

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

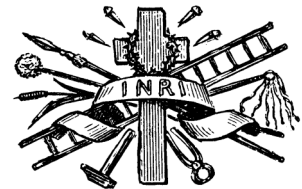


March 22, 2015

PASSION SUNDAY

ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER, C

ST. CATHERINE OF GENOVA, W



¶ JUDICA SUNDAY

Passiontide, the most solemn period of the Church's year, begins today. This final fortnight of Lent leads us to the greatest Feast Day, our Lord's Resurrection. Sunday classes for adults and children will be at 10:40 AM. Vespers as usual at 4:45 PM, followed by Benediction.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: PALM SUNDAY

Palms will be blessed and distributed at **7:15 AM**, and again at the ancient and beautiful ceremony with procession, beginning in church at **8:50 AM**. Our beloved tradition of processing with a real, live donkey continues: parents, bring your children to participate in the procession! Those attending the 7:30 AM Mass are welcome and encouraged to stay awhile, and join in the procession too. Palms will be available at every Mass. Due to the Procession, there will be no Sunday Classes. Vespers with Benediction will be at **4:45 PM**.

Set Your Missal: Palm Sunday, Preface of the Holy Cross. Reading of the Passion.



¶ CAN YOU HELP?

I'm looking to move to Cincinnati, NKY area. To be able to afford this I would need a roommate and hopefully not spend more than \$300 down the middle of the cost of an apartment (or even a spare room). Call at 812-493-5134. —Trace Gilbert

Lumen Christi

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

For my children's conversion to their true Faith

(Joan Landry)



JESUS HID HIMSELF AND WENT OUT OF THE TEMPLE

¶ THIS WEEK

Wednesday, March 25th, is the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady and our Children's Day of Recollection. *Contact the church to let us know if your children are attending.* On **Friday, March 27th**, the Feast of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady, we have our final Lenten evening with the Potluck Supper at **6:45 PM**, and Stations at **7:30 PM**, followed by the Sorrowful Mother Novena with blessing of the sick. Come and mourn with His Mother at the foot of His holy Cross.

Lord, I give Thee thanks for that Thou didst die upon the Cross for my sins.

—St. Paul of the Cross
Indulgence of 300 days.

¶ OUR SICK

A number of our priests are sick, but soldiering on. Would you please say a special prayer for them all, especially Fr. Roberto Mardones? Remember some of our own shut-in here, particularly Paul Leurk, Elizabeth Smith, Bee Lutkehaus, Barb Steinmetz, and Lorraine Gates.

¶ EASTER MASS NOVENA & MEMORIAL FLOWER OFFERINGS



Envelopes for the Easter Novena of Masses and memorial flower offerings are available in the pews. The *Novena of Masses* will be said daily beginning with Easter Sunday. *Names of loved ones for the memorial flower offerings will be listed in the Easter bulletin.* Envelopes for the flower offerings must be returned by **Monday, March 30th**, to be included in the Easter bulletin. Please be generous! May God reward you.

¶ YOUR COOPERATION WOULD...

Please don't walk between the choir area and the last pew during the High Mass, as this distracts the choir and the director. The ushers mark off the last pew so you could walk through it, or take the northern route by St. Joseph's altar.

Thanks for your consideration,
Bishop Dolan

Collection Report

Sunday, March 15th.....\$5,423.50

Thank you for your generosity.

Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

- MON 03/23/15 FERIAI DAY**
 11:20 AM **High Mass** Gabriel Current – Happy Birthday
(Samantha)
 12:20 PM **Vespers**
- TUE 03/24/15 ST. GABRIEL, ARCHANGEL**
 7:00 AM **Low Mass** Our teacher *(The Brueggemann Boys)*
 8:00 AM **Low Mass** Katy Wilker *(The Wilkers)*
 11:20 AM **High Mass** Noah Kuebler – Happy Birthday *(Mom)*
 12:20 PM **Vespers**
 5:00 PM **Low Mass** †Bob Mansfield *(Patrick Omlor)*
- WED 03/25/15 ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN**
CHILDREN'S DAY OF RECOLLECTION
 7:00 AM **Low Mass** Anthony Brockman *(Rob & Jane Brockman)*
 8:00 AM **Low Mass** Brian Clark & Payton *(Frances Mattingly)*
 9:00 AM **Opening Talk**
 11:20 AM **Solemn High Mass** Thanksgiving to St. Blaise for Alex & Lindsey Soli, VII *(Fr. Lehtoranta)*
 2:00 PM **Exposition, Adoration, Vespers, Benediction**
 5:00 PM **Low Mass** †Catherine Blanchard *(Karen & Bud)*
- THU 03/26/15 FERIAI DAY**
 6:00 AM **Low Mass** Julian Ritchey & Tjasa *(Frances Mattingly)*
 11:20 AM **High Mass** Thanksgiving to St. Blaise for Alex & Lindsey Soli, VIII *(Fr. Lehtoranta)*
 12:20 PM **Vespers**
 5:00 PM **Low Mass** †Fr. Roy Randolph *(Mark Cash)*
- FRI 03/27/15 SEVEN SORROWS OF THE BVM**
 ST. JOHN DAMASCENE, CD
 8:00 AM **Low Mass** †Jack Grimes
 10:55 AM **Confessions**
 11:20 AM **High Mass** Thanksgiving to St. Blaise for Alex & Lindsey Soli, IX *(Fr. Lehtoranta)*
 ☞ 3:00 PM **Children's Stations of the Cross**
 5:15 PM **Confessions & Rosary**
 5:45 PM **Low Mass** †Helen R. Morris *(S. & C. Niehaus)*
 6:45 PM **Last of our Lenten Potlucks**
 7:30 PM **Stations with Our Sorrowful Mother, Sermonette, Closing of the Sorrowful Mother Novena, Blessing of the Sick, Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction, Holy Communion**
- SAT 03/28/15 ST. JOHN CAPISTRAN, C**
 7:10 AM **Confessions**
 7:30 AM **Low Mass** †Maurice Galarneau, 1st Anniversary
 Feb. 27th *(Tom & Karen Simpson)*
 8:10 AM **Sermon, Low Mass** †Maria Abraham *(Samantha)*
- SUN 03/29/15 PALM SUNDAY**
 7:15 AM **Blessing & distributions of Palms,**
Low Mass For my mother in honor of her birthday
(Laura "Gilliam")
 8:50 AM **Blessing of Palms, Procession,**
High Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
 11:30 AM **Low Mass** Nicholas Puglielli – Happy Birthday *(Mom & Dad)*
 4:45 PM **Vespers & Benediction**
 5:45 PM **Low Mass** †Leo Brophy III & Brad Loschovio *(Rob & Jane Brockman)*

ST. ISIDORE, THE FARM-LABORER, CONFESSOR

March 22—Patron of farmers

St. Isidore was born at Madrid, Spain, in the latter half of the 12th century. For the greater part of his life he was employed as a laborer on a farm outside the city. Many marvelous happenings accompanied his lifelong work in the fields and continued long after his holy death. He was favored with celestial visions and it is said, the angels sometimes helped him in his work in the fields. St. Isidore was canonized in 1622.

In 1947, he was proclaimed the patron of the National Rural Life Conference in the United States.

Prayer to St. Isidore for Good Crops

O Blessed St. Isidore, you were so diligent in your work in the fields, being assisted by angels in your holiness; pray, we beseech thee, that our seeds will grow as well as yours did, and that we may persevere in our work and always maintain that attitude of humble love of God for which you were crowned a saint. St. Isidore, patron of farmers, pray for us. Amen.



MATER DOLOROSA

Seven sharp swords unsheathed with cruel intent

To probe the suffering of a sinless soul...

