

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 16, 2025
SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY

¶ SEPTUAGESIMA

Today we begin the short pre-Lenten season. The **Blessing of Expectant Mothers** is available at the Communion Rail after all Masses. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Don't miss the **St. Valentine's Day Bake**



Sale in Helfta Hall! Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ FEASTS THIS WEEK

Tomorrow we honor the Flight into Egypt with Mass at 8 and 11:25 AM. St. Simeon and St. Bernadette come **Tuesday**, together with the commemoration of Our Lord's Prayer in the Garden. St. Peter's Chair at Antioch is on **Saturday**. Choose a feast (or two!) and come to Mass, or make a visit, as we prepare for Lent.

¶ THE SORROWFUL MOTHER

On **Friday** we continue 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.



¶ NEXT SUNDAY: SEXAGESIMA

Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Sexagesima, second collect of St. Peter Damian, third of Our Lady & the Saints. Trinity Preface.

¶ LOOK AHEAD

Ash Wednesday: March 5
Altar Boys Day: Saturday, March 15
Ladies Retreat: Friday evening, March 21 & Saturday, March 22
Lenten Children's Day of Recollection: Tuesday, March 25

¶ REMINDER

For scheduling sick calls and appointments with the clergy, please call the office, not the priests' cell phones. This helps to keep all the appointments in order so they won't be overlooked. Thank you!

"I shall spend every moment loving. One who loves does not notice her trials; or perhaps more accurately, she is able to love them. I shall do everything for Heaven, my true home. There I shall find my Mother in all the splendor of her glory. I shall delight with her in the joy of Jesus Himself in perfect safety."

— St. Bernadette

Collection Report

Sunday, February 9th\$7,169.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.



SEPTUAGESIMA



This design attempts to illustrate Septuagesima's leading themes. At the bottom we see what happened in paradise: our first parents are driven from the garden by the cherub with flaming sword. Behind them remain the tree of life and the lily of innocence. In their path are thorns and thistles, and beside them a hissing serpent.

But there is still room for hope—already the Sun of redemption shines from afar.

In the center picture our heavenly Father is inviting all of us into His vineyard. At top, the Stational saint of this day, Lawrence, encourages us to fight the holy battle for the good of God's kingdom by waving to us with crown and palm.

— *The Church's Year of Grace*



A FORMULA

When asked the way to perfection, St. Alphonsus Liguori replied: "Be happy and contented; be satisfied with what you have, and where you are."

LENTEN FRIDAY DINNERS

Volunteer cooks needed for Lenten Friday night suppers! March 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.



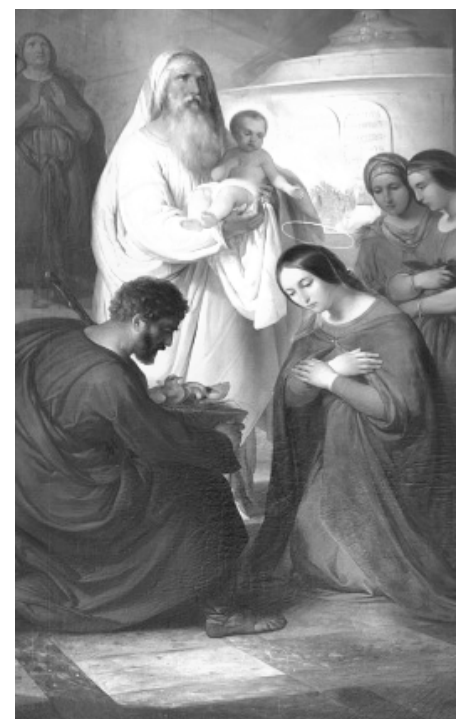
- Volunteers will be cooking meatless for about 80 people.
- Your meal cost can be reimbursed; just turn in your receipts to the office.
- No dessert, but fruit may be provided.
- Drinks are usually water, tea, coffee, or maybe fruit juice.
- Each party signing up provides the set up, meal, and clean 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.

"However strong one's resolution may be, it costs something to carry it out, now and then. We may determine not to gather any cherries, and keep our hands sturdily in our pockets, but we can't prevent our mouths from watering." — George Eliot

PERSEVERANCE

Lord, I have tried to walk the narrow way
That leads up Calvary's hill to Thy abode;
Oft have my wandering footsteps gone astray,
Oft has my heart grown faint upon the road;
Still have I struggled through the dismal night,
Hoping the dawn might find me at Thy side;
Though my poor soul is scarlet in Thy sight,
Lord, I have tried.

Lord, I have trod where thorns and briars grew;
Along each stony road my feet have bled;
And when the wasting winds of passion blew,
I sought to follow where Thy footsteps led.
What though I still am plodding in the gloam,
Far from the mountain peak where saints abide,
Take Thou my hand; for, though I'm far from home,
Lord, I have tried.



✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

Our pre-Lenten season, which is called Septuagesima, begins today. In olden days, during Septuagesima, Catholics began giving up certain types of food each week until all dairy, eggs, and meat had been cut out of their diet completely and the full Lenten fast had begun. Today, our fast is not nearly as difficult, especially here in the United States, where our meals are not restricted to a certain number of ounces as they are in Europe. Although there is no need to begin fasting today, this very short season is still meant to be a time of preparation for Lent, and a time to ease into the penitential season. Start making your resolutions and planning out the sacrifices you will make, the virtues you will work on, the vices you will give up, the books you will read, the daily Masses and Stations of the Cross that you will attend. The Lenten theme that we will follow in our daily sermons and in our weekly bulletin is the life and writings of St. Alphonsus Liguori. This theme will provide everyone with more than enough material to choose from.

