of Ignatian Prayer & Faith Sharing will be Wednesday, December 16 from 7:00-8:30 pm. Participants can use a computer, tablet/iPad, or phone for this experience of praying in the

Ignatian way as we share reflections on the coming Sunday's Gospel and other readings. If you are interested in joining this session, please email Hilda at hwalter@churchofthegesu.org. We would love to "see" you there!

DIGITAL ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE CALENDAR

For the past six years, the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame has partnered with the Marian Library of Dayton, Ohio, bringing to Notre Dame's campus an exhibit of crèches, or Nativity scenes, from around the world, and gathering members of the community to pray in procession and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

This year, the coronavirus pandemic prevents us from hosting our annual exhibit and pilgrimage. Instead, we invite you to reflect on the Incarnation in our digital Advent and Christmas Crèche Calendar—a beautiful retrospective selection of crèches from our previous six exhibits.

Once you sign up, you will receive a daily email through January 10 with an image and description of a crèche from a different part of the world, along with a brief prayer that you can offer for yourself and your loved ones. Visit <https://mcgrath.nd.edu/events/creche-exhibit/> if you'd like to receive our daily crèche emails.

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO CELEBRATE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS IN THESE TIMES?



You will notice a new feature on our Gesu website that will contain many suggestions and options for celebrating this season of Advent and Christmas. While the opportunity for gathering as a community is limited for now, this is an ideal time to strengthen the connections with the "domestic

Church" ~ the Church lived within our homes and families. You will find prayers, activities and ideas to help individuals and families celebrate this time in simple ways that are adaptable to any situation. Visit: www.churchofthegesu.org/advent-activities-for-your-domestic-church.

SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sessions are held virtually every Saturday from 12:00 - 2:00 pm. December sessions will focus on the parables, then a study of 1st & 2nd Kings begins in January. Visit <https://bit.ly/2VteCeF> for the complete schedule. Interested participants should email Christie Okocha at ndaoko@msn.com for information about joining these meetings.

RECYCLE YOUR OLD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS!



Gesu Boy Scout Troop 620 will once again collect and recycle nonworking strands of Christmas lights. There will be two containers placed near the white Donation Station in the Thompson Parking Lot. The containers will be there beginning November 25 until January 10.

Catholic Social Teaching & the Pandemic:

WEIGHING THE RESPONSE

The Church of the Gesu continues to highlight Pope Francis' third and latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, in a brief video recently posted by the Jesuit headquarters in Rome. Writer and journalist Austen Ivereigh places this document in the context of the Pope's previous letters, all based on the theme of restoration. Francis called us to restore our relationship with God in *The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)* – his first letter. Secondly, he encouraged a restored relationship to creation in *On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si)*. *Fratelli Tutti* or *Brothers and Sisters All* completes the Pope's trio of teachings by inviting us to restore our relationships to each other. Visit the following link and BE INSPIRED!

<https://bit.ly/38SmfDa>

FEATURED
ARTICLE

December: Clothe the Naked



Through the Corporal Works of Mercy, Christians are called to clothe the naked. This corporal work was actively embraced by St. Vincent de Paul.

Vincent de Paul was born to peasant parents in 1581. He entered the seminary in 1596 at the age of 15, and was ordained at the age of 19. In 1625, he became the chaplain and tutor to the wealthy Gondi family. Here he began his ministry to the poor. The Countess de Gondi and her husband financially supported de Paul's group of missionaries who worked among the poor tenant farmers and country folk. His zeal for the poor compelled Vincent to lead a group of missionaries, later known as the Vincentians, to serve the poor in the small towns and villages of the country. His heart for the poor led him to be declared the patron saint of charitable societies after he was canonized in 1737.

The society that bears his name was started in France in 1833. A university student, Frederic Ozanam, was challenged in a debate: "What do you do besides talk, to prove the faith you claim is in you?" The twenty year old accepted the challenge and, along with several of his fellow students, he started a "Conference of Charity" which quickly changed its name to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, in honor of the exemplary saint. The good works of this organization inspired many, and within a few years the number of followers increased and organizations quickly spread to other cities and towns in France. In 1845, twelve years after the establishment of the Society in France, the first American conference was formed in St. Louis at the Old Cathedral. Over 170 years later, the Society has grown to serve the poor in St. Louis and beyond.

While clothing the naked is a primary focus, the Gesu volunteers also address the needs of the poor in our neighborhoods on a deeper level. The command to clothe the naked intrinsically calls them to recognize the human dignity of everyone they visit. They give physical and spiritual support to the poor and acknowledge the divine in those who are most in need. We are all called to answer the question posed to Bl. Frederic Ozanam. "What do you do besides talk, to prove the faith you claim is in you?"

