

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

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



February 9, 2025

EPIPHANY V

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

¶ EPIPHANY V

Today we open our triduum to Our Lady of Lourdes. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ THIS WEEK

Our Lady of Lourdes and Fr. McKenna's 13th ordination anniversary are on **Tuesday**, and St. Valentine on **Friday**. Also on Friday we begin the **Sorrowful Mother Novena** with Blessing of the Sick. Be sure to bring the sick to be blessed, and call or email the office with their first names to be mentioned in the novena. The **Catholic Mothers' Consortium** meets on **Thursday** with Mass at 5:00 PM.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: SEPTUAGESIMA

Next Sunday we begin the short pre-Lenten season. The **Blessing of Expectant Mothers** will be available at the Communion Rail after all Masses. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Don't miss the **St. Valentine's Day Bake Sale** in Helfta Hall! Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.  **Set Your Missal:** Septuagesima, second collect of Our Lady & the Saints, third at the choice of the priest. Trinity Preface.



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 COMMUNION: 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.

Lumen Christi

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

Special intention for my son
(H.Y.)

Collection Report

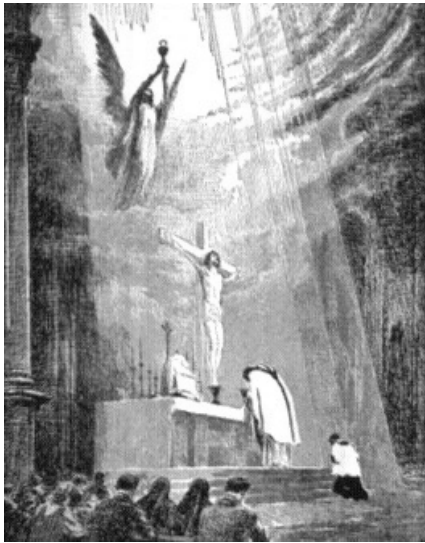
Sunday, February 2 nd	\$6,364.00
Second Collection.....	\$3,333.00
Alter Christus Confraternity.....	\$280.00

Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

THE ALTAR BOY'S BELL

“I was running someone down [to a priest], saying beastly things of him. Suddenly I noticed that the priest's eyes were shut. ‘You are not listening,’ I said. He replied, ‘I cannot—not to that; you see we are both present at the Mass. Whilst you were trying to make me think ill of X, Christ our Lord was offering Himself up to God to redeem him.’

“‘But we are not at Mass,’ I said...and he said, ‘When your thoughts are hard or bitter or sad, let the sanctuary bell silence them. It is always ringing.’” – *Caryll Houselander*



PRAYER TO ASK OUR LADY'S BLESSING

Bless me, O daughter of the Eternal Father! And obtain for me the grace never to offend my God by my thoughts. Bless me, O Mother of the Eternal Son! And pray that I may never offend my God by my words. Bless me, O Spouse of the Eternal Spirit! And by thy intercession obtain for me that I may never offend my God by my actions or omissions. Bless me, O Sanctuary of the Most Holy Trinity! Pray for me that I may love and serve my God with my whole heart and soul, and that I may enjoy Him forever hereafter. O Mary! receive me as thy child for the sake of Jesus, Who confided me to thy care in His agony on the Cross. Amen.

– “*Prayers of an Irish Mother*” (1934)

LENTEN FRIDAY DINNERS

Volunteer cooks needed for Lenten Friday night suppers! March 14, 21 & 28 and April 4 & 11 are available. Team up and take your pick. Please let us know your date and menu so we can keep everything in order. Sign up on the Lotsa Helping Hands website, or contact the office with your date and menu.



- Volunteers will be cooking meatless for about 80 people.
- Your meal cost can be reimbursed; just turn in your receipts to the office.
- No dessert, but fruit may be provided.
- Drinks are usually water, tea, coffee, or maybe fruit juice.
- Each party signing up provides the set up, meal, and clean up.
- Paper products are supplied and located in the movable counter.
- Have a friend to help? A partner really lightens the load. It is suggested that one person make the main dish, the other partner provides drinks, bread, sides, and fruit.

