St. Gertrude the Great Roman Catholic Church

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212
parishoffice@sgg.org • bpdolan@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. Charles McGuire
Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Stephen McKenna

January 30, 2022

Epiphany IV • Solemnity of St. Francis de Sales

St. Martina, VM

¶ St. Francis de Sales

Today is the Solemnity of St. Francis de Sales, patron of the Diocese of Cincinnati, and of the 16 some clergy who work with Bishop Dolan. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM, Vespers with Benediction at 4:45.

¶ St. Blaise

The Blessing of Throats for St. Blaise's feast will be available at the Communion rail following all Masses on Thursday, as well as Sunday.

¶ First Friday

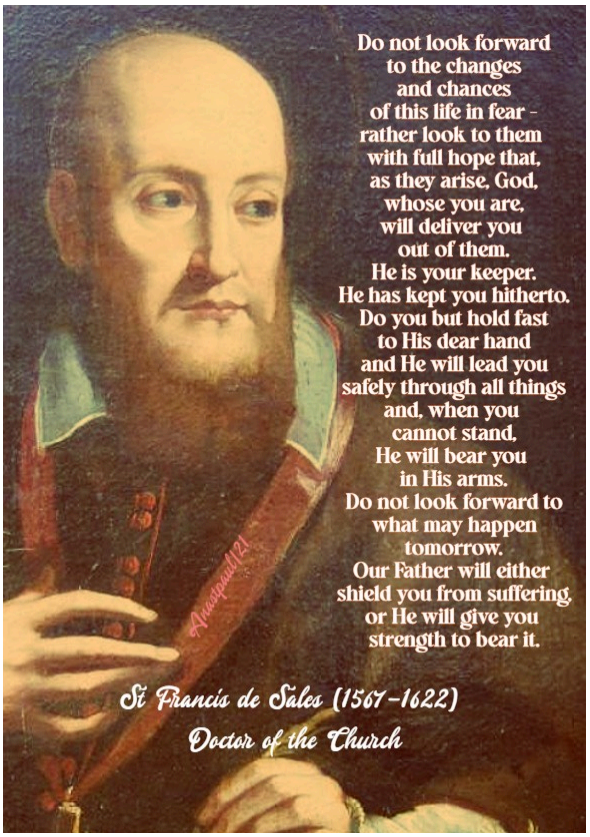
8:00 AM Low Mass
10:50 AM Confessions
11:25 AM Low Mass & Benediction
5:00 PM Exposition
5:15 PM Rosary & Confessions
5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena
5:45 PM Low Mass
6:30 PM Novenas & Devotions
All Night Adoration

First Friday Intention: *In reparation to the Sacred Heart, for our young people.*

¶ First Saturday

7:05 AM Rosary
7:10 AM Confessions
7:30 AM High Mass
8:15 AM First Saturday Devotions, Benediction, Meditation
8:40 AM Low Mass

First Saturday Intention: *In reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for immodest fashions and sins of the flesh.*



Feast of the Purification of Our Lady

Candlemas

Wednesday, February 2

5:30 PM Blessing of Candles
Procession
Solemn High Mass

Winter Soup Supper following

Bring your favorite soup to share!

Lumen Christi

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

For Marissa Miller and her family to be healed
(Patrick Curry)

¶ Next Sunday: Epiphany V

Second Collection for our seminarians. Blessing of Throats for St. Blaise after all Masses. (Blessing of Religious Articles moved to the following Sunday.) Catechism Classes at 10:40 AM, Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

📖 ***Set Your Missal:*** Epiphany V, second collect of St. Titus, third of St. Dorothy. Trinity Preface.

¶ Upcoming Events

Sodality of Charity Meeting: Feb. 26.

Seminarian Sunday, March 27 after morning Masses. Raffles, silent auction, and of course good things to eat. Come raise money for our seminarians. Proceeds will outfit the seminarians with necessities for the priesthood. Donate goods and services or raffle items, work the day of the event, help out where you can, but please support this important event. WE NEED PRIESTS! God bless your generosity.