Open your hearts. Consider becoming active in the SVDPS at Gesu. Interesting fact - The Ozanam Center in East Cleveland bears his name. We are privileged to share in his mission through our St. Vincent de Paul group with Communion of Saints and many parishes on our side of town.

What does Gesu Parish do?

- The Advent Giving Tree (It is virtual this year!)
- Food collection at church entrances and Corporal Works of Mercy basket
- Gesu Food Fund donations
- Items for the Donation Station in the Thompson lot
- Gesu School or local school giving projects
- Volunteer with the SVDPS - contact Pat Hawkins or the parish office for more information

What can you do?

- Consider a warm coat gift to family or agencies
- Consider gifts of boots, diapers and baby clothes, as well as blankets and sheets
- Donate to the Advent Angel Tree Project
- Donate to the West Side Catholic Center sock collection for the homeless
- Men's Shelter and Women's Shelter donations
- Year-end giving to charities that benefit the most needy and disenfranchised
- Forgo that cup of coffee or dessert and use those funds for others
- Pray at meals and bedtime for those in need
- Read the story of Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe to find out what happened to his cloak! Visit: <https://bit.ly/36mBGIf>
- When setting up your Advent wreath, pray for those who are in need of clothing or homes
- Hang one sock on the mantel for those most in need and add gifts or donations to be given after the holidays

Mercy in the City

November: Read Chapters 9 & 10

- 1) How have you cultivated your own "look?" What do you want people to think when they see you? Does clothing express human dignity?
- 2.) Open your closet and find three articles of clothing that have not been worn in over a year. After reading the chapters, how do these articles make you feel? Do you feel differently about the tendency in today's society to change out our wardrobes for the new seasonal offerings?
- 3) Kerry's experience in the Clothing Room at Mary house made her reassess her priorities around her own clothing. Can you describe a time when your priorities were changed by an encounter you experienced?

GESU PRESCHOOL 2021-2022 REGISTRATION



Please join us Thursday, January 21, at 7:00 pm in the Family Center gymnasium. We will have an overview of our program, a look into our classrooms, and registration packets

will be available at that time. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Judi Herbert, our admissions director, at jherbert@gesu.com. We look forward to meeting you! Be sure to wear a mask. Our chairs will be set up for social distancing. We offer the following programs:

Three-Year-Old-Program

(Child must be 3 years of age on or before September 30 and must have independent bathroom skills. No pull-ups or diapers allowed.)

- 2-day class: Meets Monday and Tuesday mornings from 8:20-11:00 am
- 3-day class: Meets Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 8:20 -11:00 am
- 4-day afternoon class: Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:00 -2:40 pm

Four-Year-Old Program

(Child must be 4 years of age on or before September 30.)

- 5-day Morning Class: Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 8:20 – 11:00 am.
- 5 day Afternoon class: Meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from 12:00 – 2:40 pm.

Pre-Kindergarten Program

(Child must be 5 years of age on or before December 30.)

- The class will meet Monday through Friday from 8:20 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(Continued)

Required Documents:

Please submit the following at the time of registration:

- The child's Birth Certificate.
- Baptismal Certificate (if baptized at Gesu please put the baptismal date on the Parish Verification Sheet)
- Current copy of the child's Immunization records
- Legal custody information (if applicable)
- A recent photograph of the child
- Registration fee: \$125 check made out to Gesu Preschool (Nonrefundable if accepted)

Registration will be considered complete when parish registration, if applicable, has been verified and the school office has received all of the required paperwork and registration fee.

Admission Priorities:

Students will be considered for admission to Gesu Preschool on the basis of the following priorities:

1. Students of families currently enrolled in Gesu School.
2. Families currently registered in Gesu Parish.
3. Families not registered within Gesu Parish.

For questions, please contact preschool director, Debbie Lautenbach, at (216) 932-0620 ext. 304.

ADVENT VIRTUAL LUNCHEON: PRAYING WITH "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"

On Tuesday, December 15, the Jesuit Retreat Center will host the Advent Virtual Luncheon: Praying with *It's a Wonderful Life*, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. Presented by Fr. Jim Shea, SJ, discover how we can use this classic holiday film to guide our prayer during the season of Advent. As we follow George Bailey's footsteps, how can our perspective be changed from moments of despair to a new sense of hope. Do George and Clarence have a message for you? In order to ensure a safe and healthy experience, and to broaden the audience, our Advent Lunch this year will be virtual. Grab your meal and get comfortable, as we bring Fr. Jim Shea, SJ, to you live via Zoom. Everyone who registers will receive a recording of the talk, allowing you to watch it again and again – just like you do each year with *It's a Wonderful Life*. Cost is \$20. Visit jesuitretreatcenter.org to register and to check out more upcoming programs at JRC!

