

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



March 9, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**ST. FRANCES OF ROME, W
ST. DOMINIC SAVIO, C**

¶ LENTEN ANGEL SUNDAY

Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. **Short Stations** are at 11:15 AM. Vespers & Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ EMBER DAYS

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this week are the Lenten Ember Days. All Catholics, age seven or older, must keep the abstinence, partial on Wednesday and Saturday; total on Friday. All those between the ages of 21 and 59 are obliged to follow the Church laws of fast anyway during Lent.

¶ CATHOLIC MOTHERS' CONSORTIUM

The Catholic Mothers' Consortium is this **Thursday**. The evening begins with Mass at 5 PM and is followed by the usual potluck supper, a talk by the Bishop, and other events. If you are a Catholic Mother, you are welcome to come!



Congratulations to Chad & Christina Horton on the baptism of their daughter, Seraphina Mary-Frances Josefa, on Saturday, March 8th.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: LENT II

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available at the Communion Rail. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM, and **Short Stations** at 11:15. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Lent II, second collect of Our Lady & the Saints, third for the Church. Preface of Lent.



St. Frances of Rome's Vision of the Sinner,
Nicolas Poussin

In his life of St. Frances of Rome, Giovanni Mattiotti tells of a man whose health was ruined by sinful living. The saint nursed him back to health and tried tirelessly to lead him from his evil ways, but he would not repent. Then to her horror Frances was given a vision of the man's soul being led at his death to Hell.

Poussin puts the saint in the foreground praying for the man. Her vision is pictured separately in the right background, as an angel drives away a demon who is carrying the man over his shoulder.

Mattiotti does not say that Frances' prayers for the man were directed to the Virgin Mary or any particular saint, but in the painting she kneels before a saint who holds arrows in both hands. The saint

could be the Virgin Mary, although her garments are red and blue. Or she could be St. Ursula, whose attribute is an arrow. Or the arrows may be the artist's way of visualizing "the most just scorn of the Divine Majesty, inflamed with anger at that man" (160, my translation) that Frances was hoping to avert. – *christianiconography.info*

¶ ALTAR BOY DAY!

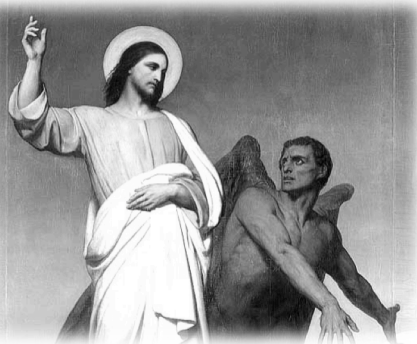
This coming **Saturday**, March 15th, is **Altar Boy Day!** All altar boys are invited to attend. The day begins at 8:20 AM with Mass and concludes with Rosary at approximately 2 PM. Meals provided.

Lenten Friday Evening of Reflection

5:45 PM Low Mass,
Sacred Heart Novena
6:45 PM Lenten Supper: *Cuban beans, rice, cheesy potatoes, salad, bread, fruit.*
7:30 PM Stations of the Cross, Sermonette, Sorrowful Mother Novena, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction
8:30 PM (approx.) Holy Communion

PRAYER FOR THE START OF LENT

O Lord Jesus, my Divine Redeemer, Who didst fast forty days and forty nights in the desert for my sake and the glory of Thy Eternal Father, help me observe this Lent more perfectly than ever in the past! Following Thy example, and with Thy assistance, may I persevere in penance, fastings, prayers and good works as befits my state of life and abilities. Help me thereby atone for my past sins, gain merit and future glory, and make reparation for the sins and outrages and apostasy of our times. May this Lent be for me an occasion of greater purification, the rooting out of my faults, and my more perfect formation into Thy image. Allow me not to yield to modern abandonment of traditional penances, but rather adhere to them with greater vigor, humility, and purity of purpose. In this Lent may I redouble my prayers and efforts for my own personal sanctification and the triumph of Thy Kingdom over the rising forces of evil and world disorder: and so to prepare myself not only for the holy days of Easter, but for the ultimate triumph of Thy Sacred Heart and our Immaculate Queen over the kingdom of Satan and Antichrist. Amen.



VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!
Volunteers are needed to prepare the Lenten Friday night suppers on April 4 & 11. 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.

