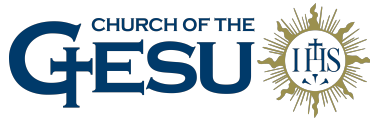


CHURCH OF THE **GESU**



2025 - 2026 PARISH DIRECTORY



2470 Miramar Boulevard, University Heights, Ohio 44118

Parish Office: (216) 932-0617

Fax: (216) 932-0731

Email: gesucleveland@churchofthegesu.org

Website: gesu.com

Regular Business Hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Evenings & Weekends:

Monday - Thursday, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Sunday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

In the event of an emergency when the Pastoral Center is closed, please call the emergency Night Service number: (440) 942-6499.

Schedule of Masses*

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, & 11:30 am

Monday - Friday: 7:30 am

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 8:30 am

Holy Days: 7:30 am, 8:30 am, 12:00 pm, & 7:00 pm

Legal Holidays: 10:00 am only

Eucharistic Adoration: Saturday: 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Reconciliation: Saturday: 3:00 - 4:00 pm (or by appointment)

*Communal Reconciliation Services are scheduled during
Advent and Lent.*

**For the most up-to-date information, please refer to our website.*

For additional information and updates (including Christmas and Easter) refer to the Weekly Bulletin, Church website, or e-Newsletter.

Gesu School: (216) 932-0620 - gesu.com

AMDG

February 2026

Dear Gesu Parishioners,

What an awesome time to be at Gesu as we celebrate our 100th year! We are excited to be planning for the future of our school and parish with our *Gesu Century Capital and Endowment Campaign*. Our faith-filled and vibrant community continues to grow and flourish each and every day. Let us rejoice in these blessings, continue to tell the story of the many great things that make Gesu what it is, and never be shy about inviting others to join our wonderful community.

In these pages of the annual Gesu Directory, you will learn more about our active parish and the many ways it serves our community. We offer sacramental service, faith formation, care for the sick and those mourning the loss of a loved one, and service to the poor and needy. We also provide for and aim to inspire the young people in our parish through faith formation and opportunities for service to follow Jesus.

I welcome you to browse through the pages of this Directory and familiarize yourself with all that Gesu has to offer. Please consider participating in something that speaks to you and inspires you. Seize the opportunity to meet new people while sharing your time and talents with others.

Feel free to reach out to us often, as we are here to accompany you on your journey. We wish to celebrate with you on joyous occasions and walk with you in your sorrows. We are here to help you find God in your life and to guide you in fostering your relationship with Him. Please join us throughout the year and embrace being a special part of the Gesu community.

God bless,

Fr. Lukas M. Laniauskas, SJ

Pastor

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Please Note: This directory is confidential and is intended for the exclusive use of Gesu parishioners.

Parish Information

Parish Membership

We are happy to welcome new parishioners to Gesu. You are asked to call the Parish Office to make an appointment to register at your earliest convenience. For current parishioners, please notify the office of any changes to your address, phone, or email. If you are moving, or if your adult children have moved away from your home, we ask that you notify the Parish Office. If your child is 23 or older, the system automatically changes them to inactive. We invite them to contact the Parish Office to register as adults.

Sacramental Scheduling & Preparation

For information on Baptism and Marriage, please call the Parish Office. For First Reconciliation, Communion, and Confirmation, please refer to those sections under Faith Formation.

Sick Calls

If you or a member of your family is ill, in the hospital, or homebound, please call the Parish Office day or night if Anointing of the Sick is needed. If you would like to have Communion brought to you or a family member, we will be happy to make arrangements for you.

Funerals

Please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible following the passing of a loved one. Funeral arrangements must be made by the family and Funeral Director before publication in the newspaper. A Funeral Planning Booklet is available to guide you at: churchofthegesu.org/resources.

Gesu Catholic School

School Office (216) 932-0620

Gesu Catholic School is dedicated to providing a rich and diverse curriculum that is integrated with Catholic faith values. Students are guided and supported to reach their own academic goals while discovering new strengths and interests. Helping to develop and strengthen a deeper faith as well as a passion for learning in each student is successful due to collaboration between parents, parishioners, and a dedicated faculty and staff. The mission of the school is to provide a community and curriculum which meet the needs of the whole child in an atmosphere that fosters critical thinking and lifelong learning skills. For more information, visit the school website at **gesu.com** or contact the school principal, Regan Kazel.

STREAM Education at Gesu Catholic School

The STREAM Center at Gesu Catholic School contains multiple learning spaces which are designed to engage students of all ages in areas such as robotics, programming, technical design, architecture, and project-based learning . The center also includes an Art Studio on the lower level, a 2nd floor science lab, and a modern Learning Commons and Library. Most recently, the 3rd floor of the building was renovated to include a classroom for advanced math learning as well as additional offices and intervention spaces. With these innovative renovations it is possible for Gesu School to best prepare all our students for a 21st century world with an increased focus on science, technology, religion, engineering, art, and math.

Preschool Program

The Gesu Preschool offers classes for 3, 4, and 5-year-old children. The preschool's integrated curriculum uses a center-based approach where learning occurs through active exploration and interaction in a hands-on environment. Registration is held in late January. To learn more, contact Debbie Lautenbach at [**dlautenbach@gesu.com**](mailto:dlautenbach@gesu.com).