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SUNDAY GRIEF SUPPORT

Catholic Cemeteries Association continues with our free monthly in-office grief support groups on December 20 with limited seating for social distancing. We offer a comfortable, private and safe environment where you are free to talk about your grief. Meetings do not build off each other so you can stop in any month and fit right in. You do not even have to talk; you are welcome to just come and listen and be in the presence of those who understand. The December topic is "The Gift of God's Presence: You Never Walk Alone," but discussions follow whatever is on your heart. December participants are asked to bring a picture or item that brings fond memories of their departed loved one. We meet the 3rd Sunday of every month from 3:00-4:00 pm at the following locations:

Saint Joseph Cemetery, Avon (NEW office);
Holy Cross Cemetery, Akron (office);
Holy Cross Cemetery, Brook Park (office);
Calvary Cemetery, Cleveland (office);
All Saints Cemetery, Northfield (office);
All Souls Cemetery, Chardon (office).

Meeting sites are sanitized and seating is arranged so everyone is at a safe distance. Participants are requested to RSVP so we can plan appropriate social distancing at each location. It is required that participants wear protective facial coverings. To RSVP or for questions, please contact Rhonda at (216) 930-4866.

GESU BOY SCOUT TROOP 620 HOLIDAY PORCH POT FUNDRAISER



Please help support our Gesu Boy Scout Troop by purchasing a holiday porch pot from Bremec Garden Center, in Cleveland Heights. There are three sizes available and they are perfect for the holiday season. *Order by December 9 and the Gesu Boy Scouts will*

deliver the pots to your home on December 12. A percentage of all purchases go to the Troop to help fund their annual camping trips, gear purchases and high adventure trips. Visit the following link to order your pot: <https://bremec.com/troop-620/>. If you have any questions, you can contact **troop620.gesu@gmail.com**. Thank you for your support of Gesu Boy Scout Troop 620!

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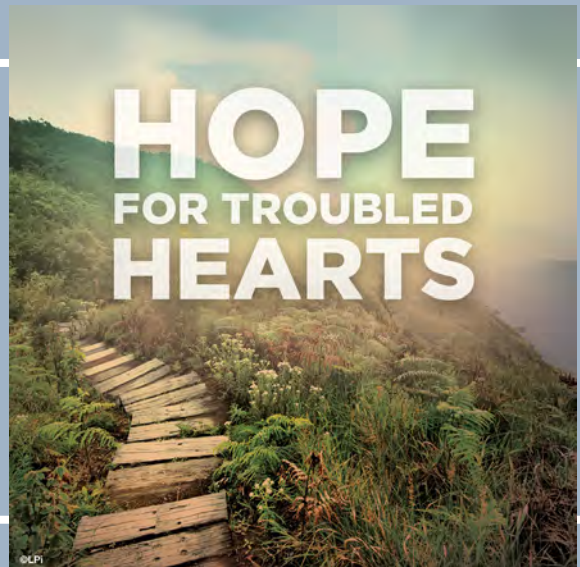
After having "sheltered in place" for an inordinate amount of time, we find ourselves gradually reentering society. With a unique opportunity to be protagonists for our future, together in solidarity and social cohesion, we will overcome the challenges that this pandemic has wrought and, by our faith in the Resurrection, be reborn stronger than ever.

The Church of the Gesu continues to accompany you as you navigate this complex journey and the occasional feelings of anxiety, despair, or even hopelessness that accompany it. We continue to share articles and reflections as a tool to help you learn how to encounter God more meaningfully. You are not alone.

Although Masses have resumed, we know that not all of you are able to return just yet. We hope you find the following selection reassuring. Welcome, beautiful soul.

"A Simple Cure to Heal Our Afflicted Souls"

<https://angelusnews.com/faith/a-simple-cure-to-heal-our-afflicted-souls/>



AMAZON SMILE

Please consider shopping Amazon Smile this holiday season and help support Gesu Church and School! Amazon Smile has the same great products and prices as Amazon with an added bonus - a portion of eligible purchases will be donated back to Gesu just



by choosing Gesu Parish in University Heights as your preferred charity! Shop all year long on Amazon Smile and support Gesu.

Share with your friends and family! Happy shopping at www.smile.amazon.com.

