

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ JANUARY 24, 2010 • EPIPHANY III •

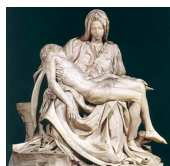
• CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE •

• ST TIMOTHY, BPM •

After Mass today we continue the **Chair of Unity Octave**, praying for the **conversion of the Jews**. We also conclude with great gratitude and loving confidence, our annual Twelve Sundays of the **Mother of Good Counsel**. Be sure to go to confession within a week of today, and Holy Communion, so as to gain the Plenary Indulgence. Confessions are heard today before Mass, and during the 11:30 Mass.

✠ THIS WEEK:

Our Chair of Unity Octave concludes on **Monday**. On **Wednesday**, we remember some of our dear departed priests at the **11:20 School Mass**. **Thursday** is our monthly **Requiem Mass** for all enrolled in our Purgatorial Society. **Friday** comes **Francis De Sales**, our patron saint in the Cincinnati Archdiocese, and a wonderful model of gentle goodness of every sort. Come to the **High Mass**, at **11:20 AM**, or the **evening Low Mass** with Novenas and Benediction (**5:45 PM**). On **Saturday** we anticipate **Epiphany IV**, and bid farewell to the Alleluia until Holy Saturday.



✠ **The Sorrowful Mother Novena** - opens this Friday evening *after Mass* and concludes with a blessing of the sick. Offer a ride to someone who could use the blessing. Please submit to the Church Office the "first names" of anyone you wish mentioned during the novena (the sick and/or family members and friends currently serving in the military.)

✠ **The Infant of Prague Novena** - continues at **5:35 PM**. Please join us in praying for all of our needs, corporal and spiritual, to the Divine Infant, as well as for the conversion of non-Catholics.



✠ NEXT SUNDAY:

The Church's short pre-Lenten season of Septuagesimtide opens, and we should start planning our Lent. **Catechism classes** are at **10:40 AM** and **Vespers** and **Benediction** close our church day at **4:45 PM**.

Set your Missal: Septuagesima, commemoration of St. John Bosco, preface of the Trinity.

✠ UPCOMING EVENTS



February 2nd - Candlemas Evening Mass followed by Winter Soup Supper.



February 3rd - Feast of St. Blaise. The **Blessing of Throats**.

✠ THE PASCHAL SACRAMENTS

First Testing & First Confessions: **Saturday**, April 17th. (Baptismal Certificate must be presented before testing, and form filled out.)

• **Obligatory Day of Recollection for all First Communion Children:** Thursday, May 20th.

• **Confirmation:** Saturday, May 22nd.

• **First Holy Communion:** Sunday, June 6th.

Parents, please remember to submit to the Office *by March 11th*, the Baptismal certificates of children not baptized at St. Gertrude the Great. If your child is not enrolled in the school or Sunday School, please let us know if you are planning on bringing him to be tested in April. Unless we have the Baptismal certificate, we will be unable to do the necessary testing. Sometimes it is difficult to tell if a child is ready for the Sacraments. Please consult the priest. The Church earnestly desires all children to receive Our Lord as soon as possible.

✠ THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2009 FOR ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT

HOLY COMMUNIONS: 28,000 (approx.)

MARRIAGES: 1

BAPTISMS: 18

CONFIRMATIONS: 20

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: 18

RECEPTION INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: 2

FUNERALS: 6

✠ POETRY CORNER

THE INCARNATION

No breath but what she gave,
No heartbeat save Mary's own,
No way but where she walked,
Treading the hard, cold stone.

No food but from her given,
No speech save through her lips,
No touch to fondle the world
But through Mary's fingertips.

No sight to see the evening,
Or watch the new day dawn,
Yet through her flesh He is
The Evening, the Day, and the Morn!

—Sister Claude of Jesus, S. H. N.



✠ ALTER CHRISTUS

\$740.00 was donated for Masses for the sanctification and support of priests. Thank you for your generosity.



✠ CONGRATULATIONS

To Teresa and Martin Alter on the Baptism of their daughter Anna Catherine on January 17, 2010.

Also to Rhonda and John Lynch on the Baptism of their son Michael Francis on January 23, 2010.