Gesu School PTO

The Gesu School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) promotes communication, parent engagement, and service to the school. In addition, it conducts fundraisers to support faculty and students. Meetings are held on the second Monday evening of the month at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. Contact: Lindsay Malone at [**lindsaymalone4@gmail.com**](mailto:lindsaymalone4@gmail.com) or Lindy O'Keefe at [**lindy.dwyer@gmail.com**](mailto:lindy.dwyer@gmail.com) for more information.

Parish Staff

Parish Office: (216) 932-0617

Rev. Lukas M. Laniauskas, SJ, Pastor	x599
llaniauskas@churchofthegesu.org	
Rev. Michael A. Vincent, SJ, Associate Pastor	x507
mvincent@churchofthegesu.org	
Rev. Gregory Hyde, SJ, Priest in Residence	
greg_hyde@yahoo.com	
Rev. Dr. James K. O'Donnell, Deacon	
jodonnell@churchofthegesu.org	
Megan Johnston, Chief Operating Officer	x500
mjohnston@churchofthegesu.org	
Regan Kazel, School Principal	(216) 932-0620 x100
rkazel@gesu.com	
Kylie Gillespie,	
Director of Faith Formation for Children & Families	x514
kgillespie@churchofthegesu.org	
Marcia Leous, Director of Faith Formation for Adults	x512
mleous@churchofthegesu.org	
Amy Zucca, Outreach Coordinator	x505
azucca@churchofthegesu.org	
Mark Ehrbar, Director of Music Ministries	x523
mehrbar@churchofthegesu.org	
Meghan Svatora, Director of Development	x518
msvatora@churchofthegesu.org	
Dan Turcu, Finance Manager	x521
dturcu@churchofthegesu.org	
Sean Supler, Athletic Director	(216) 932-0620 x114
ssupler@churchofthegesu.org	

Michael Martinek, (216) 932-0620 x400
Director of School Operations and Technology
mmartinek@gesu.com

Sheila Wendeln, (216) 932-0620 x117
Director of Admissions and Marketing
swendeln@gesu.com

Kim Berlin, Executive Assistant to the Pastor x508
kberlin@churchofthegesu.org

Colleen Clemens, Development Assistant x519
cclemens@churchofthegesu.org

Emily Davala,
Evangelization & Communications Specialist x513
edavala@churchofthegesu.org

Leasen Limberg, Bookkeeper
llimberg@churchofthegesu.org

Sydney Lang, Administrative Assistant x501
mlang@churchofthegesu.org

Jeanne Cunningham, Administrative Assistant x502
jcunningham@churchofthegesu.org

Alice Elliott, Administrative Assistant
aelliott@gesu.com

Elona Gortz, Administrative Assistant x502
egortz@churchofthegesu.org

Parish Leadership

In September of 2012, Gesu Parish embarked on a major undertaking with the help and guidance of Father Tom Sweetser, SJ, of the Parish Effectiveness Project, to evaluate our parish, its leadership, and many projects, activities and ministries.

Through the use of a survey and hundreds of conversations with parish leaders and parishioners, we worked together to form a new model of “being parish” ensuring the inclusion of parishioners, good communications, and structures that foster good decision-making on all levels.

The Parish Assessment and Renewal Process helped us to design a working model involving the Parish Pastoral Council, five Commissions (Worship, Faith Formation, Outreach, Community Life, and Administration) and the parish staff. The Commissions meet every other month for a common Leadership Night where the best of insights and ideas might find their way into the life of the parish. On the off months, each Commission meets separately to discuss specific topics pertinent to its Commission. Each Commission is represented on the Parish Pastoral Council that meets regularly throughout the year. This faith-filled leadership body, guided by the Holy Spirit and the Gospel, works in conjunction with the pastor and parish staff to discern the needs of the parish, as well as guide the parish in building a strong Catholic faith community.

The role of the Pastoral Council is to:

Mission Explore the core values and essentials of the parish as a whole, articulate them, and use them to guide

and direct the parish.

Vision Work together to help form a vision rooted in our Mission Statement, aware of the growing needs of our parish, the surrounding demographic area, and our neighboring parishes and institutions, as well as the Greater Cleveland community and beyond.

Focus This council strives to provide a common direction and a focus for the parish as a whole, and for the five Commissions in their respective ministries and activities.

The role of each Commission is:

Link To connect with each organization or ministry associated with its area.

Assess To evaluate what is going on and hold individuals and groups accountable for what they said they would do.

Vision To dream what could happen in their area of ministry and to set goals for the future.

Funnel To set up ministry groups to accomplish the goals. (Form the group, give it a job description and timeline to follow, provide support and encouragement as they work towards those goals.)

Parish Pastoral Council

In April 2025, Bishop Malesic of the Diocese of Cleveland released a new set of norms for Parish Pastoral Councils, to replace the previous set of norms set in 1990.

Under the new guidelines, the purpose of Parish Pastoral Council is two-fold:

- To assist the Pastor implementing the Church's vision for parish life as a center of worship, evangelization, and service.
- To assist the Pastor by receiving and evaluating feedback on existing activities and new initiatives within the parish.

The council is consultative and advisory, not deliberate. Each meeting begins with prayer, asking for divine assistance, and ends with prayer in thanksgiving. While elections are not permitted, parishioners may share the names of members of the community to serve on council for the Pastor's consideration. Council members serve either two or three terms, as decided by the Pastor, and terms may be renewed up to one time.

Parish Representatives

Parishioners:

- Angel Krsacok
- Bill Beck
- Dan Hanna
- Ed Mozdzen
- Jan Grover
- Kayla Cousineau
- Kristin Mergler
- Sal Miroglotta

We expect to add up to 6 more members this year. At the time of print, names are TBD.

Staff:

- Father Lukas M. Laniauskas, SJ, Pastor
- Dan Turcu, Finance Manager
- Kim Berlin, Executive Assistant to the Pastor
- Megan Johnston, Chief Operating Officer
- Meghan Svatora, Director of Development
- Regan Kazel, School Principal

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WORSHIP COMMISSION

The Worship Commission is to give direction to the liturgical life of the parish, as well as foster and promote the spiritual growth of all parishioners, enabling them to understand what it means to be a baptized Catholic Christian called to be “full, active and conscious participants” in the Liturgy.

For more information about any of the groups listed below, please contact Kylie Gillespie at kgillespie@churchofthegesu.org or Mark Ehrbar at mehrbar@churchofthegesu.org (unless otherwise noted).

Members of the Worship Commission:

Nicole Eberle

Mark Ehrbar ⁺

Linda Elliott

Kylie Gillespie ⁺

Nancy Taylor

**Co-chair

*Parish Council

+Staff Resource

Ministries

Altar Servers

Altar servers are young people in the fifth grade through high school who assist at Masses, weddings, and funerals. Contact Kylie Gillespie at kgillespie@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

Baptism Helpers

Those involved in this ministry assist the presiding celebrant and families at the time of the celebration of Baptism at weekend liturgies or on Sunday afternoon. Contact Elona Gortz at egortz@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC)

EMHCs assist in the distribution of Holy Communion at weekend Liturgies and are available for other liturgical events throughout the year. Diocesan training is required. The ministry is open to adults and seniors in high school.

Eucharistic Visitors (also see Outreach Commission)

EMHCs take Communion to the sick and/or homebound in nursing homes, hospitals, and homes. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Funeral Attendants

Adults assist at funerals in setting up, providing support for families and friends on arrival, and being available to the priests and younger servers during the funeral Mass. Scheduling is on an as-available basis.

Lectors

Lectors proclaim the Word of God at weekend Liturgies and other liturgical events throughout the year. Training is provided. Contact Pat Murphy at patkupiec@gmail.com for more information.

Ushers

Men and women are encouraged to join this dedicated group that assists in the hospitality of our worship life. They take up the collection and are available for any needs throughout Mass. Contact Mike Scalabrino at mscalabrino@althans.com for more information.

Music Ministries

Magis Ensemble

Serving as the cornerstone of our music ministry, the Magis Ensemble serves at our 10:00 am Sunday morning liturgy. In addition, this group is also present for all major liturgies in the parish throughout the Church year. Magis Ensemble is made up of choral singers and executes repertoire that represents the broad spectrum of sacred music in the Catholic tradition. Along with featured choral pieces, the vast amount of music sung by the Magis Ensemble is the song of the assembly. Rehearsals take place approximately one Wednesday evening per month, as well as Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:00 am. Singers of all (or any) experience are welcome!

School Liturgy Choir

The School Liturgy Choir is made up of members of our day school and sings at school Masses on Friday mornings.

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir is open to some of our youngest parishioners. This group sings at the 4:30 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Second through eighth graders are welcome.

Opportunities for Prayer

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration is held on Saturday afternoons from 3:00 pm-4:00 pm in the Marian Chapel. It is a beautiful way to sit in silence and spend time with our Lord.

Rosary (also see Outreach Commission)

The recitation of the rosary takes place in the church or Marian Chapel. See the weekly bulletin for this schedule.

EXALT – Praise and Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship music (in collaboration with JCU Campus Ministry).

All Souls Day of Remembrance

This event is held on November 2, The Feast of All Souls. Those parishioners who have lost loved ones in this year are especially welcome.

FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION

The Faith Formation Commission, in conjunction with the Church of the Gesu staff, oversees all aspects of faith formation in the parish, children through adults. The core and context of all faith formation at Gesu is grounded in the spirituality of Saint Ignatius of Loyola – true to our tradition as a Jesuit parish.

Please call the parish office at (216) 932-0617 for more information about any of the programs listed below or contact Marcia Leous at mleous@churchofthegesu.org or Kylie Gillespie at kgillespie@churchofthegesu.org (unless otherwise noted).

Members of the Faith Formation Commission:

Mark Cousineau	Marcia Leous +
Michelle Creger**	Mariah Roj
Kylie Gillespie +	Jean Turcu**
Tiffany Laczynski	

**Chair

*Parish Council

+Staff Resource

Jesuit Identity

Ignatian programs assist parishioners in deepening their relationship with Jesus Christ through Ignatian spirituality. Saint Ignatius was the founder of the Jesuits, or Society of Jesus, which is the order of Catholic priests and brothers that has served Gesu Parish since its founding in 1926.

Ignatian Prayer and Faith Sharing

Gesu offers monthly gatherings for prayer in the Ignatian traditions of Imaginative Gospel Contemplation, Lectio Divina, and the Examen. A facilitator guides participants in prayer and reflection with a focus on Sacred Scriptures for the coming Sunday. Contact Marcia Leous at [**mleous@churchofthegesu.org**](mailto:mleous@churchofthegesu.org) for more information.

Ignatian Retreats and Programs

These experiences are based on the Spiritual Exercises, a collection of prayers, meditations, reflections, and directions that Saint Ignatius used to guide individuals who wished to grow in their love for God, others, and self. Each retreat or program offers opportunities to meet regularly with a group and/or a spiritual companion and can be adapted to meet the needs of one's daily life commitments. Contact Marcia Leous at [**mleous@churchofthegesu.org**](mailto:mleous@churchofthegesu.org) for more information. Contact the Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, OH for additional programs at JesuitRetreatCenter.org.

Novena of Grace

This annual nine-day period of prayer honors the anniversary of the canonizations of Saints Francis Xavier and Ignatius of Loyola (1622). Saint Francis was the first and greatest missionary of the Society of Jesus and a contemporary and friend of Saint Ignatius, founder of the Society. The Novena of Grace includes a special Mass, daily prayer services, and speakers. For more information, contact Fr. Michael Vincent, SJ, at [**mvincentsj@churchofthegesu.org**](mailto:mvincentsj@churchofthegesu.org).

McGivney Library

Visit the McGivney Library in the Parish Office to browse selections on Ignatian spirituality, Jesuit history, and more. Books and audio-visuals can be signed out for limited periods. See the parish website for additional resources.

Spiritual Direction

The Church of the Gesu supports the spirituality of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and the Jesuit religious order. The parish staff and their collaborators assist parishioners in deepening their understanding of Ignatian spirituality and foster their spiritual growth through a variety of means including spiritual direction. This is a ministry of holy listening in which a person meets with a spiritual director or guide on a regular basis, typically once every 4-6 weeks. The *context* of spiritual direction is the relationship between the person and God, and the *content* of a direction session is the person's prayer and daily life experiences.

Adult Faith Formation

Gesu Parish provides opportunities for enriching all faith dimensions of an adult life. Experiences that promote a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Catholic faith include, but are not limited to, bible studies, prayer and faith sharing groups, and retreats. For information on these programs contact Marcia Leous at mleous@churchofthegesu.org and/or check the weekly bulletin or parish E-Newsletter.

Bible Study

The Church of the Gesu offers regular group opportunities throughout the year for exploring the Bible and connecting the Word of God in scripture with daily life.

Book Studies

Small groups meet periodically to discuss various Catholic works of literature and share fellowship.

Prayer and Faith Sharing Groups

A variety of groups offer regular opportunities to pray, reflect, and support one another in community.

Sacramental Preparation

Gesu Parish prepares individuals to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Marriage. Sacramental preparation is a community experience and young people, their families, and the parish community are all encouraged to participate in this process.

Baptism

Contact the Parish Office at (216) 932-0617 for general information about the celebration of Baptism at the Church of the Gesu and to begin the registration process. Baptism preparation is required for parents who bring their first child to this sacrament. Baptism sponsors (godparents) are also encouraged to attend the preparation session. Baptisms are scheduled on the 1st and 3rd weekends of the month. Contact Elona Gortz at egortz@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

First Reconciliation and First Communion

The Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion are traditionally celebrated during the second grade year. Preparation consists of parent meetings, classroom instruction, and family activities for the children to develop an understanding of each sacrament at their level. Please contact Kylie Gillespie at kgillespie@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

Confirmation

Students in grades nine to eleven who have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist are invited to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation involves catechesis and prayer experiences for the students and their sponsors. Please contact Kylie Gillespie at kgillespie@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

Confirmation for Adults

Baptized Catholic adults who wish to complete their initiation into the Church by celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation should contact Marcia Leous at mleous@churchofthegesu.org.

Marriage

Couples desiring to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage are asked to meet with a priest who will begin the marriage preparation process. Contact Elona Gortz at egortz@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

The OCIA process welcomes adults who are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and guides them towards the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and/or Eucharist. The OCIA also offers participants an opportunity to

experience the parish community that shapes Catholics. Contact Marcia Leous at mleous@churchofthegesu.org.

OCIA Adapted for Children

Older children (7-17 years) who have not yet celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism are invited to participate in the OCIA Adapted for Children. Preparation for the sacraments will meet the needs of each child to grow in faith. Contact Kylie Gillespie at kgillespie@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

Adaptive Needs Sacramental Preparation

The Adaptive Needs Sacramental Preparation program provides thoughtful preparation and religious instruction for children with adaptive needs, so they may celebrate the sacraments and learn how to participate in the Mass. For more information, please contact Kylie Gillespie at kgillespie@churchofthegesu.org.

Youth Faith Formation

Parish School of Religion (PSR) at Church of the Gesu: Grades PreK-8

Students enrolled in a public school or other private schools are invited to participate in the Parish School of Religion (PSR) program. PSR meets weekly (September-May) to engage students with the Catholic faith and encourage families to grow in the faith together. Contact Kylie Gillespie at kgillespie@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

PSR Home Schooling: Grades 1-8

Under certain circumstances, families are able to participate in a homeschool model of PSR. Parents are responsible for discussing

each topic and completing weekly lessons with their children. Contact Kylie Gillespie at kgillespie@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd invites children three years old through kindergarten to nurture their faith and fall more deeply in love with God in the specially prepared environment called the atrium. Using beautiful child-sized materials, adult catechists guide the children with themes based on the Bible and Liturgy. For more information, please contact Keri Cupp at kcupp@churchofthegesu.org.

Friends of Jesus

The Friends of Jesus program gives all children and young adults an opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith. Sessions meet the needs of children with a variety of different abilities and adaptive needs to engage with others and participate in activities while growing in faith. For more information please contact Angela Young at myoung@churchofthegesu.org for CAN elementary ages and Debbie Bruening at dbruening@churchofthegesu.org for adult ages.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Vacation Bible School meets for one week during the summer for children in Pre-K through Grade Four. Students will experience faith, fun, and fellowship through Scripture, crafts, service projects, games, and music. For more information, please contact Kylie Gillespie at kgillespie@churchofthegesu.org.

OUTREACH COMMISSION

The Outreach Commission is comprised of committees and projects with the mission of caring for the sick, providing resources to those in need, and promoting social justice. For more information about any of the groups listed below, please contact the parish office.

Members of the Outreach Commission:

Len Calabrese

Mike Lonsdale

Jeanne Cunningham**

Martha Maher

Diane Holler

Amy Zucca⁺

Fr. Gregory Hyde⁺

Angel Krsacok** *

**Co-Chairs

*Parish Council

+Staff Resource

Service Committees/Projects

Advent Angel Tree Project

Volunteers publicize, coordinate, collect, and deliver donated Christmas gifts for families and individuals served by a number of area organizations. Contact Martha Mayer at mm0805@aol.com or Beth Rinz at rinzbj@gmail.com for more information.

Bread Ministry

Volunteers pick up bakery donations from Heinen's every Tuesday and deliver them to the Fatima Family Center in Hough. Contact Deb Straniero at dstran118@gmail.com for more information.

Fish Fries

Gesu hosts fish fries during Lent in partnership with EDWINS Leadership and Restaurant Institute. Volunteers set up, prepare food, coordinate food delivery, and take down. Contact Amy Zucca at azucca@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

Gesu Hunger Project

Volunteers pick up bakery donations from several Heinen's locations every week (Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays), and deliver donations to the Thea Bowman Center in Mount Pleasant and the Euclid Salvation Army. New volunteers are always welcomed and needed. Schedules rotate and volunteers commit to the day(s) that work best for them. Contact Tim Baumann at (216) 333-0094 for more information.

Habitat for Humanity Faith Build

Volunteers work on house construction and/or provide housewarming gifts to build an affordable home and help improve a neighborhood in Cleveland. Contact Amy Zucca at azucca@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

Honduras Mission

Honduran Children's Rescue Fund (HCRF) Mission Trip

HCRF has been traveling to Honduras several times a year for over 20 years in support of their partner, Sociedad Amigos de los Niños, to aid the children and families of Honduras. Trips are medical and construction brigade trips. All types of volunteers are needed and previous mission experience or Spanish language skills are not necessarily required. If you would like to sign up or get additional information, please contact Brian Smith at hcrfund@gmail.com.

Gesu Summer Immersion Trip

Each summer, a group of Gesu parishioners travel to Honduras to complete a construction project and experience an immersion trip. Contact Amy Zucca at azucca@churchofthegesu.org or go to churchofthegesu.org/honduras-mission for more information.

Meals on Wheels Gesu Route

Volunteer drivers and jumpers pick up and deliver meals to University Heights residents on Wednesday mornings. Contact Beth Rinz at rinzbj@gmail.com for more information.

Naturalization Ceremony

Volunteers set up and host a naturalization ceremony for 20-25 new citizens in March. Contact Amy Zucca at azucca@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

Prison Pen Pal Ministry

Many inmates are lonely and abandoned by friends and family. As a pen pal, volunteers write anonymously using a pen name and Church of the Gesu as a return address. To learn more about this ministry and discern if the Holy Spirit is calling you to become a pen pal, contact Maureen Brennan at mbrennan8411@gmail.com for more information.

Our Lady of Peace Food Pantry Collection

Volunteers sort and deliver the food that is donated by parishioners for those served by Our Lady of Peace food pantry. Contact Mary Beth Soeder at marybeth115@hotmail.com for more information.

Red Cross Blood Drives

The Gesu Red Cross Team invites parishioners to share in Corporal Works of Mercy by donating blood through the American Red Cross. Gesu has established a schedule of six Red Cross blood drives a year so that parishioners may donate blood here at Gesu every time they are eligible to do so – every 56 days. Other Gesu ministries are invited to “sponsor” individual drives by volunteering to make telephone calls, bake cookies, and recruit their members, supporters, parents, and friends to give blood. Contact Amy Zucca at azucca@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

Service Days

Twice a year, hundreds of Gesu parishioners fan out city-wide to serve the greater Cleveland community. Service Days provide opportunities for parishioners to volunteer at 40+ northeast Ohio organizations. Contact Amy Zucca at azucca@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

St. Pat’s Hunger Center

One Tuesday evening, every four to six weeks, volunteers cook and serve dinner at St. Pat’s Hunger Center. Gesu bakers also contribute homemade goods. Contact Jody Salata at jodysalata@sbcglobal.net or Gil Holzheimer at gilgolz00@gmail.com.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Vincent de Paul Society serves as a temporary bridge for people in many situations of need, such as a loss of income, job, family member, etc. Volunteers help organize and pass out food and clothing at the Ozanam Center at Chambers Elementary School. If in need of assistance, please contact the Parish Office at

(216) 932-0617. If interested in volunteering, please contact Bud Doyle at wtd44113@hotmail.com.

West Side Catholic Center

Gesu volunteers prepare and serve dinner for 80-100 people on the second Saturday of the month from 2:30-5:30pm. There is nothing to prepare; everything is provided. Contact Tom and Kathy Quail at quailkk@yahoo.com for more information or sign up at bit.ly/3oCJQSm.

Peace and Justice Committees

Fair Trade Festival

Annually, Gesu holds a Fair Trade Festival, hosting vendors selling coffee, food, clothing, and other items made by artisans who earn a fair wage for their work. For more information, contact Amy Zucca at azucca@churchofthegesu.org.

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary, the largest worldwide lay apostolate in the Catholic Church, is committed to the spiritual formation of its members who, in turn, reach out to others through spiritual works of mercy. The Legion of Mary was founded in Dublin in 1921 and has been active in the United States since 1931. "Our Lady of Perpetual Help," the Gesu Parish Legion of Mary chapter, has a year-round open invitation to parishioners for enrollment as active or auxiliary members. You are welcome to be a guest at one of its meetings to become familiar with the responsibilities and benefits of membership. For more information, contact Christie Okocha at ndaoko@msn.com or Diane Mackay at dicove@att.net.

Respect Life Committee

Members participate in spiritual, educational, and service activities to promote the sanctity and dignity of all human life from conception through natural death. Check the bulletin or contact Diane Mackay at [**dicove@att.net**](mailto:dicove@att.net) for more information.

Pastoral Care

Adaptive Needs Ministry (also see Faith Formation)

The Adaptive Needs Ministry reaches out to those parishioners of all ages with special needs and their family members. They aim to create a more welcoming environment for God's special children in His house. They offer support and encouragement for families with special needs members. This support can include, but is not limited to, PSR and Sacramental assistance, prayers and meals, youth and young adult involvement, and special programming. Contact Angela Young at [**myoung@churchofthegesu.org**](mailto:myoung@churchofthegesu.org) or Debbie Bruening at [**dbruening@churchofthegesu.org**](mailto:dbruening@churchofthegesu.org) for more information.

Caregiver Support Committee

The Caregiver Support Committee provides support ministries for caregivers of sick, aging, and disabled adults. Contact Amy Zucca at [**azucca@churchofthegesu.org**](mailto:azucca@churchofthegesu.org) or go to [**churchofthegesu.org/caregiver-support**](http://churchofthegesu.org/caregiver-support).

Coffee and Conversation

September through June, on the first Wednesday of the month after 8:30 am Mass, Gesu hosts a social hour with simple

refreshments. To volunteer contact Amy Zucca at azucca@churchofthegesu.org.

Eucharistic Visitors: Homebound

Eucharistic Ministers take the Eucharist to homebound parishioners or those temporarily recovering from illness or surgery. Contact Amy Zucca at azucca@churchofthegesu.org.

Eucharistic Visitors

Every Monday morning Eucharistic Ministers take Communion to Catholic residents at McGregor Home and King David. Contact Amy Zucca at azucca@churchofthegesu.org.

Gesu Bakers

Gesu frequently has events and meetings during which baked goods are a welcome treat. Go to churchofthegesu.org/bakery or contact Amy Zucca at azucca@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

Gonzaga Drivers

Volunteers help senior and handicapped parishioners by providing rides to church, doctors' appointments and simple errands. Contact Amy Zucca at azucca@churchofthegesu.org.

Pink Posse/Healing Rosary

Pink Posse is a support group for women in the parish who are going through a breast cancer journey. They gather socially on a semi-regular basis in support of women who want to discuss shared experiences in terms of treatment and moving forward. They also prepare meals for women/families who are going through surgery and treatment, as needed.

In addition to the special ministry to those touched by cancer, they host a monthly Gesu Healing Rosary for all members of our parish who are in need of healing in mind, body, or soul. All are welcome. Contact Deb Straniero at **dstran118@gmail.com**.

Community Life Commission

The Community Life Commission at Gesu has as its scope Hospitality and Welcoming, both at religious and other events, and helping to facilitate the activities of various parish organizations and clubs sponsoring community-building and social events. Together with parish and school staff, they work to coordinate with other parish groups to create a balanced social calendar.

In addition to providing support for the events of other Gesu organizations, the Community Life Commission is responsible for two all-parish event committees – Pancake Breakfast and Block Party. We welcome all who wish to get involved.

For more information about any of the following groups, please contact Fr. Michael Vincent, SJ at mvincent@churchofthegesu.org (unless otherwise noted).

Members of the Community Life Commission:

Margaret Casey	Grace Peterson
Courtney DiMenna	George Tayek
Erin Donovan Goldwood	Maria Tayek
Kristen Mergler**	Tom Tomsic
Ed Mozdzen** *	Fr. Michael Vincent, SJ ⁺

**Co-Chair

*Parish Council

+Staff Resource

Organizations & Social Committees

50+ Club

The Gesu 50+ Club is open to all members of the parish but is most popular with seniors. Monthly events, including luncheons, dinners, performances, and bus trips, are held from September - June. Contact Jane and Dale Lewis at dale38jane@aol.com or Micki Maniscalco at **(440) 646-9516** for more information.

Athletics Booster Board

The Gesu Booster Club is a volunteer organization dedicated to promoting, coordinating, and financing youth athletics for both Gesu School and PSR children in grades 1 through 12. Booster Club Board Meetings are held monthly. All are welcome. Volunteers are also needed to serve as coaches and to help with the Booster fundraisers. Contact Andrew Salata at ajsalata@gmail.com for more information.

Parish Block Party Committee

The Gesu Parish Block Party is an annual summer gathering of parishioners along Miramar Boulevard. This is one of the parish's most popular events and includes food, live music, games, and entertainment. Contact Ed Mozdzen at emozdzen4@gmail.com for more information.

Bowling League

Adults of all skill levels are welcome to join at 7:00 pm on Monday nights at Freeway Lanes of Solon. The league lasts for 33 weeks starting in early September. It is never too late to join! Contact Bryan Barrett at doccar725@aol.com for more information.

Scouts BSA (Formerly called Boy Scouts of America)

Scout Troop 620 has been an established troop at Gesu Church since 1960. Membership is open to all youths of the parish who are ten years of age or older and have completed the 5th Grade. The focus of the troop is on character development, service, hiking, camping, and spending time outdoors. Contact Kevin Lloyd for boys' troops and Heather Costanzo for girls' troops at **troop620.gesu@gmail.com** for more information.

Cub Scouts (Grades K-5)

Membership in Cub Scout Pack 620 is open to all youths of the parish in grades K through 5. The objectives of the group include: citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness. Contact Mike Vary at **michael.vary@gmail.com** for more information.

Donut Sunday

Gesu Parish offers donuts after Mass periodically throughout the year. This is a great opportunity to find out about different ways to get involved at Gesu, meet new parishioners, and catch up with friends. Look in the weekly bulletin and parish website for upcoming Donut Sunday dates. Contact Jennifer Gardner at **jlgardner919@gmail.com** if you'd like to help.

Early Childhood Programs

Happy Together

Happy Together is a parent/child class for children, ages 16-30 months, which utilizes a playgroup-like setting and meets for one hour on Monday mornings.

TOPS (Time Out for Parents)

TOPS is a drop-off class for two- and three-year-old children (pre-school). The class runs from 8:45-11:15 am Tuesday through Friday.

Both classes take place during the school year in a classroom in the lower level of Gesu School. The fall session is a twelve week session and the winter/spring session is fifteen weeks. For more information, contact Karen Smith at

bjkcsmith@roadrunner.com or **ksmith@churchofthegesu.org**.

Girl Scouts

The Girls Scouts of the USA program is open to all girls of Gesu Church from kindergarten through high school. Contact Erin Donovan Goldwood at **edonovan01@hotmail.com** for more information.

New Parishioner Welcoming

The goals of the New Parishioner Welcoming Committee are welcoming those who are new to our parish, helping them meet others, and familiarizing them with the various organizations and opportunities in the parish. For more information, contact Maria Tayek at **lorain1901@gmail.com**.

Pancake Breakfast Committee

The Pancake Breakfast is held on a winter Sunday morning in the Gesu Family Center. After each Mass, individuals and families can socialize, purchase a delicious and reasonably priced homemade pancake breakfast, and purchase tickets for a drawing held after the 11:30 am Mass. This opportunity to get together is also the fundraiser for our annual Parish Block Party in August. Join neighbors and friends for this annual event. If you'd like to help,

contact Mr. and Mrs. Dan and Lindsay Malone at **danielmalone@gmail.com** or **lindsaymalone4@gmail.com**.

Women's Guild

All women of the parish are members of the Gesu Women's Guild. This dynamic group of women provides service to our parish, hosts opportunities for prayerful reflection, and organizes a major fundraising event that provides an opportunity for the women of the parish to socialize. For more information, contact Kathleen Miller at **womensguild@churchofthegesu.org**.

Women's Guild Mission Statement: Increasing the awareness of Gesu Parish and the vibrancy of family and community through the willingness to serve.