CARMONA CARAVAN

Dear Friends,

Carmona Caravan of the International Order of the Alhambra is an organization of Catholic men and women who are dedicated to assisting intellectually challenged children and adults. Hopefully, this is a one-time plea for help. Once a year, Carmona Caravan collects donations from individuals as they come out of Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. Typically, in a year, we raise around \$15,000 at about a dozen churches. We contribute ALL of those donations (plus interest!) to a variety of organizations that directly assist intellectually disabled children and adults. These grants are made to camping programs, educational facilities, and a group home. All of the money stays in the Northeast Ohio area.

Because of COVID-19, attendance at Masses is substantially reduced and social distancing dictates that we should not come in direct contact with individuals. Our ability to raise funds for people in need has come to a complete halt. Their need has not diminished.

If you can find a way to make a donation of any amount, your kindness would be most appreciated. Carmona Caravan, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation registered in the state of Ohio. For more information, please visit (and Like!) our new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/carmonacaravaninc.

There are several ways to donate:

- **Check:** payable to Carmona Caravan, 24735 Deerfield Drive, North Olmsted, Ohio 44070-1231
- **PayPal:** carmonacaravaninc@gmail.com (please be sure to use the "Transfer to Friends and Family" option).
- **GoFundMe:** Visit <https://bit.ly/2HZhCMq>

YEAR-END GIVING

In this season of giving, consider making a year-end gift to our parish in gratitude for all the blessings you have received in life. As you plan to make the most of your charitable donations in 2020, know that we gratefully accept gifts of cash and appreciated assets such as stocks or bonds. Even if you don't itemize your taxes, because of the new stimulus package passed by Congress, qualified charitable donations up to \$300 for individuals may be tax-deductible. The CARES Act legislation also temporarily suspended the limitation on qualified charitable contributions of cash, allowing for a current year deduction up to 100% of AGI. This provision is in effect only for the 2020 tax year. And, if you are 70 ½ or older, you may be able to make a gift of a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA that will help us in our ministry and reduce your taxable income. Talk to your advisors and IRA administrator for more information and to be sure that your IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution gift is made directly from an IRA to a qualified charity such as our parish.

Gifts of stock are also accepted for Gesu Church and School. The information that you or your broker may need includes: Gesu Church and School, DTC 0221, Acct #NG 15019 and our broker is Linda McGann at UBS (216) 765-8102.

Questions? Contact Mary Kate Farrar in our parish office at (216) 932-0617 or via email at mkfarrar@churchofthegesu.org. You are also welcome to contact Mary Lou Ozimek of the Catholic Community Foundation at (216) 696-6525 x4070. Thank you for your consideration.

LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFT THIS YEAR?



This holiday season, give a timeless gift: an inscribed brick or paver in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. The piazza outside the Parish Center has many bricks and pavers that commemorate a milestone such as an anniversary, a graduation or a Gesu legacy family. The bricks (\$100) and pavers (\$175) can be purchased through our website www.churchofthegesu.org, or call the Development Office at (216) 932-0617. Happy Shopping!

October Collections

	Monthly Offering 10/1/20 - 10/31/20	Year-to-Date Offering 7/1/20 - 10/31/20
Sunday Offering	\$97,235	\$271,573
Faith Direct	\$39,711	\$163,536
Easter/Christmas	-	\$1,425
Holy Days	\$90	\$963
Total Contributions	\$137,036	\$437,497
Budget	\$95,000	\$404,750
Variance from Budget	\$42,036	\$32,747
Other Monthly Collections		
Honduras Mission	\$95	\$380
Food Fund	\$6,613	\$6,738
Corporal Works of Mercy	\$413	\$513
Fund for Gesu	\$3,428	\$15,037
Monthly Special Collections		
Catholic Communications	\$25	\$142
World Mission	\$362	\$362
Blanket Sunday	\$101	\$101

TEXT TO GIVE

Giving to Church of the Gesu is easy with Faith Direct Text-to-Give. To give via text, follow these steps:

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All gifts are tax deductible and will be properly acknowledged by the Development Office. We are grateful for your support!

GESU BULLETIN

Bulletin Submissions

All information and materials for the bulletin should be emailed to **bulletin@churchofthegesu.org**. **Submissions for the December 19/20 bulletin are due by Wednesday, December 9.**

Advertising

To advertise in this bulletin, please call LPI at (800) 477-4574. Gesu Parish cannot endorse any business that sponsors an ad in the bulletin.

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We are hopeful that we will be back next year with more fun and games, and, of course....turkeys!

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