

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



May 3, 2015

THE FINDING OF THE HOLY CROSS



¶ EASTER IV

Today is the first Sunday of the month, with our regular second collection for seminary support. The blessing of religious articles is 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.

The “**little church**” is in the vestibule, awaiting your alms for the sanctification and support of priests. Please be generous!



BLESSED PALM CROSSES for today's feast of the Finding of the Holy Cross are available in the vestibule. Take them home to invoke God's

blessing and protection on your family's dwelling.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: MOTHER'S DAY

The annual **May Crowning** follows the High Mass at approximately 10:30 AM. First Communion children should wear their Communion outfits, and be in the vestibule by 8:45 AM for the procession into church. **Rosary Confraternity members** are invited and encouraged to wear their medals and sit together in the pews behind the children on Our Lady's side. No Sunday classes. Vespers, May Devotions & Benediction at 4:45 PM.

Set Your Missal: Easter V; collects of St. Antoninus and Sts. Gordianus & Epimachus. Preface of Easter.

¶ TWO PROCESSIONS IN ONE DAY!

Wednesday, May 13th, is a truly blessed day, offering two processions for your convenience. The **Lesser Litanies Procession** concludes our Rogation Days at **11:20 AM**, in our beautiful church grounds. The first **Fatima Rosary Procession** for peace opens this beloved, and also powerful series of processions at **7:15 PM** in **West Chester**, leaving from the First Watch parking lot on Union Blvd.



IF I GO NOT, THE PARACLETE WILL
NOT COME TO YOU

“Arm thyself with the sign of the Cross as with a shield, sign all thy members and thy heart, but sign thyself not only with thy hand, but with thy mind. Thy work, thy coming in and thy going out, thy bed, and the ground over which thou dost pass, sign every thing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; for these are the strongest weapons.”

—St. Ephrem

¶ MAY DEVOTIONS

Honor our Blessed Mother during this month dedicated to her, by participating in the traditional **May Devotions**. This short but sweet service is offered *every school day at 3:10 PM* plus most *Saturday mornings & Sunday afternoons*.

¶ PLEASE PRAY FOR...

J.T. Black, recovering from surgery, Les Pomerville, Joan Landry, and all of our sick and shut-in.

¶ MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCES

Only one week left!

Envelopes will be found in the pews. To have your mother, living or deceased, remembered in a special way at Mass on Mother's Day, fill out an envelope and return it to an usher or to the Gift Shop today, or drop it off at the church office.



¶ 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, April 26th\$3,888.50
Thank you for your generosity! Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

✠ CALENDAR

✠ UPCOMING EVENTS

MON	5/4/15	ST. MONICA, W
	8:00 AM	Low Mass For all who cook for us & for our devoted drivers (<i>The Fathers</i>)
	11:20 AM	High Mass Happy Anniversary—Bob & Becky (<i>Bobby & Aubrey Uhlenbrock</i>)
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Philip Brockman (<i>Rob & Jane Brockman</i>)
TUE	5/5/15	ST. PIUS V, PC
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Godchildren (<i>Rob & Jane Brockman</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Bob Mansfield (<i>Patrick Omlor</i>)
	11:20 AM	High Mass Robert Nienabor (<i>C. Kamphaus</i>)
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
	5:00 PM	Low Mass St. Anthony (<i>Renee Arlinghaus</i>)
WED	5/6/15	ST. JOHN BEFORE THE LATIN GATE
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Poor Souls (<i>Debbie Wilker Family</i>)
	11:20 AM	High Mass †Patrick H. Harpen, Sr.—1 st Anniversary (<i>Ina Harpen</i>)
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
	5:00 PM	Low Mass In honor of Our Lady, Health of the Sick, for prayers answered (<i>Mrs. Joshua Gunsher</i>)
THU	5/7/15	ST. STANISLAUS, BPM
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Valeria (<i>Bill</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Special Intention—Sick (<i>Rebecca Stump</i>)
	11:20 AM	Requiem High Mass Purgatorial Society
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Alter Christus Confraternity
FRI	5/8/15	APPARITION OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL <i>OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART</i>
	8:00 AM	Low Mass My Godparents (<i>John Brueggemann</i>)
	10:55 AM	Confessions
	11:20 AM	High Mass Bee Lutkehaus (<i>The Wilkers</i>)
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass Theresa's Simpson's Intentions (<i>J.M.S.</i>)
	6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena & Benediction
SAT	5/9/15	ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BPCD
	7:10 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Bev & Charles Simpson—belated birthdays (<i>Mary Rose Peter</i>)
	8:10 AM	May Devotions
	8:30 AM	Low Mass †Our Grandparents (<i>Dale & Debbie Wilker</i>)
SUN	5/10/15	EASTER V MOTHER'S DAY ST. ANTONIUS, BPC STS. GORDIAN & EPIMACHUS, MM
	7:30 AM	Low Mass †Martha Brueggemann (<i>Regina Gilliam</i>)
	9:00 AM	High Mass, Procession, & May Crowning All of our mothers, living and deceased
	11:30 AM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
	4:45 PM	Vespers, May Devotions, & Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass †Repose of soul of Patrick Henry Omlor (<i>Patrick T. Omlor</i>)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

