

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2024

BE VIGILANT.

LK 21:36

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT • 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT





Mass Times

Monday:
6:00pm

Tuesday - Friday:
8:15am

Saturday:
8:15am
4:30 pm

Sunday:
8:30am* | 11:00am | 5:30pm

*Mass is Livestreamed watch via YouTube:
bit.ly/SMOY-YouTube

Notice of Filming and Photography
In order to offer Mass online, we will be live streaming during the 8:30 Sunday Mass. This means there is a possibility your image and likeness may appear on camera.

Communion Service

Saturday:
8:15am



Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at our scheduled time or by appointment.

Fr. Ed | 513.697.3169
Fr. Stephen | 513.697.3102

Scheduled Confession Times

Monday:
6:30pm-7:00pm*

Saturday:
3:00pm - 4:00pm

*Or until last Confession is heard

Anyone in need of assistance at Communion please notify an Usher before Mass begins.

Wisdom of the Word Bible Study

Divine Mercy & Eternal Rest

This coming Winter/Spring 2025 WOW Session will feature two studies, Divine Mercy and Eternal Rest. Eternal Rest will follow immediately after Divine Mercy, and you must register for both now as there will not be a separate registration for Eternal Rest. The cost includes two workbooks, one for each study.

Divine Mercy

Renowned speaker and author Fr. Michael Gaitley tells the dramatic history of God's love and mercy as interwoven through the transformative message of St. Faustina, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, the witness of Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope St. John Paul II.

Eternal Rest

The art of dying well is also the art of living well. By understanding who we are and what we are made for, we can order our lives and values according to God's design for our true fulfillment. Knowing we will die someday allows us to live as prudent stewards of the time we're given, and it grants us the ability to joyfully anticipate eternal life.

Study begins January 15, 2025

(Study goes from January 15, 2025 - May 7, 2025)

Choose Your Study

Morning Study:

(Limited to 100 participants)
Wednesdays, 9:00 - 11:30am

Evening Study:

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:30pm

Cost & Registration

Cost: \$40 (paid through registration online)

Registration Deadline: December 18, 2024

Registration:

We are using a new registration and payment portal that allows you to both register and make your payment at the same time. Payment can be made by credit card, debit card, a withdrawal from your bank account, or by Google Pay. The parish office will no longer be able to accept cash or checks for WOW registration. Your registration will not be complete until payment has been made.

Registration will open on Saturday, November 23rd.

Visit smoy.org to access link.

Location:

Fr. James Brooks Hall
(Located on the lower level of the church)

Questions:

Birgitt Hacker | bhacker@smoy.org



Sunday Reflection

Fr. Ed Smith

Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

The first words of the first chapter of the first book of the Bible [Genesis] are: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." The last words from the last chapter of the last book of the Bible [Revelation] are: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Between these two statements the Bible is filled with testaments of faith, stories of hope, and examples of love, all of which find their culmination in the life, ministry, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. No wonder the final line of scripture is a longing to see Him again. From the earliest days, Christians longed for Jesus to enter their lives, their hearts, and their world.

Advent looks at this longing in two major ways: the expectation and remembrance of the coming of Jesus at Christmas, and the confidence that He will come again at the end of time. Our readings this weekend certainly address this, especially as Jesus proclaims that we must be ready for His coming whenever and however it happens. And there are many ways this does happen: in our family, our friendships, our simple moments of prayer, our routine activity of the day.

Perhaps, during this Advent, it might help us to focus some of our attention on the coming of Jesus in the ordinary moments of life. Maybe events we could easily forget can then take on a deeper meaning: perhaps people we could easily dismiss now reveal a goodness we never saw before; maybe we can look at the gift of our faith with renewed appreciation; perhaps we can see, in places we would never have imagined, the face of God who made us and our world. So, this is a great way to both open and close Advent, from "In the beginning," to "Come Lord Jesus!"

