

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212

www.sgg.org • www.SGGResources.org

Traditional Latin Mass: Sundays 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan, Pastor • Rev. Anthony Cekada  
Rev. Charles McGuire • Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Stephen McKenna

## February 8, 2015 SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY ST. JOHN OF MATHA



### ¶ ST. PAUL SUNDAY

Today is Sexagesima Sunday, as we count only 60 days until Easter, and continue our preparation for the Season of Lent. Stop in to the Gift Shop to pick up some good Lenten reading. **The Blessing of Throats will be available at the Communion rail after all Masses.** Sunday classes for adults and children are at 10:40 AM. Vespers are at 4:45 PM, followed by Benediction.

### ¶ ALTER CHRISTUS



\$305 was received this month for the support and sanctification of priests. Thank you for your generous almsgiving!

*O Light that knew no dawn,  
That shines to endless day,  
All things in earth and heaven  
Are lustered by Thy ray;  
No eye can to Thy throne ascend,  
Nor mind Thy brightness comprehend.*  
—St. Gregory of Nazianzus

### ¶ VOTIVE CANDLES

You may light candles before the numerous shrines located throughout the main church as well as in the baptistery. The suggested donation for a seven-day votive candle is \$5.00. The suggested donation for six-hour votives is 50 cents.

### Lumen Christi

*The Sanctuary Lamp will burn before the Blessed Sacrament during the next fortnight for the following intention:*

**Urgent healing of body and soul of Luke Paska, and financial help for his family**  
(Kim Paska)



THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD

### ¶NEXT SUNDAY: QUINQUAGESIMA HOLY FACE SUNDAY

Sunday classes for adults and children are at 10:40 AM. **No Vespers.** Holy Face Devotions with Benediction are at 5:15 PM.

**Set Your Missal:** Quinquagesima with collect of Sts. Faustinus and Jovita; third collect of Our Lady and All the Saints. Trinity Preface.

*Teach me to live, that I may dread  
The grave as little as my bed;  
Teach me to die, that so I may  
Rise glorious at the awful day.*  
—Thomas Ken (English, 1637-1711)

### ¶ OUR SICK

Please remember Sue Becker Meneff, Alex Fulton, Les Pomerville, Janet Clementi, Paul Leurk, and all of our sick and shut-in.

*In supplication meek,  
To Thee I bend the knee;  
O Christ, when Thou shalt come,  
In love remember me,  
And in Thy kingdom, by Thy grace,  
Grant me a humble Servant's place.*  
—St. Gregory of Nazianzus

### ¶ DON'T FORGET:

**Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.** Masses and ashes all day long!

**Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>,** is the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady and the Children's Day of Recollection. Bring your children to this beneficial day of prayer.



### Collection Report

Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.....\$3,646.00  
Second Collection.....\$1,089.00  
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

*All Sunday Masses, school day Masses, Friday evening and Saturday morning Masses are webcast at SGGResources.org.*

- MON 02/09/15 ST. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA, BPCD**  
ST. APOLLONIA, VM  
11:20 AM **Low Mass** All Poor Souls in Purgatory (DJR)
- TUE 02/10/15 ST. SCHOLASTICA, V**  
COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION  
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Bernadette Ritchey (*Frances Mattingly*)  
11:20 AM **High Mass** John Reiss (*Capetillo Family*)  
5:00 PM **Low Mass** All Poor Souls in Purgatory (*Anon.*)
- WED 02/11/15 OUR LADY OF LOURDES**  
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Theresa & WM Clark (*Frances Mattingly*)  
11:20 AM **High Mass** Rosemary Macri (*Bill Habib*)  
5:00 PM **Low Mass** †Philip Donadio (*Rob & Jane Brockman*)
- THU 02/12/15 THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS**  
6:00 AM **Low Mass** Charles Current & Family (*Samantha*)  
11:20 AM **High Mass** Rebecca Uhlenbrock (*Capetillo Family*)  
5:00 PM **Low Mass** †Dennis Donadio (*Rob & Jane Brockman*)
- FRI 02/13/15 FERIAI DAY**  
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Merry Christmas, Fr. C (*Sharon*)  
10:55 AM **Confessions**  
11:20 AM **Requiem High Mass** Purgatorian Society  
5:15 PM **Confessions & Rosary**  
5:35 PM **Infant of Prague Novena VIII**  
5:45 PM **Low Mass** Colette Current – Happy Birthday (*Samantha*)  
6:30 PM **Sorrowful Mother Novena III & Blessing of Sick; Sacred Heart Novena & Benediction**
- SAT 02/14/15 OUR LADY'S SATURDAY**  
ST. VALENTINE, PRM  
7:10 AM **Confessions**  
7:30 AM **Low Mass** †Estrella I. Simpson – 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary (*Tom & Karen Simpson*)  
8:10 AM **Sermon, Low Mass** Poor Souls (*Anon.*)
- SUN 02/15/15 QUINQUAGESIMA**  
STS. FAUSTINUS & JOVITA, MM  
7:30 AM **Low Mass** Our teacher (*The Brueggemann boys*)  
9:00 AM **High Mass** †Kim LeBlanc (*Simpson Family*)  
10:40 AM **Catechism Classes**  
11:30 AM **Low Mass** Godchildren (*Kirby & Jean Bischel*)  
5:15 PM **Holy Face Devotions & Benediction**  
5:45 PM **Low Mass** For the people of St. Gertrude the Great