★ **First Fatima Rosary Procession:**
Wednesday, May 13th (7:15 PM).

★ **Confirmants' Day of Recollection:**
Thursday, May 21st.

★ **Confirmation:** *Saturday, May 23rd.*

★ **First Communion:**
Corpus Christi Sunday, June 7th.



★ **Girls' Camp:**
Wednesday, July 15th–Friday, July 17th

★ **Boys' Camp:**
Tuesday, July 28th–Thursday, July 30th

Lumen Christi

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

Laura asks that the Lamp intention be a request to Jesus for the grace to love Him with all her heart, soul, and strength and to offer Him grateful thanksgiving for His real presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament
(*LJ Kavanagh*)

WORDS OF THOMAS OF AQUINAS

“Some Saints are privileged to extend to us their patronage with particular efficacy in certain needs, but not in others; but our holy patron St. Joseph has the power to assist us *in all cases, in every necessity, in every undertaking.*”

St. Joseph, remember me, and obtain mercy for me!

“If there were only one person to be condemned, each should fear to be that one.”

—St. Benedict Joseph Labre

Servers

SUN 05/10:

7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.

9:00 AM HIGH: MC: R. Vande Ryt CHAPLAINS: T. & J. Simpson

TH: N. McClorey CROSS: 18 Lotarski ACs: J. Lacy, P. McClorey

TORCH: M. Simpson, T. Lawrence, C. Richesson, N. McClorey, C. Arlinghaus, 18 Lotarski

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

4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: J. Murray, G. Miller

5:45 PM LOW: J. Murray, G. Miller

The Holy Cross comes again today, but covered with flowers and all glorious with Easter Joy. Our joy is doubled since today it is shared with the Blessed Mother in her month of May. Thanks to all, young and old, who worked together for the beautiful May altars. There are two so that everyone in church can see and be inspired by one, regardless of where they are sitting. Most people come and go in a very businesslike fashion, so they would otherwise miss the May Altar. But don't you miss out on May. Young or old, make an altar in your home to Mary. Put some Spring flowers there or a plant or something, and candles—and yourself in prayer each day. 'Tis the month of our Mother.

Our outside crews have been busy as well. Doby has been perseveringly cutting and pulling, with the assistance of 18 and Freddy. Gino has replanted some rose bushes lost over the winter, and very kindly cleaned out the pond at the Lourdes Grotto. That's a big job. Now might be a good time for our Stations' sponsors to visit theirs, survey the winter damage and plan on some May clean up and planting. This is a smaller job, but every little bit helps.

Fr. Cekada has concluded his Seminary teaching trips for this school year, and just in the nick of time. The sanctuary heating/air conditioning unit goes on by itself, as though haunted, ever since it was struck some time ago by lightning. Here the story becomes impossibly complicated, all caught up with big brother regulations and smoke detectors which never worked correctly in the first place, and companies gouging churches for great quantities of wasted money, backed up by the government oversight. Much patience and a cool head is required to navigate these waters.

Fr. Lehtoranta had a fine birthday celebration last Sunday, surprised by our school children at their splendid and so enjoyable Spring Aire program. They sang to him, and gave him a cake and a bouquet of Lilies of the Valley, Finland's national flower. It was wonderful to see the children, more than any in the history of our little school, all together, and performing so well, and with evident confidence and enjoyment. It was a memorable afternoon, and I thank our dedicated adults for their hours of work with the children. Our joy was made full by Dominic's Spaghetti Dinner. More thanks are in order to all the O'Donnells. The April afternoon's offering from our school seems to come at a good time each year, and has become a cherished tradition at St. Gertrude.