Collection Report

Sunday January 17th\$3,919.00

*Thank you for your generosity!
Remember St. Gertrude's in your will!*

Servers

JANUARY 31, 2010

•SUN 1/31 7:30 AM LOW: A. & S. Brueggemann
9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: J. Lotarski, R. Hill
TH: F. Puglielli
AC's: N. Puglielli, A. Richesson
TORCH: J. Simpson, J. Lacy, S. Arlinghaus, A. Wanke
11:30 AM LOW: A. D. Kinett, N. McClorey
4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction: G. Miller
5:45 PM LOW: A. Beaver

Ushers

JANUARY 31, 2010

7:30 AM Kent Maki, Scott Pepiot, Volunteer, Usher
9:00 AM Mike Briggs, Mark Lotarski, Steve Weigand
11:30 AM Bob Uhlenbrock, Dennis Hille, Kirby Bischel, Volunteer
5:45 PM John Seyfried

✠ THE CALENDAR

MON	1/25/10	CONVERSION OF ST PAUL 11:20 AM Low Mass Danny Kamphaus (<i>Connie Kamphaus</i>)
TUE	1/26/10	ST POLYCARP, BPM 8:00 AM Low Mass Poor souls for Mattingly family conversions 11:20 AM Low Mass †Fr. Francis X. Claerr, CMM (<i>M/M Mark Lotarski</i>)
WED	1/27/10	ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BPCD 8:00 AM Low Mass Poor Souls - St. Gertrude's needs 11:20 AM High Mass In Remembrance of our beloved priests †Fr. Randolph, †Fr. Leslie, †Fr. Richter (<i>Bishop Dolan</i>) 6:30 PM Choir Practice
THUR	1/28/10	ST PETER NOLASCO, C ST AGNES (THE SECOND TIME) 8:00 AM Low Mass Poor Souls - St. Gertrude's needs 11:20 AM Requiem High Mass Purgatorial Society 5:00 PM Low Mass †Catherine Wozny (<i>CKW & MAW</i>)
FRI	1/29/10	ST FRANCIS DE SALES, BPCD 11:00 AM Confessions 11:20 AM High Mass In honor of St. Francis de Sales 5:15 PM Confessions and Rosary 5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena V 5:45 PM Low Mass In honor of St. Francis de Sales Sorrowful Mother Novena and Blessing of the sick, concluding with the Sacred Heart Novena and Benediction.
SAT	1/30/10	ANTICIPATED EPIPHANY IV ST MARTINA, VM 7:15 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass In honor of the B.V.M. (<i>Tom & Stella Simpson</i>) Confessions 8:00 AM Sermon and Low Mass Pro life cause (<i>Rosary Confraternity</i>)
SUN	1/31/10	SEPTUAGESIMA ST JOHN BOSCO, C 7:30 AM Low Mass †Anthony Quinter (<i>Patsy McConnell family</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass †Anna Arlinghaus (<i>Mike Briggs family</i>) 10:40 AM Catechism Classes 11:30 AM Low Mass †Ralph Patton (<i>Robert Uhlenbrock</i>) 4:45 PM Vespers and Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude's



✠ BISHOP'S CORNER

Today we close our Twelve Sundays of the Mother of Good Counsel, having again been saved by our Blessed Mother under this powerful title and devotion. Today as well we pray for the conversion of the Jews in the Chair of Unity Octave, which concludes tomorrow. Pray with us! Already this Friday we begin our Sorrowful Mother Novena after the evening Mass on the great feast of St. Francis de Sales.

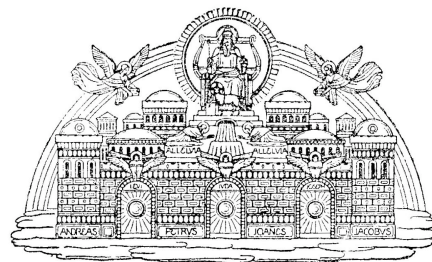
Today I am giving the opening conference for our annual seminary retreat at Brooksville, Florida, which lasts through Friday. Please keep the fine young men who are our future priests in your prayers. Our seminary is under attack as well as our church and school. We take it as a compliment from the devil! May God reward richly all of our enemies by making them saints. Thank you for your prayers and continued financial support. Thank you for making the Novena with me to Our Lady of Hope.

I couldn't resist publishing Fr. Martin's most interesting and uplifting letter. I know you will enjoy it, and will keep this good priest of God in your prayers.

