



ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Sundays 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

Most Rev. Charles J. McGuire, *Pastor* • Rev. Stephen McKenna
Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Thomas Simpson • Rev. Anthony Brueggemann

September 22, 2024

PENTECOST XVIII

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA, BPC • SS. MAURICE & COMPANIONS, MM

¶ PENTECOST XVII

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available at the Communion Rail today. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

¶ THIS WEEK

Tuesday is the feast of Our Lady of Ransom. On **Thursday** we honor “saints from our soil,” the North American Martyrs. Please join us. The St. Monica Club meets on **Friday** after the evening Mass. Good king St. Wenceslaus brings a little Christmas with his feast on **Saturday**.



¶ LOOK AHEAD

Rosary Sunday: October 6
Fall Festival: Sunday, October 20
Forty Hours: October 25-27
All Saints Procession & Party: 11/3

Collection Report

Sunday, September 15th\$7,991.00
Thank you for your generosity.

Wedding Banns

Third time: Denis Vander
Putten & Aimee Clemens

First time: Nathan
Harkleroad & Kinley Tanner



¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the very great feast of the Guardian Protector of the Church, St. Michael the Archangel. The Blessing of Children and their dedication to their Guardian Angels will take place after all Masses. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Vespers of the Angels with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Dedication of St. Michael, Archangel; commemoration and Proper Last Gospel of Pentecost XIX. Trinity Preface.

Congratulations to Joseph & Gabrielle Vines on the baptism of their son, Isaac John, on Saturday, Sept. 14.



¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Henry Sieverding and Joseph Lodrini.



St. Wenceslaus

Lumen Christi

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

For my Papa, Mr. Kurt Konezka –
Special Intentions
(Monika Konezka)

FROM A MARTYR

As for the dangers of the soul, to speak frankly, there are none for him who brings to the country of the Hurons the fear and love of God; on the contrary, I find unparalleled advantages for acquiring perfection....

I may be deceiving myself, but I imagine that here is a grand means of increasing the soul in faith, in hope, and in charity.... Could we wish a nobler opportunity to exercise charity than amid the roughness and discomfort of a New World, where no human art or industry has yet provided any conveniences? And to live here that we may bring back to God men who are so unlike men that we must live in daily expectation of dying by their hand, should the fancy take them, should a dream suggest it to them, or should we fail to open or close the heavens to them at discretion, giving them rain or fine weather at command. Do they not make us responsible for the state of the weather? And if God does not inspire us, or if we cannot work miracles by faith, are we not continually in danger, as they have threatened us, of seeing them fall upon those who have done no wrong? Indeed, if He Who is the Truth itself had not declared that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life, verily and once for all, for one's friends, I should conceive it a thing equally noble, or even more so, to do what the apostle said to the Corinthians: "Daily I die, I protest by your glory, brethren, whom I have in Christ Jesus Our Lord" (1 Cor 15:31), than to drag out a life full of misery, amid the frequent and ordinary dangers of an unforeseen death, which those whom you hope to save will procure for you. I call to mind occasionally when St. Francis Xavier once wrote to Fr. Simon, and wish that it may please God to so act that at least the same thing may be said or written one day of us, although we may not be worthy of it. Here are the words: "The best of news comes from Molucca, that John Beira and his companions are constantly in trial and in danger of life,

with much progress for the Christian religion." – *St. Jean de Brébeuf* (†1649), *French Jesuit missionary and martyr, served longest among the North American Martyrs, and authored the first catechism in North America.*



St. Maurice & Companions

MARTYRS' MEEKNESS

Thank God for every slight and injury you have to bear. An injury borne in meekness and silence is a true victory. It is a proof that we are good soldiers of Jesus Christ, disciples of that heavenly wisdom which is first candid, then peaceable.

"So, Lord, You will always protect Your servants. They will not lack patience in suffering or constancy in confessing Your Name." – *From the Mass of St. Maurice of Agaunum in the old Gothic Missal*

Violence triumphs over meekness for a little, but in the end Christ fulfills His promise and the meek possess the earth. The blood of these martyrs was the seed of a great harvest in all the tribes among which they had worked. Father de Brébeuf wrote that religion as the Indians understood it was a matter solely of fear, and so the missionaries had to start by teaching the older ones something they could understand, namely, that the ultimate destiny of every soul is either Heaven or Hell. The children were more well-disposed, and the appeal of Christ to them helped to infuriate their elders against the missionaries. It was in such unpromising ground that the harvest grew through the grace of martyrdom meekly accepted.

"We are made a spectacle to the world and to angels and to men." – 1 Cor. iv, 9, quoted by St. John de Brébeuf to St. Gabriel Lalemant during their sufferings.

CONSOLATRIX AFFLICTORUM

There is so much sorrow in your eyes,
So much of the world's sorrows dark
with woe—
Immensities of grief now heave and
rise,
Within the aureoles of silence...Lo!
How reticent, e'en while the Seven
Spears
Stab you and make a stiletto of scars,
You stand so patiently in lucent tears
Against the immaculacy of stars...

With the Moon at your feet, a crown of
shining
White stars above you, haloed, while
we kneel
Imploringly before you and repining
Our sins recurrent, surely do we feel
Your blue mantle o'er us, and, like a
rose,
Your gentle understanding of our
woes...

– *Harrison Peiris*

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



September 24: Commemorates the foundation of the Mercedarian Order and the apparition of Our Lady of Ransom. In this appearance she carried two bags of coins for use in ransoming Christians imprisoned by the Moors. On August 10, 1218, the Mercedarian Order was legally constituted at Barcelona, Spain by King James of Aragon, and was approved by Pope Gregory IX on January 17, 1235. The Mercedarians celebrated their institution on the Sunday nearest to August 1st because it was on August 1, 1218 that the Blessed Virgin showed St. Peter Nolasco the white habit of the Order. This custom was approved by the Congregation of Rites on April 4, 1615. On February 22, 1696, it was extended to the entire Latin Church and the date changed to September 24th. St. Peter Nolasco (1189-1256) was the Founder of the Mercedarian Order.

✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

The cats are getting pretty obnoxious these days. I recently started letting them in through the window in my room. Big mistake! One morning as I was saying morning prayers in my room with the windows open and the screens down I suddenly heard, “Meow! Thump!” and looked up to see Fat Cat hanging from the screen and then falling back to the ground. Now there are holes in one screen. Trying not to be annoyed I turned back to my prayers. A few minutes passed before I heard another, “Thump!” Looking up, I noticed Black Cat hanging from the other screen and then falling back to the ground. Rats! Now there are big holes in both screens. Well, lesson learned, those silly cats will no longer be allowed to come in through the windows. Another thing I learned is that Fat Cat jumps higher than Black Cat. So there is your entertaining critter story.

Fr. Lehtoranta has been really busy with his teaching. His seminary courses just began last week. The seminary has started off well, except that one of the seminarians was not able to return to the country. He was sent to Argentina to spend time in the seminary of our friend, **Fr. Contreras**.

Wasn't last week's picnic great! We really do have a lot of youngsters and, of course, they had a blast with the piñatas again this year. I even got to play a little football with little Kate Hudson! That was a hoot. Boy, can she throw a football! The weather was a little hot, but at least there were no bees this year. The food was very good, but the company was the best! It is so nice to be with fellow Catholics! Truly, God has blessed us more than we deserve.

I haven't received much news from the missions, but should have some for you very soon. However, we have two priestly anniversaries. Fr. Alfredo Contreras celebrated his anniversary just yesterday, Saturday, September 21st. **Fr. Nicolás Benegas**, my very first priest, celebrates his first anniversary on Monday, September 23rd. Fr. Benegas' first Sunday in Mexico last weekend went very smoothly, he tells me. We priests are so very happy to hear that.

As for the Oblates, we have a few people still looking for homes. But first, we need to raise some funds. It does seem backwards, doesn't it? Well, here in West Chester homes are selling so fast that unless we have a certain amount raised beforehand it does no good even to go and look at houses. We are looking at homes between the ranges of \$300,000 to \$600,000. We really are not looking to buy anything fancy, but it has to allow for growth, as I mentioned before. We also would prefer that the Sisters have at least a little bit of a yard so that they can walk around and have some privacy to do their prayers and to recreate. If you would like to donate to this cause you can make a check out to St. Gertrude the Great. All you have to do is to write “A

Home for Oblates” in the Memo space. It will get to where it needs to go that way.

I hope you have a blessed Angel Sunday. Remember that they are your best friends and they are always with you! Oh, how they love you—and how you should love them in return!

– **Bishop McGuire**



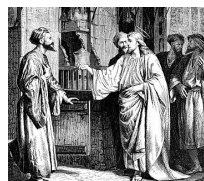
A WARNING

But we warn you against a danger. The Devil is a great mimic, and even the most sacred things he tries to mimic. Thus he tries to make purely humanitarian activities masquerade in the garb of charity. It is the attempt to make one love man for man's sake. But when you start loving man for man's sake or trying to do so, you end in hatred. See Communism that preaches such a type of charity, but that ends in hatred, and why? Because the fundamental point of charity is not there.

True charity is the love of man, not for man's sake, but man for God's sake. God is the root cause. Love God truly, and you will love man truly; hate God, and you cannot love man. Love of man that is not based on the love of God is a mimicry of the Devil that brings harm to the world. The best things can be perverted to be the worst. Some do not realize this and work in merely humanitarian lines and go astray and deceive the world.

St. Bernard, the eighth centenary of whose death was celebrated this year, laid stress on the right point. He was a man of tremendous energy, of great vitality, doing immense good in his time. He had broken up the egocentric power of self-love, with a powerful Divine current of the Love of God. Hence he did much for the good of the human race. He was a great client of Mary, a great imitator of the Divine Mother.

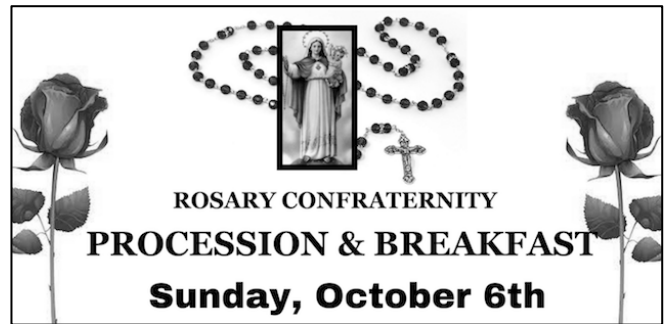
Dearly Beloved Children, today we bring before you this most fundamental point of all the Christian teachings: if we are the Children of God, and of Mary, we must do the works of God and Mary. The work of God and Mary is the work of Charity; Charity is the love of God for His own sake, and the love of our neighbor for God's sake. This charity can be realized only by the destruction of self-love. In Mary a different name has been given to this: absence of self-love means HUMILITY. The Gospels tell us that God looked down upon the humility of His handmaid. There was no self-love in her. Accordingly her charity is all-embracing, her intercession universal. – *Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Cooray, O.M.I.*



Jesus called Matthew as he sat collecting taxes. In their work for the Roman occupiers, tax collectors frequently resorted to extortion. “The pursuit...was one full of all insolence and boldness, and a mode of gain whereof no fair account could be given, a shameless traffic, a robbery under cloak of law: yet nevertheless He Who uttered the call was ashamed of none of these things” (St. John Chrysostom). To think that Our Lord called Levi, the hated tax collector and made him Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist!

✠ CALENDAR

MON	9/23/24	ST. LINUS, PM • ST. THECLA, VM OUR LADY OF RANSOM TRIDUUM DAY II
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Reparation for blasphemy (<i>Collin Smith</i>)
	11:25 AM	Low Mass Ballesteros Family (<i>Sr. Regina</i>)
TUE	9/24/24	OUR LADY OF RANSOM TRIDUUM DAY III
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Colleen & Patrick Klabenes (<i>Levi Giese Family</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Special intention (<i>Eddie Fernandez</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Intentions submitted for the September Marian Quadriduum
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Conversion & salvation of our families (<i>Dan, Mary & family</i>)
WED	9/25/24	FERIAL DAY
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Our Lady – Thanksgiving (<i>Collin Smith</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Michael's intentions – Happy Birthday (<i>Theresa</i>)
	11:25 AM	Requiem High Mass Purgatorial Society
	5:10 PM	Low Mass In honor of St. Dymphna
THU	9/26/24	SS. ISAAC JOGUES & COMPANIONS, MM SS. CYPRIAN, M & JUSTINA, VM
	7:00 AM	Low Mass †Grace & †Michael Santacroce (<i>Phyllis Kiernan</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Jillian Santoni (<i>Sr. Regina</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass †Dennis C. Hille – 4 th anniversary of death (<i>J. Hille</i>)
FRI	9/27/24	SS. COSMAS & DAMIAN, MM
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Sr. Regina's intentions – Happy Birthday (<i>Theresa</i>)
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	Low Mass Sr. Ulrica – Happy Birthday (<i>D.M.</i>)
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For our fallen-away children (<i>St. Monica Club</i>)
	6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction St. Monica Club Meeting
SAT	9/28/24	ST. WENCESLAUS, DUKE, M
	7:05 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Ken & Regina Gilliam (<i>Fr. Brueggemann</i>)
	8:10 AM	Salve, Sermon
	8:20 AM	High Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory (<i>C. Simpson family</i>)
SUN	9/29/24	DEDICATION OF ST. MICHAEL, ARCHANGEL PENTECOST XIX • ANGEL SUNDAY BLESSING OF CHILDREN AFTER ALL MASSES
	7:05 AM	Rosary
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Deceased siblings (<i>Marge Kitchen</i>)
	9:00 AM	High Mass For the Hudson Family (<i>Sarah Brindle</i>)
	10:40 AM	Catechism Classes
	11:05 AM	Rosary
	11:30 AM	Low Mass Thanksgiving to St. Philomena (<i>J. Hille</i>)
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great



Mark your calendars for Rosary Sunday! Roses will be available for purchase in the vestibule that day before the 9 AM Mass. They will be blessed at the Communion Rail after the High Mass, and should be carried in the Rosary Procession that follows. They are a powerful sacramental which you should take home with you. All Rosary Confraternity members should sit together at the High Mass, wearing their medals, and should walk with their banner afterwards in the procession. Extra roses may be available before the 11:30.

The Rosary Confraternity Breakfast follows the High Mass. All are welcome! Tickets for the breakfast will be on sale soon. Rosaries will be blessed, with all the indulgences, during the announcements of each Mass.

Want to join the Rosary Confraternity? Enrollments take place after the High Mass on Rosary Sunday. **Make sure to call the office first** to be added to the list. If you aren't on the list, **you won't be enrolled!** Come to the Communion Rail **immediately** after the High Mass. Don't wait, or you might miss it! The only requirement of the Confraternity is to try your best to say fifteen decades of the Rosary each week. This does not bind under sin.

Young Catholic woman moving to the area, looking for temporary lodgings beginning in October. Willing to pay rent. If anyone has a room available, please contact Gabrielle at gabriellefm2001@gmail.com or 919-593-5806, or contact the office.

SERVERS

FRI 9/27	5:45 PM LOW: I. Smith, B. Constantino BENEDICTION: MC: D. Simpson TH: M. Caggese TBS: I. Smith, B. Constantino
SAT 9/28	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemanns 8:20 AM HIGH: T. Lawrence, J. Stewart, F. Caggese
SUN 9/29	7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: S. Richesson, A. McClorey TH: N. McClorey ACS: I. Smith, F. Caggese TBS: L. Rabjohns, Ma. Caggese, B. & A. Constantino, N. & J. Hudson 11:30 AM LOW: Kolenichs 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: D. Simpson, I. Smith 5:45 PM LOW: <i>Volunteer Needed!</i>