Lumen Christi

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

For our marriage to grow even stronger through the power of Jesus & Mary
(Scott & Michelle Williams)



¶ WEEKDAY LENTEN SPECIALS

The students of St. Gertrude the Great School sing **Vespers** of the weekdays of Lent, *every school day* following the 11:25 AM High Mass (approximately **12:25 PM**). Join our boys for this brief but beautiful service!

At **3:00 PM** on **Wednesdays**, we offer the traditional **Children's Stations of the Cross** (*adults welcome!*) followed by the distribution of Holy Communion.

At **7:30 PM** on **Fridays** we offer Stations of the Cross, followed by a candlelight sermonette, the Sorrowful Mother Novena and Blessing of the Sick, Benediction & Holy Communion. Make it an evening "of recollection" by supersizing to **5:45 PM** Mass, followed by supper.

¶ LOOK AHEAD

St. Patrick's Day: Monday, March 17. Fast is traditionally dispensed.

St. Joseph's Day: Wednesday, March 19. Solemn Mass & Blessing of Bread.

Ladies' Retreat: Friday evening, March 21 & Saturday, March 22

Lenten Children's Day of Recollection: Tuesday, March 25. (*Contact the school if your children will be attending*)

A DIG THROUGH DUST

I dream a dig through dust:
 a pit I cannot tell how deep,
 Sheol, the grave perhaps,
 timber long since riddled to ash.
 I scratch and sieve for goods;
 ornaments, spindle-whorls and bones.

Find none. A post-hole then
 whose tree and cross-tree raised a roof;
 I comb the flinty ground
 for sherds, grain, signs of the sacred
 or profane, black layers
 of occupation; and find none.

But for three Roman nails,
 rust-cankered. Post-hole then, and
 grave.

Out of the dig's raised dust
 a man—a gardener—appears
 to set a seed in it.

Water, He says. I wake in tears.

— Paul Hyland



DUST

Sweet sovereign Lord of this so pined-
 for Spring,
 How breathe the homage of but one
 poor heart
 With such small compass of Thy
 everything?

Ev'n though I knew this were my life's
 last hour,
 It yet would lie, past hope, beyond my
 power
 One instant of my gratitude to prove,
 My praise, my love.

That 'Everything'—when this, my
 human dust,
 Whereto return I must,
 Were scant to bring to bloom a single
 flower!

— Walter de la Mare

✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

It sure is nice to see the weather starting to change, isn't it?! It is that strange period when the weather cannot make up its mind, being warm one day and cold the next. Still, it is changing from bitterly cold January winter. The cats are going outside more, which is always a sign of better weather. A pack of coyotes was heard Monday night, and I even saw one up by the rectory as I was on my way back from locking up the church after choir practice. Nature is enjoyable to watch this time of year. Spring will be here before you know it!



Fr. Contreras wrote to remind me that March 6th was the third anniversary of Bishop Morello's death. Bishop Morello was the bishop taking care of the Company of Jesus and Mary. Say a prayer for the late Bishop Morello's soul, as well as Fr. Contreras and his priests. It will be three years on April 26th, the feast of the Mother of Good Counsel, since our own Bishop Dolan died. The time seems to have gone by so fast, yet so slowly. We miss our bishops very much, and while we must look with gratitude to the past, we must always keep our eyes fixed on the future with the desire to do only that which Our Lord wishes us to do. Onward and upward!

This past week was a busy one for so many of our church volunteers, and it was edifying to see them sacrificing so much of their time, even changing schedules to make it work. Generally, things stay quite busy in the sacristy and sanctuary from Friday evening through Sunday evening. That is a given! But our workers kept themselves on the proverbial conveyor belt this entire week without a break. Choir rehearsals, extra sacristy set up, school planning, seminary teaching, etc. It might not look any different when seen in writing, but it was quite a lot in real life. A big thank you to everyone! Your sacrifices will certainly be rewarded.

Fr. McKenna left for the missions last Tuesday even though he was under the weather. Poor Father doesn't get sick often, but when he does it is usually for one of his big mission trips. This time was no different. **Fr. Lehtoranta** wasn't feeling well this past week either. Oh, and Dr. Stanislowski, our school principal, was out for a few days, too! I sure hope the rest of our clergy, oblates, and helpers stay healthy!

I hope you have found a good St. Alphonsus book to read for Lent. His writings are some of the best spiritual treasures that can be found! May St. Alphonsus help us by his intercession to have a grace filled Lent!

– **Bishop McGuire**

Collection Report

Sunday, March 2nd\$10,199.00
 Second Collection.....\$2,914.00

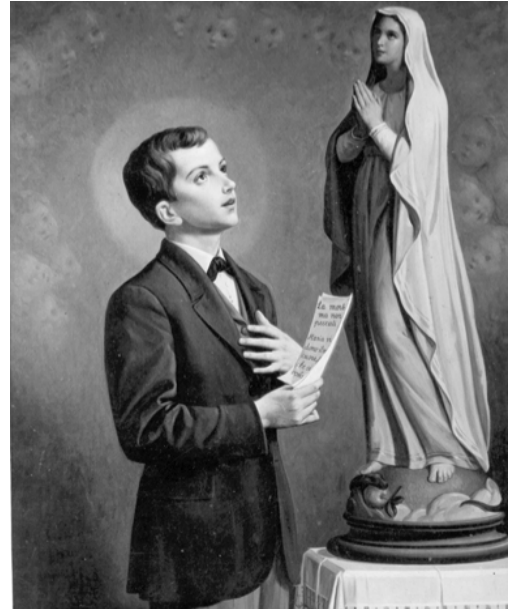
PASCHAL SACRAMENTS 2025

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 CONFIRM-ANDS): Thursday, June 5th

CONFIRMATIONS: Vigil of Pentecost, Saturday, June 7th

FIRST COMMUNION: Corpus Christi Sunday, June 22nd



Our Beloved Dead – March

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Lucy G. Meyer | 3-03-1988 |
| Eldon Neukam | 3-03-2021 |
| Catherine J. Bischak | 3-05-2005 |
| Ralph J. Otis | 3-08-2022 |
| Claude E. Charles | 3-10-1990 |
| John J. Kolb | 3-10-2004 |
| Sean Murray | 3-12-2022 |
| Robert Duff | 3-13-2013 |
| Richard VandeRyt | 3-16-2020 |
| Margaret Sandmayr | 3-17-2006 |
| Owen M. Zver | 3-17-2021 |
| Dorothy B. Spicer | 3-18-1986 |
| Marilyn L. Ryan | 3-21-1997 |
| Howard Elmlinger | 3-22-1990 |
| Williams J. Smith | 3-25-2003 |
| Mary Rose Peter | 3-26-2017 |
| Margaret Soli | 3-30-2017 |




“O God, grant me a good day today,” I pray.
 What I mean, but do not say,
 is, “Spare me sufferings, pain or loss.”
 And I sign myself with the Sign of the Cross.

– Anon.




✠ CALENDAR

MON	3/10/25	FORTY HOLY MARTYRS <i>FAST</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass For all who cook for us and for our devoted drivers (<i>The Fathers</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Conversion of Relatives (<i>Alex Ball</i>) 12:25 AM (approx.) Vespers
TUE	3/11/25	FERIAL DAY <i>FAST</i> 7:00 AM Low Mass †Cecile Galarneau (<i>Tom & Karen Simpson</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass †Kirby Bischel (<i>Puglielli family</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass †Fr. James Thielen (<i>Carolyn McClorey</i>) 12:25 AM (approx.) Vespers 5:00 PM Low Mass †Peter J. Gebel Jr. – Happy Birthday (<i>Willia</i>)
WED	3/12/25	ST. GREGORY THE GREAT, PCD <i>EMBER WEDNESDAY FAST & PARTIAL ABSTINENCE</i> 7:00 AM Low Mass Happy Birthday, Pierce Kiernan (<i>Love, Mom & Dad</i>) (from 1/18) 8:00 AM Low Mass †Kirby Bischel (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Merry Christmas, Bob & Becky! (<i>Love, The Uhlenbrocks</i>) 12:25 AM (approx.) Vespers 3:00 PM Children's Stations, Holy Communion 5:10 PM Low Mass Smith Children (<i>Collin & Alyssa Smith</i>)
THU	3/13/25	FERIAL DAY <i>FAST</i> 7:00 AM Low Mass †Kirby Bischel (<i>Patsy McConnell</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Happy Birthday, Judy! (<i>Your church family</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Purgatorial Society 12:25 AM (approx.) Vespers 5:00 PM Low Mass Intentions of the Mothers Consortium Mothers Consortium Meeting
FRI	3/14/25	EMBER FRIDAY <i>FAST</i> <i>THE LANCE AND NAILS</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass Father Lehtoranta (<i>Nathalie Andreotta</i>) 11:00 AM Confessions 11:25 AM High Mass †Kirby Bischel (<i>Jennifer Richesson & family</i>) 12:25 AM (approx.) Vespers 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass Mitchell Didier – Happy Birthday (<i>The Stafford family</i>) Sacred Heart Novena 6:45 PM Lenten Supper 7:30 PM Stations of the Cross, Sermonette, Sorrowful Mother Novena V with Blessing of the Sick, Benediction 8:30 PM (approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion
SAT	3/15/25	EMBER SATURDAY <i>FAST & PARTIAL ABSTINENCE</i> <i>ST. CLEMENT MARY HOFBAUER, C</i> 7:05 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass †Mr. Bischel (<i>Dominic McConnell</i>) 8:10 AM (approx.) Ave, Sermon 8:20 AM (approx.) High Mass †Richie VandeRyt (<i>The Servers</i>) Altar Boy Day