God's Mother's soul...with pain so rudely rent

The grief-gates of the world take endless toll.

Was this her Calvary thought? "Could I efface,
 My Son, the guilt that crowned Thy bleeding brow,

I would all seven piercing swords might trace

The image of Thy sorrows on me now!"

The, crowned with valor on that heedless hill,
 She *stood* while mankind's sins swirled madly by
 Till wrath was done. Her Son grew white and still
 Upon His Cross for bed, 'gainst bosoming sky...

Then, Motherhood, remembering Infancy,

Transfixion bore beneath the Saving Tree.

—*Sr. Mary Claire, O.S.F.*

● ————— ●
Servers

SUN 03/29:

7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.

9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: R. Vande Ryt, T. Simpson **CROSS:** S. Arlinghaus **TH:** B. Lotarski **ACs:** J. Simpson, N. McClorey **PALM DISTRIBUTION & BELLS:** L. Arlinghaus **MITRE:** J. Lacy **CROZIER:** P. Omlor **TORCH:** N. & P. McClorey, M. Simpson, T. Lawrence, C. Richesson, C. Arlinghaus

11:30 AM LOW: A. D. Kinnett, N. Puglielli

4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: J. Murray

5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

ATTENTION ALL SERVERS:

For the Holy Week schedule, please consult the list posted in the Servers' Sacristy. If you are unable to serve for any of your scheduled times, **you must contact Bishop Dolan as soon as possible** to allow time to find a replacement. Thank you!

On this most somber of Sundays still we should be glad for all that Our Savior suffered for love of us, and that soon we and our children and the whole suffering eclipsed Church will be celebrating “the sacrament of the Lord’s Passion.” May we celebrate it worthily and well, and thus enter into Easter’s joys.

Did you catch the splendor of the Spring morning on Laetare Sunday? I had to run back to the rectory for a moment after the sermon at the 7:30, but was stopped in my tracks by the vernal beauty of it all. It was like walking into a movie set. The morning sun had turned all the dew into glistening crystal over which bunnies hopped, heedless of cats, and robins swooped and sang. It is a fine picture to remember when the weather turns dark again and damp and cold in West Chester.

Friday was the Spring Equinox, a solar eclipse at the North Pole, another one of those blood moons, and the first day of the first Hebrew month, Nisan. Of course 14 Nisan is the old original day for Easter, which later occasioned much controversy in the early Church. Somehow the Irish got involved in it, don’t you know? The English, of course, sorted everybody out.

Controversies will always be with us, but we really should expect that Catholics will be Catholics, shouldn’t we? One of our faithful went to Margaret O’Brien’s funeral at the Pius X church in Walton, and was really surprised, scandalized even, at the photo of Bergoglio they have there. After all, he’s the antichrist from Hell, who’s trying to get Catholics to accept divorce and remarriage, gay marriage, and even—gulp!—transsexual couples. How far can you push a good ole boy? Pretty far, it looks like. What would Bernie Brueggemann have to say about this? Destroy the Faith to save the Faith is their game plan. Good luck with that. It’s like attending a sacrilegious Mass, (putting the antichrist’s name in the Canon) offending God in order to worship God. Oh, *that’s* what they do. Do not be scandalized at all of this unworthy compromise, but grow stronger in your faith, even though the Church today be eclipsed, shrouded in dark veils. Easter follows Good Friday. Pray kindly for those who “know not what they do.”

The cats set me a good example these days as they are out at all hours and weather patrolling our property line or “peripheries” as Bergoglio calls them, guarding against marauding baby bunnies and their latest nemesis, a dark feral cat which comes around making strange noises. Caravaggio is truly a cat of the peripheries, but Bergoglio better not try to make him a cardinal. We already have one, still happily bashing his head every day against the patio door.

As I was making the outdoor stations the other day I noticed Caravaggio demurely seated in the Lourdes Grotto next to Our Lady. He’s truly a “cat’lick.” Later he visited the Pieta with considerable curiosity, but never

approached to distract me until I had finished the Fourteenth Station. The College of Cardinals could certainly do with his wisdom, but I would hate to lose him to Rome.

How was your St. Patrick’s Day? Ours was grand, thank you! The young Fathers sang the Solemn Mass, the sun shone though ‘twas a wee bit chilly, and the children, all done up in shamrocks and wearin’ the green sang just beautifully. Afterwards we were all treated to a fine fast food lunch with more music and shamrocks and green cupcakes. I was in Mexico for the day last year, so I really appreciated being home and celebrating the Saint of the Irish as only we do here in German Cincinnati.

Holy Week plans are being firmed up, music practiced, menus worked on, arms twisted, er I mean volunteers solicited. Clear your calendar and be with us. The first great Mass is Palm Sunday. Bring the children to march with Jesus and the donkey at about 9:30 for the Procession. Memories in the making, great graces yours for the taking. Holy Week at St. Gertrude the Great!

I write this on a cloudy cold St. Joseph’s Day, cheered by a record attendance this Lent at weekday Mass, for his feast day. How does St. Joseph do it? I wish you all the warmth and light of knowing, loving and trusting this great saint for all our needs. As the Irish used to say, pray: Jesus, Mary, Joseph!



—Bishop Dolan

THE ANNUNCIATION

The feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin is celebrated on March 25th. It is one of the earliest feasts of the Church. This feast honors the beginning of the Redemption when Mary said:



“Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to Thy word.” What faith and confidence does her answer express! What profound humility and perfect obedience!

From the example of the Blessed Virgin how ardent a love ought we to have for purity and humility. Every time we say the Angelus and the Hail Mary we are reminded of the Annunciation. Let us always say these prayers fervently, asking Mary to increase in us the love for purity and humility.

—The St. Anthony Messenger

✠ HOLY WEEK 2015 ✠

PALM SUNDAY: MARCH 29, 2015

7:15 AM Blessing and distribution of Palms, **Low Mass**

8:50 AM Blessing of Palms, Procession, **High Mass**

The beautiful Procession and High Mass of Palm Sunday is magnificent, and well worth the extra time. Bring the children to the Procession!

N.B. The Procession commences about 9:30 AM, proceeding through the cloister and around the grounds, finishing with a brief but ancient ceremony at the church doors before re-entering the church. Please do not start your engine or drive your car in the parking lot during this time. Thank you for your cooperation.

11:30 AM **Low Mass**

4:45 PM **Vespers and Benediction**

5:45 PM **Low Mass**

SPY WEDNESDAY: APRIL 1, 2015

DAY OF FAST

6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae

8:30 PM Church decorating for Holy Thursday

MAUNDY (HOLY) THURSDAY: APRIL 2, 2015

DAY OF FAST

9:00 AM **Pontifical High Mass**, Procession to the Altar of Repose, Vespers, Stripping of the Altar
(A shorter Mass now, as Bishop Sanborn blesses the Holy Oils at the Seminary. This is the Mass to attend! The birthday of the Blessed Sacrament and the Mass.)

A Potluck Luncheon follows Mass

Adoration continues at the Sepulchre until 11:00 AM on Good Friday.

12:30 PM **The Maundy (Washing of the feet) ****

6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae

All Night Adoration continues

** The following men were scheduled to participate in the Maundy last year: A.D. Kinnett, J. Seyfried, R. Zbilicki, C. Browne, J. Gunsher, T.G. Simpson, J. Andreotta, D. Curran, S. Lawrence, K. Lawrence, D. Marko, J. Bayer.

If you cannot participate, PLEASE contact the Church office immediately to let us know! Otherwise, please plan to report to the Sacristy not later than 12:00 noon on Holy Thursday, April 2nd.