Many families have been sick lately, but Lucia, I hear, is doing quite well. Still, it will be a number of weeks before she is able to come back to Mass. Please continue your prayers for her. Margaret Walz, a young lady from Brooksville, Florida, has been quite ill for over a year now and has recently undergone several surgeries and procedures. The last word I received is that she is doing better than she was, but still has a long way to go to complete recovery. Keep the prayers going. We will remember them both in our Sorrowful Mother Novena which began last Friday and continues through most of Lent.

Bishop Nkamuke took me on a virtual tour of the place where he resides in Nigeria when we were having a video conference the other day. It is quite a nice place, guarded by two German Shepherds. He has three minor seminarians who, at the time, were busy trying to finish their homework before it was time to turn off the generator for the night. With the donations you gave him back in January he was able to begin the project of installing solar panels for lighting. They have not arrived yet, but all is ready for when they do. Bishop's car has been totally repaired, and the engine for **Fr. Ojeka's** car was completely overhauled. It was good to see His Excellency, and to see the work which he has been doing.

Wednesday's surprise birthday party for **Fr. McKenna's** 40th was really a lot of fun. A lot of people came to attend Mass beforehand, which was very nice to see. Father had no idea that there was going to

be a party. This is almost miraculous, considering the number of people who knew about it. The slideshow was particularly...um...interesting. Actually, there are many, many stories behind each of the photos!



Certainly, there must be more news than this, but I have to sign off for now. May Our Lady grant you a good preparation for the coming Lenten season!

– **Bishop McGuire**

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.

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.



✠ CALENDAR

MON	2/17/25	FERIAL DAY • THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT 8:00 AM Low Mass Joann Wilker (<i>The Stafford family</i>) 11:25 AM Low Mass Daniel McAdams (<i>KR</i>)
TUE	2/18/25	ST. SIMEON, BPM • ST. BERNADETTE, V <i>PRAYER OF OUR LORD IN THE GARDEN</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass †Tom Peter – 14 th anniversary <i>(C. Simpson family)</i> 11:25 AM High Mass of St. Bernadette Lucia Constantino <i>(Your friends at church)</i> 5:00 PM Low Mass In thanksgiving to the Angels for S & R <i>(Sr. Eulalia)</i>
WED	2/19/25	FERIAL DAY 8:00 AM Low Mass Alex – Happy Birthday (<i>Your family</i>) 11:25 AM Votive High Mass of St. Joseph Intentions of Dan & Christy Hilliard (<i>A.M.B.</i>) 5:10 PM Low Mass SGG priests & oblates (<i>Bishop</i>)
THU	2/20/25	FERIAL DAY 7:00 AM Low Mass For †Catherine Gardner <i>(Donald Gardner)</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass †Bishop Richard Williamson <i>(Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski)</i> 11:25 AM Requiem High Mass Purgatorial Society
FRI	2/21/25	FERIAL DAY 8:00 AM Low Mass For †Catherine Gardner <i>(Donald Gardner)</i> 11:00 AM Confessions 11:25 AM Low Mass Special Intentions (<i>KR</i>) 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:35 PM Closing of Infant of Prague Novena 5:45 PM Low Mass †Jose Abella – 15 th anniversary <i>(Tom & Karen Simpson)</i> 6:30 PM Sorrowful Mother Novena II with Blessing of the Sick 6:45 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	2/22/25	ST. PETER'S CHAIR AT ANTIOCH VIGIL OF ST. MATTHIAS 7:05 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Harkleroad <i>(Dan, Mary & Family)</i> 8:10 AM Ave, Sermon 8:20 AM High Mass Julia Armstrong, Happy Birthday! <i>(Michael Caggese)</i>
SUN	2/23/25	SEXAGESIMA • ST. PETER DAMIAN, BPCD 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass Happy Birthday Declan (<i>Mom & Dad</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass Special Intention (<i>ENR</i>) 10:40 AM Catechism Classes 11:05 AM Rosary 11:30 AM Low Mass †Frank Beckerich – 4 th anniversary <i>(Rose Beckerich)</i> 4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

WHAT IS MEANT BY WORKING IN THE VINEYARD?

It means laboring, fighting, suffering for God and His honor, for our own and others' salvation. As in a vineyard we spade, dig, root out weeds, cut off the useless and noxious, manure, plant, and bind up, so in the spiritual vineyard of our soul we must, by frequent meditation on death, hell, and by examination of conscience, dig up the evil inclinations by their roots, and by true repentance the weeds of vice, and cut away, by mortification, especially by prayer and fasting, the ever springing concupiscences; by the recollection of our sins, we must humble ourselves, and amend our life; in place of the bad habits we must plant the opposite virtues, and bind our unsteady will to the trellis of the fear of God and of His judgment, that we may continue firm.

— from Goffine's Liturgical Year



“Prayer is the medicine expelling spiritual sicknesses, the foundation of the spiritual building—that which the soul is to the body. The man without prayer is as the fish out of water, and gasping for life—as a city without walls, and open to all attacks; but from him that is armed with prayer the tempter starts back, as midnight robbers start back when they see a sword suspended over a soldier's bed.”

— St. John Chrysostom

SERVERS

FRI 2/21	5:45 PM LOW: Capetillos
SAT 2/22	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemanns 8:20 AM HIGH: T. Lawrence, J. Stewart, F. Caggese
SUN 2/23	7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCs: C. & S. Richesson TH: C. Arlinghaus ACs: P. Caggese, L. Rabjohns TBS: I. Smith, Ma. Caggese, N. & J. Hudson 11:30 AM LOW: Kolenichs 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: D. Simpson, I. Smith, F. Caggese 5:45 PM LOW: Brueggemanns