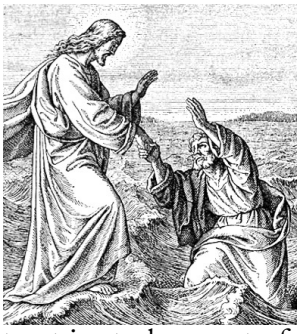
¶ Your Prayers

Please pray for Jean Bischel, Janet Strauss, Nina Krawczyk, Michael Faith, Ralph Otis, Alan Lotarski, and the repose of the soul of †Virginia Kramer.

Collection Report

Sunday, January 23rd.....$8,077.00

THE MAN PLEADED TO REMAIN WITH JESUS



The whole trend of my life is almost all more or less imperfect. This conviction, which Satan tries to keep out of my mind, is going to be the basis of mistrust of myself and of creatures. And this element, united to my desire to belong to Jesus, will necessarily produce:

Vigilance, loyal and exact, gentle, peaceful, confident in grace, and based on the repression of dissipation and of the excesses of natural enthusiasm. A frequent *renewal* of my resolution. Tireless *new beginnings*, ever full of confidence in the mercy of Christ for the soul that really puts up a fight to acquire self-custody. An ever increasing certitude that I am *not fighting alone* but united to Jesus living in me, to Mary His Mother, to my guardian angel, and to the saints. A conviction that these powerful allies are helping me *at every moment* as long as I keep striving for self-custody: as long as I do not put myself out of reach of their assistance. Finally, *a cordial and frequent recourse* to all these divine helps, that I may be able with their aid to do *quod Deus vult* and do it *quomodo Deus vult* and *quia Deus vult.*

Oh! what a transformation will take place in my life, dear Lord, if I keep my heart united to Thee!

My mind may be completely absorbed in the *business* in hand. And yet there is something I have observed in souls who are extremely busy, and who yet never cease *to live and breathe in Thee*: and that is what I want to arrive at, in the course of even my most absorbing work.

– Dom Jean-Baptiste Chautard, O.C.S.O.

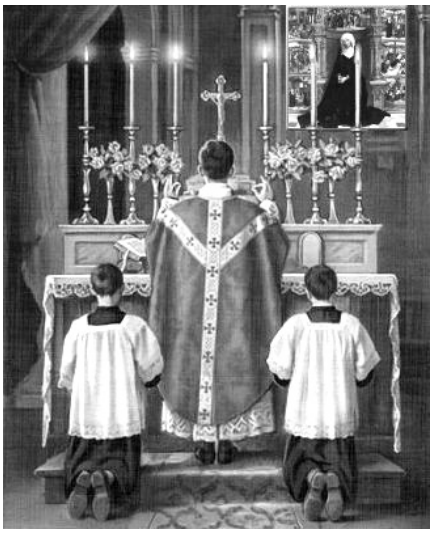
TODAY, ON CALVARY

One thing alone I own,
And that God wrests from me:
My sinfulness. For this does He atone
Today, on Calvary.

- Sister M. Charlita, I.H.M.

The devil has always attempted, by means of the heretics, to deprive the world of the Mass, making them precursors of the Anti-Christ, who, before anything else, will try to abolish and will actually abolish the Holy Sacrament of the Altar, as a punishment for the sins of men, according to the prediction of Daniel, "And strength was given him against the continual sacrifice." (Daniel 8:12)

– St. Alphonsus Liguori



Servers

WED 2/2

5:30 PM SOL.HIGH: MCS: P. Omlor, M. Simpson, C. Richesson **CROSS:** D. Simpson **TH:** N. McClorey **ACS:** T. Lawrence, C. Arlinghaus **TORCH:** N., J. & M. Kolenich, C., J. & B. McGinnis, A. McConnell

SUN 2/6

7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.

9:00 AM SOL.HIGH: MCS: C. Richesson, D. Simpson **TH:** S. Richesson **ACS:** T. Lawrence, T. England **TORCH:** J. Stewart, 3 McGinnis Bros.

11:30 AM LOW: A. McClorey, N. Kolenich

4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller

5:45 PM LOW: Seminarian

LIGHT

The lamp that lights
the lands afar
Is not a torch's gleam,
Nor sun, nor moon,
nor blazing star,
Nor incandescent
beam.

The glow that makes earth, day and night,
A well-illumined place,
Is love and gladness shining bright
Upon a dear one's face.

– Clarence Edwin Flynn

Mother, my atmosphere;
To wend and meet no sin;
Above me, round me lie
Fronting my froward eye
With sweet and scarless sky;
Stir in my ears, speak there
Of God's love, O live air,
Of patience, penance, prayer.

– Gerald Manley Hopkins SJ

ANECDOTE

Methinks when a lady is dressing
(Pulling clothes on with a squeeze)
She must have forgot—
for her hemline upshot—
The location of her blushing knees.

– Exasperated

Card of Thanks

Thank you, St. Anthony, for help in finding an important document.

– A.M.B.

THE BOOKSTORE has a new supply of Catechisms in stock. *My Catholic Faith, Catechism of the Council of Trent, The Catechism Explained*, as well as others.

The Raccolta and other fine prayer books have been replenished as well. Stop in for all your reading needs.

Candlemas

The Feast of the Purification of Our Lady

Wednesday, February 2

5:30 PM Blessing of Candles, Procession, Pontifical High Mass

Winter Soup Supper in Helfta Hall following High Mass

You are welcome to bring a favorite soup to share, if you would like.

Time to Take Down Christmas Decorations

This Saturday!

February 5 after the morning Mass

Please bring breakfast food to share.

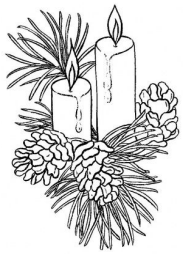
The decorations come down more quickly than they go up.

Spend the morning and help out!

Everything needs to come down, be packaged, and stored for next year.

Please come if you can. Many hands make light work.

✠ CANDLEMAS MEMORIES OF OLD IRELAND ✠



The second of February was announced from the altar before which you worshipped in boyhood as the feast of the Purification. The announcement came from Father James Moloney the Sunday before, at the half-past eight and the eleven o'clock Masses. He spoke of the event at some length, explaining its meaning and purpose year after year to people who walked across the hills to the chapel at the south side of the parish.

Everybody round about you who spoke of church feasts at all, classified the second of February as Candlemas Day, just as they called the first Wednesday of Lent Ash Wednesday, the twenty-ninth of September, Michaelmas, and the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday. People who referred to the second of February as the feast of the Purification were either in Holy Orders, or seminary students home for holidays, or nuns, or schoolteachers, or people of some pretensions.

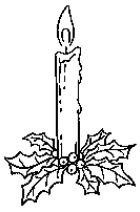
The reason for this is easy enough. What imagination can catch hold of easily, memory can keep. We visioned the feast of the Purification as a day when candles are blessed and distributed and taken, one to every home, to serve for a year as a holy flame of protection when there would be sickness or thunder or vivid lightning or a windstorm from the northwest.

Not everyone went to Mass on Candlemas morning. As a rule the men did not go. You could not imagine a grown man going to Mass on a week morning, unless to the Stations* to make his Easter duty and pay his Station dues. Think of an adult field worker, his hands hard and rough from spade, shovel and plow, coming down the hills of a week morning holding a blessed candle in the clinch of his fist! You may if you insist, picturize him carrying a bishop's crozier in a graceful mastery of technique across the ditches from field to field; and you may also picturize him with the blessed candle. But in each case it will be strictly fiction.

In every normal family mothers went to Mass on Candlemas, usually taking a number of candles to be blessed. Of these candles one, or perhaps two, were taken home for domestic spiritual and temporal protection, the others were left with the parish clerk for altar use. In the home neither pressing emergency nor a stingy economy ever justified the use of the blessed candle to minister to secular purposes. If the lamp which lighted you to bed had burned up all its oil, if the last unblessed candle had eat itself out in the socket of its candlestick, go to bed in the dark. If you had no other light but that which would come to you from a blessed candle to find the collar button that rolled into the dark corner where the dresser stood, borrow a button or use a pin.

Candlemas Day at the present time in the present place is musical, impressive, stately in Gothic vestments, smoky with incense, shining with lights, patterned in exact liturgy. Yet here and now the picture you cherish most over the hills and of all the years, which comes to you as a new possession when the day of candles returns, is a windswept second of February, the trees in the chapel yard wailing dismally, the Latin prayers of Father Moloney monotonous and awesome coming to you in hushes between wind gusts. You should like to live one such morning over again, if only you were in your own morning for a little while. – *Ave Maria*

**During the persecutions when there were few churches the priest would offer Mass in a home in the different districts of his parish. This was "the Station," done faithfully for centuries, especially before Christmas, and for the Easter Duty. The priest was entitled to his breakfast, and a stipend, and all went to the Sacraments.*



THE BLESSING OF CANDLES

Light is pure, penetrates darkness, fosters life, moves with incredible velocity, and illumines all around it. Therefore it is an emblem of God, the All-Pure, the Giver of life and enlightenment. It represents Our Savior, "the Light of the World." Wax is spotless, and typifies Christ's spotless Body. The wick enclosed in the wax is an image of His Soul. The candle flame is a figure of the Divine Nature united to the human in one Divine Person. Candles are blessed solemnly on February 2nd, the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin. In pagan times this was a festival day, with processions and lights in honor of the gods. The Church chose it for the blessing of candles because on that day Mary made an offering in the Temple, and because the prophet Simeon foretold that her Son would be "a light to the revelation of the Gentiles."

All candles are blessed. They are dedicated to holy use by prayer which is said in the name of the Catholic Church. Thus they become "sacramentals," as is fitting for things which approach so close to the presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

One candle has a special place. It is usually in a large glass container of red color, mounted near the altar in a decorative stand or hung by a chain from the ceiling. This is the "sanctuary lamp." It burns whenever the Holy Eucharist is preserved. Since this is usually all year, except for Good Friday, the sanctuary lamp is practically a perpetual flame.

Before Mass or a service begins—or immediately afterwards—you may see some of the congregation lighting a "votive" candle. They are kept on stands in the body of the church, usually in front of statues or pictures of the saints. Catholics usually make a small offering, light one of the candles, and then kneel and say a s hort private prayer, praying for a particular favor from Almighty God.

Even though one leaves after lighting the votive candle and saying a prayer, the candle goes on burning. It is a living thing consuming itself in honor of God or one of His saints. It seems to say, "I continue the prayer of the one who lit me." While we are about our everyday duties, it stands before God as a sign of our good intention. It is a silent prayer in concrete form—a small thing indeed but very appropriate.

✠ FATHER'S CORNER ✠

This week we have "Father's Corner" because it is **Fr. Lehtoranta** writing this. We celebrate this weekend the solemnity of St. Francis de Sales. Our small but growing group of priests at St. Gertrude the Great Church is under the patronage of this great soul in Heaven, St. Francis de Sales. He was born at the time of the first French revolution, later branded as a "reformation" by historians. And all the bloodshed, as well as the harsh doctrines of Calvin, St. Francis de Sales counteracted by his charity. One of his contemporaries in fighting against Protestantism was French Cardinal Jacques Du Perron. This man was extremely gifted, a great intellect, famous for his great learning, but he also seemed to possess an extraordinary amount of humility, for he once said: "If you want heretics to be convinced of their errors, you may send them to me; but if you want them to be converted, send them to Francis de Sales."

We are looking forward eagerly to the ordination on May 4, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, when we will, God willing and Our Lady interceding, welcome four new priests into our little "Salesian" group of priests. But before this happens, there is a lot of preparation required, and all of you can help in that. We will arrange a Seminarian Sunday on Lætare Sunday, March 27. There are many things a new priest needs, and when there's as many as four of them, we need the help of our faithful, whom these new priests will serve. You can find details of what to do to help in the bulletin, but mark the day on your calendars and plan now to contribute.

In our latest Sodality of Charity meeting the girls and young ladies prepared Rosaries for the Seminarian Sunday, a great way for the little ones to help support the new priests. One elderly parishioner in our St. Hugh of Lincoln parish in Milwaukee once told me how happy she is that we have a Catholic group of young ones like our Sodality, because she remembers her own parish having one, before the revolution/reformation of Vatican II swept away everything Catholic. On First Wednesday, February 2, the feast of Candlemas, I will enroll three new members in our group, bringing the total number of Sodalists to 30. With this Sodality and its active members, and the Seminarians taking care of the Knights of the Sacred Heart, you can see our clergy working not only for the faithful through Catechism and sermons, but that they will also *keep* the faith. As St. Paul wrote to his dear priest son St. Timothy: "Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example to the faithful in speech, in conduct, in charity, in faith, in chastity. Until I come, be diligent in reading, in exhortation and in teaching." (1 Tim. 4:12-13)

Speaking of Candlemas, we have our traditional evening celebration of it with blessing of candles, procession, High Mass, sermon, and our Winter Soup Supper, starting at 5:30 PM. You are very welcome to attend this feast, which falls on the day of dear St. Joseph, First Wednesday, and marks the end of the Christmas season. Also, we have our traditional St. Valentine's day bake sale on February 13—but of course, everything at St. Gertrude's is traditional!

And devotions do not end there. On the day following, February 3, as well as on the following Sunday, you can come and receive your St. Blaise blessing of throats. I like this saint very much. His is the centerpiece medal of my Rosary. You should know that when you receive this blessing, the priest asks, through the intercession of St. Blaise, that God will "deliver thee from sickness of the throat and from every other evil." The sacraments sanctify your soul, but we must not forget the sacramentals, because they protect us not only from spiritual danger, but also from all the evil coming from the world today. And don't forget the First Thursday prayers for our priests and seminarians, and the First Friday and First Saturday.

"In the midst of life, we are in death," a Lenten responsory sings. After conducting the funeral for his own father in December, and for our dear friend Joan Fey in January, **Fr. McGuire** travelled to St. Hugh's for today's funeral Mass for Virginia Kramer. She was a faithful and charitable soul, and told the doctors that she would refuse to die before she saw a priest. She did, and only died after the Last Rites and Viaticum. A priest couldn't be there at the hour of her death, but instead, one of our parishioners of St. Hugh was with her at the end, fulfilling her wish to have someone to pray for her when she was dying. What a great act of charity, to send a faithful soul to her Christ and to Mary with the goodbyes of the Rosary and prayers for the dying. May all of us depart from this world as Virginia did, and while remaining here, always treat our neighbor with kindness so that "charity never falleth away." (1 Cor. 13:8)

Yours in Christ and Mary,

Fr. Lehtoranta

The vigil light is an outward expression of faith. It rekindles sparks of hope and strength in the hearts of weary pilgrims toiling up some personal Calvary. It constantly invites the faithful to acts of supplication and minor sacrifice.

MON 1/31/22 ST. JOHN BOSCO, C
8:00 AM Low Mass †Melvin E. Prell – 11th Anniversary *(Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell & family)*
11:25 AM High Mass For Bishop Dolan's recovery *(Gary & Debbie Hubbard)* (from 1/30)

TUE 2/1/22 ST. IGNATIUS, BPM • *ST. BRIGID, V*
7:00 AM Low Mass Isaac Smith *(Collin Smith)*
8:00 AM Low Mass Jim Soli *(Mary Lacy)*
11:25 AM High Mass Janet's recovery
5:00 PM Low Mass Special Intention *(Anne Marie Omlor)*
7:00 PM Tea Party Meeting

WED 2/2/22 PURIFICATION OF OUR LADY
CANDLEMAS DAY • FIRST WEDNESDAY
8:00 AM Low Mass Rev. Mr. Simpson – congratulations on your subdiaconate *(Judy)*
5:30 PM Blessing of Candles, Procession, Solemn Mass Our clergy & seminarians – Christmas blessings *(Rebecca Hinton)*
followed by Winter Soup Supper

THU 2/3/22 ST. BLAISE, BPM • FIRST THURSDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
BLESSING OF THROATS AFTER ALL MASSES
7:00 AM Low Mass Angela Friel *(Steve & Joanne Heckenkamp)*
8:00 AM Low Mass For the sanctification of priests *(Alter Christus Confraternity)*
11:25 AM High Mass †Dr. Innocent-Mary Okerulu *(Rev. Mr. John Okerulu)*

FRI 2/4/22 FIRST FRIDAY • ST. ANDREW CORSINI, BPC
8:00 AM Low Mass †Richard H. Smith – 3rd Anniversary *(Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell & family)*
10:50 AM Confessions
11:25 AM Low Mass †Joseph Andreotta *(Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ritze)*
First Friday Devotions, Benediction
5:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary
5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena Week VI
5:45 PM Low Mass Karen Simpson, Birthday Wishes *(Tom Simpson)*
6:30 PM First Friday Devotions, *All Night Adoration*

SAT 2/5/22 FIRST SATURDAY • ST. AGATHA, VM
OCTAVE DAY OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
ST. PHILIP OF JESUS, M • IHM, REFUGE OF SINNERS
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TAKEN DOWN AT CHURCH
7:05 AM Rosary
7:10 AM Confessions
7:30 AM High Mass †Mike Briggs *(Dave & MaryAnn Marko)*
8:15 AM First Saturday Devotions, Benediction, Meditation
8:40 AM Low Mass Special intention for Dale Wilker Family *(Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ritze)*

SUN 2/6/22 EPIPHANY V • ST. TITUS, BPC
ST. DOROTHY, VM
BLESSING OF THROATS AFTER ALL MASSES
7:05 AM Rosary
7:30 AM Low Mass Malia Beckerich, health *(Rose Beckerich)*
9:00 AM High Mass Faithful Departed of SGG *(Kolenich family)*
10:40 AM Catechism Classes
11:05 AM Rosary
11:30 AM Low Mass Robert & Rebecca Uhlenbrock – Thank you *(Capetillo Family)*
4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

THE GRACE TO OVERCOME OUR DIVIDED SELVES

None of us can become the master of our own soul in a short time or hold it firmly in our grasp from our very first steps. We should be content to gain small victories over our most unruly passions from time to time. We must bear with others, but first of all we must exercise forbearance toward ourselves and be patient with our own lack of perfection. Is it right for us to want to have interior peace without having first passed through the ordinary struggles of life?

Keep up the following practices. In the morning, prepare your soul to be at peace. Take care throughout the day to remember that resolution and to reaffirm it. Should you become disturbed, do not lose heart and do not be pained by it, but having recognized the situation calmly humble yourself before God and attempt to restore your mind to peace. Say to your soul: "Now, friend, we have made a misstep, let us proceed more carefully." And each time you fall, do the same thing. When you are at peace, make good use of the time, making as many acts of humility as you can, however insignificant they may be. For as Our Lord says, *he who is faithful in little things will have great ones entrusted to him.* Above all, do not lose your courage, but be patient, watchful, and ready with a spirit of compassion. God will hold you in His hand, and if He lets you stumble, it will be only so that you realize that you would collapse entirely if He did not hold you, and thus to make you tighten your grip upon His hand.

– St. Francis de Sales

All Night Adoration Guard of Honor
February 2022

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Doby Curran, David Swinney
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Kirby Bischel, Quentin Gorton
9:00 PM - 10:00 PM: Justin Soeder, Paddy Omlor
10:00 PM - 11:00 PM: Andrew Prell, Nick McClorey
11:00 PM - 12:00 AM: James Kolenich, Paul Puglielli
12:00 AM - 1:00 AM: Levi Giese, Collin Smith
1:00 AM - 2:00 AM: David Marko, Keith Elflein
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, Zachary Doyle
5:00 AM - 6:00 AM: Joseph Simpson, Bill Herman
6:00 AM - 7:00 AM: John Riggs, Robert Rosendale

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