Thank you, Bishop Dolan



GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 3, 2015

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Adoration at the Sepulchre continues till 11:00 AM

11:25 AM Stations of the Cross

12:00 PM Tre Ore

12:15 PM **Mass of the Presanctified**, Adoration of the Cross

2:15 PM Tre Ore Devotions and Sermon

3:00 PM Blessing with the Relic of the True Cross, Vespers

3:00 PM **Confessions**

6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae

8:30 PM Church decorating for Holy Saturday
Come when you can; leave when you must.

HOLY SATURDAY: APRIL 4, 2015

FAST AND ABSTINENCE ENDS AT NOON

8:00 AM **Easter Vigil:** Blessing of the Fire, Prophecies, Blessing of the Font, Holy Baptism, First Mass of Easter, Vespers, Blessing of Easter Food

A complimentary Easter Luncheon follows – all are invited

4:00 PM **Confessions**

EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 5, 2015

6:00 AM Solemn Matins and Lauds

7:30 AM **Easter Sunrise Low Mass**

9:00 AM **Solemn High Mass**

11:30 AM **Low Mass with Benediction**

6:00 PM Vespers

(No 5:45 PM Mass on Easter Sunday)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Good Friday 3:00 to 4:00 PM

Holy Saturday 4:00 to 5:00 PM



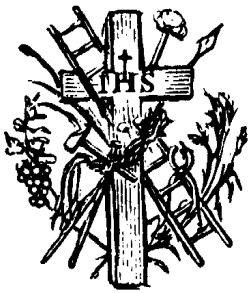
PASSIONTIDE / HOLY WEEK VOLUNTEERS

Katie and her Sacristy crew welcome all helpers the next two weeks to assist with decorating, cleaning & polishing the vessels and church ornaments, ironing altar and Mass linens, and other tasks to help set up for the ceremonies. Keep in mind our especial need for many holy helpers on Good Friday evening, after Tenebrae. If you can spare an hour or two, please call Katie at (513) 251-3895.

“Art Thou greater than our father Abraham?”—John 8:53

St. Francis wanted to make sure that his brothers understood that any glory they might experience always reflected more on God’s goodness than on any merit of their own.

We...have nothing of our own, except our vices and sins. And so we should be glad when we fall into various trials (James 1:2), and when we suffer anguish of soul or body, or affliction of any kind in this world for the sake of life eternal. We must all be on our guard against pride and empty boasting and beware of worldly or natural wisdom... It was about people like this that our Lord said, Amen I say to you, they have received their reward (Matthew 6:2). The spirit of God, on the other hand, inspires us to mortify and despise our lower nature and regard it as a source of shame, worthless and of no value. Humility, patience, perfect simplicity, and true peace of heart are all its aim, but above everything else it desires the fear of God, the divine wisdom and the divine love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



These can be hard words to hear, harder still to do. But this has been the core of the message throughout this holy season of Lent. The Gospel and Rule of Francis are both utterly simple to read, but profoundly life-changing as lived. They are the source of lifelong conversion, of coming ever closer to our God. One of the last things St. Francis said to his followers was, “I have done what is mine to do. May the Lord teach you what is yours.”

Prayer

You are love, You are wisdom.
You are humility, You are endurance.
You are rest, You are peace.
Amen.

THE WORDS OF ST. FRANCIS

“Above all the graces and gifts of the Holy Ghost which Christ grants his friends, there is that of *overcoming themselves and gladly for the love of Christ, bearing pain, insults, disgrace, and discomfort*, because we cannot glory in any of the other gifts of God—they are not ours, but God’s. Therefore the Apostle says: ‘What have you that you have not received from God? And if you have received it from God, why do you glory as if you had not received it?’

“But in the cross of tribulation and affliction we may glory because that is our due, and so the Apostle says: ‘I do not wish to glory in anything but in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.’ To Whom ever be honor and glory world without end. Amen.”

“LET HIM WHO IS WITHOUT SIN...”

A thief, having been detected and condemned to die, told his jailor that he had a secret of great importance which he desired to impart to the king before being put to death. Upon receiving this intelligence, the king ordered the culprit to be conducted to his presence. The thief explained that he knew the secret of causing trees to grow which would bear fruit of pure gold. The experiment was one which might be easily tried, and his Majesty would not lose the opportunity; so, accompanied by his prime minister, the governor of the citadel, and numerous courtiers, he went with the thief to a spot selected, near the city wall, where, after performing some mysterious ceremonies, the condemned man produced a piece of gold, and declared that if it were planted in the right way it could produce a tree every branch of which would in time bear the purest gold.

“But,” he added presently, “this piece of gold must be put into the ground by a hand that has never been stained by a single dishonest act. My hand is not clean, I beg to pass it to your Majesty.”

The king took the piece of gold, but hesitated. Finally he said, “I remember that in my younger days I once filched from my father’s treasury some money which was not mine. I have repented of the fault, but yet I can hardly say my hand is perfectly clean. I pass it, therefore, to my worthy prime minister.”

The latter answered quickly: “It were a pity to break the charm through a possible blunder. I receive taxes from the people, and, as I am exposed to many temptations, how can I be sure that I have always been perfectly honest? I will, therefore, give it to the excellent governor of the citadel.”

“No, no!” cried the governor, drawing back. “Remember that I am charged with paying the soldiers and providing their food and clothing. Perhaps I am not always exact. Let some one else plant it.”

Whereupon the thief exclaimed: “Your Majesty, I think it would be better for society that all four of us should be put to death, since it appears that an honest man can not be found among us. Your Majesty, of course, is least deserving of such a fate.”

The king was so pleased with the thief’s cunning expedient that he pardoned him on the spot, and allowed him to go his way, but on the condition that he would never again suffer his hands to be stained by ill-gotten goods.

—from *The Ave Maria*



✠ THE POETRY CORNER ✠

**FINDING CHRIST AMIDST THE
POOR, AND THE SICK**

The Lord gave me, Brother Francis, thus to begin doing penance in this way: for when I was in sin, it seemed too bitter for me to see lepers. And the Lord Himself led me among them and *I showed mercy* to them. And when I left them, what had seemed bitter to me was turned into sweetness of soul and body. And afterwards I delayed a little and left the world.

—*St. Francis of Assisi,*
“*The Testament,*” 124

The Cross is my sure salvation.
The Cross it is that I worship evermore.
The Cross of our Lord is with me.
The Cross is my refuge.

—*St. Thomas Aquinas*
Indulgence of 300 days.

Excellency,

*I remember the first time I saw our statue of
“Jesus Scourged” in the old church in Sharonville.
It was so shockingly awesome and filled one with
sorrow.*

*Now, when I see Him in the vestibule of the
new church, it’s like seeing an old friend again,
Who looks as though He loves me very much.*



THE EXAMPLE

Like a greeting card or an
Unexpected note signed with
Hugs and kisses.

Like a great meal with all my
Favorite things prepared for me by my Mrs.
Are examples of a love I know
To be both strong and true,
The myriad of wounds on
My Jesus Scourged shout
Out to me: “I love you!”

—*John Seyfried 4-4-12*

THE STIGMATA OF ST. FRANCIS

2. My Cross I Took

My cross I took on me
As winds pick up a leaf,
Hoping to reach Your Calvary
And be at least the thief.

The yoke is sweet and light,
The burden light and sweet,
But, oh! the time is gall and night
Before we both do meet.

Yet, I must follow still,
The while we seem to stop,
Like two lone pines upon a hill
That never reach the top?

Dear Christ! at last I scan
La Verna’s cliff-veiled side:
Complete the picture You began
And have me crucified!



CHILDREN’S DAY OF RECOLLECTION

THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25TH

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

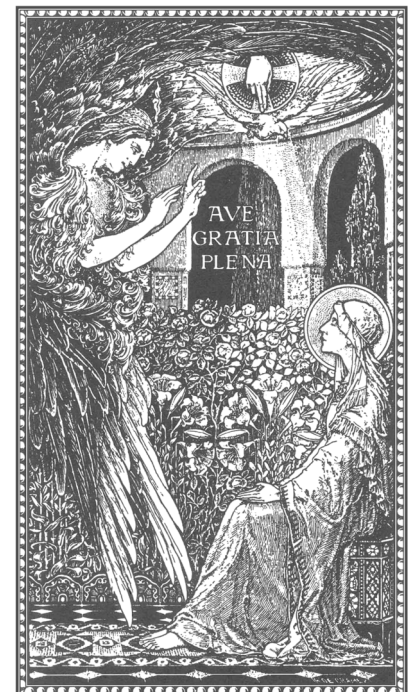


This special Lenten recollection day is intended for all children, ages 6 through 17, and will include Holy Mass, Stations of the Cross, Benediction, and age-appropriate spiritual talks. As usual we are offering a free hot lunch for the children.

- 9:00 AM** **Opening Talk**
- 11:20 AM** **Solemn Mass of the Annunciation**
 Lunch
- 2:00 PM** **Vespers, Adoration, & Benediction**

Parents! Grandparents! Godparents! Please make every effort to have your children attend this spiritually enriching day.

Please call St. Gertrude the Great School (513-645-4216) by Monday to let us know if your children will attend.



Prayer in honor of St. Francis

Lord Jesus Christ, Who, when the world was growing cold, didst renew in the flesh of blessed Francis the sacred marks of Thy passion in order to inflame our hearts with the fire of Thy love; mercifully grant that, by his merits and prayers, we may always carry the cross and bring forth fruits worthy of repentance: Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.



*Texts taken from
“The Words of St. Francis”
by Rev. James Meyer, O.F.M.*

MONDAY IN PASSION WEEK

*Nobody should be proud, but find
glory in the Cross of our Lord*

Observe, O man, to what distinction the Lord has raised you in creating you and molding you according to the image of His beloved Son bodily and according to His likeness spiritually (cf. Gen. 1, 26).

Yet all the creatures under heaven in their way serve, recognize and obey their Creator better than you do. And even the demons did not crucify Him, but you with their help crucified Him and still crucify Him when you take pleasure in vice and sin.

TUESDAY IN PASSION WEEK

So, on what grounds can you glory?
For if you were as subtle and wise as to possess all knowledge and explain any kind of language and penetrate keenly into the mysteries of Heaven, you could not glory in any of it, since any demon once knew more about heavenly matters and now knows more about earthly matters than all mortals, though there might be a person who had received of the Lord a special insight into the sovereign Wisdom.

In like manner if you were more handsome or wealthy than anybody, and even if you could perform marvels enough to put the demons to flight, all such things are on your debit side and in no way belong to you, and you have no right whatever to take pride in them.

But what we can take credit for are our infirmities (cf. 2 Cor. 12, 5), and that day by day we have the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ to carry.

WEDNESDAY IN PASSION WEEK

Imitating our Lord

As brothers all, let us observe the Good Shepherd, Who to save His sheep underwent the suffering of the Cross.

The Lord's sheep have taken after Him in hardship and persecution and disgrace, in hunger and thirst, in infirmity and trial and other such things (cf. Jn. 10, 11; Jn. 10, 4;

Hebr. 12, 2; Rom. 8, 35), and for that they received life everlasting from the Lord.

So it is a great shame for us servants of God, that the saints did the work and we want to get the honor and glory for it by talking and preaching about it.

THURSDAY IN PASSION WEEK

*Good works should follow on
knowledge*

The Apostle says, “The letter kills, but the spirit gives life” (2 Cor. 3, 6).

They are slain by the letter who only crave to know the words of it, so that they can pass as more learned than others and acquire great riches to leave to their relatives and friends.

