

PREPARE YE.

LK 3:4

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT • 2ND 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.



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:
8:45 – 9:15am
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

Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

This past Friday, December 6, we celebrated the Feast of St. Nicholas. When I was a child, this day was a sort of prelude to Christmas: we would find small gifts in our stockings, along with fruit and perhaps some candy. It reminded us that the size and cost of the gift was secondary to the generosity of the giver and the gratitude of the receiver.

With this in mind, it is a happy coincidence that this weekend of Advent began with Friday: remembering St. Nicholas, a man of great kindness and generosity who changed many lives, and ends with Monday: which is the Feast [moved this year from Sunday, December 8] of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who changed every life by bringing Jesus into the world!

In our Gospel for today we see that the mission of Jesus changes the world, and St. Luke makes sure that we know how this mission is accomplished within the political and religious reality of the time: Tiberius Caesar is emperor, Pilate is governor, Annas and Caiaphas are the Jewish high priests. All of this serves as the backdrop for what it really important, proclaimed by the final line of this Gospel: "All flesh shall see the salvation of God!"

This is the message of the Prophet Isaiah waiting for the Messiah. This is the message of John the Baptist as he prepares the world for the coming of Jesus. This is the message of the Church as we journey through Advent, taking time to become ready for Christ, the Messiah, who comes to bring salvation to all. Our response, then, should be joy, peace and prayer. Joy: because we know we are saved by Jesus. Peace: because we are part of God's eternal plan of love. Prayer: because God's care for us calls us into an intimate relationship with Him. So, as we reflect on St. Nicholas, Our Lady, Advent, family, and especially Jesus, let us be people of joy, peace and prayer!

Fr. Ed Smith



CLERGY & STAFF

Priests

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esmith@smoy.org
513.697.3169

Fr. Stephen Hughes
Parochial Vicar
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Mike Muse
Deacon
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Jeff Perkins
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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	\$11,627.43

WeShare Offering \$#s n/a

Total for current month to date \$76,800.65

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*

Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS

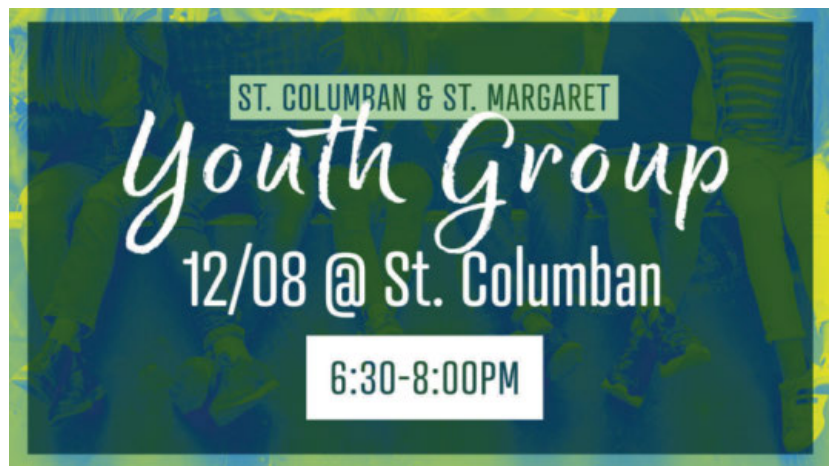
Events with a green bar under them are at St. Columban. Events with a red bar under them are at St. Margaret. Events with a yellow bar are at a third party location.

1

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.



**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.

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/>

**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

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

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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!

9

Heart & Soul First Friday Fellowship Gathering

**Friday, January 3, 2025 | After Mass & Rosary | SMOY
Gathering Space**

Join us after First Friday Mass and Rosary for fellowship in the Gathering Space. Enjoy donuts, breakfast pastries, coffee, tea, and orange juice. Donations are welcome!



10

Post-Christmas/Epiphany Dinner

Friday, January 10, 2025 | 6:00pm | DeShays

Celebrate the season with Heart & Soul at a special dinner event at DeShays. Enjoy a private room to mingle before dinner. The cost will range from \$30-40 per person, with a cash bar available.