For God so lo **V** ed the world  
That He g **A** ve  
His on **L** y  
Begott **E** n  
So **N**  
**T** hat whoever  
Believes **I** n Him  
Should **N** ot perish,  
But have **E** verlasting life

*Submitted by Barb Steinmetz*

**PRAYER TO ST. BLAISE**

**O** glorious St. Blaise, who by thy martyrdom didst leave to the Church a precious witness to the faith, obtain for us the grace to preserve within ourselves this divine gift, and to defend, without human respect, both by word and example, the truth of that same faith, which is so wickedly attacked and slandered in these our times. Thou who didst miraculously restore a little child when it was at the point of death by reason of an affliction of the throat, grant us thy mighty protection in like misfortunes; and, above all, obtain for us the grace of Christian mortification together with a faithful observance of the precepts of the Church, which may keep us from offending Almighty God. Amen.

**Ser vers**

- SUN 02/15:**  
7:30 AM **LOW:** Brueggemann Bros  
9:00 AM **HIGH: MC:** T.G. Simpson **TH:** A. Richesson  
**ACs:** P. Omlor, C. Richesson **TORCH:** C. Arlinghaus, M. Simpson, T. Lawrence, A. Soli  
11:30 AM **LOW:** N. & N. McClorey  
5:15 PM **DEVOTIONS & BENEDICTION:** G. Miller  
5:45 PM **LOW:** G. Miller

THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD  
OF THE NEW & ETERNAL TESTAMENT



I think Senex and the local groundhog family (which certainly has its ups and downs in the course of a season) prudently hibernated through Monday's Candlemas feast. Had they emerged, they would perhaps have seen their shadow, for the sun came and went all day. So too with our weather this week. We had a bit of everything from charming snow and bitter cold to irrepressible Spring, scheduled for today again. It was nice to have a bit of snow's magic one more time, followed by wonderful winter sun on Thursday, but warm weather will soon be with us.

Those who were with us for Candlemas certainly had a wonderful feast. The groundhogs don't know what they're missing. The beautiful Candle Mass drew a record crowd, and accolades from the little ones. "This is a great party," enthused one little tyke, clutching his burning candle at Mass. I'm sure the holy Child, Whose Presentation it was for His forty days, would agree!

The other party was just wonderful, all in blue and white for the Blessed Mother, with themed place mats featuring a hidden groundhog, and a scrumptious line up of homemade soups to sample. I'm glad I didn't try to compete, as each year the soups from you all get better and better! Many thanks to all who made it "a great party" whether in church with holy candles in hand, or in the hall sated with savory soups.

Silence seems to have returned to the sacred precincts so I am "guardedly optimistic" as politicians say, that the varmints have been routed (squirrels and raccoons, not politicians) and the walls now will ring only with divine praise. God bless **Fr. Cekada** who manages both choir and schola as well as providing beautiful organ music and encouragement to our two budding church organists. He's just posted something on [www.sggresources.org](http://www.sggresources.org) about a wonderful opportunity to replace our aging organ with a more recent model, and at such a good price! Oh, and God bless our faithful choir members who came two evenings last week, one of them in the slippery snow storm. And, finally, all who came, especially on First Friday, to help "put Christmas away" for another year.