And those religious are slain by the letter who have no will to follow the spirit of God's written word, but rather desire to know only the text and explain it to others.

And those people draw life from the spirit of God's written word who do not lay out on personal advantage whatever they know or seek to know of the Divine Scriptures, but by word and example give it back to the sovereign Lord, to Whom all good things belong.



FRIDAY IN PASSION WEEK
FEAST OF THE SEVEN SORROWS OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Salute to the Blessed Virgin

“Hail, holy Lady! Most holy Queen!
Mary, Mother of God, yet a virgin forever!
Chosen by the most high holy Father in
Heaven, and by Him with His most beloved
Son and the Spirit Paraclete consecrated!—
You in whom there was and there is the
fullness of grace and everything good!
Hail, His palace! Hail, His tabernacle!
Hail, His home! Hail, His vesture!
Hail, His handmaiden! Hail, His mother!
And hail, too, all you holy virtues, which by
the grace and light of the Holy Ghost are
infused into the hearts of the faithful, to
make of the faithless faithful children of
God.”

SATURDAY IN PASSION WEEK

Avoiding the Sin of Envy

The Apostle says, “Nobody can say, Jesus
is the Lord, except in the Holy Spirit” (1
Cor. 12, 3), and it says, “There is no one
that does anything good, no, not one” (Ps.
52, 4).

So it is that whoever envies his brother
for the good which the Lord says or does in
him, comes close to the sin of blasphemy,
because his envy touches the Most High,
since it is He Who says and does whatever
is good.

PALM SUNDAY

So complete was St. Francis’s immolation
for his Lord’s love that he finally asked for
what amounts to crucifixion with his Lord:

“O Lord Jesus Christ, I entreat You to
give me two graces before I die: first, that in
my lifetime I may feel in body and soul as
far as possible the pain You endured, dear
Lord, in the hour of Your most bitter suffer-
ing; and second, that I may feel in my heart
as far as possible that excess of love by
which You, O Son of God, were inflamed to
undertake so cruel a suffering for us sin-
ners.”

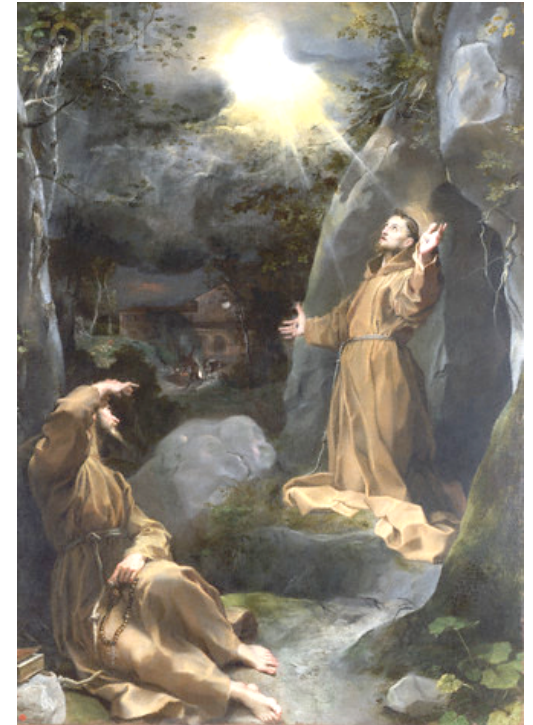
The Stigmata were the answer—the
culmination on earth of the ideal of St.
Francis!

*We adore Thee, most holy Lord Jesus
Christ, here and in all Thy churches
that are in the whole world, and we
bless Thee; because by Thy holy Cross
Thou hast redeemed the world.*



St. Gertrude the Great Church
4900 Rialto Rd., West Chester, Ohio 45069
(513) 645-4212
www.sgg.org

Lent with
St. Francis of
Assisi



Daily Thoughts
and Prayers for
Lent 2015

Passion Week