Young Families

Gesu Young Families is for parishioners with children from birth through elementary school age. The purpose of the group is to provide interesting, fun, and helpful activities for parents and children. During the year, various social, spiritual, recreational, and community service opportunities are offered, including playgroups. Contact Bianca Beach at **Biancajbeach@gmail.com** or Cassie Verdi at **cassierico@gmail.com** for more information.

Administration Commission

The Administration Commission is responsible for coordinating the temporal affairs of the parish: how money is acquired, how it is spent, how the physical plant is maintained, and how the parishioners are kept informed about what is happening in the parish. The Administration Commission coordinates with the following subcommittees: Finance Council, Endowment Board and Investment Committee, Buildings and Properties Committee, Communications Committee, and any other committee or task group the Administration Commission deems necessary.

For more information about any of the following groups, please contact Megan Johnston at mjohnston@churchofthegesu.org (unless otherwise noted).

Members of the Administration Commission:

Bill Beck**

Mary Kate Farrar

Rini Grover*

Amy Hamilton

Megan Johnston +

Dan Malone

Brian Smith*

*Co-Chair

**Parish Council

+Staff Resource

Administration Committees

Finance Council

The Finance Council assists the Pastor in the development, implementation, and oversight of the parish budget for both the church and the school. Council members work directly with Gesu's Finance Manager and meet six times a year to review the operations of the parish and to consider other matters that come to the attention of the Council as requested by the Pastor.

Collection Counters

Two teams of collection counters share the responsibility of counting the Sunday offerings (each team meets on a biweekly basis).

Endowment Board/Investment Committee

The Endowment Board meets quarterly to review investment performance and to steward Endowment funds. Contact Bill Beck at [**bbeck@clevelandhometitle.com**](mailto:bbeck@clevelandhometitle.com) or Michael Santelli at [**santelli.michael@gmail.com**](mailto:santelli.michael@gmail.com) for more information. The Endowment Investment Committee meets quarterly to make investment decisions pertaining to the Endowment and Scholarship Funds.

Buildings and Properties Committee

The Buildings and Properties Committee is responsible for supporting the maintenance and upkeep of the interior and exterior of all parish properties. Membership on this commission is open to all parishioners, especially those who have an understanding of building construction and maintenance.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee supports Gesu Parish's communication efforts, including working with the Pastoral Staff to maintain an up-to-date website, social media accounts, and Parish eNewsletter. This committee serves as a resource to other parish groups, helping them, as appropriate, with publicity and communications efforts, including consultation on production of brochures, signs, bulletin boards, and other materials. The committee will provide support to the Parish Bulletin as needed and oversee the *Gesu News & Views* publication. Contact Meghan Svatora at msvatora@churchofthegesu.org for more information.

Parish Communication Resources

Reference the following vehicles when looking for information. Feel free to also use them to share information about parish programs and events on which you are working.

Parish and School Websites

This year we launched **gesu.com** as a unified website for our parish and school.

The parish and school websites are useful tools to communicate information to church and school members as well as the community at large.

Weekly Bulletin

The Bulletin is a weekly publication for Gesu parishioners that includes spiritual, educational and social information. Articles for publication must be emailed to **bulletin@churchofthegesu.org** by Friday at 5:00 pm, nine days prior to publication. For more information, contact Emily Davala at **edavala@churchofthegesu.org**.

Gesu News & Views

Gesu News & Views is a newsletter published three times a year for parishioners, school families and alumni. To submit suggestions for or to provide articles, information and photos, contact Meghan Svatora at (216) 932-0617 or email **msvatora@churchofthegesu.org**.

Parish eNewsletter

The Parish eNewsletter is sent to your email inbox every other Thursday and includes parish updates, community news, and events. To join the mailing list, send your email address to **communications@churchofthegesu.org**.

Social Media

“Like” us on Facebook at **Church of the Gesu** and “Follow us” on Instagram **@churchofthegesu** for the latest parish information, news, and events. The school Facebook account is Gesu Catholic School and the Instagram account is @GesuCatholic.

Notes

Church of the Gesu, a Jesuit Parish

In the mid-1920's, one of the fastest growing parts of metropolitan Cleveland was the Cleveland Heights area. Idlewild Village was renamed "University Heights" when the news became public that the Society of Jesus, a Catholic religious order, known as the "Jesuits," was moving its college from Ohio City to the East Side. Bishop Joseph Schrembs had planned to form a new parish in the area, and figured that the Jesuits would be able to staff a new parish near the college (now known as John Carroll University). The Jesuits named the parish "Gesu" (the Italian word for Jesus) after the Jesuit "Mother Church" in Rome, and the first Masses were held in 1926. Due to the Great Depression and other factors, John Carroll University's campus did not open until 1936. Today, the Jesuits on the Gesu Parish Staff and at JCU form one community that lives at Schell House, next door to Church of the Gesu.

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

Eucharistic living:

We center our lives in Christ and the celebration of the Eucharist.

Lifelong learning:

We engage, at all ages, in learning and being formed in the image
of Christ.

Generous serving:

We use our gifts to serve God and others.

All for the greater glory of God.



Church of the Gesu
2470 Miramar Boulevard
University Heights, Ohio 44118
(216) 932-0617
gesu.com