Fr. Ed Smith



CLERGY & STAFF

Priests

Fr. Ed Smith
Pastor
esmith@smoy.org
513.697.3169

Fr. Stephen Hughes
Parochial Vicar
shughes@smoy.org
513.697.3102

Deacons

Paul Blessing
Deacon
paul.e.blessing@gmail.com

Mike Muse
Deacon
mike_muse@live.com
513.504.8442

Mike Huffman
Deacon
mjahuffman@msn.com
513.313.1121

Jeff Perkins
Deacon
deacon.jp@gmail.com
513.226.6665

Parish Staff

Kathy McGaughy
Business Manager
kmcgaughy@smoy.org
513.697.3108

Jacilyn Jackson
Coordinator of
Religious Education
jjackson@smoy.org
513.697.3109

Josette Hudek
Bookkeeper
jhudek@smoy.org
513.697.3105

Birgitt Hacker
Pastoral Associate of
Adult Faith Formation
& Ministries
bhacker@smoy.org
513.697.3114

Margie Schmitz
Administrative Assistant
mschmitz@smoy.org
513.697.3171

Michelle Manczyk
Communications
Coordinator
communications@smoy.org
513.697.3111

Tony Arnold
Pastoral Associate
of Liturgical Music
tarnold@smoy.org
513.697.3107

School Office Staff

Kristin Penley
Principal
kpenley@smoyschool.org
513.697.3123

Stacy Brandel
Office Manager
sbrandel@smoyschool.org
513.697.3121

Natalie Cohen
Assistant Principal
ncohen@smoyschool.org
513.697.3124

Amy Eisele
Admissions
aeisele@smoyschool.org
513.697.3122

Event Sponsored by Wisdom of the Word Bible Study

Universal Mother:

A Journey for Finding Yourself in Mary



December 4 | 7:00pm

St. Margaret of York Catholic Church

Join us for an evening of Marian art and reflections to enhance your Advent experience. Artist Holly Schapker and art historian Cecelia Dorgier will engage in conversation with the audience.

Explore artwork from across art history alongside Schapker's paintings of the Blessed Mother, guiding us on a journey to deepen our understanding of Mary's role in the Salvation Story.

Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events with a green bar under them are at St. Columban. Events with a red bar under them are at St. Margaret. Events with a yellow bar are at a third party location.

1

Taizé Prayer

Tuesday, December 3 | 7:00pm | St. Columban

Taizé Prayer is a meditative form of Christian worship featuring repetitive chants, scripture readings, silence, and prayer, fostering reflection and peace. Join our Family of Parishes at St. Columban on Tuesday, December 3 at 7:00pm

2

PLUS Meeting (Prayerful Loving Understanding and Support for Grieving Parents)

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Fr. Obermeyer Room

Typically held on the 4th Wednesday of each month, PLUS meetings in November and December adjust to accommodate the major holidays. This year, the group will gather on the first Wednesday of December. The topic for the meeting will be "Coping with the Holidays After a Loss."

3

No Promises Vocal Band

Thursday, December 5 | 7:30pm | St. Columban

No Promises Vocal Band returns to St. Columban for its traditional Christmas concert. Don't miss this excellent vocal group performing your holiday favorites.

4

Heart & Soul Fellowship Gathering

Friday, December 6 | Following Mass and Rosary | Gathering Space

Friday, December 6th, a Fellowship Gathering immediately following First Friday Mass & Rosary in the Gathering Space. Donuts, Breakfast Pastries, Coffee, Tea and Orange Juice to be provided. Donation accepted.

Heart & Soul is planning a Post Christmas/Epiphany Dinner Event in January. Details will be forthcoming including a "Save the Date".

5

SVdP Christmas Gift Card Donations

After Mass December 7-8 | Narthex

Members of St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting donations, cash or check, for gift cards for Thanksgiving and Christmas for the neighbors we serve. We will be in the Narthex after the Vigil and Sunday Masses the weekend of Dec. 7 and 8. Please make checks out to SMOY. Your continued support of this ministry is greatly appreciated.

Parish Financial Support

Sunday Offerings (September 2024)

September 01	\$13,170.44
EFT	\$11,113.00
September 08	\$12,807.72
September 15	\$10,491.00
EFT	\$9,753.00
September 22	\$11,272.43
September 29	\$15,758.00

WeShare Offering \$44,196.00

Total for current month to date \$128,561.59

Sunday Offerings (October 2024)

October 06	\$11,794.72
EFT	\$11,113.00
October 13	\$21,042.00
EFT	\$9,753.00
October 20	\$10,419.43
October 27	\$15,740.50

WeShare Offering \$#'s 40,446.00

Total for current month to date \$120,308.65

Sunday Offerings (November 2024)

November 03	\$14,257.72
EFT	\$11,113.00
November 10	\$11,372.00
EFT	\$9,343.00
November 17	\$19,087.50
November 24	

WeShare Offering \$#'s n/a

Total for current month to date \$36,742.72

Mortgage Indebtedness

Principal balance on mortgage: \$1,583,272.00
 Number of Months left until payoff: 44
 Monthly Payment: 33,690

Updated numbers not available at time of printing

Giving Tree

November 16th - December 8

Support those in need this Christmas season! SMOY's Giving Tree will help both local charities and families within our community.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Giving Tree Goes Up: Saturday, November 16th
- Return Items By: Sunday, December 8th

HOW IT WORKS:

1. Select a tag from the Giving Tree.
2. Purchase the item listed on the tag.
3. Return the unwrapped gift to the tree with the tag attached by **December 8th.**

Let's come together to spread joy and make this holiday season special for those in need!

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 9th

St. Margaret
8:15am & 6:00pm

St. Columban
9:00am & 12:00pm

Normally celebrated on December 8, this year the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception falls on a Sunday and is therefore transferred to December 9.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

St. Columban
DECEMBER 10 & 11
7:00 PM

St. Margaret of York
DECEMBER 16
6:30 PM

From Adam's great condemnation, we seek the shoot from Jesse's stem, to under the star in Bethlehem

St. Margaret of York
Lessons & Carols
December 11th
6:00pm

Celebrate Advent with "Lessons and Carols," a cherished tradition. This event, over 100 years old, is loved worldwide. Admission is free; donations for children's meal bundles are welcome.



Why the Eucharist is the Heart of the Christian Life

Welcome to the Domestic Church Corner! This month, we are exploring the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The Eucharist is significant because it is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus. Due to its immense depth, we cannot cover everything there is to know about it in a short bulletin article. Instead, we will focus on the effects of the Sacrament and its form and matter, similar to previous articles.

If you want to learn more about the Eucharist, the parish will give away a book titled *33 Days to Eucharistic Glory for Christmas*. We will also hold book discussions on it in January, so consider joining in!

The Eucharist is the third Sacrament of Initiation. The Catechism (CCC1324) describes it as the "source and summit of the Christian Life." "Eucharist" comes from the Greek word "eucharistia", which means thanksgiving. The Eucharist was foreshadowed in the Old Testament through the manna provided by God in the desert and the lamb of the Jewish Passover meal. Jesus instituted the Eucharist on Holy Thursday while celebrating the Passover meal with His Apostles, an event we know as the Last Supper.

Through the Eucharist, Jesus left us His Real Presence, fulfilling His promise to be with us "always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). As Saint Thomas Aquinas stated in his *Summa Theologiae*, "Christ has not left us without his bodily presence in this our pilgrimage, but he joins us to himself in this sacrament in the reality of his body and blood."

Effects

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC1391 – 1397), we learn about the fruits or effects of the Eucharist:

Union with Christ – Holy Communion deepens our union with Christ. When we receive the Eucharist, we are brought into an intimate union with Him. As John 6:56 quotes Jesus, "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him."

Spiritual Nourishment – Just as material food sustains our bodily life, Holy Communion wonderfully nourishes our spiritual life.

Separation from Sin – Holy Communion cleanses us from sin. Jesus sacrificed His body and shed His blood to forgive our sins. The Eucharist unites us with Christ while also cleansing us from past sins and helping to preserve us from future sins. While the Eucharist wipes away venial sins, mortal sins must still be confessed through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Unity with the Church – The Eucharist unites us more closely to the Body of Christ, the Church. Those who receive the Eucharist are united more closely to Christ, and through it, Christ unites them with all the faithful in one Body—the Church. Communion renews, strengthens, and deepens this incorporation, which was already achieved by Baptism.

Commitment to the Poor—The Eucharist reminds us of our duty to serve those less fortunate. Christ came to us as a poor baby, and by serving the poor, we serve Jesus.

Form and Matter

To recap, the form of a Sacrament is what is said and done, while the matter is what is physically required to celebrate the Sacrament. For the Eucharist, the form consists of the Words of Institution spoken by the priest during Mass. Only a priest can consecrate the Eucharist, and this can only occur during the Holy Mass. The words are:

"Take this, all of you, and eat of it. For this is my body, which will be given up for you."

"Take this, all of you, and drink from it. For this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me."

The matter of the Eucharist includes unleavened wheat bread and wine. During the Mass, a few drops of water are added to the wine before consecration. Things like gluten-free bread, oat bread, or grape juice are not acceptable matter for the Eucharist.

Outside of receiving the Eucharist during Mass, we can also show our worship to Jesus in the Eucharist through Eucharistic Adoration. You can learn more about Adoration on our website at <https://smoy.org/blog/adoration-10>. Join us for Adoration on Thursdays and Saturdays and check our bulletin for available times.

This is just a glimpse into the theology and depth of the Eucharist. If you would like a recommendation for additional resources on the Eucharist, please contact Birgitt at bhacker@smoy.org.

Eucharistic Exposition

Weekly Eucharistic Exposition

Thursday

9:00am - 6:00pm
(Benediction @ 6:00pm)

Saturday

9:00am - 4:00pm
(Divine Mercy Chaplet @ 3:00pm)
(Benediction @ 4:00pm)

24hrs Eucharistic Exposition

3rd Saturday into Sunday

8:45am - 8:00am
(reposed 4:00 - 5:30pm for Mass)
Benediction at 7:50am

Eucharistic Guardian

To sign up or get information to be a
Eucharistic Guardian:
smoy.weadorehim.org

The Church is open whenever Mass isn't in
progress for adoration. For access to building
after hours, please contact:

Kathy McGaughy

kmcgaughy@smoy.org

Rosary

*This beautiful devotional practice is prayed
immediately following every weekday Mass.*

Tuesday - Saturday

8:45am

Monday

6:30pm

Sacraments

Please note all sacraments require
formational preparation prior to the
reception of the sacrament.
Please contact the following for
more information and to schedule:

Baptism: baptism@smoy.org
(For Baptism please include your
phone number when emailing)

Marriage: marriage@smoy.org
(For marriage prep please contact at
least 6 months before anticipated
wedding date.)

Holy Orders:

vocations@catholicaoc.org

ST. COLUMBAN & ST. MARGARET
Youth Group
12/08 @ St. Columban
6:30-8:00PM

JOURNEY INTO ADVENT
Pause your holiday rush for
Advent Prayer & Reflection

THURS. DEC. 12
AT SMOY

8:15am Mass
8:45am Exposition & Rosary
9:15am Advent Reflections & Prayer with Fr. Stephen
10:30am-6:00pm Exposition for silent prayer

SPONSORED BY SMOY ADORATION
<https://smoy.weadorehim.com/>

11

River's Edge Brass Band

Sunday, December 15 | 3:00pm | St. Columban

River's Edge Brass Band will perform its Christmas concert here in our church. We've hosted this amazing group of brass players and percussion twice for concerts. If you attended those events you know their Christmas music will be spectacular!