**Fr. Valerii** is now safely established in Western Ukraine, away from the Russian invasion in his hometown. **Fr. Nkamuke** reports rumors of further incursions of Moslem murderers, the Boko Haram, in his country, and asks for prayers. So do the few Catholics left in the Philippines, hoping to organize something. I seem to be writing to people throughout the world these days, and Fr. Cekada does too. All to gain souls for Christ, away from the diabolical clutches of the new religion. No wonder we are so busy with every form of

the apostolate.

**Fr. McKenna** is back in Minnesota, after being snowed in there last weekend until Tuesday. He makes his northern rounds this week, and I make mine next weekend, to northern Mexico, Tijuana and Mexicali, some of whose faithful visited us in November for our St. Gertrude Day celebration, and were surprised at the end by a beautiful snowfall, a real rarity in those parts.

Today's purple vestments, poking out at us with the left over poinsettias on the altar, remind us that Lent draws nigh. This year's Lent is dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, our great saint of the Blessed Sacrament, reverence, and the priesthood, and so much more. Ask him to help you plan out a good Lent. Not too much, of course, but with much love. Our other St. Francis, DeSales, would certainly agree. This year he had his Solemn Mass on his Octave Day, as we were away on retreat for the feast.

Do you have any questions you would like answered in a sermon sometime? Let me know. I'll try to organize a Q&A Box for the vestibule, and maybe some Sunday Q&A sessions in Helfta Hall.

May the Blessed Trinity, to whom we dedicate short February each year, bless you with a wonderful one as we all begin to plan and keep the best of seasons, Holy Lent!

—Bishop Dolan

**NON SEQUITUR**



Perhaps when you read or hear today's parable, you focus on the different kinds of soils, or the environments on which the seeds fall. Maybe you even wonder which one of these soils best fits you, and you hope that you are like the good soil that produces abundantly. But how about seeing yourself as the sower instead? Maybe it's worth considering how much God may want you to sow the seed of His word.

If there is one word that characterizes the sower in this parable, it is *generous*. This fellow spreads his seeds everywhere. He doesn't seem all that concerned about where the seed will fall. He simply casts it to and fro.

Isn't this a great image for how we should view spreading the Faith? Shouldn't we be generous, almost indiscriminate, in the way we share God's word and His promises? We really shouldn't worry about where the seeds may fall or the "soil quality" of those with whom we share the word. Whether, in our judgment, the ground is weedy, thorny, or fertile shouldn't matter. After all, it is the Lord Who gives the growth, not us (1 Corinthians 3:6-7). All we have to worry about is sowing as generously as we can.

Think for a moment how many other seeds the world, the flesh, and the devil are sowing all around us. There's nothing stingy in their tactics. How much more, then, should we counter all these poisonous seeds with the seeds of the gospel! The need is great, so don't be intimidated! And by all means, don't feel defeated or outnumbered! God has promised to be with you always as you spread His word.

So how are you going to sow today? What opportunities will you seize to spread the seeds of the gospel? They're all around, after all. Keep your eyes open, as you ask our Lord to

help you see ways you can creatively witness to His love. Who knows? He may even give you brethren in Christ who are just as zealous as you to proclaim God's word, in season and out!

**"Lord Jesus, make me a generous apostle and sower of Your word in all kinds of soil. Fill me with zeal and courage to go forth and spread Your seeds all over the world!"**



This design gives the three sowers featured in the liturgy of Sexagesima Sunday: Noe, with his three sons, the ark the rainbow, and vine; Paul, the great herald of Christ; and our Blessed Savior Who is both the Sower of good seed and wheat to be eaten in the Eucharist.



IT IS MIDDAY



It is midday. I see the church open. I must enter. Mother of Jesus Christ, I do not come to pray. I have nothing to ask and nothing to offer. I come only, Mother, to look at you.

To look at you, to cry for joy, to know that I am your son and that you are there. Only for a moment while everything stops. Midday!

To be yours, Mary in this place where you are.

Saying nothing, but looking at you and letting my heart sing in its own language....

Because it is midday, because we are here today, because you are always there, simply because you are Mary, simply because you exist, Mother of Jesus, be thanked.

—Jean-Pierre Prévost

(Jean-Pierre Prévost is a French director and screenwriter for film and television.)



QUIET TIME

Now are we winter deep  
In quietness.  
The shadowed snow,  
The gliding owl,  
The moon  
Keep silent vigil now.

We can be still,  
So still we start to know  
The depth of everything,  
So still we hear the stars  
Begin to sing.

—Elizabeth B. Rooney  
(American, 1924—1999)

*My Jesus, I marvel at Your most patient Heart.*

*One of our Indiana faithful, a long-time teacher well known to many of us, wrote this at Bishop Dolan's request.*

What is Common Core? Why is it a danger to all Catholic families?

The proponents of reforming education tout the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as a set of national standards that will make education in every state common to the others. The myths perpetuated by the proponents of CCSS with the hope that the repletion of them will make them believed as truth are many. Let's discuss the myths that most need to be dispelled.

**Collaborative Effort?**

**Myth 1:** CCSS was developed by the collaboration of many states.

It was not! I urge you to Google Joy Pullman's article "Five People Wrote Common Core." Mrs. Pullman explains that David Coleman, who was responsible for writing the English Language Arts standards, is a businessman who has never taught. Mr. Coleman by means of CCSS has reduced classical literature by 50% in High School reading material and replaced it with informational reading like an Executive Order for the EPA.

Jason Zimba who had no past experience in developing standards wrote the math standards. In a recent article, Mr. Zimba explains that he spends his entire Saturday teaching his daughters math because the Common Core math they are being taught at their school is not, in his opinion, sufficient.

It should be noted that no parents, teachers, local school boards, or state legislatures were given the opportunity to vote on these standards. States were bribed into implementing CCSS in order to receive Race To The Top money or obtain a waiver from the much-detested No Child Left Behind Act. More startling is that many states signed the applications for the above enticements weeks before the final draft of the standards was available.

**Test Based Education**

**Myth 2:** CCSS is a set of standards, not a curriculum.

To circumvent three federal regulations forbidding the federal government to control, direct, or supervise curriculum, two Washington-based trade organizations, the

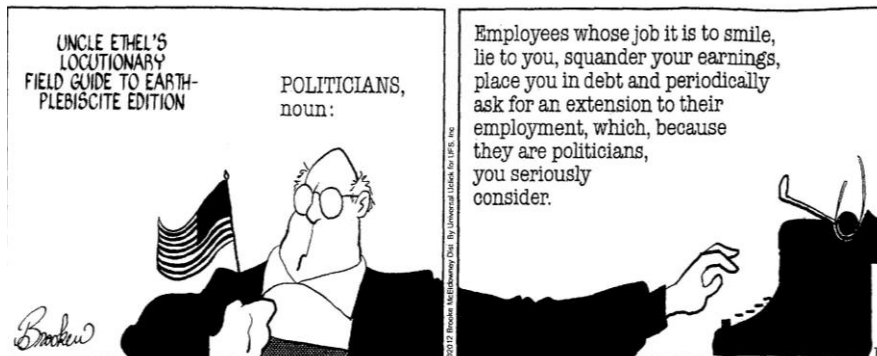
National Governors' Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), directed the writing of the standards and own the copyright for the CCSS. However, the federal government created two testing consortiums to design tests to assess student performance based on the standards as mandated by agreement for any state receiving the above-mentioned funding. These tests—SBAC and PARCC—are considered high stakes tests because a teacher's employment and a school's rating are determined by the results. Because of the pressure for their students to perform well on tests based on standards that have never been piloted, were designed without benefit of research, and are so vastly different, the outcry for curriculum to teach to the test was loud and urgent. To the rescue came the Pearson Publishing Company that is busy forming a monopoly of the entire field of education. I urge you read "Pearson's Plan to Control Education."

**A Catholic Teacher's Warning**

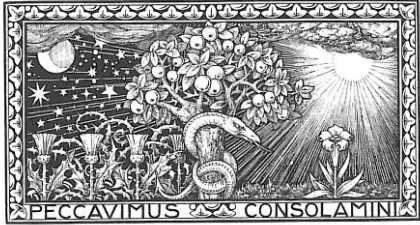
In closing, I am compelled as a teacher of 41 years who practices the true Roman Catholic faith to warn parents of the true purposes of Common Core: to control your children, to make socialists of them by taking away their ability to think independently, and to alienate them from their parents by destroying their belief in God in order to prepare them to accept a one-world government. Look into the background of Bill Gates, the largest funder of CCSS, to see that he intends to control population and education. We, as Catholics, know that we are created by God to know, love, and serve Him in this world to be happy with Him in Heaven. No individual is created by God to be educated to serve the state in a pre-determined capacity or stated in CCSS lingo—school-to-work or college and career readiness.

