

2470 Miramar Blvd., University Heights, OH 44118



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

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, OSUParish Life & Liturgy

Therese Blumenthal Finance & Operations

Mary Kate Farrar
Development & Communications

Lucy lemmolo School Principal

Mary von Carlowitz & Marcia Leous
Faith Formation

Amy Zucca
Outreach Coordinator

Mark Ehrbar Music 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. See page 13 for our Holiday Hours.

Gospel Meditation

In Blaise Pascal's work, Pensees, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.

©LPi

This Week at Gesu

MONDAY 12/21

Gesu School Christmas Break	
Mass	7:30 am - Church
Healing Rosary	6:30-7:00 pm - Zoom

TUESDAY 12/22

Gesu School Christmas Break		
Mass	7:30 am	- Church

WEDNESDAY 12/23

Gesu School Christmas Br	eak
Mass	7:30 am - Church
Legion of Mary	8:00-9:00 am - Church Narthex

THURSDAY 12/24

FRIDAY 12/25

SATURDAY 12/26

Confession	.3:00-4:00 pm - Nativity Room
Vigil Mass	4:30 pm - Church

SUNDAY 12/27

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

William Anquillare
Brother of Christy Barnes

Iggy Comella band of Kathy; Fathe

Husband of Kathy; Father of Christopher, Leslie & Karen

Claire McKellogg Sister of Don Fitzgerald



NEWLY BAPTIZED

Thomas Gary Casey Son of William & Margaret Casey

Cameron Drew Jastromb

Son of Robert & Catherine Jastromb

Sienna Mae Lawrence

Daughter of James & Julia Lawrence

Sophia Samira Lawrence

Daughter of James & Julia Lawrence

William Joseph Salahshour Son of Alex & Karla Salahshour

Lucas Kruse Salahshour Son of Alex & Karla Salahshour



PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

Healing Rosary

Monday, December 21 6:30-7:00 pm - Church



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.

Mary Jo Rourke Margaret Trenkamp Fred Beegle Jacob Gordon George Martin 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 Mirando Eleanor Bertagni Marge Diemer Sheila Flannery Jeanne Horwath Richard Rarick Lydia Reilly G. Baby Reese Tom

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 Santoscov 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 Parishioners 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
Nick Corsones
Kirklan Kudrna
Brady Smith
Kevin Comiskey
Christopher Scott
Combellick
Zack Veselick
Eric Aslakson
Patrick McGroarty

Therese Hummer

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

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

The Gesu Parish Staff is preparing for this year's Christmas liturgies. As you know, it is a unique year, with the COVID-19 pandemic still widespread throughout the country. We are taking precautions to make sure parishioners, guests and our staff remain safe during this time. Due to social distancing requirements, we are only able to accommodate up to 200 people per liturgy, including special liturgies such as Christmas Eve and Christmas day.

Please note that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Days or Sunday Mass remains in effect. The 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Liturgy will be live streamed and will be available for viewing during and after the liturgy. Additionally, there are a number of resources on our parish website to assist families who choose to worship from home, or to incorporate some rituals into their family gathering on Christmas and throughout the season.

To help manage attendance, we are requiring everyone, parishioners and guests, to make reservations in advance for the Christmas Mass they wish to attend. Online reservations can be made by visiting our website www.churchofthegesu.org. Beginning on December 14, if you need assistance making reservations, please call the Parish Office at (216) 932-0617, Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm.

The complete list of Masses is as follows: December 24 at 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm, and 10:30 pm in the Church; December 24 at 4:05 pm in the Family Center; December 25 at 10:00 am and 11:30 am in the Church.

We appreciate your understanding and wish you and your family a safe and healthy Christmas Season.

ADVENT HYMNS

Performed by Gesu Music Ministry

As we anticipate the celebration of the birth of our Lord, enjoy some of Gesu's favorite Advent Hymns, performed by Mu-



sic Director, Mark Ehrbar, along with violinists from our Gesu Music Ministry. Listen while you pray, decorate your Christmas tree, bake cookies or even wrap presents. This beautiful music will surely get you in the Christmas spirit! To listen, visit https://bit.ly/3oyP2RS.

DONATIONS FOR POINSETTIAS



We are 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!