Make an Impact on

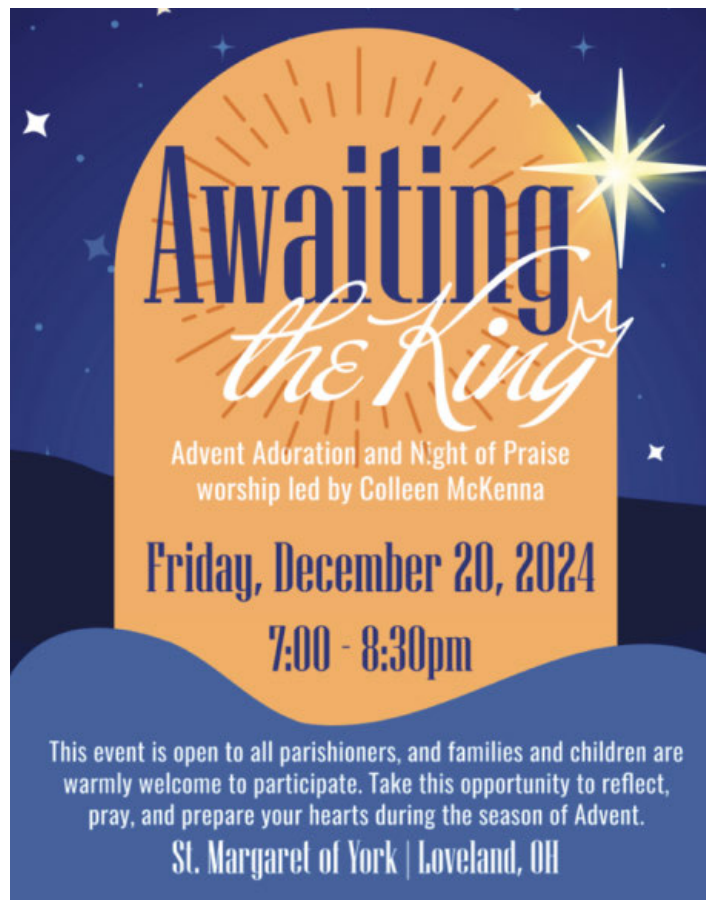
GIVING TUESDAY

12.03.2024

Giving Tuesday is celebrated each year to encourage people to do good and give back. This year, our church family is gathering donations to support our youth ministry programs!

This Giving Tuesday, please consider supporting our church by making a small donation.

Visit We Share via smoy.org to give!



Awaiting the King

Advent Adoration and Night of Praise
worship led by Colleen McKenna

Friday, December 20, 2024

7:00 - 8:30pm

This event is open to all parishioners, and families and children are warmly welcome to participate. Take this opportunity to reflect, pray, and prepare your hearts during the season of Advent.

St. Margaret of York | Loveland, OH



33 Days to EUCHARISTIC GLORY

This Christmas, we're excited to give away 700 copies of 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory by Matthew Kelly. This 33-day journey features daily readings about the Eucharist, just 3-4 pages each day, culminating in a Consecration to the Eucharist on the 33rd day.



St. Margaret of York School



Kindergarten Enrollment

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

- ✓ CHRIST-CENTERED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WITH DAILY PRAYER AND WEEKLY ALL-SCHOOL MASS
- ✓ 2023 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD WINNER FOR EXEMPLARY HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOLS
- ✓ FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN WITH OPTIONAL AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Apply January 1st-15th

On our website www.smoyschool.org



(Also accepting applications for grades 1-8)



An education to nurture your child's spiritual, academic, and personal growth.

O'Come let us Adore Him!

This Advent spend time with the Lord in Eucharistic Exposition.

Weekly Eucharistic Exposition

Thursday
9:00am - 6:00pm
(Benediction @ 6:00pm)

Saturday
9:00am - 4:00pm
(Benediction @ 4:00pm)

24hrs Eucharistic Exposition

3rd Saturday into Sunday
8:45am - 8:00am
(reposed 4:00 - 5:30pm for Mass)
Benediction at 7:50am

Eucharistic Guardian

To sign up or get information to be a

Eucharistic Guardian:
smoy.weadorehim.org



REVIVALS & RELICS

Join us for the once in a lifetime opportunity to venerate the relic of the skull of St. Thomas Aquinas!

You will also . . .