Our Beloved Dead – February

Eileen R. Bartels	2-03-2008
Margaret Winningham	2-04-2002
Betty Joliffe	2-04-2011
Richard Smith	2-04-2019
Carol Jean Mincey	2-07-2009
Dorothy Stoll	2-10-2002
Peter J. Gebel	2-11-2006
Patrick Kurtz	2-12-2021
Homer (Dale) Downing	2-14-2003
Estrella I. Simpson	2-14-2012
Vashtie Strunk	2-16-1991
Robert H. Gough	2-16-2000
Bernard Brueggemann	2-19-2011
Mary O'Donnell	2-20-2000
Joseph D. Wilson	2-20-2002
Paul J. Ewers, Sr.	2-22-1984
Frank Beckerich	2-23-2021
Sharon Patton	2-24-2018
Rita Brueggemann	2-27-2008
Mary A. Mahsling	2-27-1994

STEADFAST TAPER

(Job 28:3)

His candle shines upon my head.
He trims the wick and guards the flame
and though the darkness creeps in close
the steadfast taper shines the same.

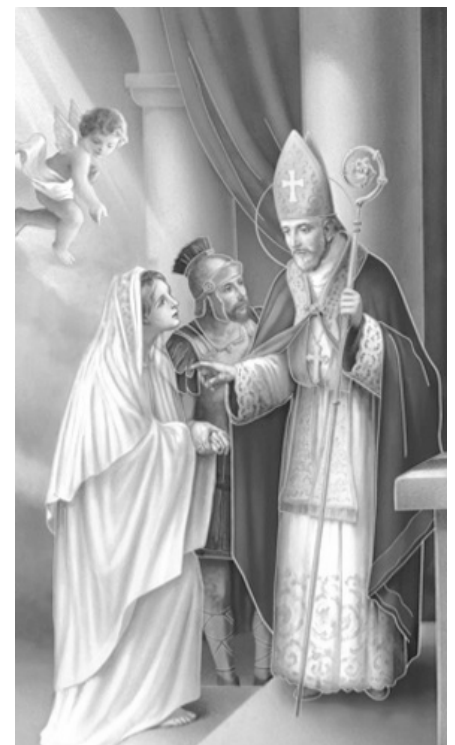
The flower of flame sways in the air.
Wind fingers snatch and try to snuff
the stalk His careful hands protect.
The light shines through. It is enough.



His candle shines on me in love,
(protective circle in the gloom)
and through the dreadful night I know
that He is with me in the room.

Throughout the weary waiting-time
the liquid flame shines thin and pure.
When tiredness dims my faith, I look
and see His light, and I am sure.

– *Luci Shaw*



St. Valentine, pray for us!

✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

This note is being written from Loches, France, where **Fr. Brueggemann** and I are visiting with **Fr. Hecquard**. I realized, as I was trying to think of something to write about, that I don't know what has been going on back home. Hopefully, you will be satisfied to hear what we are doing in France.

We arrived at Father's St. Joseph Mission in Sains on Tuesday. Sains is an old town very near Mont St. Michel's and was at one time attacked by the Freemasonic Revolutionaries. Now, it is a quiet farming town, even quieter nowadays because the government is making it hard for farmers to live. So, they are all moving to the cities. People there have pretty much given up the faith and they do not even have the Novus Ordo on a regular basis. Interestingly, the mayor of the town is quite good friends with Fr. Hecquard and is close to converting to the true Faith. The mission is nestled right in the shadows of the old parish church...and I do mean this literally. St. Joseph chapel has no heating and is quite cold in the winter time, especially since it is so damp from the humidity (we are only a few miles from the Atlantic Ocean, after all). One begins to understand the piercing cold that our Infant Savior experienced on the night of His birth.

On Thursday, we made a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Pontmain and were able to offer Mass in a small chapel for some of the Faithful there. The story of Our Lady of Pontmain is a touching one. If you remember, Bishop Dolan preached on this some years ago. She is known as Our Lady of Hope. Look up this apparition some time!

Now we are in Loches, where Father has a beautiful old church which he has been working on for a number of years now. The church is on top of a little cave which was once occupied by a saintly hermit. He has two houses here, one of which he uses for retreats which he preaches in the summer. This old town is famous for the time that St. Joan of Arc came to visit the Dauphin to deliver a message to him. The nearby church also has a precious relic of Our Lady's cincture. France is filled with things like this. Everywhere one goes there are connections with the lives of the saints. So many of the town names that we go through are the very same ones that we read about in biographies. Truly, it is amazing!

On Saturday, we have a conference with some of the Faithful, in which we will speak of some of the problems in the Church, and then a recorded interview with Mr. Remy. On Sunday, the Sacrament of

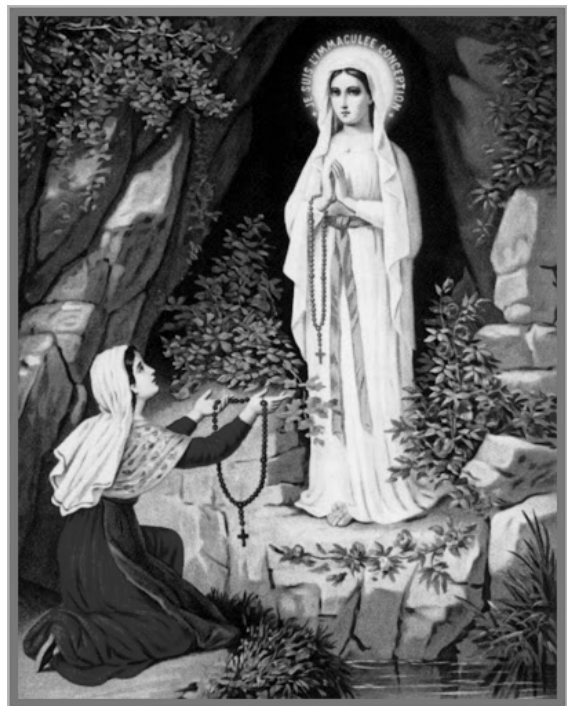
Confirmation will be administered. God willing, we will be home on Monday afternoon.



Remember to say some prayers for Fr. Hecquard, who has a lot of work to do. He is all by himself and struggles to keep up. He does have a truly Benedictine spirit, though, and has persevered through some rough times. The people need him, and he has been very loyal to them.

That is the report. See you at the Solemn High Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes this Tuesday as we celebrate **Fr. McKenna's** priestly anniversary.

– Bishop McGuire



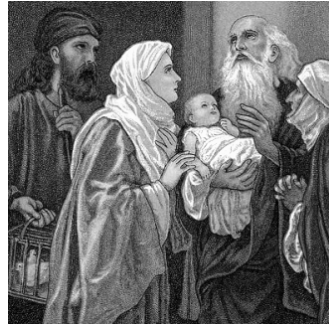
O Jesus, through the hands of Mary, I wish to offer myself today with You to the eternal Father. But You are a pure, holy, and immaculate Host, while I am defiled with misery and sin. O Mary, my Mother, you were willing to be purified, although you were free from the slightest shadow of imperfection; purify, I beseech you, my poor soul, so that it may be less unworthy to be offered to the Father along with Jesus, Who is your Son as well as His. O Virgin most pure, lead me along the way of a serious and thorough purification; accompany me yourself, so that my weakness will not make me faint because of the roughness of the road.



✠ CALENDAR

MON	2/10/25	ST. SCHOLASTICA, V 8:00 AM Low Mass Poor Souls in Purgatory (<i>Collin Smith</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Sr. Eulalia & Sr. Regina – Merry Christmas (<i>Sr. U</i>)
TUE	2/11/25	OUR LADY OF LOURDES 7:00 AM Low Mass †Fr. Thielen (<i>Matthew Hardin</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass †Loren McGuire, Rest in Peace (<i>Kolenich Family</i>) 11:25 AM Solemn High Mass Fr. McKenna Ordination Anniversary
WED	2/12/25	THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS 7:00 AM Low Mass Conversion of Dave Adams (<i>C. Simpson family</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Our Children & Godchildren (<i>Dan & Mary</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Therese Young (<i>Mary Rose Young</i>) 5:10 PM Low Mass A friend (<i>Cora Arlinghaus</i>)
THU	2/13/25	FERIAL DAY 7:00 AM Low Mass †Alexa Martin (<i>Kayla Lynch</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Liam Rabjohns (<i>KR</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass For All Our Clergy & Religious – Thank you & Merry Christmas (<i>Tricia Larson</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass Intentions of the Catholic Mothers' Consortium Mothers' Consortium
FRI	2/14/25	ST. VALENTINE, PRM 8:00 AM Low Mass Thank you for fixing my car (<i>Jacob Joseph Kitchen</i>) 11:00 AM Confessions 11:25 AM Low Mass Victor Siqueira, Happy Birthday (<i>Mom & Dad</i>) 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena VIII 5:45 PM Low Mass †Estrella I. Simpson – 13 th anniversary (<i>Tom & Karen Simpson</i>) 6:30 PM Opening of the Sorrowful Mother Novena with Blessing of the Sick 6:45 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	2/15/25	EPIPHANY VI (ANTICIPATED) SS. FAUSTINUS & JOVITA, MM <i>IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, REFUGE OF SINNERS</i> 7:05 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass Special intentions (<i>KR</i>) 8:10 AM Ave, Sermon 8:20 AM High Mass †Joseph M. Andreotta – Birthday (<i>Nathalie Andreotta</i>)
SUN	2/16/25	SEPTUAGESIMA 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass †Kirby Bischel – Rest in peace (<i>Dave & MaryAnn Marko</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass For the Sharpe Family (<i>The Hudson Family</i>) 10:40 AM Catechism Classes 11:05 AM Rosary

ON THE PURIFICATION



Jesus was presented in the Temple by His Mother. Let us therefore contemplate Mary in her office of Co-Redemptrix. Mary knew that Jesus was the Savior of the world, and through the veil of prophecy she sensed that His mission would be accomplished in a mystery of

sorrow in which she would participate, in her role as Mother. Simeon's prophecy: "And thy own soul a sword shall pierce," confirmed her intuition. Deep in her heart, Mary at that moment must have repeated her *fiat*: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to Thy word." At the same time that she offered her Son, she offered herself, being always closely united to His destiny.

But, before entering the Temple to present Jesus, Mary wanted to submit to the law of legal purification. Although she knew she was a virgin, she put herself on the level of all the other mothers, and standing with them, humbly awaited her turn, carrying "a pair of turtledoves," the offering of the poor. We see Jesus and Mary submitting themselves to laws by which they are not bound: Jesus does not need to be redeemed, nor Mary to be purified. These are lessons in humility and respect for the law of God.



SERVERS

FRI 2/14	5:45 PM LOW: B. Constantino, F. Caggese BENEDICTION: D. Simpson, M. & F. Caggese, B. Constantino, J. Smith
SAT 2/15	7:30 AM LOW: Rabjohns 8:20 AM HIGH: D. Simpson, P. & M. Caggese
SUN 2/16	7:30 AM LOW: M. Schneider, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCs: N. McClorey, T. Lawrence TH: N. Kolenich ACs: M. Kolenich, I. Smith TBS: B. & A. Constantino, V. Horton, J. Smith, M. Drevenak, F. Caggese 11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: D. Simpson, I. Smith, B. Constantino 5:45 PM LOW: P. McClorey
11:30 AM	Low Mass †Kirby Bischel, Rest in peace Dad (<i>Dean & Carolyn McClorey</i>)
4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great