Let me close with a cute anecdote from our school. I forgot this past Tuesday morning that I had promised Fr. McGuire to take the First Grade Bible History Class for him, and was working at the rectory. Fr. McGuire was on business in Columbus, and Fr. Cekada was not free either. One child started to weep, and another put her head in her hands and exclaimed quite sincerely, "Oh, no! what will we do?" Well, Fr. Larrabee to the rescue! Class was taught much to the children's satisfaction, and our school morning continued peacefully. God bless our little school!

God bless you as well. I will return on Friday afternoon, and really hope to see **you** at evening services!

—Bishop Dolan



The following were Masses that were offered in the Missions:

1. Frances Mattingly, her children, her grand and great grand children, son in law salutation (2) (*Frances Mattingly*)
2. In Honor of the B.V.M. (13) (*Tom & Stella Simpson*)
3. In Honor of St. Joseph (13) (*Tom & Stella Simpson*)
4. Danny Kamphaus (2) (*Connie Kamphaus*)
5. Poor Souls - Our Needs
6. Special Intention (*Bob & Becky Uhlenbrock*)

How often during the course of your lifetime have you heard people say, "I'm only human, I'm not a saint." just as if being a saint meant that we necessarily cease to be human beings? Did God really intend plain ordinary creatures like you and me, living in the world, to become saints? Francis de Sales said yes. What's more, he proved it can be done. All that Saint Francis did and said and wrote is our assurance that we can all be human and still be saints. God made the world for us, Francis said, and all the things in it, so it is good and right that we should love God above all things and take an unrestrained joy in all these things He has given us to enjoy.

From its very beginning the life of St. Francis de Sales was beset by obstacles. His birth was premature, leaving him so weak and frail that his life was often despaired of during the early years.

At the age of eight, Francis was sent to school at Annecy, where he made his First Communion and was confirmed. Already, he had expressed a desire to be a priest; but his father had other plans, and had destined him for a brilliant worldly career. And so it was that up until the time he was twenty-four, Francis attended the finest schools in Europe. God has blessed the youth with exceptional intelligence and he realized that it was his duty to develop this talent. However, he did not neglect his study of theology. He still felt certain that God had blessed him with the desire for the priesthood. At Paris, he studied ancient languages and philosophies. At Padua, he culminated his studies when he received a doctorate in Law. Along with these intellectual pursuits, his father had sternly commanded that Francis must take lessons in dancing, riding and fencing, as these befitted a young nobleman. Also befitting his rank and title, the young Saint was required to enter polite society circles. Nevertheless, it was among these people that Francis got his first insight into the spiritual problems of his day.

In spite of the attractiveness and the multitude of temptations which Francis encountered in the midst of luxurious living, his soul had preserved its innocent tenderness and it was with manly strength and dignity that he returned to his father's house, more resolved than ever on winning his father's consent to allow him to become a priest. To accomplish this, he enlisted the aid of his mother and a cousin, Canon Louis. His cousin, knowing that only a position of honor might win the favor of the ambitious father, petitioned Rome for the appointment of Francis to the vacant post of provost of Annecy. The position was second in dignity only to that of the bishop, and the youth was shocked when he heard what Louis had done. The honor, however, did win his father's approval, and with the deepest sense of humility, Francis accepted this opportunity to enter upon the vocation of priest and confessor.

It was only a short time later that the young prelate was afforded the opportunity to become a missionary as well. The mission, however, was so perilous that it was generally believed to be nothing short of an invitation to martyrdom. It was on this mission, accompanied only by his cousin, in a territory of France where the practice of Catholicism was a criminal offense and where open preaching was punished with death, that Francis embarked upon his career as a writer. In place of the forbidden sermons, he wrote pamphlets and, although these were widely distributed, they seemed to make little impression on the hostile people. But the profound understanding of their needs and their desires enobled by the personal holiness of the instructor finally won the hearts of the people, and the number of converts began to increase.

Upon the death of the bishop, eight years later, Francis de Sales was chosen to fill this office. For twenty years, until his death, this beloved saint, one of the most understanding and sympathetic men in the history of the church, fulfilled his duties with the deepest humility.

It is not just because Francis de Sales understood the needs of his own people that he is so beloved, but because he seemed to understand the needs of all human beings—yours and mine, too. One of the greatest obstacles to a development of personal holiness is a failure to realize that God did not intend each of us to be holy in the same way or to the same degree. Just as we are each gifted with different natural abilities and capacities, God has given each of us different spiritual abilities and capacities. Francis de Sales insisted that we do not get to be saints merely by trying to imitate another saint, but by fulfilling our duties and obligations, and by enjoying the privileges and pleasures of our own state of life, to the best of our own abilities. "When God created the world," he says, "He commanded the plants to bear fruit according to their kind. Similarly, He commands Christians, who are the living plants of His Church, to bear the fruit of their love, each according to his particular nature and vocation." Being a saint then, means being yourself – as God meant you to be. We must all strive for perfection – but not in the same way. And in the attainment of this, Saint Francis admonishes us that "the practice of devotion must be different with the nobleman and the laborer, with the servant and the prince, the widow, the maiden and the married woman. It must...be measured according to the strength, occupation and duty of the individual." "Nothing," he cautions, "hinders our perfection so much as the longing for another condition. For instead of working in the field in which we are, we send our oxen and plough into our neighbor's field in which we cannot reap....That is only a waste of time, for it is impossible for us to turn our hearts to acquiring the virtues needed for our present condition when we let our thoughts roam about elsewhere."

**Be yourself—and—
Be a saint of God.**

When St. Gertrude was one day mourning over a little fault into which she was accustomed to fall at times, she earnestly entreated the Lord to free her from it. But He said to her, with great sweetness: 'Would you wish that I should be deprived of a great honor and you yourself of a great reward? Know that every time one perceives a fault of his own and resolves to avoid it for the future, he gains a great reward; and as often as he keeps himself from falling into it again for My sake, he does Me as much honor as a valiant soldier does his king, when he fights manfully against his enemy and conquers them.'



St. Agnes, Pray for us.

In the Lives of the Fathers of the West, it is told of St. Fintan that he was daily visited by an angel, but that once the visit was omitted for several days. When the Saint had the happiness of seeing him again, he asked the angel why he had been so long deprived of his most sweet companionship. "Because," replied the angel, "I had to be present at the death of Motua, who was a great servant of God, and better than yourself, for he did what you have not done. This man never spoke a harsh word to anyone present, nor an unkind word of anyone absent. He never complained of heat or cold, nor of anything else, whatever it might be, or however it might happen; but always conformed himself to the will of God, in whose hands are all things."

PETER AND PAUL

Saul thundered forth upon his horse
A figure of renown,
Breathing fiery threats until
God simply knocked him down!

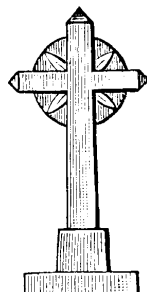
Simon walked out blustering
All confident he trod.
But both of them came creeping back
Like little boys to God.

—Sister M. Liguori, O.P.

VOICE FROM THE CHAPEL

Why pass Me by,
With ne're a nod?
Perhaps because
I'm only God.
Perhaps you've rushed,
You haven't time
To ask for grace,
Not even Mine.

You turn Me down,
But still you meet
Your frivolous pals
'Cross the street.
You laugh, you joke,
You have your fun
Without a thought
For Christ, the Son.



In worldly things
You're much engrossed,
And yet I think
You'd be quite lost
Were I to cease
My watch o'er you
And guide you not
In all you do.

It's lonely here—
A few drop in
To breathe a prayer
Then leave again
But you don't come
I wonder why—
I'm always here—
Don't pass Me by.

—M. Lucille Rooney



A brother whom another brother had wronged came to see Abba Sisoës and said to him, 'My brother has hurt me and I want to avenge myself.' The old man pleaded with him saying, 'No, my child, leave vengeance to God.' He said to him, 'I shall not rest until I have avenged myself.' The old man said, 'Brother, let us pray.' Then the old man stood up and said, 'God, we no longer need you to care for us, since we do justice for ourselves.' Hearing these words, the brother fell at the old man's feet, saying, 'I will no longer seek justice from my brother, forgive me, abba.'

Abba Sisoës expressed himself freely one day, saying, 'Have confidence: for thirty years, I have not prayed to God about my faults, but I have made this prayer to him: "Lord Jesus, save me from my tongue," and until now every day, I fall because of it, and commit sin.'

A brother asked Abba Sisoës, 'Did Satan pursue them like this in the early days?' The old man said to him, 'He does this more at the present time, because his time is nearly finished and he is enraged.'