- learn about this great Eucharistic saint
- discover the connection between saints Thomas and Nicholas
- be inspired to grow in holiness through Eucharistic devotion
- receive a plenary indulgence

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7 A.M.- 6:30 P.M.	Relic available for veneration
7 A.M.	Mass, St. Thomas Aquinas
8 A.M.	Mass, St. Thomas Aquinas
11:30 A.M.	Mass, St. Thomas Aquinas
4 P.M.	Confessions
7 P.M.	Revivals & Relics Event Preaching, music by the Capella, and veneration of the relic

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024
ST. GERTRUDE CHURCH

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



Photo used with permission.
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Join the Permanent Diaconate

Any man who may be discerning a possible vocation to serve the Church as a Permanent Deacon should contact Deacon Mark Machuga, Director of the Office of the Diaconate, to discuss the discernment process, pre-requisites and the formation cycle. Deacon Mark can be reached at 513.263.6641 or deaconoffice@catholicaoc.org.

Gate of Heaven - Pre Planning Seminars

Being prepared is essential! Gate of Heaven Cemetery, owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, is here to help you understand the Church's teachings on end-of-life planning, so you can make these important decisions with peace of mind.

Planning ahead spares loved ones the added stress of making difficult decisions during times of grief. If you'd like to arrange a seminar at your parish, feel free to reach out, and we'll gladly help schedule a session.

For more details, visit:
<https://gateofheaven.org/events/>

To reserve your spot, please RSVP by calling 513.489.0300 or emailing community@gateofheaven.org.

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Become a Bulletin Sponsor

Did you know, our weekly bulletin is paid through our bulletin sponsors and actually provides extra funds to the parish? Becoming a bulletin sponsor is a great way to support the parish and get your business in front of your fellow parishioners. Interested? Contact: Chris Reeves | 800.477.4574 x6206 | creeves@4lpi.com

Please support our bulletin sponsors

Bulletin Sponsors of the Week
NixCo Plumbing
Ritter Hagee Doctors of Optometry

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 09

8:15AM Mass

SMOY Parishioners

6:00PM

+ Gus and Hilda Schmitz
by Ron and Margie Shaw

Tuesday, December 10

8:15AM Mass

+ James Tippet

by Emily Martin

Wednesday, December 11

8:15AM Mass

+ Glenn Perrey

by Sharon Schaefer

Thursday, December 12

8:15AM Mass

+ Connie Beede

by The Pacitti Family

Friday, December 13

8:15AM Mass

+ George Baker

by Kathy and Denny Baker

Saturday, December 14

8:15AM Mass

+ Anna Tang

by John Chan

4:30PM Mass

+ Jody Grebenc

by John and Gale McLaughlin

Sunday, December 15

8:30AM Mass

For the Intentions of the Baker Family
by Kathy and Denny Baker

11:00AM Mass

SMOY Parishioners

5:30PM Mass

+ Frank Martin Sr.

by Tina Martin

*Due to frequent last-minute changes,
celebrants will not be listed for now.*

CONTACTS

Parish Council & Commissions

Education Commission

Crista Ward
cristaaward@gmail.com

Finance Commission

Tony Levo
tlevo@fuse.net

Pastoral Council

Ed McLeod
pastoralcouncil@smoy.org

Social Action Commission

Dave Doel | 513.324.2320

Worship Commission

Tony Arnold | 513.697.3107
tarnold@smoy.org

Pray for the Sick

Tristan LaFord
Mary Sue Loftus
Nancy Kern
Andrea Kittel
Kendall Millette
Mike O'Brien, Jr.

Jacquie Scott
Earl Wall
Barbara Wilders
Jerry Young
Michael Zegarski

Prayer Request

The St. Margaret Prayer Chain Ministry prays for those experiencing a special need or emergency situation. They are a great comfort to anyone who feels alone when facing a time of crisis. You are welcome to be included in this special ministry, or if you have prayer intentions or requests, our prayers can be offered for you.

Prayer Chain

Amy Grogan | 513.646.8911
smoyprayerchain@gmail.com

Sacramental Prep Coordinators

Baptism Preparation

Charlotte Sharon
baptism@smoy.org

Marriage Preparation

Frank & Lisa Hoffman
marriage@smoy.org

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Birgitt Hacker | 513.697.3114
rcia@smoy.org

Declarations of Nullity (Annulments)

Deacon Mike Muse | 513.504.8442

Ministries & Faith Formation

Altar Servers

Fr. Stephen Hughes | 513.697.3102
shughes@smoy.org

Arts & Environment

Katie Yannucci
yannuccikt@gmail.com

Bereavement & Funeral Ministry

Patti Hawkins | 513.505.9755

Boosters Communications

Cara Focke
boostercommunications@smoy.org

Boosters Co-Presidents

Tony Focke & Mitch Stoermer
boosterpresident@smoy.org

Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts

Megan Pirchner - Boy Scouts
megan@pirchner.net
Paul Rieder - Cub Scouts
par383@yahoo.com

Cana Family Institute

Jessi Lima Bollin
smoycana@gmail.com

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Amanda Glenski
amandajglenski@yahoo.com

Challenge

Tammy O'Rourke | 513.226.1195
Susan Purdue | 513.600.1084

Communion to the Lodge

Patti Hawkins | 513.505.9755

Conquest

Chris O'Rourke
orourkeville@gmail.com

Elizabeth Ministry

Amy Konrad | 513.315.7431
amykonrad@gmail.com

Emmas Communities

Teddy & Mandy Bort | 513.282.3575
thaddeusbort@gmail.com

Eucharist for the Homebound

Fr. Stephen Hughes | 513.697.3102
shughes@smoy.com

Eucharistic Guardians

Ken & Sue Ann Klaber

klabersak@gmail.com

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Ken & Sue Ann Klaber
klabersak@gmail.com

Fathers Team

Greg Patterson
fathers.team.smoy@gmail.com

Food Pantry Ministry

Laurin & Chris Robinson
smoy.foodpantryministry@gmail.com

Girl Scouts

Gabrielle Gray
gigidancer72@gmail.com

Heart & Soul

Matt Sokany
heartandsoul@smoy.org

Knights of Columbus

Tom Rogers | 402.378.2523
smoygrandknight@gmail.com

Lectors

Dave Alexander
davealexander1970@outlook.com

Moms Ministry

Laura Hern, Liz Weber, & Kim Korst
smoymomsministry@gmail.com

Music Ministry

Tony Arnold | 513.697.3107
tarnold@smoy.org

PLUS: Prayerful, Loving, Understanding,

Support (For Grieving Parents)

Mary Kuenzig | 513.300.1537

Prayer Chain

Amy Grogan | 513.646.8911
smoyprayerchain@gmail.com

Prison Ministry

John Brandenburg
jlbrand@yahoo.com

Respect Life

Erin Flege
erin.flege@gmail.com

Sacristans & Mass Coordinators

Patti Hawkins | 513.505.9755

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

David Bedel | 630.842.9394
dgbedel@gmail.com

Technology Team

Tony Arnold | 513.697.3107
tarnold@smoy.org

Ushers

Sean Hayes | 513.304.7462

Welcome CRHP 2.0

Wade & Kelly Simpson
kellyl.simpson@outlook.com

Welcome New Parishioners

Leanne Matthews | 513.587.9517
welcome@smoy.org

Women in Service For Community

Sue Ann Klaber
klabersak@gmail.com

Pam Paul
pamelapaul@yahoo.com

WOW: Wisdom of the Word

Birgitt Hacker | 513.697.3112
bhacker@smoy.org

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Join us for our annual
**Advent Social Open House at
 Gate of Heaven Cemetery**
 11000 Montgomery Road
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45249

Friday
12-6-2024
7PM - 9:30PM

This Open House includes dynamic choirs,
 along with delightful hors d'oeuvres and refreshments!

Please RSVP to community@gateofheaven.org or
 call 513-489-0300 by November 20th.



St. Vincent de Paul Car Donation Program

By donating a car, motorcycle, RV, boat, trailer, or ATV to St. Vincent de Paul, you make a direct impact on the lives of our neighbors. You also can receive a tax credit. We make it easy for you – we'll pick up your vehicle and take care of the paperwork. All you have to do is give us a call at 800.322.8284, or contact us through svd-pusacars.com

Social Media



Follow us on Facebook & Instagram
 @smoyparish



<https://bit.ly/SMOY-YouTube>



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