Calling All Altar Boys


Altar Boy Day



Saturday, March 15

Beginning with Mass at 8:20 AM
 Closing with Rosary at 2:00 PM
 Breakfast & lunch are provided.

Servers, come attend a fun and informative day specially dedicated to the privilege of serving God's altar.



S E R V E R S

FRI 3/14	5:45 PM LOW: B. Constantino, F. Caggese
SAT 3/15	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemanns 8:20 AM HIGH: T. Lawrence, T. & J. Capetillo
SUN 3/16	7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: C. Richesson, D. Simpson TH: N. Kolenich ACs: L. Rabjohns, P. Caggese TBS: J. & M. Kolenich, Ma. Caggese, V. Horton, B. Constantino, J. Stewart 11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: D. Simpson, I. Smith, P. Caggese, A. Constantino 5:45 PM LOW: P. McClorey

SUN	3/16/25	LENT II 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass †Angela Appelhanz (<i>Keith & Mary Christensen</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass †Kirby Bischel (<i>Jason Murray</i>) 10:40 AM Catechism Classes 11:15 AM Short Stations of the Cross 11:30 AM Low Mass Billy Young – Happy Birthday (<i>Bob & Becky Uhlenbrock</i>) 4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
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Monday in Lent I

Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

Reflection: “...But what above all filled the martyrs with courage and ardor and made them wish to die was their great love for their divine Master, whom St. Augustine calls the King of Martyrs, who wished to die on the Cross in pain and in desolation for the love of us, as St. Paul says: ‘He loveth us, and hath delivered Himself for us.’ Actuated by this love, they went with joy to suffer and to die for Jesus Christ; so that, not content to endure the pains that were inflicted upon them, they besought, they provoked the executioners and the tyrants, to obtain from them an increase of torture, in order that they might show themselves more grateful to God who died for love of them.” – *Victories of the Martyrs*

Practice: Offer up every suffering of this day in honor of the King of Martyrs; look upon the crucifix and say: “Hail, O Cross, our only hope.” (*Indulgence of 500 days.*)

Tuesday in Lent I

Reflection: “It is quite certain that the prayers of others are of great use to sinners, and are very pleasing to God; and God complains of His servants who do not recommend sinners to Him...” “How is it possible for a person who loves God, and knows what love He has for our souls, and what Jesus Christ has done and suffered for their salvation, and how our Saviour desires us to pray for sinners—how is it possible, I say, that he should be able to look with indifference on the numbers of poor souls who are living without God, and are slaves of

hell, without being moved to importune God with frequent prayers to give light and strength to these wretched beings...”

