

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Invenies me in corde Gertrudis"

"You will find Me in the heart of Gertrude"

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069

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

PARISH OFFICE: (513) 645-4212 (9 AM-3 PM)
parishoffice@sgg.org • bpmcguire@sgg.org
frlehtoranta@sgg.org • frmckenna@sgg.org
www.sgg.org • www.SGGResources.org
traditionalmass.org

EMERGENCY LINE: (513) 509-0424



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



January 12, 2025
THE HOLY FAMILY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
ST. BENET BISCOP, AB

¶ THE HOLY FAMILY

Today is the feast of the Holy Family. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

¶ **PLEASE NOTE:** There is no 8:00 AM Mass this **Friday**.

¶ CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE

Our annual devotion for the conversion of different non-Catholic groups begins this **Saturday** at 8:10 AM. Please join us in fervent prayer!

Pope St. Pius X sanctioned and blessed the Chair of Unity Octave. His Holiness, Pope Benedict XV, extended its observance to the Universal Church, highly enriching it with indulgences.

The Chair of Unity Octave has accomplished an immense good in awakening Catholics to a mission consciousness, and to the need of interesting themselves in the conversion of those without the fold. When the enemies of Christ seem to be triumphing as never before, how great is our obligation to pour forth fervent prayer for the millions who wander in darkness. Let's make this year's Octave a week of grace!

An indulgence of 300 days during the octave of prayers for the unity of the Church from the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter at Rome (Jan. 18) to the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25). A plenary indulgence on the usual conditions at the end of the exercise.



¶ **THE CLERGY ARE IN NEED OF MEALS!** Please sign up where you are able. Thank you!

¶ SODALITY OF CHARITY

The Sodality meets this Saturday, January 18th, after the High Mass.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: EPIPHANY II

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available at the Communion Rail. Catechism Classes at 10:40, Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Epiphany II, second collect of Ss. Marius & Companions, third of St. Canute. Preface of the Epiphany.

¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 2: The Feast of the Purification, Candlemas. "Mass of the Candles" at 9:00 AM, followed by a reception in Helfta Hall.

CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE PRAYER

Antiphon: That they all may be one, as Thou, Father, in Me and I in Thee; that they also may be one in Us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.

V. I say unto thee that thou art Peter.
R. And upon this Rock I will build My Church.

Let us pray: O Lord Jesus Christ, Who saidst unto Thine Apostles: Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: regard not our sins, but the faith of Thy Church, and vouchsafe to grant unto her that peace and unity which are agreeable to Thy Will. Who livest and reignest God forever and ever. Amen.

Lumen Christi

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

Special Intentions
(Juan Nicolas)

Collection Report

Wednesday, January 1 st	\$3,602.00
Sunday, January 5 th	\$4,605.00
Second Collection.....	\$2,924.00
Alter Christus.....	\$298.00

CONSOLED THAT CHRIST IS IN
OUR MIDST

I once overheard a remark which started me thinking about Christmas in a new way. Until then I had seen it through the medium of the Christmas card: Christmas roses and snow and a plentiful sprinkle of glitter-frost. The remark which made me begin to think was, "There must have been mice and spiders in the stable at Bethlehem." Yes, Christ was born not into a fanciful world, but into our real world that includes mice and spiders.

Read the Gospels for Christmas and you will see the likeness between Christ's day and ours. It is almost shocking. You recognize Herod, the murder of the Innocents, the flight into Egypt, the homeless refugees in a strange land, the young Mother trudging from door to door, seeking somewhere to give birth to her Baby, and posted on every door in Bethlehem the notice, so familiar to us, "No rooms to let."

The likeness is also in the minds of men. Christ came into a world sickened with persecution, obsessed with fear. Those who waited for Him expected an earthly kingdom; they wanted power to match with power. It is as hard for most people today to believe in the littleness, the humility of Christ as it would have been for those in His own day to believe that the shivering Baby, born like a poor little bleating lamb out in the dark and the cold, could set them free. Obsessed by the struggle for temporal existence, we forget that man is both soul and body, that peace is not something this world can give.... We profess Christianity but are almost shocked by it in practice, so complacently have we accepted a utility religion of materialism, security, good health. We want Christ on our terms; Christ gives Himself only on His own. He is purity, truth, humility, simplicity, love. In Him is the wholeness of man, soul and body,

the kingdom of heaven in the heart, the peace that the world cannot give. By Him the simplest materials of life become the substance of eternal love. He does not despise them, He takes them into His hands: in His hands, bread is changed into God.

Our souls are like the inn: crowded, noisy, restless. We shrink from the silence that must fall upon our souls if they are to cradle the Child. Nevertheless we must find that point of stillness today, because it is Christmas and Christmas means one thing and one thing only, that it is the divine will of love to be born in our hearts. Christmas [each year] is the birth of Christ in us. He is the word of God, telling the forgotten secret of infinite love once more. He wants to tell it in our voices and in our words.

— Caryl Houselander

Caryl Houselander († 1954) was a British artist, poet, and spiritual author.



"What is a cross?" said a priest one day. "If I put my fingers so"—laying one across the other—"that is a cross. If I put them so"—laying them side by side—"where is the cross?" Only let our will run side by side with God's will, and our trials will become less heavy as surely as day follows the night.

— S. L. Emery

AS JOSEPH WAS A-WALKING

As Joseph was a-walking,
He heard an angel sing:
"This night shall be born
Our Heavenly King.

"He neither shall be born
In housen nor in hall,
Nor in the place of Paradise,
But in an ox's stall.

"He neither shall be clothed
In purple nor in pall,
But all in fair linen,
As were babies all.

"He neither shall be rocked
In silver nor in gold,
But in a wooden cradle,
That rocks on the moulede."

Then Mary took her young Son,
And set Him on her knee:
"I pray thee now, dear Child,
Tell how this world shall be?"

"This world shall be like
The stones in the street,
For the sun and the moon
Shall bow down at thy feet;

"And upon a Wednesday
My vow I will make,
And upon Good Friday
My death I will take;

"And upon the third day
My uprising shall be;
And the sun and the moon
Shall rise up with Me."

— *An old Christmas Carol*
Author unknown



✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

The Good God sent us quite the snow-storm this past week. Sure, many of you come from the snowy north and are used to having a lot more snow, but this is Cincinnati, and normally we do not see more than a couple of inches per winter. A few people came for First Vespers of the Epiphany, but only two souls came for the evening Mass—not enough to justify a priest having to binate, so we gave them Holy Communion. They seemed to be very understanding! Monday, the feast of the Epiphany, came, but the man who plows our parking lot did not. It turns out that he had not slept for about 36 hours and was busy just clearing out hospital parking lots. Thankfully, one of our neighbors very graciously cleared the snow for us. We were not sure how many would come for the Epiphany ceremonies and Appreciation Dinner afterwards. Despite the weather and road conditions, eighty souls came. Many thanks to the families of our servers and choir for your sacrifice!

Fr. Romero never made it to Cincinnati due to flight cancellations; **Fr. Ercoli** was here, but not for very long, as he drove to Michigan the day after his arrival and then came back late Sunday evening as we were preparing for ceremonies, so there wasn't much time for visiting, unfortunately. I hope they come back for a visit. Our seminarians, Alfonso (Poncho) Capetillo and Chris Brueggemann returned to Seattle on Monday to resume classes. It was good to see them both.

Kirby Bischel's funeral was on Wednesday, as you already know. Wasn't the eulogy a good one?! Truly, Kirby was a fixture in our church. If there was a Mass or a parish celebration, he was there. Over the years, he and Jean did a lot of "behind-the-scenes" work merely by their friendly and encouraging conversations in Helfta Hall. Newcomers always felt welcome if those two were around to greet them! What was most impressive about the day was to see Kirby's grandsons serving at the altar and back at the organ. Kirby will be missed by many, but we hope to be reunited one day—that time in the Church Triumphant! Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord! And let perpetual light shine upon him.

Fr. Simpson and I are off to Mexico in a few days to join **Fr. Alfredo Contreras** and his priests for Confirmations in Guadalajara and Colima. This land is very beautiful, not only for its terrain, but even more for its rich Catholic history. It is the land of the Christeros. When one thinks of the Sacrament of Confirmation, what words come to mind? For me, it is these words: Fidelity, Loyalty, Courage. Fidelity to whom? Well, to Christ Himself. Courage for what? Courage to stand up for the rights of God. Isn't that what the Christeros were all about?! Viva Christo Rey!

– **Bishop McGuire**



THE PASCHAL SACRAMENTS 2025

Please note these important dates:

FIRST CONFESSIONS & TESTING: Saturday, April 26th. (**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 (FOR CONFIRMANDS):

Thursday, June 5th.

CONFIRMATIONS: Vigil of Pentecost, Saturday, June 7th.

FIRST COMMUNIONS: Corpus Christi Sunday, June 22nd.

Parents, please note: the Baptismal certificates of children not baptized at St. Gertrude the Great must be submitted to the church office by **Saturday, April 5th**. 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 26th.

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 McGuire.

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.

THE LESSON OF THE STAR



...Despite the surface-changes wrought by the industry and the science and the inventiveness of the centuries, the world of today is wonderfully like that of the Magi's time. Men's appurtenances have changed more or less radically, but human nature is essentially the same in the twentieth century as it was in the first; and the world of our time esteems to be fully as foolish as the Eastern Kings those of us who follow the Star—who hear the voice of God and strive to heed it.

The self-sufficiency of the human intellect, the excessive confidence in its own competence to solve all mysteries and dispense with all dogmas, the overweening conceit that rejects authoritative teaching from any external source—this is the dominant characteristic of too many pseudo-scholars and pseudo-scientists of the present age, the self-styled wise men of modern times. Unlike the genuine Wise Men of the Gospel narrative, they lack the humility of heart which true science and solid learning are so well calculated to superinduce—the childlike spirit and beautiful simplicity which have invariably characterized the greatest geniuses that have dowered the world with the beneficent outcome of their thought and study.

– *The Ave Maria*

✠ CALENDAR

MON	1/13/25	OCTAVE DAY OF THE EPIPHANY 8:00 AM Low Mass Margaret Walz & family (<i>The Oblates</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Lucia Constantino (<i>Your friends at church</i>)
TUE	1/14/25	ST. HILARY, BPCD • ST. FELIX, PRM 7:00 AM Low Mass Repose of the soul of †George Black (<i>Rivanna Black</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Elisabeth (<i>KR</i>) 11:25 AM Requiem Mass Purgatorial Society 5:00 PM Low Mass Special Intention CV (<i>Volz</i>)
WED	1/15/25	ST. PAUL, FIRST HERMIT • ST. MAURUS, AB <i>OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass Bishop McGuire & Fr. Simpson – Blessings on your Mexico trip! 11:25 AM High Mass Jacob Young – Happy Baptism (<i>Grandma & Grandpa Young</i>) 5:10 PM Low Mass Arlinghaus, Giese & Ruegemer Family Intentions (<i>Matthew & Leanne Giese</i>)
THU	1/16/25	ST. MARCELLUS I, PM 7:00 AM Low Mass Tristan VandeRyt (<i>K/V</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass †Ronald Lotarski (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Kinley Harkleroad – Merry Christmas! (<i>Sr. Eulalia</i>)
FRI	1/17/25	ST. ANTHONY, AB • OUR LADY OF PONTMAIN  <u>NO 8 AM MASS</u> 11:00 AM Confessions 11:25 AM Low Mass Special intention (<i>Mrs. Mary Black</i>) 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena IV 5:45 PM Low Mass Poncho & Emily Capetillo – Happy Anniversary (<i>Mom & Dad</i>) 6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	1/18/25	ST. PETER'S CHAIR AT ROME • ST. PRISCA, VM OPENING OF THE CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE: "The return of all the other sheep to the one fold of St. Peter, the one Shepherd." 7:05 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass Sylvia (<i>KR</i>) 8:10 AM Alma, Chair of Unity Octave Prayer, Sermon 8:20 AM High Mass A friend (<i>Cora Arlinghaus</i>)
SUN	1/19/25	EPIPHANY II • SS. MARIUS & COMPANIONS, MM ST. CANUTE, KING, M CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE: "The return of Oriental schismatics (the Orthodox) to the Apostolic See of Rome." 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass †Ann M. Marko – Rest in peace (<i>Dave & MaryAnn Marko</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass †Bill Egger (<i>Mary Egger & Lauren Caggese</i>) Mother of Good Counsel Antiphon Chair of Unity Octave Prayer 10:40 AM Catechism Classes 11:05 AM Rosary

THE ACT OF FAITH

...The act of divine faith...is taking God's word for a thing: a submission of our intellect to His, a submission which He helps us to make, and which, far from being an abasement of our understanding, is its noblest perfection, since by it we are made cognizant, with the highest certainty, of divine facts utterly beyond the reach of our unaided faculties.

Let us see now what is the position of the Church in regard to the act of divine faith. She is simply God's messenger, who comes to us with claims to that office which are entirely unimpeachable, and tells us what is the subject-matter upon which we are to exercise faith; tells us, that is, what God has said, and what we must, in consequence, believe and do. God might have chosen to speak directly to each individual soul. He has not done so—that is to say, He has not chosen that way as the normal and regular means of making known to mankind the truths of salvation, but has committed them to His Church. We believe her doctrines because they come from God, who speaks by her mouth. She is the intermediary through whom He makes them known to us.

– *The Ave Maria*



Servers

FRI 1/17	5:45 PM LOW: M. Simpson, A. Constantino BENEDICTION: MC: D. Simpson, P. Caggese, A. Constantino, J. Smith
SAT 1/18	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemanns 8:20 AM HIGH: D. Simpson, T. & J. Capetillo
SUN 1/19	7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MC: T. Lawrence TH: D. Hudson ACs: M. & N. Kolenich TBS: J. & I. Smith, P. & F. Caggese, B. Constantino, J. Stewart 11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: D. Simpson, P. Caggese, I. Smith, B. Constantino 5:45 PM LOW: <i>Volunteer</i>

11:30 AM	Low Mass Poor Souls – In thanksgiving (<i>Mr. & Mrs. William H. Young III</i>)
4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great