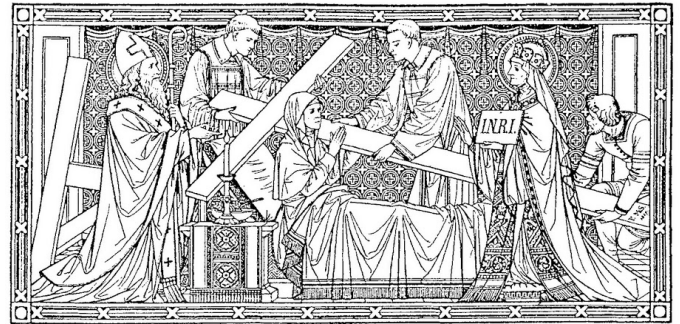
Fr. Lehtoranta (accent on the first syllable, you know) is in Milwaukee this weekend, and **Fr. McKenna** is by exception still with us through this week, when he returns to the missions. One of our talented faithful in Milwaukee is making beautiful wooden mission altars, fully portable and collapsible, for the greater glory of

God, which should be foremost in our daily thoughts, and certainly for His worship.

Caravaggio is a constant source of edification to us. More serious than the everjoyful Puccini, he delayed breakfast today to patrol the back berm for bunnies. Only having secured the grounds did he return to the house for a little refreshment. Would we were so careful with our own souls and families, even at the price of a little penance. The early Aztec converts in Mexico were so fond of fasting and penance that they obtained permission from the Franciscans to fast right through Easter, until Pentecost. At least let us keep May, as we like to say with Fr. Faber, as Our Lady's Lent. The sweetness of sacrifice is at the heart of today's Holy Cross Feast, the secret of its joy.

Blessed May!

—Bishop Dolan



ABOVE THE HILLS OF TIME

Above the hills of time the Cross is gleaming,
Fair as the sun when night has turned to day;
And from it love's pure light is richly streaming,
To cleanse the heart and banish sin away.
To this dear Cross the eyes of men are turning
To-day as in the ages lost to sight;
And for the love of Christ men's hearts are yearning
As shipwrecked seamen yearn for morning light.

The Cross, O Christ, Thy wondrous love revealing,
Awakes our hearts as with the light of morn,
And pardon o'er our sinful spirits stealing
Tells us that we, in Thee, have been re-born.
Like echoes to sweet temple bells replying,
Our hearts, O Lord, make answer to Thy love;
And we will love Thee with a love undying,
Till we are gathered to Thy home above.

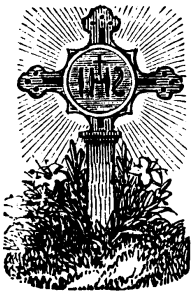
—Thomas Tiplady

Hail, O Cross, our only hope.

Indulgence of 500 days

THE PALM CROSSES

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS, MAY 3



At no time in the history of the Church was the True Cross of our Dear Savior needed more to subdue His enemies, than in these days. The wicked spirits dread and flee from this Sign of our Redemption and from the Blessings of Holy Mother the Church. She blesses crosses on this day to protect us, our property, and crops against these evil spirits who, as St. John in his Apocalypse warns, are permitted to molest us.

Plant a Palm Cross, blessed twice, on Palm Sunday and on May 3rd, Feast of the Holy Cross, or on the Sunday after the Feast, on each of the four corners of your property; keep one in your home; place one in your automobile and keep one in your wallet. Put the Blessed Palm Crosses in waterproof jars when you bury them in the ground. The blessing is lost when Palm Cross rots. If you have friends who have none of these Palm Crosses, then make small ones out of your blessed palms and ask your Reverend Pastor or his assistant to bless them for you on May 3rd or on the Sunday. Testimonials of visible protection from these Crosses are numerous.

From among the many letters received, we quote excerpts from the letter of an Order Priest:

"...While I was in T_____, A_____, it was Cross blessing time in May, 1940. I had burned midnight oil making them and I had a box of them on my desk. A priest came visiting from our Monastery on his way to Mexican Missions in California. He made fun of me and my crosses. He said we had the Blessed Sacrament, why bother about those little things. For a moment I thought; maybe he is right. Yet I told him to take some along, and finally he did. Two weeks after that, May 16th, Saturday night, 7:30 o'clock, they had that terrible earthquake in the Imperial Valley where he was stationed. The good Lord showed him what those crosses were good for. There was a government school for 1,300 children just across the street from him. It was a complete wreck. There was a Catholic church and school eight blocks from him. Both buildings were wrecked. Statues fell to the floor. The school had to be torn down. At his place, not even a statue came down—no damage whatsoever. He learned his lesson. The Blessed Sacrament was in the other church, too. After that I put a cross in the Tabernacle under the corporal to protect our dear, humble Savior."

(September 26, 1946)

"However much we suffer for the love of Jesus Crucified, it is but little."

—St. Benedict Joseph Labre

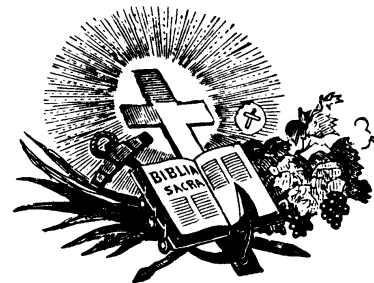
THE STIGMATA OF ST. FRANCIS

5. THE SINGING TREE

After the Seraph fathomed him with fire
And went away, I see him as if dead,
Flung face upward, flat upon a bed
Of rocks and brambles, like some classic pyre.

This singing tree, that once strove like a spire,
The Lightning chose, because of its tall head,
To sear with heat and light to the last shred
Of limb and leaf, yet left it felled entire.

No more do winds and birds sing where it stood,
For, though alive, it has no strength to stir
And join its fellows in the
merry wood.
Farewell to brothers spruce
and juniper,
For soon winged lumbermen
will heave this rood
Up to the workshop of the Carpenter.



"Those only are to be called poor and unhappy, who are in hell, who have lost God for eternity, not those who are poor on earth."

"Let him who seeks true humility, employ two means: mental prayer, meditating on the greatness of God, and his own nothingness; vocal prayer, asking it of God, through the merits of Jesus and Mary."

—St. Benedict Joseph Labre

EASTER

I got me flowers to strew Thy way,
I got me boughs off many a tree;
But Thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st Thy sweets along with Thee.

Yet though my flowers be lost, they say
A heart can never come too late;
Teach it to sing Thy praise this day,
And then this day my life shall date.

—George Herbert



Confirmation

is a Sacrament that gives us the Holy Ghost, and makes us perfect Christians by endowing us with peculiar

strength constantly to confess the faith of Jesus Christ, to live according to His Gospel, and to resist the enemies of our salvation, the devil, the world, and the flesh.

The Eucharist is a Sacrament which really and truly contains the Body and Blood, the Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, under the form and appearances of bread and wine.

Holy Communion unites us to Jesus Christ, increases and strengthens His grace in us, and gives us a pledge of eternal life.

Jesus Christ is to be adored in the Holy Eucharist since He is really present therein.

To communicate worthily, we should be in a state of grace, that is to say, free from all mortal sin. Whosoever communicates unworthily eats his own condemnation.

The Mass is the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Penance is a Sacrament instituted by Our Lord Jesus Christ, for the remission of the sins committed after Baptism.

There are three parts in it, to be performed by the penitent: contrition, confession, and satisfaction.

Contrition is a sorrow, and a detestation for having offended God, with a firm resolution not to sin any more. This sorrow is absolutely necessary to obtain the remission of sin.

Confession is a declaration of our sins, made to the priest, in order to be absolved therefrom.

Every sinner must accuse himself of all the mortal sins which he remembers having committed since his last worthy confession; for he who, by his own fault, willfully conceals one single mortal sin, makes a null and sacrilegious confession, which he is obliged to repair. At confession, we must also declare the number of our sins, and such circumstances as change their species.

Satisfaction is a reparation of the injuries made to God, and of the wrong done to our neighbor. Satisfaction is made to God, by fasting, prayer, and alms deeds.

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, into Thy hands
I commend my spirit!*

A SEAMLESS GARMENT

The unity of faith of the Catholic Church is one of her four marks, and indeed the most fundamental of them. For it is by the faith that we know everything about God and about His Church. The other unities, that is, the unity of worship, and the unity of government, could not even exist except for the unity of faith.

Unity of faith means that the entire Church, extended both geographically and throughout all time, teaches and believes a single doctrine, a single set of dogmas, which are revealed by God and infallibly proposed for belief by the Catholic Church.

This unity could be compared to Our Lord's seamless garment. When heresy appears, the Church vigorously expels it, in the same way that the antibodies in our bloodstream vigorously attack any germ which enters.

When so-called Catholics become numb to heresy, and become complacent in seeing heretics in the hierarchy and even posing as popes, it is as if the sacred seamless robe of Christ is ripped to shreds.

For this reason it is of capital importance that faithful Catholics, i.e., those resisting the heresy of Modernism, do not regard the Modernists as Catholics, as the Society of Saint Pius X does, but regard them as heretics, and therefore severed from the Catholic Church. For the Church of Christ, assisted and ruled as she is by God, must always retain her unity of faith. Otherwise she would not be the true Church of Christ. The Church is the Immaculate Spouse of Christ, but a church which embraces heresy is an adulterous church, an unfaithful church, one that is odious in the sight of God.