– *The Great Means of Salvation & of Perfection*

Practice: Pray more fervently today for the conversion of sinners. “Divine Heart of Jesus, convert sinners, save the dying, deliver the holy souls in Purgatory.” (*Indulgence of 300 days.*)



Wednesday in Lent I

Reflection: St. Teresa said that in this world it is impossible for all subjects to speak to the king. As for the poor, the most they can hope for is to speak with him by means of some third person. But to speak with Thee, O King of Heaven, there is no need of third persons; for every one that wishes can find Thee in the Most Holy Sacrament, and can speak to Thee at his pleasure and without restraint. For this reason, said the same saint, Jesus Christ has concealed His majesty in the Sacrament, under the appearance of bread, in order to give us

more confidence, and to take away from us all fear of approaching Him. Oh, how Jesus seems continually to exclaim from the altar: “Come to Me, all you that labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you.”

Practice: To make a Visit to the Blessed Sacrament, if possible. To make a Spiritual Communion.

Thursday in Lent I

Reflection on the Agony in the Garden: “...at the commencement of His prayer, He is assailed with a great fear, an oppressive tediousness, and an overwhelming sadness... Hence our Redeemer, overwhelmed with sadness, said that His blessed soul was sorrowful even unto death. Then was presented before Him the melancholy scene of all the torments and ignominies which were prepared for Him. In His Passion these afflicted Him one by one; but in the garden, the buffets, the spittle, the scourges, the thorns, the nails, and the reproaches which He was to suffer, came all together to torment Him. He there embraced them all, but in embracing them, He trembled, He agonized, and prayed...”

– *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Practice: Pray the First Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary in reparation for the sins which caused Our Lord such sorrow in the Garden of Olives.

Friday in Lent I

The Lance and Nails

Reflection: “Thus let us animate ourselves to

endure the tribulations of the present life, by the sight of the pains of Jesus on the cross. Behold, says the Lord from this cross—behold the multitude of the pains and the wrongs which I suffer for thee upon this tree. My Body hangs by three nails, and rests alone upon My very wounds. The people who surround Me blaspheme Me and afflict Me, and My spirit within Me is more afflicted than My Body. I suffer all for love of thee; behold the affection I bear thee, and love Me; and be not wearied at suffering anything for Me, who, for thee, have lived a life so afflicted, and now am dying so bitter a death.”

– *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Prayer: “Mary, my mother, help me to be faithful to thy Son, who has so much loved me.” – *St. Alphonsus*

Saturday in Lent I

Reflection: “It was revealed to St. Gertrude that when these words are addressed with devotion to the most Blessed Virgin, ‘Turn, then, O most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us,’ Mary cannot do otherwise than yield to the demand of whoever thus invokes her.” – *The Glories of Mary*

Practice: Say the *Hail, Holy Queen* to obtain mercy for clergy and religious.

Second Sunday of Lent

Reflection: “Oh! how much more beautiful the city of paradise! How splendid the appearance of these citizens, who are all clothed in royal robes; for as St. Augustine says, they are

all kings. How delightful must it be to behold Mary, who will appear more beautiful than all paradise! But what must it be to see the Lamb of God, the Heavenly Spouse, Jesus! St. Teresa had one transient glimpse of one of the hands of Jesus Christ, and was struck senseless by its beauty. The smell will be regaled with odors, but with the odors of paradise. The ear will be delighted with celestial harmony. St. Francis once heard from an angel a single stroke on a violin, and almost died through joy. What then must it be to hear the whole choir of saints and angels chanting the glories of God! *They shall praise Thee forever and ever.* What must it be to hear Mary praising God! St. Francis de Sales says that, as the singing of the nightingale surpasses that of all other birds, so the voice of Mary is far superior to that of all the other saints. In a word, in heaven are found all the delights which can be desired.”

– *Preparation for Death*

Practice: When, therefore, the crosses of this life afflict us, let us animate ourselves with the hope of heaven to bear them patiently.

– *Preparation for Death*



Relics of St. Alphonsus Liguori

Lent with St. Alphonsus Liguori



Daily Thoughts and Prayers Lent 2025

DAILY PRAYER OF ST. ALPHONSUS:

My God, I adore, I love Thee with my whole heart, and I thank Thee for all Thy benefits, especially for having preserved me this night past. I offer Thee all my actions and sufferings of this day, in union with the actions and sufferings of Jesus and Mary; and I make the intention of gaining all the indulgences in my power during the present day. I purpose, O Lord, to avoid offending Thee this day; but be Thou pleased to support me constantly in Thy hands, that I may not betray Thee. O Mary most holy, shelter me under thy mantle! My angel guardian and all my holy patrons, assist me!