



ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212
parishoffice@sgg.org • 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 2, 2020 PURIFICATION OF OUR LADY EPIPHANY IV



¶ CANDLEMAS

Today is the feast of the Purification of Our Lady, Candlemas, and the closing of the Christmas Season. A reception follows the High Mass today. There are no Sunday Classes. The Blessing of Religious Articles is available after all Masses. Vespers of the Purification with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ ALTER CHRISTUS

The "Little Church" is in the vestibule to receive your alms for priests. God reward your generosity.

¶ ST. BLAISE

The Blessing of Throats for St. Blaise's feast will be available at the Communion rail following both Masses on Monday: 8:00 and 11:25 AM.



¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Fr. Cekada, Florence Lawrence, and all of the special intentions that have been recommended to us.

Collection Report

Sunday, January 26th.....\$4,329.00
Thank you for your generosity.

¶ FIRST FRIDAY

8:00 AM Low Mass
10:50 AM Confessions
11:25 AM Low Mass, Benediction
5:00 PM Exposition
5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary
5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena VII
5:45 PM Sermon & Low Mass
6:30 PM Sorrowful Mother Novena, Blessing of the Sick
6:45 PM Sacred Heart Novena

All Night Adoration

Intention of First Friday: For our youth: Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious life and for all: Generosity in the practice of the Faith.

*In your charity
please pray a
NOVENA FOR FR CEKADA*

*Feb 2-10
Pray the
Rosary
to Our Lady of Lourdes
Feastday 11 Feb
(please keep praying)*

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: SEPTUAGESIMA

Next Sunday we open our Triduum to Our Lady of Lourdes. The Blessing of Throats will be available at the Communion Rail following all Masses. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 *Set Your Missal:* Septuagesima, second collect of St. Cyril of Alexandria, third of St. Apollonia. Trinity Preface.

¶ THE SORROWFUL MOTHER NOVENA

Our annual novena to the Sorrowful Mother with the Blessing of the Sick begins this Friday, February 7th. Bring your sick to be blessed, and be sure to call or email the office with their names to be mentioned in the novena.

¶ CANDLEMAS CANDLES

Pairs of candles blessed on Candlemas are available online at sggresources.org or in the bookstore.



¶ CATECHISM CORNER

The Three Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope, Charity.

JOY AND SORROW WITH JESUS AND MARY

Mary said her *Fiat* in peace and holy joy on the day of the Annunciation. There was sorrow too in her heart at the thought of the sufferings which Isaiah had foretold would befall her Son. Still more light is thrown for her on the mystery of the Redemption when the holy old man Simeon speaks of the child Jesus as the *salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to the revelation of the Gentiles*. Mary remains silent in wonder and thanksgiving....

Turning then to Mary herself, Simeon addressed to her the prophetic words: *And your own soul a sword shall pierce, that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed*. Mary will have a share in the Savior's trials. His sufferings will be hers. Her very heart will be pierced by a sword of sorrow....

Jesus' fullness of grace had two apparently contradictory effects: the most perfect peace of soul; the will to offer Himself as a redemptive victim. Mary's grace produced two similarly contrasting effects: the pure joys of the days of the Annunciation and the Nativity; the desire to be united most generously to the sufferings of her Son for our salvation. Thus, presenting Him in the Temple, she already offers Him for us. Joy and sorrow are wedded in the heart of the Mother of God who is already the Mother of all who will believe in her Son.

— Fr. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrangé, O.P.



THE PASCHAL SACRAMENTS 2020

Please note these important dates:

FIRST CONFESSIONS & TESTING:
Saturday, April 18th.

****Baptismal certificate must be already presented, and registration form completed before the test.**
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR THE NECESSARY FORM.**

CHILDREN'S DAY OF RECOLLECTION: **Thursday, May 28th.**

CONFIRMATIONS: Vigil of Pentecost,
Saturday, May 30th.

