

SPIRITUS WEEKLY UPDATE

WEEK OF DECEMBER 19TH, 2025

NEXT -SOCIAL GATHERING 12/20

SPIRITUS FAMILY GATHERING

THIS SUNDAY 12/21

3:00PM

CHAMINADE CENTER MADELEINE ROOM



SPIRITUS SOCIAL THIS SATURDAY!

Thank you all for your flexibility as the weather last Saturday was awful and driving conditions were not good. We are excited to be able to still have our gathering this week on Saturday December 20th from 2-5pm at the Bergamo Center in the Fireplace Lounge.

Don't forget, we are also meeting on Sunday December 21st for regular gathering.

All donations are due in no later than the 21st. Please bring the donations of warm socks and gloves to the social on Saturday for the social as they will go in the respite bags.

Set your calendar for our Holy Family Mass on Sunday December 28th at 10:30 am in the Queen of Apostles Chapel.

We hope to see everyone there!

[HTTPS://SPIRITUS-MLC.ORG](https://spiritus-mlc.org)



PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

For all those in our community, those that we love, those who are alone, those who are grieving, those in war torn areas, those without anyone to pray for them and anyone else in need of loving support, prayer, or comfort. For all our prayers in our book of petitions.

For all those who are sick, afraid, and without care, love, or means to care for those they love. May they be safe and find the help they need in world full of difficulties.

For those in our community struggling at this time of year. May they know love, feel peace, and keep the presence of the Holy Spirit close to them through this Advent Season.

For all those who have coworkers, friends, family, and acquaintances who are in need of prayers, support, and love at this time.

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

In our house we sing or listen to O Come O Come Emmanuel when we light our Advent wreath. When the kids were little, we sang it in English, Latin, and then a third different language each week. Now that my kids are older and we all get up at different times and are racing off to different locations for work, we all light the candles at different times of the day when we have a moment or need a moment of quiet. I still love to listen to music as I bring light into my home during this sacred time of preparation. Please enjoy this link and video of O Come O Come Emmanuel on these dark mornings as we prepare for the Light of Christ to be born in our hearts.

[O COME O COME EMMANUEL](#)
[SUNG BY CHRIS TOMLIN](#)



COMMUNITY INFO

Register to help setup SPIRITUS Gatherings

Please sign up online at <https://givepul.se/gw0wzw>, or use the QR code below which will take you to the Spiritus scheduling website. Once there, scroll down to see the published events, then click on the event that you would like register to help.

There are three event shifts available:

- 1) *Setup at 2:00pm:*
- 2) *Greeter at 2:40pm:*
- 3) *Last one out:*

If you have any issues signing up, please email Linda Skinner at scheduling@spiritus-mlc.org. We thank you in advance for your support.



Dear Spiritus Friends,

It's with great pleasure that we announce the resounding success of our Change and Be Changed (CABC) fundraiser, held on December 7! The event was a wonderful celebration, with St. Nicholas' Golden Book and the traditional treats (Grüttibenz) served alongside hot cocoa, both of which were warmly welcomed. We will forward the Golden Book entries and the Grüttibenz recipe with our next update in a couple weeks.

We're still receiving donations, so we'll be postponing the announcement of the total funds raised and the issuance of tax receipts.

Above all, we'd like to extend our sincerest appreciation to Spiritus for their remarkable generosity, which has been bringing joy and support to our friends in Northern Malawi and Southern Tanzania for many years.

Elisabeth and Thomas



UPCOMING SPIRITUS EVENTS

- December 20th: Spiritus Christmas Party, 2-5 PM Bergamo Center
 - Fireplace Lounge
 - Food for the Journey - Respite bag assembly
- December 16th: Spiritus Prayer Gathering, 3:00 PM, Madeleine Room
- December 28th: Spiritus Mass for Holy Family
 - 10:30 am at Queen of Apostles Chapel

The Guilfoos have two tickets for SUFFS Thursday 2 April at 7:30 at the Schuster. Seats are located on the left aisle about halfway back from stage – Door 3, Row L, seats 1,3 (yes they are right next to each other on the aisle).

Original cost is \$270. We are willing to let them go for best offer over \$200.

Steve Guilfoos 937-609-8217 sguilfoos@woh.rr.com

Suffs is a musical with music, lyrics, and a book by Shaina Taub, based on suffragists and the American women's suffrage movement, focusing primarily on the historical events leading up to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1920 that gave some women the right to vote.^[1]

The show premiered off-Broadway at The Public Theater in April 2022. It opened on Broadway on April 18, 2024, at the Music Box Theatre, where it received mostly positive reviews from critics. It was nominated for six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, winning two, for Best Book and Best Score.^{[2][3]}

REMOTE VIEWING

Thank you to all those who help with the streaming and make it possible

Viewing of all past meetings are available on the Spiritus website. Just click the banner at the bottom of the page for access.

If you are interested in being trained to stream meetings, please see Kevin Skinner or send inquiries to contact@spiritus-mlc.org

To rewatch all past meetings click on the link for our website at the bottom of the page.

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With Advent here, Bergamo is excited to roll out a new program: a School of Prayer Advent Series hosted by four of their certified spiritual directors. Please consider taking a step back from your busy schedules to enter more deeply into the meaning of the season. You can attend one, two, or all three sessions (and lunch and coffee are included)!

Follow the link for an extended description and registration information:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1909687740439?aff=oddtcreator>

We hope to see you at Bergamo during the upcoming Advent Season!

Join us for Bergamo's

School of Prayer Advent Series

Attend one, two, or all three sessions!

Deepen your spiritual life this Advent – learn from and pray with the Bergamo Center's spiritual directors!

**SATURDAYS IN DECEMBER, 9AM-1PM
(INCLUDES LUNCH AND COFFEE)**

DECEMBER 6

*Prayers and Prayer:
A School of Prayer*



JOE MCHUGH



STEPHEN RIVET

DECEMBER 13

*Gaudete! Rejoice!
through Visio Divina*



MICHELLE SHERMAN

DECEMBER 20

*Preparing with Mary for
the Coming of Christ*



FR. TOM SCHROER, SM

Registration and more info -> QR code or
www.bergamocenter.org/adult-programs



SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

All Advent donations should be dropped off this weekend. Donations of warm socks, gloves, etc, for Food for the Journey should preferably be brought to our Spiritus Christmas Social on 12/20, where we will also be filling respite bags for FJP.

Donations for Family Promise Adopt-a-Family are due by Sunday so the family can have them for Christmas. Also please bring your Kroger gift cards, food, toddler clothing, and household supplies for Miami Valley Immigration Coalition on Sunday, though these are not quite as time-sensitive.

Miami Valley Immigration Coalition

The Miami Valley Immigration Coalition, MVIC, pantry has pressing needs for DRIED beans, INSTANT coffee, masa flour, dry or canned milk, cooking oil 32 Oz or smaller, small bags of sugar, holiday treats and mixes. They still need \$25 Kroger gift cards, toddler clothes, and art supplies.





SPIRITUS MLC 2025

ADVENT

GIVING LIST

❄️ FAMILY PROMISE ❄️

This year we have adopted 2 children, a 15 year old girl (HM) and a 12 year old boy (KD). HM likes baggy pants/jeans with pockets (nothing “skinny”) and no pink. KD likes dark colored clothes. Sign-ups will be in the hallway by the St Vincent donations or online [HERE](#)

❄️ MIAMI VALLEY ❄️

IMMIGRATION COALITION

\$25 Kroger gift cards
Clothing for toddlers
Art supplies (markers, crayons, drawing pads, construction paper, coloring books, etc.)
Dish soap, laundry detergent, soap, toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste

❄️ CHANGE AND BE CHANGED ❄️

At our December 7 gathering, we will be blessed with a visit from St. Nikolaus, who will be asking us to help fund a scholarship for Bro. Clemens to pursue his doctoral degree in Pharmacy in Tanzania and to purchase a much-needed piece of dental equipment for Kayese. (detailed descriptions at the gathering.)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO:
CHANGE AND BE CHANGED.

They will send you a receipt for your tax-deductible donation. If you will not be attending 12/7 and still want to contribute, contact Chris Bohmer Stewart. However, if you won't be present 12/7, you will miss all the treats prepared by St. Nick's helpers, AKA Thomas, Elisabeth, and Marti!



❄️ FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY ❄️

Winter socks, hats, gloves, blankets, rain ponchos

These donations can be brought to the Madeleine Room at our gatherings or, better yet, brought to our Christmas Social on 12/13 as they will be distributed to those who receive the respite bags we will be filling during our celebrations.

MARIANIST FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

Check out the new edition of
Marianist Family Online!
<https://www.marianist.com/familyonline/>

STAY CONNECTED !

MARIANIST FAMILY - <https://www.marianist.com>

MARIANIST SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE - <https://marianistsjc.net>

MARIANIST LAY COMMUNITY OF NORTH AMERICA - <https://www.mlcna.org>

MARIANIST ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER - <https://meec.center>

NORTH AMERICAN CENTER FOR MARIANIST STUDIES - <https://www.nacms.org>

SPIRITUS CONTACT UPDATES

If there is anyone who is seriously ill or facing a significant surgery or procedure the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is available.

You can call the Spiritus office and leave a message if it is something that can be scheduled in advance, or if more time sensitive, you can reach out to Fr. Tom. His telephone number is 937-903-0943.

If you need to change any contact information, please let us know by responding to this email or by writing any changes that you need to have made on the clipboard available by the nametags at each Spiritus gathering. We want to make sure that everyone is getting information in a way that is helpful and suits them.

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November 12, 2025

Dear Marianist Family Vacation Retreat Families, Volunteers, and Friends, We send you greetings from Governor's Island and wish to provide some updates regarding the Family Vacation Retreat Program. Last summer, our week was a huge success! We had a full house with 40 family members and staff! The core team is already hard at work planning for summer 2026, when we hope to offer two weeks of this experience which is so beneficial to today's families.

To say that the Marianist Family Vacation Retreat runs on a shoestring budget would be accurate! We work very hard to keep the program as affordable and accessible as possible for interested families.

Last year, thanks to the generosity of our friends and donors, we were able to purchase a new grill, new porch chairs, and keep the retreat pricing affordable. Additionally, we offered our first ever "Come & See" day which introduced new young families to our program. We continue to be touched by the myriad donations of time, resources, finances, and prayer by friends like you.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we are reaching out to ask you to discern the possibility of making a financial or other donation to support this important ministry. Please note that this is our only official "ask" of the year.

If you've participated in the program in the past, you may have fond memories of:

- Morning prayer, fabulous skits, and Pecos Mime
- Afternoon tubing on the lake, fishing fun, and silly songs
- Sunset cruises, Family Olympics, and renewing vows in the chapel

If each family, friend of the program, or volunteer were to give a \$50.00 donation it would be a huge help, **but any amount would be appreciated.** If you wish to contribute financially, *please make a check out to "The Marianists" and mail it to*

Brother Joe Kamis, S.M.
Governor's Island
9636 Lakeshore Drive East
Huntsville, Ohio 43324

(If you have questions, please contact Brother Joe at 314-753-3219)

Gratefully, Brother Joe Kamis and the Core Team

Erin Bockrath, Angela & Bob Bolton, Tim & M.E. Dillon, Sophia & Timothy Hosford,
Anne Petratis, Martha Saurine and Bro Don Smith

p.s. Summer 2026 Retreat Dates: **July 7 to 11** and **July 21 to 25**

Feel free to share with interested families or volunteers!

UNPLUG FROM
DAILY LIFE AND
REDISCOVER
YOUR FAMILY
AND YOUR
FAITH, WHILE
HAVING FUN.




MARIANIST FAMILY VACATION RETREAT

Indian Lake
Governor's Island
Huntsville, Ohio

CONTACT US

Phone/Text: (314) 753-3219

Facebook:

Marianist Family Vacation Retreat

Email: joe.kamis1946@gmail.com

Governor's Island

9636 Lakeshore Drive East

Huntsville, Ohio 43324-9520

5 Day Retreat (**July 1 - 5** or **July 15 - 19**)



OUR MISSION

This unique program for Catholic families is designed to renew and deepen family commitment and unity. It is sponsored by the Society of Mary (Marianists)!

What Other Families Have Said:

"The beauty of the lake enhances the spiritual dimension of the retreat."

"Nice balance of fun and depth."

"We loved having our values reinforced to our children by their peers and other families."



5 Day Retreat (July 1 - 5 or July 15 - 19)
We Are Proud to Offer Family Friendly Rates
\$50 Off if Registered by May 1st!
Last Day to Register: May 20th.

Adults (Parents)	\$125
Young Adults (18 and Older)	\$105
Teens (13-17)	\$85
Children (6-12)	\$75
Children (5 and Younger)	FREE

Meals Included in Rate
All Rates Are Per Person



Schedule of Activities

Arrive between 12 and 2 PM on Tuesday and Depart at 2 PM on Saturday.

Theme for Retreat: "Discover the Way"

All aboard, mates! It's time to swab the deck, hoist the mainsail, raise the mizzenmast and set out for our next adventure. We are sailing away on the high seas in the spirit of explorers to chart a new course on a voyage of discovery through modern family life. It's a brave new world.

Morning Session

- Morning Prayer
- Skit/Presentation
- Peer Sessions

Afternoon Session

- Family Fun
 - Boating, Fishing, Swimming, Games

Evening Session

- Evening Prayer
- Group Activities
- Peer-Group Social

Accommodations

- Private Bedrooms
- Private Bathrooms
- Community Gathering Areas
- Home Cooked Meals
- Fantastic Views of Indian Lake

SPIRITUS CONTACTS

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Matt Naveau - Community Coordinator -

matt.naveau@spiritus-mlc.org

Linda Skinner - Temporalities Coordinator

linda.skinner@spiritus-mlc.org

Chris Sitko - Formation Coordinator

csitko24@aol.com

Chris Bohmer-Stewart - Social Justice Coordinator

bohmerstewart_1@hotmail.com

Tom McCrate - Finance Coordinator

tom.mccrate@spiritus-mlc.org

Open - Spirituality Coordinator

Steve Guilfoos - Community Rep

sguilfoos@woh.rr.com

Sharie McKenny - Community Rep

Sharon.mckenny@gmail.com

Eddie Simpson - Community Rep

Eddie4087@gmail.com

Fr. Tom Schroer - Spiritual Advisor

tschroer1@udayton.edu