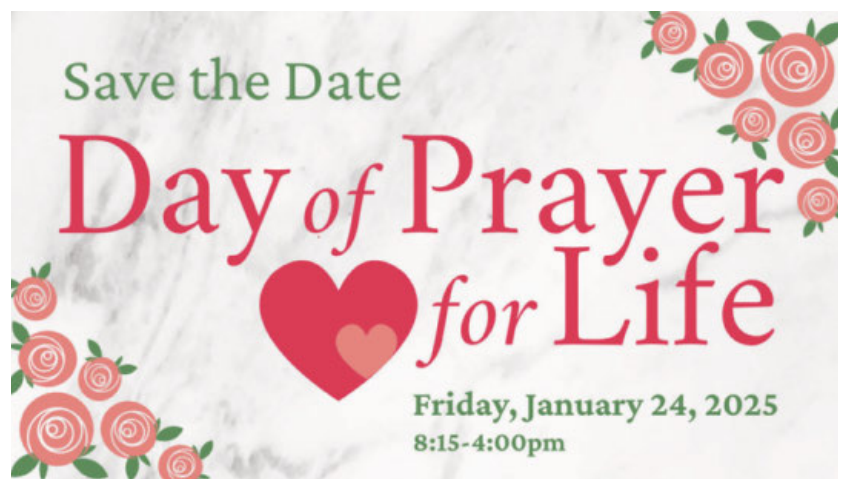


11

Visit to St. Peter in Chains Cathedral

**Tuesday, January 14, 2025 | Time TBD | St. Peter in Chains
Cathedral**

Join Heart & Soul for a tour of our cathedral. Details about departure will follow, but we plan to leave away from the SMOY campus to avoid school dismissal and return by 6:00pm. Transportation will be available for those who prefer not to drive downtown.



Discovering Our Deepest Desire

Thursdays,
Beginning Jan. 30, 2025

Enrich your marriage through a series of fun and informative sessions and renew your understanding of what it means to have a Sacramental Marriage. Join us for a 7-night in-person series and “Build a Eucharistic Marriage” with activities, Catechism, and Bible reflections. The series will be presented by author and Director of Marriage Works Ohio, Greg Schutte.

Cost:

\$20 per couple for materials

Space is limited, sign up soon!

Questions / Register:

Frank and Lisa Hoffman
marriage@smoy.org
513.335.0595

More Info:

ourdeepestdesire.com





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.

Consecration means to make holy and involves a personal commitment to God—dedicating oneself to His service and worship. While you can read and consecrate yourself individually, we invite you to join our parish consecration for a richer experience through shared discussions. Here's the plan:

- Register for the parish discussions: <https://forms.office.com/r/EtQ8rEGXAA>
- Pick up your book at Christmas Mass (one book per family, please).
- Start reading on January 1.
- Join discussion groups on January 9, 16, 23, and 30.
- Consecrate to the Eucharist on **February 2, 2025**.

The Eucharist is God, Our Lord Jesus Christ! We look forward to sharing this meaningful journey with you!



DOMESTIC CHURCH CORNER

Family Connection Eucharist

You probably know that Jesus gave us the Eucharist at the Last Supper, but did you know that the Eucharist is foretold even at Jesus' birth? Jesus is born in the City of Bethlehem. In Hebrew, the word Beth means "house" and the word Lechem means "bread". When you put these together, Bethlehem means "House of Bread" in Hebrew. Also, at His humble birth, He was laid in a manger. A manger is a feeding trough where animals would come to eat. Jesus, who calls himself the Bread of Life and who is to become the food for the world, is born in a city called the House of Bread and laid in a feeding trough. Celebrate the miracle of the Incarnation and the Eucharist by spending time as a family making your own house of bread – a Gingerbread house!

Everyday Stewardship

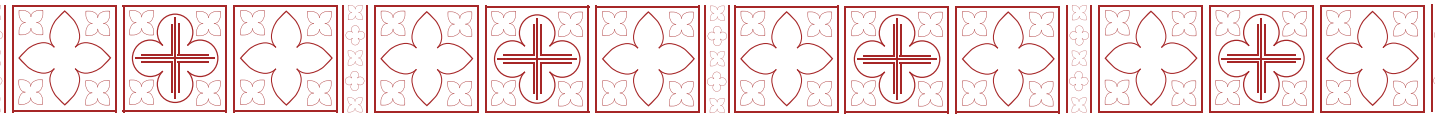
I remember growing up in Catholic school and having to make construction paper Advent wreaths every single year! The little yellow flames would be cut out and held until each new candle was lit. Great idea, except for the fact that the chance you could find the flames greatly diminished as each week passed. I will bet over 50% of the wreaths never received a 4th flame! Of course by then, most kids in elementary school had moved on to Christmas. Christmas was not a day. It was an entire experience of vacation from school.

You may or may not have an Advent wreath in your home or office, but those flames are rather insignificant to the flame that should be burning in our hearts during this season. How are you finding ways to light your fire? How are you preparing the way for Christ to come into your life and the lives of those around you in a more profound way?

The ritual of an Advent wreath is a good idea for anyone. But don't think that your preparations are done simply because you have one. You are called to be a flame to others during this season, reminding them of why we celebrate this time at all. Each person is a candle to be lit, and you have the gifts, given to you by God, to light them. At Christmas, you want God to look at you and see all the light generated by those He lit through you. Now is the time. Don't wait until Advent is almost over. You might not be able to find your own flames if you wait too long.

– Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



PUZZLE

Circle these words from today's Gospel:

BAPTIZED
FORGIVEN
ISAIAH

JOHN
DESERT
STRAIGHT

CROOKED
SMOOTH
ROUGH

C	I	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N
R	O	U	G	H	L	O	Y	U	L
O	N	B	D	I	F	T	S	M	V
O	I	A	S	M	O	O	T	H	E
K	C	P	T	W	S	H	R	I	J
E	Y	T	O	U	M	Y	A	S	O
D	U	I	L	I	S	A	I	A	H
R	J	Z	O	C	E	T	G	K	N
O	Y	E	M	K	Y	I	H	I	W
H	A	D	E	S	E	R	T	O	U

MISSION

When you catch yourself being selfish, not following directions, or using hurtful words, stop. Say you're sorry, ask for forgiveness, and then try again.

Practicing Catholic

The Straight Path

Ten to fifteen years ago the Department of Transportation decided that it would be fun to give everyone in my zip code something to complain about and replaced most of our major intersections with roundabouts.

This wouldn't be so irksome, I suppose, if I understood how to navigate a roundabout. In theory I do, I've read all the rules and I've watched those cute little YouTube videos where they show you which car is supposed to go at what time. But theory and practice are rather different. And the bottom line is, I never approach a roundabout without taking a deep, anxious breath and tightening my grip on the steering wheel, not entirely sure what my next move should be.

I think of roundabouts every time I hear today's Gospel reading, where John the Baptist echoes Isaiah in beseeching us to make straight the paths of the Lord. See, I always think I've made a straight path between me and God. I go to Mass. I go to Confession. I say my prayers.

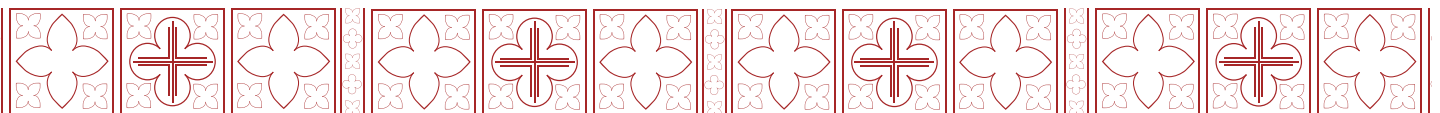
He can get to me if He wants, I tell myself.

But without realizing it, I put up roundabouts. I make rules. You go here, God, and then I go here. I'll do this, God, but first You do this. You stay in your lane, and I stay in mine. Eventually I find myself taking a different route altogether; the road that stretches between me and Him is too daunting. I start avoiding it.

Sometimes I think God wants the path to be straight not for Himself but for us. He can handle a roundabout. But He knows that when we must run to Him, we have to do it without thinking. In the dark. In fear, in anxiety.

So, this Advent, beware the roundabouts. Make straight the path.