God detests infidelity to Himself. We know this by His very severe punishments of the unfaithful Israelites in the Old Testament. His true Church can never be unfaithful to Him, however. Saint Paul teaches in Ephesians V: 25-27: "*Christ also loved the church, and delivered himself up for it: that he might sanctify it, cleanse it by the laver of water in the word of life: that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy, and without blemish.*"

Consequently, a hierarchy which promulgates condemned doctrines, thereby ruining the unity of faith, is no Roman Catholic hierarchy.

—Most Rev. Donald J. Sanborn



MAY DEVOTIONS

"What's the significance or history of the so-called May Devotions in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary?" —M.C.

May-poles, May queens, May-flowers, May-fairs, and May day—all these customs may be entirely secular in their origin and purpose. They may serve to express merely the praise of people for the fifth month of the year. Some people love to gather flowers in the spring, and they describe this pleasure by merely saying that they like "to go a maying".

Some people limit their views to earthly horizons. Spiritually minded



people do not recognize such a limitation, for they not only look around but they also look up. For them earthly beauty is just a stepping stone to heavenly beauty.

Thus, for almost two centuries, the popular religious May devotions have been practiced. The first instance of the holy practice is accredited to Father Latomia of the Roman College of the Society of Jesus. To counteract the infidelity and immorality of the times, he made a vow to devote the month of May to Mary. The Jesuit Fathers are known to have been particularly zealous in spreading this devotion, and other religious communities continue to endeavor to match this holy zeal. Today in most parish churches, this devotion is joyously practiced under the given title, "May Devotions". Perhaps Cardinal Newman has stated it best:

"O Mary, all months
and all days are thine own
In thee lasts their joyousness
when they are gone;
And we give to thee, May,
not because it is best,
But because it comes first,
and is pledge of the rest."

—St. Anthony Messenger

WHY IS THE CROSS SO HIGHLY VENERATED?

Because it is the altar on which Christ offered Himself for us, the instrument with which He accomplished our redemption, the victorious banner sprinkled with the blood of Christ, which conquered the devil and overcomes sin.

HOW DO WE BEST VENERATE THE CROSS OF CHRIST?

By signing ourselves openly with the sign of the cross, and by never being ashamed to show it true veneration; by loving the Cross, that is, by patiently, cheerfully, and with pleasure bearing the afflictions God sends us, and according to the doctrine and example of Christ, by daily taking up our cross and following Him (Lk. 9:23).

WHY IS THE CROSS CARRIED IN PUBLIC PROCESSIONS?

To show before the whole world that we are not ashamed of the Cross of Christ, but rather, like St. Paul, glory in it. But God forbid, that I should glory save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world (Gal. 6:14).

THE CHURCH'S SALUTATION TO THE HOLY CROSS



O glorious and venerable Cross! O most precious wood! O wonderful sign by which sin, the devil and hell were conquered, and the world redeemed by Jesus Christ! Great art thou above all trees of the cedars of the forest, for on thee hung the Life of the world! On thee Christ triumphed and by His death conquered death forever. Alleluia.

WHY BE CONCERNED ABOUT CULTURE?

For indeed culture in general is to religion (or irreligion) like the suburbs of a city are to the city centre. And just as a military general with the task of defending a city would be most foolish to leave the suburbs to be occupied by the enemy, so any Catholic concerned for his religion cannot be indifferent to the stories, pictures and music which are molding the souls all around him. Of course religion (or irreligion) is central to a man's life, compared with which "culture" is peripheral, because men's culture is, deep down, a spin-off from their relation with their God. Nevertheless culture and religion interact.

—Bishop Williamson

"Each of us can say to the tempter, 'Unlike you, I have not yet become an out-cast from heaven through my pride. By my baptism I have become one with Him. It is you that should fall prostrate before me.'"

—St. Gregory Nazianzen

PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF PALM CROSSES

Almighty, everlasting God, Father of goodness and consolation, in virtue of the bitter suffering of Thy Sole Begotten Son our Lord, Jesus Christ, endured for us sinners on the wood of the Cross, bless these crosses which Thy faithful will set in their vineyards, fields, and gardens. Protect the land where they are placed from hail, tornado, storm, and every assault of the enemy, so that their fruits ripened to the harvest may be gathered to Thy honor by those who place their hope in the Holy Cross of Thy Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee eternally. Amen.

"O Jesus, in that hour when darkness like a cloak shall be spread over all things, may your grace shine on us in place of the earthly sun."

—St. Ephrem the Syrian