There have been recent incidents with increasing frequency of home-schooled children being removed from their homes on the basis of mandates in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The United States Department of Education is one of thirty-five agencies that are mandated by the ACA to receive all medical data. No one will escape what I call the "iron claw" of Common Core unless they are informed enough to perceive its ever-intruding tentacles.

—Mary Black, *FreedomProject Education*  
[mblack@fpeusa.org](mailto:mblack@fpeusa.org)



*Principal truths that every Christian ought to know and believe, and which the Parish-priest will sometimes read and explain to the people.*



God, who had no beginning, created all things from nothing. Angels and men He created for His glory. Some of the angels sinned a short time after their creation.

The first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, from whom all mankind are descended, sinned also. God shewed Himself merciful to them by promising to send them a Saviour, Who would deliver them from their sad condition and save them. Nevertheless this promise was not accomplished for many ages after their fall. During this interval, God raised up holy Patriarchs and Prophets, to instruct them, and to confirm their belief in His promises.

All men have sinned in Adam. On account of his disobedience, they come into the world, stained with original sin, and subject to the miseries of life, to death, and to eternal damnation.

All men were created to know, love and serve God, and thereby to obtain eternal life.

Four things are necessary to enable us to obtain eternal life: *Faith, Hope, Charity and Good Works.*

*(To be continued)*

**Practice for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes**



Let your thoughts and your conversation ever tend toward heaven, in imitation of Our Lady of Lourdes, whose cincture of azure reminds us that her aspirations always soared aloft to heavenly things. To please our Virgin Mother cultivate purity of heart. Ask her to obtain for you the grace of a holy life and a happy death. In temptation and in adversity cry to her with confidence; frequently invoke the name of Mary.

Try to make someone happy today.

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*Mother Immaculate, we pray thee hear us,  
O may our humble prayers to thee arise!  
We pray, sweet Mother, that thou'lt be near us  
In death's dark hour—receive our parting sighs,  
Then lift in silent prayer our hearts to thee,  
As we are wafted to eternity.*

—James McNamara

**St. John Bosco & the Blessed Sacrament**

“Listen: there are two things the devil is deathly afraid of: fervent Communion and frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Do you want many graces? Visit Him often.

Do you want Him to grant you only a few? Visit Him but seldom.

Do you want the devil to attack you? Rarely visit the Blessed Sacrament.

Do you want the devil to flee from you? Visit Jesus often.

Do you want to overcome the devil? Take refuge at the feet of Jesus.

Do you want to be overcome by the devil? Give up visiting Jesus.

Visiting Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is essential...if you want to overcome the devil.

Therefore make frequent visits to Jesus.

If you do that, the devil will never prevail against you.”

—St. John Bosco



**PRISONER OF LOVE**

A holy picture bears this name, *The Prisoner of Love.*

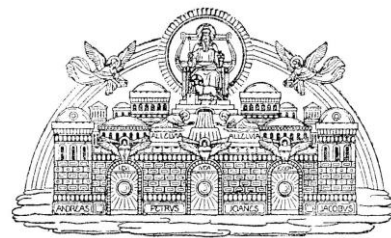
Tis Thou Who reignest, mighty God! in majesty above,  
Yet hidest in this holy shrine, Love's captive, for my sake  
Sweet Jesus, may my heart its home within Thy prison make?

Let not my cold and selfish heart earn this reproach from  
Thee:

“I was in prison once, and thou—thou didst not visit Me.”  
Lord, Thou are here for my love's sake, and I am here for  
Thine:

Make me Thine own, and, as Thou wilt, dispose of me and  
mine.

I, too, a prisoner of love, will here in peace abide  
Until Thy welcome messenger shall call me to Thy side.



*May the grace of the Holy Ghost  
enlighten our senses and our hearts.*

*Indulgence of 500 days*