©LPi





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

Food for All

Nutritious, affordable food is not readily available to everyone in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, where hunger persists. Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio operates mobile pantries to address hunger across the region. If you are interested in reducing hunger and food insecurity, volunteering at a mobile pantry, or learning more, contact April Hoak, Food for All coordinator, at ahoak@ccswoh.org or 513.672.3720.

Relevant Radio

Relevant Radio is a national Catholic radio station promoting the Faith here in the Cincinnati and Dayton areas. Listen on 105.9 FM, on their #1 FREE Catholic app or at relevantradio.com.

Project Rachel

Since 1994, Project Rachel has ministered to women who have lost a child through abortion. We now know that this experience can cause guilt and shame after making the difficult decision to have an abortion. Women and men often suffer in silence and need the opportunity to honor the child and to heal while grieving and mourning their loss. Project Rachel offers several components for hope and healing. For more information, call/text the Project Rachel Helpline at: 513.784.0531, or email us at: hopeandhealingcinci@gmail.com, or visit our website at: <https://projectrachelohio.org/>.

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.

2nd 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
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Pastoral Council

Ed McLeod
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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
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Bereavement & Funeral Ministry

Patti Hawkins | 513.505.9755

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Boosters Co-Presidents

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Paul Rieder - Cub Scouts
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Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

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Susan Purdue | 513.600.1084

Communion to the Lodge

Patti Hawkins | 513.505.9755

Conquest

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orourkeville@gmail.com

Elizabeth Ministry

Amy Konrad | 513.315.7431
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Emmas Communities

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thaddeusbort@gmail.com

Eucharist for the Homebound

Fr. Stephen Hughes | 513.697.3102
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Eucharistic Guardians

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Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

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klabersak@gmail.com

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Knights of Columbus

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smoygrandknight@gmail.com

Lectors

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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

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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

RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

Jesuit Spiritual Center Retreats

The Jesuit Spiritual Center's Ministry Team is committed to offering transformational Catholic retreat experiences in the Jesuit tradition. More Info: <https://jesuitspiritualcenter.com/retreats/>

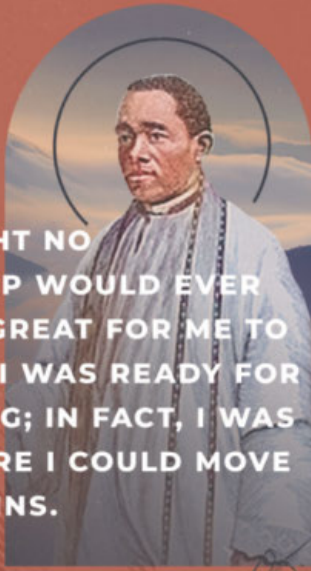
Saint Meinrad Retreat

Saint Meinrad offers a variety of monk-led retreats during the year - on these and other topics at our Guest House and Retreat Center in southern Indiana. More Info: <https://saintmeinrad.org/retreats>

Friends of Jesus

Saturday, January 25, 2025 | 1:00 - 3:00pm | All Saints, Montgomery, OH

Friends of Jesus is a group for adults with developmental disabilities (18 years of age or older). This group's focus is primarily for support, prayer and socializing. We come together in prayer, do some craft-making and enjoy refreshments. New members are always welcome but must RSVP first prior to attending so we can plan for food and craft supplies. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Jane Callan at 513.793.3546.

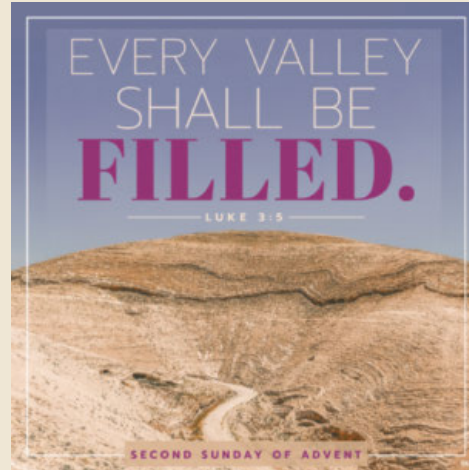


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- FATHER AUGUSTUS TOLTON

We apologize for any errors or omissions in this publication.



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