FIRST COMMUNION: Corpus Christi
Sunday, **June 14th.**

Parents, please note: the Baptismal certificates of children not baptized at St. Gertrude the Great must be submitted to the church office by **Saturday, March 28th**. If your child is not enrolled in the school or in Sunday catechism, please let us know if you are planning on bringing him to be tested on April 18th.

It is sometimes difficult to know if the children are ready, but if they know their basics, and are reverent at Mass, they probably are! Please speak with Bishop Dolan.

Please note the following:

- Children and parents must be attending Mass (and the children Class) **every Sunday**, not once or twice a month as sports or Sunday activities permit, in order to receive the Sacraments.
- No child will be tested without his Baptismal Certificate and form filled out.
- Sponsors must be members of St. Gertrude the Great, or a church affiliated with us. Please ask if you have a question.

A HYMN FOR CANDLEMAS

O Jerusalem beloved,
Joyful morn has dawn'd to thee!
Sing with joy and exultation—
Sing a song of jubilee;
For the Lord, whom thou art seeking,
He for whom the nations pray,
He, in human flesh appearing,
To His Temple comes to-day.

All the faithful sons of Israel
Are in Him to God allied,
And, presented in the Temple
Of the Lord, are sanctified.

Light the Gentile world to lighten,
And thy glory, Israel,
Beams in Him the heavenly Day-
spring,

God with us, Emmanuel.
Now the aged world receives Him
In its arms with faith's embrace,
And with Simeon rejoices
In the sunshine of His grace.

May we, Lord, with holy Simeon
And with Anna, wait for Thee
In the visions of Thy Temple;
May our hearts Thy temples be!
Amen.

(Adapted from the Sarum Breviary)



“When it is all over, you will not regret having suffered, rather, you will regret having suffered so little, and suffered that little so badly.” — Bl. Sebastian Valfre

“Consider all the past as nothing and say, like David—Now I begin to love my God.” — St. Francis de Sales

✠ THE BISHOP'S CORNER ✠

Christmas ends today, Candlemas or the Purification of Our Lady, forty days after the great feast of the Nativity itself. Christmas was beautiful, the weather perfect, and the Holy Child deigned before it was out to allow us to share a bit of His cross these last few weeks, full of sickness for **Fr. Cekada**, and care for his brother clergy and friends.

Last weekend was a real nightmare. I returned from the Seminary Retreat to find Fr. Cekada back from his hospital stay. But that night he had what turns out to be a second stroke, which left his right arm and hand somewhat impaired. We called 911, who came right away with the fire truck to bear him off, back to the hospital. The emergency room physician attributed the problem to pinched nerve, did no tests for stroke, and insisted he be returned home at 3 AM. How **Fr. McKenna** was able to manage him I do not know. The next two days were full of adventures of the unpleasant variety. By God's grace, Father survived. Thank you for your prayers.

A further hospital stay and proper treatment restored Fr. Cekada somewhat, and got him on the mend. He is now at TriHealth Rehabilitation Hospital, monitored still for stroke, but slowly starting basic exercises. Already he can move his right arm and hand somewhat. He is expected to regain full use of them. This is good because it sure is hard for him to eat with a spoon in his left hand. The doctor is confident he will even be able to play the organ.

In the meantime, a beautiful new organ was donated to the church, and is now in use. It was installed just before Fr. Cekada went to the hospital, but he was determined to see it done. We are most grateful to the generous donors. Fr. Cekada wants himself to tell the story of this magnificent new instrument, once he's back in the harness again. His expected stay at rehab is two weeks or a little longer.

I am grateful to all who have helped during Father's illness so far, particularly to our own **McFathers**. They have departed now for a few days in the missions. **Fr. Lehtoranta** and I are here today for this great feast which closes Christmas. Tomorrow some volunteers will come help pack Christmas away until "next year." Did you miss helping in December? Could you swell their numbers tomorrow? You could get your throat blessed at the same time.

Today we're offering a lovely reception after the Candlemas High Mass, one final Christmas celebration. What an excellent Epiphany we had. How quickly it passed. "All flesh is grass," Fr. Cekada

quoted from the Psalms in his illness. Only what's done for God will last.

May the Mother of God bless and keep you!

— Bishop Dolan



All Night Adoration Guard of Honor

February 2020

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Joe Andreotta, Doby Curran

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Ken Gilliam, Kirby Bischel

9:00 PM - 10:00 PM: Peter Gebel, Justin Soeder

10:00 PM - 11:00 PM: Andrew Prell, Dean McClorey

11:00 PM - 12:00 AM: James Kolenich, Paul Puglielli

12:00 AM - 1:00 AM: Levi Giese, Hunter Lumbatis

1:00 AM - 2:00 AM: David Marko, *Volunteer needed*

2:00 AM - 3:00 AM: Dan & John Brueggemann

3:00 AM - 4:00 AM: Steve Weigand, *Volunteer needed*

4:00 AM - 5:00 AM: Matthew Giese, *Volunteer needed*

5:00 AM - 6:00 AM: Joseph Simpson, Paddy Omlor

6:00 AM - 7:00 AM: Jim Soli, Sisters of Our Lady of Reparation

Sub: Brendan Lotarski (513-889-9449)

If you cannot make your hour, please contact the church office immediately: (513) 645-4212

Lord, I am Thine, and I must belong to no one but Thee. My soul is Thine, and must love only by Thee. My will is Thine, and must love only for Thee. I must love Thee, as my first cause, since I am from Thee. I must love Thee as my end and rest, since I am for Thee. I must love Thee more than my own being, since my being subsists by Thee. I must love Thee more than myself, since I am all Thine, and all in Thee. Amen.

— St. Francis de Sales



Lenten Friday Dinners

Lent is fast approaching! Let's organize the Friday Lenten Meals. The past years have eased the cooking schedule for everyone involved. We would

like to have teams of two again this year for each Friday during Lent. The dates are: February 28th, March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, and April 3rd.

Check your calendar and grab a partner! Please provide a main dish and sides with a beverage. Fruit is acceptable but please no desserts. Any questions or to sign up call or text Marlys at (859) 801-7143. You could also sign in on the Cucina Clerical website. If you want to sign up but don't have a partner, we will find someone to help you. Thank you in advance.

SAINT KENNETH

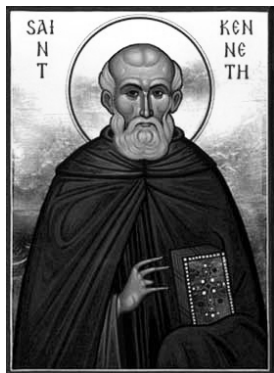
Abbot († c. 600)

Kenneth was born in Ireland, where he is known as Canice. He studied in Wales under Saint Cadoc, and after a pilgrimage to Rome, went to Saint Finnian's school at Clonard. Kenneth is counted among Finnian's elite, the so-called "Twelve Apostles of Ireland."

Like the other "Apostles," Kenneth preached widely in Ireland and Scotland, and founded a number of monasteries and churches. It is said that he accompanied the great Columba in his mission to the warlike Picts. In his later years he retired to his monastery at Aghaboe in Ireland.

From time to time Kenneth would leave Aghaboe for a cell on an island in the middle of a marshy bog, Loch Cree. There he gave himself to the study of Holy Scripture, producing the Glas-Chainnigh or "Chain of Kenneth," a copy of the Gospels with running commentary, which was influential in Ireland and Britain until the Middle Ages.

A number of stories testify to Kenneth's love of silent contemplation. It is said that he commanded the birds to remain quiet on Sundays so that he could observe the Lord's day with full attention. And in the solitude, a deer offered his antlers as a bookstand to hold Kenneth's manuscript. As an ancient poet attests: "Canice of the mortifications loved/ To be in a bleak woody desert,/ Where there were none to attend on him/ But only the wild deer."



Father in heaven, through the intercession of Saint Kenneth, lead me to the silent place where Thy Word alone speaks.

SAINT ARNOLD OF SOISSONS

Patron of Home Brewing († 1087)

A native of Flanders in Belgium, Arnold (also Arnulf and Arnoul) had a distinguished military career before entering the monastery of Saint-Médard in Soissons, France. Disappointed by the lax standards of the community, Arnold withdrew to a solitary cell connected to the church. Three years later his fellow monks came to collect him: he had been elected abbot. Legend has it that Arnold fled, only to be brought back the next day by a wolf.

In 1081, Arnold was named Bishop of Soissons. He resolutely declared, "Leave a sinner to offer to God some fruits of penance, and compel not a madman to take upon him a charge which requires so much wisdom." He submitted, though, and served for two years before he was permitted to resign. He then founded the Monastery of Saint Peter in Oudenburg, back in Flanders, where he died at about the age of forty-seven, in sackcloth and ashes.

Arnold of Soissons shares the patronage of beer brewers with Saint Arnulf of Metz. Both monastic leaders are credited with saving lives by telling people to consume beer during times of plague and pestilence. The beer, having been purified through the brewing process, was healthier than the water. In art, Arnold of Soissons often holds the brewer's mash rake or a woven bee skep. He used the skep, it is said, to filter the beer—an important innovation.

Loving Father, through the intercession of Saint Arnold of Soissons, confirm me in Thy strength. Hold me to my task.



HOW TO BE A FORGIVING SERVANT

Following a humiliation, an injustice, or a slander, resentment or bitterness are sometimes exceedingly strong. There is a real boiling inside us, a tempest in the heart. How do we calm down all of that? We must not let our will consent to it, but say with all our will, "I do not will, no, I do not approve these feelings of vengeance which are in me and which, in spite of myself, rise to attack my heart. I repudiate them."

And it is here again that we must not confuse temptation with consent. Even if the resentment is very strong, so strong that we do not succeed in dominating it, it is possible not to consent to it. It is perhaps with the fine point of my will that I will say, "I do not consent," when my whole nature in turmoil cries out the contrary. But what counts is this "no," for it depends on our will whether we say sincerely "yes" or "no"; it does not depend on our will—at least directly—whether we feel or do not feel anger. If you have not consented, you have not been lacking in charity.

How do you prove to yourself that you have not consented? Well, say to yourself, "If I meet this person who has made me suffer, for whom I feel such antipathy, will I be kind to him? Am I ready to do him a favor? To ask a favor of him (which is more difficult, for I would then owe him gratitude)? To smile at him?" Answer "yes" then with all your might!

Perhaps when the time comes you will not have the courage to do it. This is possible, but let your disposition of soul and will be such that you would hope to do it. What you always and immediately can do is to pray for that person, trying to put your whole heart into it. Do not pray only for his conversion—that would be irony—but that he may receive as much good as you wished him evil in spite of yourself.

—Fr. Jean de Cœur de Jésus d'Elblée

Christmas Decoration Storage & Organization Challenge

COME HELP! Monday, Feb. 3rd at 1:00 or later



TIME FOR TAKE DOWN!

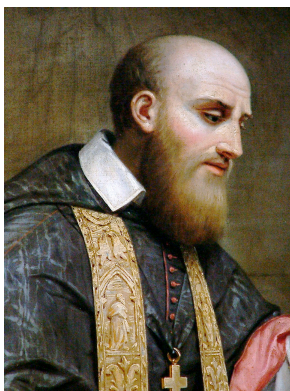
Christmas was beautiful at St. Gertrude's once again. If you weren't able to help put up decorations, you still have a chance to help out.

We will be taking down decorations and packing them away in the garage tomorrow, **Monday, February 3rd about 1:00 in the afternoon.**

Homeschool families will be meeting at the 11:25 Mass, having lunch and then diving into the big project of Christmas removal. The children love social time and this is real teamwork!

If you can come after school, great!

If you're running late, we can still use a cleanup crew. We must keep God's house clean and free from debris. Dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, wiping down pews and a host of other jobs need to be completed. The sacristan is always grateful for extra help.



"Don't get upset with your imperfections. It's a great mistake, because it leads nowhere—to get angry because you are angry, upset at being upset, depressed at being depressed, disappointed because you are disappointed. So don't fool yourself. Simply surrender to the power of God's Love, which is always greater than our weakness."

— St. Francis de Sales



Some of Blessed Sebastian Valfré's advice given to the novices, suffices for us all: "Live at peace with everyone and to live thus, at peace, it is necessary to make war against yourself, for annoyance with your neighbor invariably proceeds from attachment to yourself."

There is a very remarkable title of our Blessed Lady in the Litany—Tower of David and Tower of Ivory. It means that she was very strong in soul. It is a title which exalts fortitude or strength, and is a consolation, as bringing out a side of our Blessed Lady's character which has its own attractiveness. Gentleness is one of her characteristics, but it is perhaps her strength that would have struck one most if one had lived with her. We are all attracted by strength, even if it is not accompanied by gentleness. When both are found together, they win love.



THE MYSTERY OF THE CROSS

The mystery of the Cross—what is it, Lord?

How should the lowly heart of mortal know

That having pleasure it should choose a sword,

And washed in crimson should be white as snow?

— R.U.

NEW HOLY CARDS

New Holy Cards are here! We finally tackled the rack of holy cards. You will find all the laminated and new small glossy cards on the tall rack, each priced at \$.50. New female saint cards available, Saints Agnes, Apollonia, Colette, Germaine, Perpetua & Felicity right down to Zita. Male saints include Basil, Brendan, Charles, Damien, Florian, Lawrence, Matthias, Tarcisius, Valentine, and many others. If you haven't found your saint yet, give us a try.

Attention crafters, Diamond Art is back in stock with many new pictures and different sized projects. Rosary centers are available in new styles.

Blessed candles are available in the bookstore and candle followers are available to make your candles last much longer.

New cemetery candles are on display. They have a top to keep the rain out. They would be nice on the family altar as well. Glass globe colors include red and clear.

Stop in and check out what is new in the bookstore today!



✠ CALENDAR

MON	2/3/20	RESUMED MASS OF SUNDAY • ST. BLAISE, BPM BLESSING OF THROATS AFTER BOTH MASSES DECORATION DOWN DAY 8:00 AM Low Mass Fr. Cekada (<i>The Gieses</i>) 11:25 AM Resumed High Mass of Epiphany IV Dennis & Jeanne Hille—Merry Christmas! (<i>Love, Bobby & Aubrey</i>)
TUE	2/4/20	ST. ANDREW CORSINI, BPC ☞ 7:00 AM Low Mass †Richard H. Smith (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M. Prell & Family</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass For Fr. Anthony Cekada & Vicky Miller (<i>Patrick Curry</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass Special Intentions (<i>P.T. & A.M. Omlor</i>)
WED	2/5/20	ST. AGATHA, VM • ST. PHILIP OF JESUS, M 8:00 AM Low Mass Capetillo Family (<i>Bill Young</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Fr. Cekada (<i>TRCS</i>) 5:10 PM Low Mass Fischer Family (<i>Bill Young</i>)
THU	2/6/20	ST. TITUS, BPC • ST. DOROTHY, VM FIRST THURSDAY ☞ 7:00 AM Low Mass Richard VandeRyt 8:00 AM Low Mass Noah 17 th birthday (<i>Kuebler/Volz</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass For the sanctification of priests (<i>Alter Christus Confraternity</i>)
FRI	2/7/20	FIRST FRIDAY • ST. ROMUALD, AB 8:00 AM Low Mass †Thelma Macke Sieverding (<i>Mike Sieverding</i>) 10:50 AM Confessions 11:25 AM Low Mass Fr. Cekada – Health (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Maki</i>) Benediction 5:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena VII 5:45 PM Low Mass Fr. Cekada – good health (<i>Simpson family</i>) 6:30 PM Opening of the Sorrowful Mother Novena with Blessing of the Sick 6:45 PM Sacred Heart Novena <i>All Night Adoration</i>
SAT	2/8/20	ST. JOHN OF MATHA, C 7:10 AM Confessions & Rosary 7:30 AM High Mass †Marianne Youngworth (3 years) (<i>Diane Puglielli</i>) (from 2/9) 8:15 AM Benediction, Sermon 8:30 AM (approx.) Low Mass †Irene Ulanowski & †Jan Groen (<i>Colleen Eldracher</i>)
SUN	2/9/20	SEPTUAGESIMA • ST. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA, BPCD ST. APOLLONIA, VM TRIDUUM TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES BLESSING OF THROATS AFTER ALL MASSES 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass †Dolores Maki (<i>Kent Maki</i>) (from 1/6) 9:00 AM High Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great 10:40 AM Catechism Classes 11:05 AM Rosary 11:30 AM Low Mass †Ernie Nellenbach – Jan. 8 th Anniversary (<i>Eva Nellenbach</i>) 4:45 PM Vespers with Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass Poor Souls in Purgatory (<i>Collin Smith</i>)

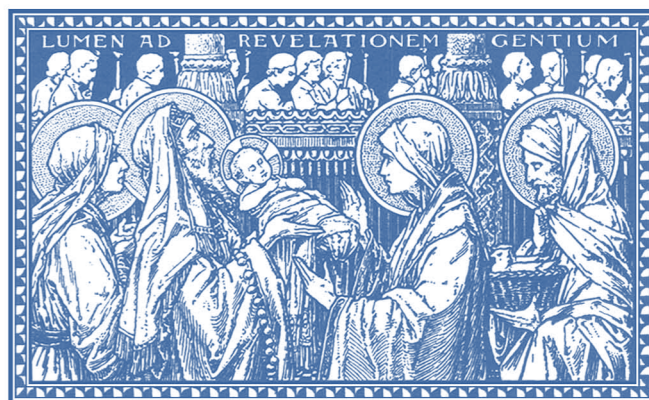
FAIR IS THE DAUGHTER

Fair is the daughter of men from among us,
Fair as the sea star, Fair as the ocean star,
Fairer, star maiden, than anything left to us,
Fairer than aught that has come to us since.

Strongly fair, truly fair, was she among us,
Strong as the waiting, And true as the promise,
Strong, ever strong, in her sorrow among us,
Strong and true has she been to us since.

Soft is her breast to her children to come to her;
Love is her heart cry, And love is her soul cry,
Love of her Son Whom we cruelly tore from her,
Love of us too, who have turned to her since.

– Josephine Solzbacher



NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. FRANCIS DE SALES FOR FR. CEKADA

O glorious St. Francis, model of the interior life, and full of zeal for the salvation of souls, obtain for me the grace to employ all my faculties, not for my own sanctification alone, but for that of my neighbor also; that continually spreading abroad the sweet odor of Jesus Christ by my words and works, I may attain with thee the blessedness promised to the merciful, and that I may one day share in the glory which thou dost enjoy in Paradise with the angels and saints for all eternity. Amen.

☞ "Let us think only of spending the present day well. Then, when tomorrow shall have come, it will be called **TODAY**, and then we will think about it." – St. Francis de Sales ☞

Servers

SUN 2/9 7:30 AM Low: Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM High: CHAPLAINS: P. Omlor, M. Simpson TH: T. Lawrence ACs: C. Arlinghaus, D. Simpson TORCH: J. Stewart, T. & D. England, A. McClorey
11:30 AM Low: A.D. Kinnett, J. Kolenich
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
5:45 PM Low: G. Miller