

2470 Miramar Blvd., University Heights, OH 44118



3rd

SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." - Jn 1:26-27

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

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

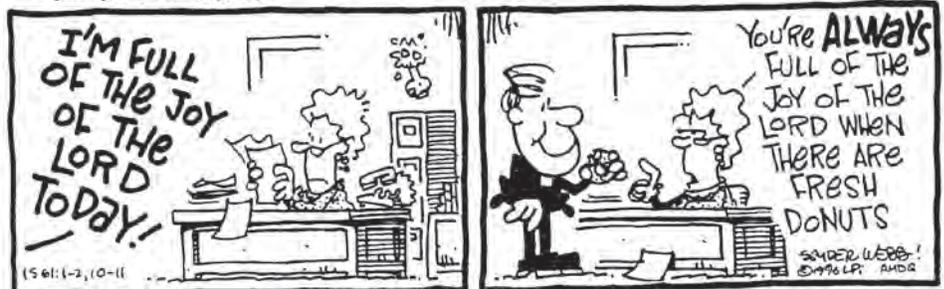
Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible, but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

©LPi

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



This Week at Gesu

MONDAY 12/14

Mass.....7:30 am - Church
Gesu PTO Mtg.....7:00-9:00 pm - Zoom

TUESDAY 12/15

Mass.....7:30 am - Church
RCIA..... 7:00-9:00 pm - Zoom

WEDNESDAY 12/16

Mass.....7:30 am - Church
Legion of Mary.....8:00-9:00 am - Church Narthex
Rosary for Life.....8:15-8:45 am - Church
St. Ignatius Food & Clothing Drop-off.....
.....10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Parking Lot
Ignatius Prayer & Faith Sharing.....7:00-8:30 pm - Zoom

THURSDAY 12/17

Mass.....7:30 am - Church
Gesu Book Club.....6:45-8:45 pm - Zoom

FRIDAY 12/18

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

SATURDAY 12/19

Bible Study.....12:00-2:00 pm - Zoom
Advent Angel Tree Drop-off.....3:00-6:00 pm - McAuley Hall
Confession.....3:00-4:00 pm - Nativity Room
Vigil Mass.....4:30 pm - Church

SUNDAY 12/20

Advent Angel Tree Drop-off...8:30 am - 12:30 pm - McAuley Hall
Mass.....9:00 am & 11:00 am - Church

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 Music 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>.



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

Nancy Schendel

Wife of Paul; Mother of
Jennifer & Kimberly

Brian White



PRAYERS & DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

Rosary for Life

Wednesday, December 16
8:15-8:45 am - Church



HELP US UPDATE OUR PRAYER LISTS

Please help us update the "Sick" and "Servicemen and Women" prayer lists. If you have a family member who should be removed from one of the lists, please contact Sr. Linda at lmartinosu@churchofthegesu.org or (216) 932-0617.



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.

Margaret Trenkamp
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 Mirando
Eleanor Bertagni
Marge Diemer
Sheila Flannery
Jeanne Horwath
Richard Rarick
Lydia
Reilly 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 Hespern
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

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 Monday, December 14. You can also call the parish office at (216) 932-0617 on or after December 14 to make a reservation.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Seasons Greetings to all! As indicated in the notice above, there will be six Masses at Gesu over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If you are willing to serve as an Usher or Check-In Person at one of the Masses, please let us know by calling the Parish Office or emailing Lori at lwright@churchofthegesu.org by December 16. Ideally, a total of 4 are needed for each Mass. Tickets will be reserved for volunteers and their families.

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!

Mass Intentions & SCRIPTURE READINGS

MONDAY 12/14

St. John of the Cross

*Is 35:1-10; Ps 85;
Lk 5:17-26*

7:30 am Nan Morgan

TUESDAY 12/15

*Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98;
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38*

7:30 am Orlando Carlini

WEDNESDAY 12/16

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

7:30 am Dan Rourke

THURSDAY 12/17

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

7:30 am John Chambers

FRIDAY 12/18

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

7:30 am Anne Raguso

SATURDAY 12/19

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

SATURDAY VIGIL & SUNDAY 12/20

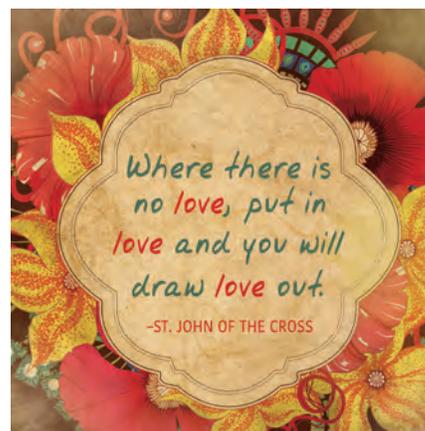
Fourth Sunday of Advent

*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 Domenic D' Agostino

9:00 am John P. Sedlak

11:00 am Timothy Browne





FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE

Week of 12/13/20

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 John 1:6-8, 23-28. We hear about John the Baptist again this week. This time he speaks those powerful words, "Make straight the way of the Lord!" and then he points the way to Jesus, someone they do not yet recognize! He is the one for whom they have all awaited!

Pause a little,

SHARE: Use this thought or question for family sharing:

Many times we miss what is right in front of us. That's what was happening with John and the people of his time. Even though they were drawn to John, John's mission was to point out someone even greater who would become the Savior of all. He would be the Light for the world! Like today, they often missed who Jesus was and is. Our world still seeks light and hope! Can you think of ways that people are missing this message? Look at the news this week, and find examples of hope, and examples where hope and light are most needed.

The third candle on the Advent wreath is pink! It reminds us of the joy that comes as we near the great feast of Christmas, but also as the light that leads others to that hope!

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

Today is also the feast of St. Lucy, a saint who is depicted as bringing the light into the darkness. In Scandinavian countries, a young girl is chosen to wear a beautiful crown with candles to symbolize bringing the Light into the darkness during this Advent season.

Light the third candle and pray that the Light of Jesus might move into the dark and shadowy places that need that light. And also pray that we might grow stronger in being that hope for someone else. In this busy week, can we reach out to someone through a phone call, a card or a visit? (*Continued*)

Bring all of these people to our prayer today ...
Come, Lord Jesus, come!

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 PRAYER & FAITH SHARING

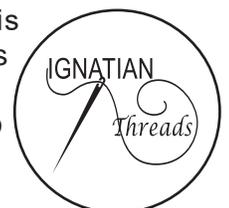


The next virtual Zoom gathering of Ignatian Prayer & Faith Sharing will be Wednesday, December 16 from 7:00-8:30 pm. Participants can use a computer, tablet/iPad, or phone for this experience of praying in the

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!

IGNATIAN THREADS

Advent means "a coming into place, view or being," reminding us of a movement, a journey, having a goal or destination. Advent is very much about hope and preparation and waiting and longing. It is also about connection. This season coincides with the end of our calendar year, creating a thread between looking back on the passing year and moving forward to the next. These weeks of Advent offer us valuable opportunities for a sort of tune-up or realignment in the course of our faith journey, an adjustment that may help us better navigate our way ahead. The spiritual life is all about union with God. Advent seems a perfect time to affirm, appreciate and strengthen this relationship. Let us welcome this Advent journey, this chance to let go of our distractions and encumbrances and re-route our thoughts and actions to echo His purpose.



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>

THANK YOU, JENNY!

We are saddened to say farewell to our youth minister, Jenny Lee. We have enjoyed and appreciated her presence and cheerful spirit. Our prayers and support go with her as she continues her studies and does her practicum in Special Education.

GESU ANGEL TREE PROJECT



We 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 visit our website at www.churchofthegesu.org.

[org/gesu-angel-tree-project](http://www.churchofthegesu.org/gesu-angel-tree-project) to find out how to sign up. We thank you in advance for your generosity and willingness to make a difference during this especially difficult year!

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.

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.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

SHARING THE GOSPEL

People noticed John the Baptist. He loved God, and he used words honestly. He really wanted to help people change and grow closer to God. He stood out as someone really different and special. People came from all around to hear him and learn about him. When people asked him questions, he pointed them to Jesus.

PRAYER

Jesus, help me to be different because I love you.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw a picture of yourself being honest and kind with your family.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Ask a friend if he or she is ready to meet Jesus.



Catholic Social Teaching & the Pandemic:

WEIGHING THE RESPONSE

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>.

"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/39OYAnI>

FEATURED ARTICLE

December: Clothe the Naked



The Corporal Works of Mercy deal with care for a person's bodily needs. Food and water stand at the top of the list, and clothing comes right behind (see Sir 29:21). Jesus described this merciful work as "naked and you clothed me" (Mt 25:36). While nakedness can mean the complete lack of clothing, it more often means destitute, a result of extreme poverty.

Emotionally, nakedness - poverty - is humiliating, and clothing eliminates the embarrassment and shame. Physically, clothing is needed to protect the body from the elements. Thin or lighter clothing is needed in sunlight to prevent sunburn and skin cancer; heavier clothing is needed in cooler conditions to prevent chill, hypothermia and frostbite; work clothing is needed to protect from abrasions and slivers; and footwear is needed to protect from cuts, bruises and falls.

To clothe the naked as an act of mercy is firmly grounded in Scriptures and has been put into action by saints throughout history. A classic example is the story of St. Martin of Tours. As a young man he was a Roman soldier, and one wintry day he was riding on patrol and came upon a poor beggar at the city gate. The man was old, hunched and almost naked, shivering and suffering from the cold. The beggar cried out for alms, but Martin had no money. With only the clothes on his back, Martin withdrew his sword and sliced his tattered, thick military cloak in two and wrapped one piece around the beggar. That night, Martin had a dream in which he saw Jesus in heaven wrapped in the same cloak he had given to the beggar. An angel asked Jesus, "Master, why are you wearing that battered old cloak?" Jesus replied, "My friend Martin gave it to me."

When it comes to providing clothing, charity begins at home with the purchase of adequate clothing for the family, and it continues with dressing young children and those with a sickness or disability that hinders their ability to dress themselves. Beyond the home, it includes alms-giving to organizations like the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Red Cross or a local emergency shelter. It is also desirable to go through one's closets and drawers periodically to gather clothes to be donated to Goodwill or other organizations that assist the poor.

Edited from The Catholic Spirit, Rather Michael Slournn, October 26, 2016
Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

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, 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.

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.



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.

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/.

Surviving or Thriving:

HOPE IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

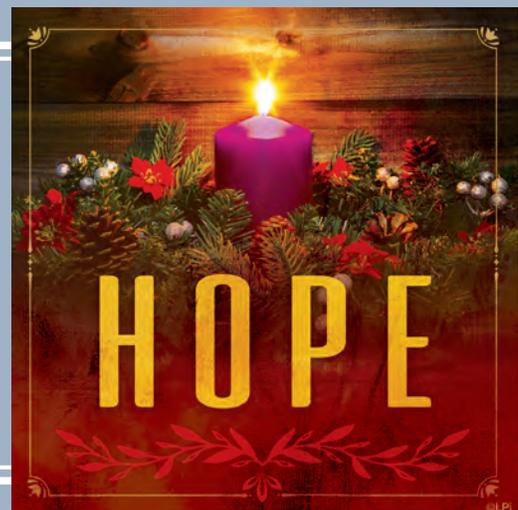
As we approach the Christmas season and prepare to ring in a New Year, few of us would have anticipated that our lives would continue to be besieged and turned upside down from a potentially deadly virus. Life in the midst of a pandemic has altered virtually every aspect of society. Every aspect of life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



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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	Year-to-Date Offering
	10/1/20 - 10/31/20	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

GESU SCHOOL RAFFLE WINNERS

Congratulations to our November raffle winners: Lawrence Barrett, Bonnie Jean Kennedy, Barbara Nickerson and Emily Edwards. Thank you for supporting Gesu School!

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Gesu Catholic School Community, we thank you so much for supporting #wegiveCatholic last week. Gesu has been blessed with over \$6,000 in donations that will support our Better Classrooms for a Brighter Future initiative! We are very grateful.



GESU BULLETIN

Bulletin Submissions

All information and materials for the bulletin should be emailed to bulletin@churchofthegesu.org. **Submissions for the December 26/27 bulletin are due by Tuesday, December 15.**

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