



# THE CONGREGATION OF THE ORATORY OF ST. PHILIP NERI IN CINCINNATI

123 EAST 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202 • INFO@CINCINNATORATORY.COM • WWW.CINCINNATORATORY.COM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Laudetur Jesus Christus! Praised be Jesus Christ!*

As we are entering into the Advent Season and recently having celebrated Thanksgiving, this is a time of year in which we should reflect upon what we are thankful. The Oratory is undoubtedly grateful for each of our friends and supporters. Without your friendship, it would be impossible for us to do our work. As we prepare to welcome the Christ child once again at Christmas, please know that you remain especially in our prayers during this holy time. We hope you can join us for our various special events and Christmas, but if not, please let us keep each other in our prayers.

When Christ entered time, he set the world onto a different trajectory than it had been. While the world moved further and further from God, Christ sought to bring us closer to Him. For those who are baptized, we can't take that for granted. This is why Saint Pope Leo the Great, in his famous Christmas sermon, urged us not to forget the dignity that had been given to us in baptism. Christ sought to provide us with a share in the Divine Life, the most perfect gift we could receive. May we embrace this and turn away from our sins, and seek to set the whole world on fire for the love of God!

We are also in a time in which many are looking to make special donations before the end of the year. We would hope you would consider a gift to the Oratory if you have not already done so. An annual gift of \$250 or more enrolls you in our special Saint Philip Society, which has the benefit of monthly Masses offered for the intentions of those in the Society. At the annual banquet in October, we announced another yearly goal of \$250,000. To date, we have raised or had pledged nearly \$200,000. This brings us closer to our annual goal. This goes to assist in paying for the costs of our seminarians (\$30,000 each), our yearly insurance (\$30,000 annually), our utilities, and finishing the chapel. Your support is much appreciated and needed!

We are able to receive donations through the provided envelope with checks made out to The Cincinnati Oratory, with a credit card through our webpage (<http://donate.cincinnati-oratory.com/>), or you can contact us for stock transfers. Please also consider writing us into your wills. We ask that you also spread the word about us to your family and friends. Every little bit helps us, and we thank you for your continued, or your new, support.

Please have a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. We pray that God will bless each of you abundantly as we prepare for the coming of Christ and move into the new year!

I remain humbly in Christ,

*Fr. Jon-Paul Bevak*

Fr. Jon-Paul Bevak, C.O.  
Provost



*Procession with the relic of the True Cross on September 14 for our 'Vigil of Reparation'*



*Pontifical Mass with Bishop Slattery on August 11*



*Fr. Jon-Paul & Fr. Adrian with Bishop Mario Avilés, C.O. after the Oratory Congress in Rome*



*Musical Oratory of the Blessed Virgin Mary in October*

**THE CHAPEL PROJECT BY FR. ADRIAN HILTON, C.O.**



*The Altar in the Oratory Chapel, the 'little Oratory'*

The heart of the Oratorian life is prayer. Prayer makes up two of the three times during the day when our entire community is together. It is only fitting that the bulk of our time together is spent in prayer, as it is through the grace and intimacy of prayer that we are strengthened to go out into the world, working for the sake of Christ and His holy Church. With this in mind, it is with great joy that we are able to report that the community chapel is nearly complete. It is ready to be furnished when it will finally begin to be used for mental prayer, the offering of Holy Mass, and Eucharistic Adoration. Through the generosity of donors, the patience of the design process, and an eager desire to make something beautiful for the Lord, we are very pleased with the final product of our chapel which has developed year by year.

The most striking feature of the chapel is the beautiful, hand-carved altar that was originally made and used in France where it was housed in a small chapel. When that chapel closed, the altar became available and we were blessed enough to acquire it for many years of use ahead. There will be a beautiful display of relics which will include first and second-class relics of many saints including objects used in various saints lives such as clothing, substantial relics of martyrs, as well as letters from saints and blessed such as Charles Borromeo, Francis de Sales, Alphonsus Liguori, John Henry Newman, Camillus de Lellis, John Vianney, and others.

**THE MONTH OF THE POOR SOULS BY BRO. BRENT STULL, C.O.**



*Bro. Brent, Fr. Jon-Paul, Bishop Slattery, Fr. Adrian, & Bro. Henry after this summer's Pontifical Requiem Mass*

Each year, in November, the Church keeps a special time of prayer and penance for those who have gone before us in the faith. Beginning on October 31, she makes remembrance of those who are in hell as a reminder to the living to remain on the narrow path of righteousness. On November 1, she remembers all those saints in heaven—those who have their rest in the eternal bliss of the beatific vision. On November 2, she remembers all those suffering in the cleansing fires of purgatory—those who are not yet ready to enjoy the glory of heaven. These three days are known as “Hallowtide.” As an extension of Hallowtide, the Church offers a special octave, or eight days, of prayer for all the faithful departed. Each day during this octave (November 1 through November 8), the faithful may gain a plenary indulgence for the souls in purgatory by visiting a cemetery and praying for the dead.

Additionally, the Church exhorts her members to keep the entire month of November as a special time to pray for the deceased. In the evening exercises of The Oratory, we pray each day a prayer for our deceased relatives and benefactors. Will you join us in praying for the faithful departed for the rest of the month of November (and daily throughout the year)?