Abraham, Abba Sisoës' disciple, was tempted one day by the devil and the old man saw that he had given way. Standing up, he stretched his hand towards heaven, saying, 'God, whether you will, or whether you will not, I will not let you alone till you have healed him,' and immediately the brother was healed.

Sisoës was trained as an ascetic with Abba Or in Scetis. He left Scetis after the death of St. Anthony, saying it had become too popular and settled on St. Anthony's mountain for seventy-two years. He found it deserted, which may indicate a time after the Saracen attack there in 357. He received supplies from Pispir by a servant and was in touch with Rhaithou and Clysma.

Dear Bishop Dolan,

There never was any doubt that the devil stirred up everything, he hates everybody, and, in these times, especially faithful Traditional Catholics.

Our Lord's words in His "wheat and cockle" parable said it perfectly, "An enemy hath done this!"

If I may say a bit more about the "cockle" (as in the Douay - "weeds" in the Confraternity), let me tell you that there was plenty of "cockle" on Dad's old Kansas Farm (Wilson County, South East Kansas), we used to take hoes into the cornfield and go up and down between the corn rows (some a quarter of a mile long almost) and chop down the weeds, with plenty of them being "cockle."

But nobody ever called them simply "cockle," but "cockle **burrs**." The "burrs" were the seeds hanging on to the weed, and they were about the size of a large jelly bean. The distinctive thing about those "burrs" (at first green, but brown in the fall) was that they were completely covered with tiny little hooks, and that made them hook themselves onto many things - your clothes, dog's feet and tails, cow and horsetails, and so on. And just picture them getting caught in a girl's long hair!

Anyway, to get to my last point, the fellow who invented **velcro** got his idea from those cockle burrs. A short article that I saw in the Chicago Tribune long, long ago (I wish I still had it!) said that the inventor of **velcro** was sitting in his chair one evening and happened to have a couple of those burrs in his hands, and would push them together and then pulled them apart, doing it over and over again. Somehow, the idea gradually crept into his mind that he could create tiny little hooks and fix them onto straps or clothing, and thus eliminate the need of belt buckles and shoe laces or strings, etc. And he did it. Maybe this story is told in some encyclopedia or other book.

And, boy! Does **velcro** ever mean plenty to me, who can't bend down anymore to tie shoelaces! A big **Deo Gratias** for that man inventing **velcro**!

Looks like I got carried away. Apologies! Let us just look at that "an enemy hath done this" as being the devil and all his fellow demon "burrs" getting into everybody's hair, not just at sgg, but everywhere in the novus ordo world.

Let's pray it will turn out for you to be a real "**Happy New Year**" there at St. Gertrude's, with the "burrs" all cleared out!

Benedicite, Pater Reverendissime!
Father Martin , O.F.M.

FEAST OF THE PURIFICATION CANDLEMAS SOUP SUPPER

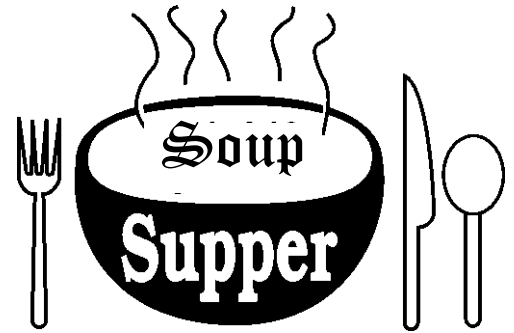
When: FEBRUARY 2ND

Time: IMMEDIATELY AFTER 5:30 PM MASS

Where: HELFTA HALL

What: SOUP OR DESSERT

Who: EVERYONE IN THE PARISH



We are looking forward to tasting all the special soups on Feb. 2nd after the evening Mass!

This tends to be the highlight of Winter Dinners at St. Gertrude the Great as the skilled culinary talents of our parish members and illustrious Bishop Dolan really shine.

Bring your recipes to share, won't you? (perhaps on "3x5" cards.) There will be blank tent signs provided to label the Name of the Soup and the Identity of the Preparer. If you don't have a favorite soup, bring a delicious dessert. The church will supply the bread and wine, and other beverages.

This is always so much fun and very relaxing. So bring your favorite soup/stew, your appetite and recipes February 2nd!