& SCRIPTURE READINGS

MONDAY 12/21

St. Peter Canisius

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33; Lk 1:39-45

7:30 am

Leonard & Collette

Fuerst

TUESDAY 12/22

1 Sm 1:24-28; Psalm: 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

7:30 am Helen Orlosky

WEDNESDAY 12/23

St. John of Kanty

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25; Lk 1:57-66

7:30 am Joseph Deucher

THURSDAY 12/24

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Lk 1:67-79 Christmas Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25

FRIDAY 12/25

The Nativity of the Lord

Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

SATURDAY 12/26

St. Stephen

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31; Mt 10:17-22

SATURDAY VIGIL & SUNDAY 12/27

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128 or Ps 105; Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22, 39-40

4:30 pm Ann Regina

Waugaman

9:00 am George Thomey 11:00 am Jonathan Torontali

FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE Week of 12/20/20

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 Luke 1:31-38. This great story relates how Mary was given the news that she would become the mother of a son, Jesus, who would be the Son of the Most High. Mary was quite young when this happened, and you can imagine perhaps her confusion and being overwhelmed. Yet, she trusted this messenger and wholeheartedly responded "be it done unto me according to your word." Most of us wouldn't handle a message like this so readily, but somehow Mary trusted the angel, and placed her whole life into this plan of God to bring a Savior into the world. How do we handle news that surprises or shocks us? How can we help each other to live through the questions to discover what God is asking of us? Offer some examples.

Pause a little,

SHARE: Use this thought or question for family sharing:

Responding to others is sometimes a joy, sometimes a challenge! It often depends on the relationship we have with the one who asks. But sometimes there are other things that matter. And there are "small" asks, and "big" asks, like the one Mary received this time.

What makes a "big" ask like hers? These might be more rare, but can be life changing. Share some of these examples. What helps someone to respond with joy and fullness of heart?

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

Light the fourth candle on your Advent wreath. Have someone read some of the words that Mary used. She was using the prayer of Hannah that she learned as a child:

My soul is filled with joy as I sing to God my Savior; you have looked upon your servant, you have visited your people.

(Continued)

I am lowly as a child, but I know from this day forward that my name will be remembered, for all will call me blessed.

In your love you now fulfill what you promised to your people.

I will praise you, Lord, my savior, everlasting is your mercy.

- Luke 1:46-55

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!

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.

IGNATIAN THREADS

This week begins with the 4th Sunday of Advent and ends with celebration of the great gift of love, which Mary brings forth in the flesh. Is your Advent ending on a note of peace and gratitude? Have you kept Jesus as your fixed point? Do you sense a sharing in the grace of Mary's hope and trust? Did you allow times in your prayer life to just BE WITH GOD and let him love you? Have you given the best of yourself as your gift to God? In this Advent season, have you let God nourish your spirit and prepare your heart? Having journeyed with Mary, you are ready to greet the Prince of Peace. Let us embrace the light of divine love, this gift of the divine self freely-given. In hope and gratitude let us celebrate the IGNATIAN Birth of the Holy Child that makes God's love immediately Threads available to all.

NEW YEAR'S EVE RETREAT

You are invited to a New Year's Eve Retreat Thursday, December 31 through Friday, January 1. Presented by Fr. Jim Shea, SJ. New Year's Eve is a threshold moment - an ideal time to stop and reflect and pray in gratitude for the blessings of the past year, and to look with renewed hope upon the life and possibilities of a new year. The retreat begins with dinner at 5:30 pm and concludes at 11:00 am the next morning.

Fr. Jim Shea, SJ will offer insights for reflection based on the tradition of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. The retreat includes Mass, as well as opportunities for personal prayer and spiritual conversation. Cost is \$95. For more information or to register, visit www.jesuitretreatcenter.org/.

FREE VIRTUAL CONCERT

Brighten your Christmas Season. Enjoy a free virtual concert with John Michael Talbot and other Catholic musical artists. The Christmas Concert is a 1-hour celebration that includes a dozen performances and a message of Christmas Inspiration. The concert is available now at SCRC.org/Christmas.

Southern California Renewal Communities (SCRC) is an officially commissioned ministry of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Since 1972 SCRC has helped shepherd the modern-day Charismatic renewal among Catholics. Our mission is to help people be transformed by discovering a new openness to the reality of the Holy Spirit.

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/adventactivities-for-your-domestic-church.

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY FOR TODAY



Are you looking for a way to be more aware of God's presence in your life? Do you wish to grow in your relationship with God? The season of Advent is the perfect time for this - to slow down and savor moments of peace and solitude in the midst of the busyness of life.

One tool to help you do this is Pray As You Go, which combines music, scripture and reflection. Designed to go with you wherever you go, particularly when you are traveling to and from work, study, errands, etc, this website and app feature incredible offerings.

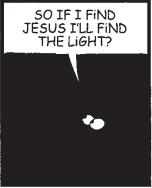
We at Gesu encourage you to explore the entire Pray As You Go website, but here is a sampling of two Ignatian prayer experiences based on the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the Third Sunday of Advent. Enjoy!

- https://pray-as-you-go.org/player/prayer/2020-12-08
- https://pray-as-you-go.org/player/prayer/2020-12-13

CHRISTMAS









PRAY | LEARN | SERVE

CHILDREN'S CORNER

SHARING THE GOSPEL

With God's helping hands, you can do unbelievable things. You can write books. You can be the President. You can clean up your bedroom. You can climb monkey bars. You can give food and drink to the hungry. When you are feeling weak, sit down and pray. Ask God to help you. Nothing is impossible for him. Just like Mary, you have to believe that you can do anything with God's help.

PRAYER

Jesus, give me wisdom to ask you for your help

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw the angel telling Mary that she would have the baby Jesus.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will not give up on difficult jobs. I will pray and try again.



Catholic Social Teaching & the Pandemic:

WEIGHING THE RESPONSE

"I am confident above all in you, young people, who are capable of dreaming and who are prepared to build, with the help of God, a more just and beautiful world."

Pope Francis has great faith in young people across the globe as evidenced in this quotation from a Catholic News Agency article that addressed the Vatican's plan to sponsor the Economy of Francesco. This virtual conference involving 2,000 young economists and entrepreneurs from around the world was held recently to encourage them to "build a more just, fraternal, inclusive and sustainable economy today and in the future." Read more about this unique gathering by accessing the following link: https://bit.ly/390YAnl

The Pope referenced the ongoing pandemic in his opening address to the conference participants by reminding them that "we never emerge from a crisis unaffected: either we end up better or worse. Let us foster what is good, make the most of this moment and place ourselves at the service of the common good." The entire text can be found

at https://bit.ly/37AuAZW.



December: Clothe the Maked



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 a family or agency
- 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/36mBGlf
- 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, <u>January</u>
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 <code>jherbert@gesu.com</code>. 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:

- 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 direc-

tor, Debbie Lautenbach, at (216) 932-0620 ext. 304.

GESU KINDERGARTEN 2021–2022 REGISTRATION

Families interested in the Gesu Kindergarten for September 2021 will find the following information helpful in planning. Gesu School will have three All-Day Kindergarten classes that meet daily from 8:00 am - 2:40 pm.

Parent Information Meeting

A Parent Information Meeting will be held on <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>January 12</u>, <u>2021</u> in the Family Center at 7:00 pm. This meeting is optional and is intended for families new to Gesu School or families who have not recently had a Kindergarten student to become familiar with the Gesu program. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Judi Herbert at **jherbert@gesu.com**. This event is for adults only and masks are required.

<u>Registration</u> (see Admissions Priorities below.)

 Gesu families who currently have other children attending Gesu School in grades K-8 will be able to register beginning on January 4, 2021. Please note (Continued on next page) that Kindergarten registration will be done online this year. More detailed information will be forth coming.

- Gesu parishioners new to Gesu School will receive the online Kindergarten registration information at the meeting on January 12. Parents unable to attend the meeting should contact the Admissions Director at (216) 932-0620, ext. 117 or jherbert@ gesu.com.
- Catholic families not registered at Gesu and non-Catholic families will receive the online Kinder garten registration information at the meeting on January 12. Parents unable to attend the meeting should contact the Admissions Director.

Documentation

The following documentation will be required at the time of registration:

- The child's Birth Certificate (The child must be five years of age by September 30th.)
- Baptismal Certificate, if applicable. (If baptized at Gesu, please provide the date.)
- Immunization Records
- Legal Custody information (if applicable)
- A recent Photograph of the child
- Registration Fee: \$125.00 (non-refundable if accepted)

Registration will be considered complete when all required information and documents have been submitted and the registration fee has been paid.

GESU PARISHIONER RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

Ann McGowan Porath, managing attorney of The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland's Volunteer Lawvers Program (VLP) and Intake Group, and a Gesu parishioner, is the 2020 recipient of the annual Ohio Access to Justice Foundation Denis J. Murphy Award, recognizing outstanding leadership and advocacy within Ohio's legal aids. Porath began her tenure with legal aid in 1984, and has dedicated her career to providing legal services to Ohioans in need. Under her leadership of the VLP, legal aid expanded its outreach to include more than 100 legal clinics each year. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Ann led a pivot to a virtual clinic model so that Ohioans in Northeast Ohio continue to receive legal help. Read more about Ann's achievements at https://bit.ly/341BEOf.

Surviving or Thriving: HOPE IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

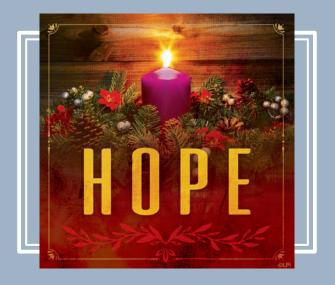
As we approach the Christmas season and prepare to ring in a New Year, few of us would have anticipated that our lives would continue to be besieged and turned upside down from a potentially deadly virus. Life in the midst of a pandemic has altered virtually every aspect of society. Every aspect of life has been impacted, including our life at home and our day-to-day activities.

In times that are steeped in extraordinary stress, it takes courage, commitment, and creativity to deal with that stress in ways that avoid regrettable actions. Everyone is vulnerable in times like these, including parents, children, educators, seniors that live alone, and all those that suffer from despair.

But there are signs of hope, even throughout these darkest of nights, there is no pandemic, there is no crisis that can extinguish the Light. Let us allow the Light of Christ to enter our hearts and let us lend a hand to those who need it most. In this way, God will be born anew in us and among us.

Wherever you may be, as we enter into the holiday season and welcome in 2021, know that you are not alone. Take refuge in the inspiration that the passages in this Surviving or Thriving series invite you into...Welcome, beautiful soul!

Listen to "Why We Need Advent Now More Than Ever" at https://bit.ly/2VPpFPd



CATHOLIC CHARITIES UPDATE

Thank you! Your support of the Annual Appeal has made a difference, especially as the needs of our communities continue to grow during COVID-19. Because of your generosity, people who are hungry and homeless, addicted and struggling, lonely, sick and hurting will have the services available to assist them during the pandemic and have hope for the future. You can find stories of hope and faith when you visit www.CatholicCommunity.org/COVIDVideo. As of November 30, a total of 41,274 faithful donors from across the Diocese have pledged more than \$13.2 million towards the Annual Appeal goal of \$13.5 million.

Here at Gesu, 330 parishioners have pledged \$173,993 toward our parish goal of \$\$155,785. That is 111.69% of our overall goal! Your financial support makes a difference and transforms lives. Thank you on behalf of those served by Catholic Charities.

If you have not yet made your gift, contact Karen Joyce at (216) 696-6525 x1910 to give by phone or make a secure online gift at www.Catholic Community.org/donate.

FAITH DIRECT

So much is different this Christmas season, yet the focus and dedication of our parish ministries remains constant – as people in need throughout our community turn to Gesu Church for warm meals, comfort and shelter during the holidays, we must be there for them...which is why we are reaching out to our parishioners.

Your generous online donations are needed now to help sustain Christmas ministries that reflect the promise of God's love. The upheaval and distress caused by COVID-19 give these ministries added importance, and your kindness will help families all around us.

We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/OH283, or text "Enroll" to (216) 930-2992.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You, Fr. Kiser

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 gradua-

tion 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 Year-to-Date Offering Offering 10/1/20 - 10/31/20 7/1/20 - 10/31/20 Sunday Offering \$97.235 \$271.573 Faith Direct \$163,536 \$39,711 Easter/Christmas Holy Days \$963 \$90 **Total Contributions** \$137,036 \$437,497 \$95,000 \$404,750 Variance from Budget \$42.036 \$32,747 Other Monthly Collections Honduras Mission \$380 Food Fund \$6.613 \$6,738 Corporal Works of Mercy \$413 \$513 Fund for Gesu \$3 428 Monthly Special Collections Catholic Communications \$25 World Mission \$362 \$362 \$101 \$101



PASTORAL CENTER HOLIDAY HOURS

December 24 - January 1

Thursday, Dec. 24: CLOSED Friday, Dec. 25: CLOSED Thursday, Dec. 31: CLOSED Friday, Jan. 1: CLOSED

PARISH DIRECTORY

The 2020-2021 Gesu Directory is now available on our website. Visit **churchofthegesu.org** and select Gesu at a Glance / Resources / Parish Directory.

GESU BULLETIN

Bulletin Submissions

All information and materials for the bulletin should be emailed to bulletin@churchofthegesu.org.

Submissions for the January 9/10 bulletin are due by Friday, January 1.

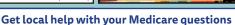












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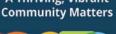
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