O God, the bestower of forgiveness and the lover of human salvation, we beseech thee, of thy tender love, to grant that the brethren of our congregation, with their relatives and benefactors, who have passed out of this life, may, by the intercession of blessed Mary, ever Virgin, and all thy saints, come to the fellowship of everlasting bliss. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**OUR LIFE IN PHOTOS**



*Preparing Old St. Mary's for Christmas in 2017*



*Preparing Sacred Heart for Christmas in 2017*



*The Annual Oratory Banquet at The Phoenix*



*Opening the Italian Dinner in October at Sacred Heart*

**THE SEASON OF ADVENT BY BRO. HENRY HOFFMANN**

Advent provides a precious time of spiritual renewal, which encapsulates the entire Christian life. During Advent, we prepare ourselves to receive Christ in His three comings. He came once as a child, born of the Virgin. He now comes to us in Holy Communion, and He will come at the end of all things as the Judge of the living and the dead. As we honor the Divine Child as our King and our God, we simultaneously prepare ourselves for the gift of eternal life in Holy Communion and purify ourselves to be found worthy at the last day. Only by living in light of death and eternity can we truly celebrate Advent and prepare ourselves to welcome the King.



*Christmas Decorating at Old St. Mary's*

The Church, as a kind mother and wise teacher, gives us different seasons in which She emphasizes different aspects of the Christian life. In Advent, the beginning of the liturgical year, the first words the Church utters are "Ad te levavi," an exhortation to look up to the Heavens, from which comes our Redeemer. Our liturgical new year's resolution should be to look up always to the heavens, in expectation of our Redeemer. Advent must be a time of silence and preparation. The liturgy symbolizes this by the absence of the happier hymns and chants, with candle-lit vigils, and with somber colors. During Advent, we must calm our desires for earthly things and make our souls as still and silent as the night which welcomed the Light of the world.

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*Christmas Decorating at Sacred Heart*

**OUR LIFE IN PHOTOS**



*At a meeting of all Oratories in October with João Cardinal Bráz de Aviz, the Prefect of the Congregation for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (Fr. Jon-Paul is taking the picture and Fr. Adrian is on the far left)*



*The Oratory preparing the front door for Christmas last year*



*The manger at Sacred Heart last Christmas*



*At the Chiesa Nuova in October, the Church of St. Mary in the Valley, the home of the Roman Oratory*



*The statue of St. Philip Neri in St. Peter's Basilica*



*With Judge Amul Thapar following the Annual Oratory Banquet on October 30 at The Phoenix*



*Helen, Ed, & Pat Whalen with Marge Wilke at the Annual Oratory Banquet*

## ADVENT AT THE CINCINNATI ORATORY

### Musical Oratory of Advent

*Wednesday, December 12*

*7:00 p.m.*

An evening of choral reflection on Sacred Scripture and concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The pattern of this Musical Oratory reflects the season's growing anticipation, both of the first coming of Christ and of that day when the prayer 'Thy Kingdom Come' is finally and fully answered. The evening will also include congregational hymn favorites sung by all.



### Solemn Rorate Mass

*Saturday, December 15*

*6:45 a.m.*



The Rorate Mass is a Solemn Traditional Latin Mass, only by candlelight. It derives its name from the opening Introit 'Rorate caeli' - 'Drop down ye heavens.' This is a votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and has been called a mini-Christmas. It is a custom that comes to us from Germany. Please join us for this inspiring Mass as we prepare for the birth of the Lord.

Both Events are at Old St. Mary's Church / 123 East Thirteenth Street / Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

### Evenings with the Oratory

Join us every Tuesday with children's and adult catechism at 7:00 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. There is the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance between 7:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is at 8:30 p.m. Please check the parish bulletin for any schedule changes.

### Upcoming Events

December 8 - Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- A Holy Day of Obligation
- Old St. Mary's: 7:15 a.m. (Low Traditional), 10:00 a.m. (Sung Ordinary Form Latin), 12:10 p.m. (English)
- Sacred Heart: 8:30 a.m. (English), 10:00 a.m. (Sung Traditional)

December 12 - Musical Oratory of Advent with Benediction @ 7:00 p.m.

- A reflection on Sacred Scripture with favorite Advent choral pieces

December 15 - Solemn Traditional Rorate Mass @ 6:45 a.m.

- A candlelit Mass that is a German tradition often called the *Golden Mass* or *mini-Christmas*.

December 19 - Christmas Decorating at Old St. Mary's @ 6:00 p.m.

December 22 - Christmas Decorating at Sacred Heart @ 10:00 a.m.

December 25 - Christmas Day

- Old St. Mary's Masses at Midnight (Sung Ordinary Form Latin), 7:30 a.m. (Low Traditional Latin), 9:15 a.m. (Sung Ordinary Form Latin), 11:00 a.m. (German), 12:30 p.m. (English)
- Sacred Heart Masses at Midnight (Sung Traditional Latin), 9:00 a.m. (English), 11:00 a.m. (Sung Traditional Latin)

**Events are at Old St. Mary's Church unless otherwise noted**

### WISDOM FROM ST. PHILIP NERI

*The hour is finished - we may say the same of the year; but the time to do good is not finished yet.*

## THE CINCINNATI ORATORY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT

MAIL CHECKS TO:

**THE CINCINNATI ORATORY**

**123 EAST 13<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

**THE SOCIETY OF SAINT PHILIP NERI**

OR DONATE BY CREDIT CARD ON THE ORATORY'S WEB-PAGE

CONSIDER JOINING THE SAINT PHILIP SOCIETY

THROUGH THEIR COMMITMENT TO MAKING AN ANNUAL DONATION OF \$250 OR MORE, OUR SOCIETY OF FRIENDS HELPS CONTRIBUTE TO THE ANNUAL COST OF OPERATION FOR THE MISSION OF THE CINCINNATI ORATORY. WITH THEIR ANNUAL SUPPORT, AND HOPEFULLY YOURS, OUR MISSION TO SANCTIFY AND TEACH MOVES FORWARD.

WITHOUT YOU, THIS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE!

THE CINCINNATI ORATORY IS A 501(C)3 TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION

VISIT [WWW.CINCINNATORATORY.COM](http://WWW.CINCINNATORATORY.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION