

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 9, 2020 SEPTUAGESIMA

ST. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA, BPCD • ST. APOLLONIA, VM



¶ SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

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



St. Apollonia

¶ ALTER CHRISTUS

\$126 was received this month for Masses for priests. May God reward your generosity.

¶ OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Tuesday is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and the ordination anniversary of Fr. McKenna. **Solemn High Mass** will be at 11:25 AM, offered for all of our sick.



SEPTUAGESIMA PRAYER

O most benign God, who, out of pure grace, without any merit of ours, hast called us, Thy unworthy servants, to the true faith, into the vineyard of the holy Catholic Church, and dost require us to work in it for the sanctification of our souls, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may never be idle but be found always faithful workers, and that that which in past years we have failed to do, we may make up for in future by greater zeal and persevering industry, and, work being done, may receive the promised reward in heaven, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son our Lord. Amen.

COME LABOR ON!

“Consider the immense responsibility which becomes ours, along with the gifts of God. Let us resolve to employ these to the best of our ability, so that when we appear before Him, our hands will not be empty but filled with gains.”

— Antonio Cardinal Bacci

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!

¶ THE SORROWFUL MOTHER NOVENA

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

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: SEXAGESIMA

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available at the Communion Rail following all Masses next Sunday. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Sexagesima, second collect of Our Lady and All the Saints. Trinity Preface.

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Fr. Cekada, Chris Browne, Justin Soeder, and Anastasia; the repose of the soul of †Don Pfanenstiel, who died last week; and a parishioner having surgery on Monday.

☞ *“But to bear with insult, patiently undergo humiliation, pray for those who persecute us (Mt 5,39,44)—that is the Lord’s cup, that is the Lord’s feast.” — St. Augustine ☞*

¶ CATECHISM CORNER

The Four Cardinal Virtues: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance.

Collection Report

Sunday, February 2nd\$4,749.00
Second Collection.....\$1,382.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

FEBRUARY:
MONTH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The picture of the Holy Family should be in every household; it is a perpetual reminder, placed in tangible form, of our dear Lord, our Blessed Lady, and our friend, St. Joseph, who were the members of the Holy Family. We often are interested in the pictures of great persons, and take delight in representations of angels and holy people. What is the secret of this inclination? Why, we can see those whom we wish to imitate, and grow to know their good and holy lives through their pictures. The Holy Father has approved one special picture which is to be the emblem of this association: Mary and Joseph, holding the youth Jesus between them by the hand. Jesus is not an infant, for this picture is to bring to mind the fact that His parents had to suffer care and anxiety in order to bring Him to this stage of boyhood, for which noble duty they were fitted by special providence and by special faithfulness. *(This is the Holy Family statue enshrined in our church.)*



Jesus, Mary, Joseph!



To live a good, Christian family life requires sacrifice, the renunciation of one's own wishes and a reasonable mortification of self. If it is to be perfect, it requires complete victory over self-love. It requires a high degree of virtue, deep piety and living faith, much prayer, and a close union with God.

In our day the very foundations of family life have been shaken by the failure of so many marriages. For this reason the devotion to the Holy Family of Nazareth takes on a new meaning and a new importance. The modern family must again be rejuvenated and filled with the spirit of the Holy Family of Nazareth. It must recapture the spirit of faith, the spirit of subjection to the will of God. It is for this intention that we should offer our prayers and sacrifices during the month.

— Benedict Baur, OSB

**PRAYER FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

Grant unto us, Lord Jesus, ever to follow the example of Thy Holy Family, that in the hour of our death Thy glorious Virgin Mother together with blessed Joseph may come to meet us, and we may be worthily received by Thee into everlasting dwellings, who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

**AN EXCERPT OF JANE GREER'S POEM:
MICHA-EL**

*...All those complacent fleshy pastel eunuchs
Posing with harp or horn on the Christmas
mantel:*

*You underestimate to your own peril
Whom we have come from,*

*Whom we are acting for, and it's too late
now:*

*Suddenly it's too late to ask for mercy.
Mercy is what you'll get—His wide-armed
mercy—*

But you won't like it.

*He has been with you, at your elbow, love-
sick,*

*Down the millennia. He knows you deeply,
Yet still encumbers your black hearts with
blessings.*

Willing unwillful

*Swain, He has wept and waited while you
mocked Him.*

*Finally, now, the muscles of His jawline
Clench and unclench beneath that holy
shadow:*

Enough is enough.

*Don't act as though some game's been played
unfairly:*

*He's never skimmed on prophets since He
breathed you*

*Out of the mud and on your way to Heav-
en—*

Yours for the asking—

*But you were too intent on what you'd
crawled from.*

*You can't begin to dream what you've reject-
ed,*

*What we would give to need His fierce sal-
vation,*

Require His dying....

*Love like a conflagration shall be yours now;
Love like an April river, like a temblor;*

*Love like an avalanche, a midnight bomb-
blast,*

Finding you hidden,

*Shrieking the air with shards of stained-
glass windows;*

*Love like a sunstorm, sweeping before it na-
tions,*

Continents, galaxies, and all your hubris.

Yes, say your prayers now.

*This is your Precious Moment, I its angel,
Angry and dark and terrible. God with Us,
Emmanu-el, comes bearing yet more mercy,
But you won't like it.*

First Friday's snow at least changed the drab brown landscape and with the pure white, brought light, continuing Sunday's Candlemas theme. But don't be surprised at the cold: "If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, Winter will have another flight."

But what a wonderful day was last Sunday, the Purification. The Christmas weather returned for its finale with sunny mild weather under perfect blue skies. It was the 33rd day of the year, the number which stands for Our Lord's sacred humanity; halfway between Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox. The date itself, 02/02/2020, is a most rare palindrome, written the same way forward or backward. "Christ yesterday and today and the same forever."

We were happy as well to welcome guests and visitors. We all had a grand time after the splendid High Mass, feasting and visiting at the reception. Everything got eaten. An excellent sign. Thank you to all who helped. Mostly, by chance, the same souls who helped on Sunday returned to church Monday. After getting their throats blessed and without even waiting for lunch, they tucked into the Christmas pack away project. More volunteers than in a number of years cheered our regulars and made for a neat and efficient job. Thank you!

The priests are working today blessing throats, but it's a delight. Think of it, the St. Blaise candles used to be lighted. I always picture wax everywhere, and burned hair ends. But the symbolism of the blessed candle perfectly conveys Christ, who comes to touch us and heal us.

We also turn to His Immaculate Mother, starting a Triduum today to Our Lady of Lourdes for the sick, of whom we have several. The same intention inspires our Sorrowful Mother Novena Friday evenings. (A triduum is three days, a novena nine days, in our case, one day for nine consecutive weeks.)

On Tuesday at 11:25 the Fathers will celebrate a Solemn High Mass to mark **Fr. McKenna's** 8th Ordination Anniversary. The Mass will be offered for our sick. Come to honor Our Lady, the priesthood, and to give a "prayer boost" for the sick.

Fr. Cekada made dramatic progress early last week, in his first days of rehabilitation. He continues to work intensely each day with three different rehabilitation goals. Father is slowly gaining strength and we hope he will be able to return to us on Friday. Thanks for keeping up those prayers!

Prayers are needed for **Fr. Bede Nkamuke** and his Nigerian flock as well. This is his latest, and disturbing news. Looks like the central government is preparing for a radical Islamic takeover:

"The situation here is one of security breakdown. Not in a random, but systematic way. The key military and police and executive positions now belong exclusively to the Hausa-fulanis. Boko Haram still cause havoc in the North and Christians of every colour and Muslims who sympathize with Christians are the target. Everyone's safety is in his hands. Some Jihadist group has made a public statement that conquest of the whole country will begin soon and has called on other groups in Africa to help them fight.

"The South is not as bad as the North, but the presence of Northerners and Islamic foreigners in the South is disturbing.

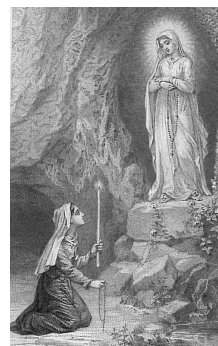
"We're of course careful and vigilant. And we trust in Divine Providence."

Still, Father carries on and reports an influx of vocation enquiries, and a Baptism and Churching on the Purification, fittingly enough.

We have a Baptism ourselves today, and we all of us make a new beginning as we open the Easter season with Septuagesima, its remote preparation by way of easing our way into Lent. But beware! There's nothing easy about Lent. This so serious season must indeed be properly prepared if it is to be fruitful. Think on your Lenten plan, and submit it to Our Lady for approval.

May Our Lady of Lourdes light your way.

– **Bishop Dolan**



WHAT ONCE WAS DONE AT LOURDES

Lourdes, where [many] imagine that we accord Mary undue eminence, is no doubt that place in the world where Christ in the Eucharist is most glorified. It is the only place in the world where, under the veil of the Host, Christ mingles in the midst of so many rich people and is as closely pressed by them as He was during His mortal life. His Mother prays for these bodies and these souls, and Christ cures them. The procession of the Blessed Sacrament in Lourdes starts from the Grotto to show that Jesus was given to us by the Virgin. And she who stood on Golgotha, at the foot of the cross of the condemned Man, stands here by the side of the King of eternal glory....

The Lord's Supper, to which the Virgin leads us in order that we may partake of her joy, is renewed every morning. The table is always set, the Bread always offered. The Christian makes his way to eternity from Communion to Communion. At each stage in the journey, Christ is waiting for him in order that he may renew his strength and take heart again.

– *François Mauriac*

✠ CALENDAR

MON	2/10/20	ST. SCHOLASTICA, V OUR LADY OF LOURDES TRIDUUM II 8:00 AM Low Mass †Ida Youngworth (<i>Diane Puglielli</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Fr. Anthony Cekada (<i>Dave & MaryAnn Marko</i>)
TUE	2/11/20	OUR LADY OF LOURDES OUR LADY OF LOURDES TRIDUUM III <i>PRAYER OF OUR LORD IN THE GARDEN</i> 7:00 AM Low Mass Fr. Cekada (<i>Alexander Krawczyk</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Chris Browne (<i>Rosary Confraternity</i>) 11:25 AM Solemn High Mass to mark Fr. McKenna's Ordination Anniversary: For all of our sick
WED	2/12/20	THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS 7:00 AM Low Mass Special Intentions (<i>P.T. & A.M. Omlor</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass For the health of Fr. Cekada (<i>Patrick Curry</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Fr. Cekada: His Health & Intentions (<i>Mike Briggs Family</i>) ☞ 5:10 PM Low Mass Rose Kuebler (<i>Katherine Kunkel</i>)
THU	2/13/20	FERIAL DAY 7:00 AM Low Mass Molly Wagner – A Blessed Birthday (<i>Rich VandeRyt</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass St. Anthony for Fr. Cekada (<i>Joyce Disher</i>) 11:25 AM Requiem High Mass Purgatorial Society
FRI	2/14/20	ST. VALENTINE, PRM 8:00 AM Low Mass Special Intentions (<i>Rich VandeRyt</i>) 11:05 AM Confessions 11:25 AM High Mass †Estrella I. Simpson – 8 th Anniversary February 14 (<i>Tom & Karen Simpson</i>) 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena VIII 5:45 PM Low Mass Special Intentions in honor of St. Valentine (<i>TRCS</i>) 6:30 PM Sorrowful Mother Novena II with Blessing of the Sick 6:45 PM Sacred Heart Novena & Benediction
SAT	2/15/20	OUR LADY'S SATURDAY SS. FAUSTINUS & JOVITA, MM 7:15 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass Fr. Cekada (<i>Fr. Lehtoranta</i>) 8:05 AM Ave & Sermon 8:20 AM High Mass Father Cekada (<i>Jason Murray</i>)
SUN	2/16/20	SEXAGESIMA 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass Victor & Doris Ritze – Merry Christmas! (<i>Love, Bobby & Aubrey</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass Divine Infant Jesus & St. Anthony – Thank You for prayers answered (<i>Dave & MaryAnn Marko</i>) 10:40 AM Catechism Classes 11:05 AM Rosary 11:30 AM Low Mass Bishop Dolan & Father Cekada (<i>Paul & Rita Grau</i>) 4:45 PM Vespers with Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

THE PASCHAL SACRAMENTS 2020

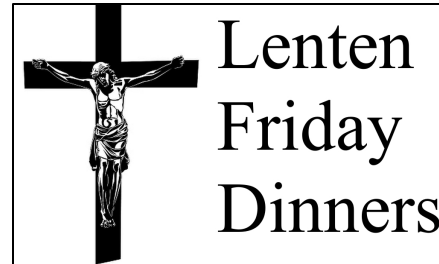
Parents, please note: **Your child's baptismal certificate must be already presented, and registration form completed before the test.** Contact the church office for the necessary form.

First Confessions & Testing: Saturday, April 18th.

Children's Day of Recollection: Thursday, May 28th.

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

First Communion: Corpus Christi Sunday, June 14th.



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.

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.

A PRAYER OF DELIVERANCE TO THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH

O Jesus our Savior, my Lord and my God, my God and my all, with Thy Sacrifice of the Cross Thou hast redeemed us, and defeated the power of Satan. I beg of Thee to deliver me from every evil presence and every evil influence. I ask Thee in Thy Name, I ask Thee for the sake of Thy wounds, I ask Thee for the sake of Thy Blood, I ask Thee for the sake of Thy Cross, I ask Thee through the intercession of Mary, Immaculate and sorrowful. May the Blood and the water that flow from Thy side wash over me to purify me, deliver me, heal me. Amen.

– Fr. Gabriel Amorth

Servers

TUE 2/11 11:25 AM SOL. HIGH: MC: P. Omlor TH: D. McConnell CROSS: P. McClorey ACS: M. Simpson, A. McConnell TORCH: D. Simpson, A. McClorey, S. Richesson, *Volunteer*

SUN 2/16 7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: J. Lacy, C. Richesson TH: T. Lawrence ACS: D. Simpson, J. Stewart TORCH: T. & D. England, S. Richesson, C. Arlinghaus
11:30 AM LOW: P. & A. McClorey
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller