

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

EMERGENCY LINE: (513) 509-0424

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

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March 30, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

¶ LAETARE SUNDAY

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

¶ FIRST FRIDAY

8:00 AM Low Mass
11:00 AM Confessions
11:25 AM Low Mass, Benediction
5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary
5:45 PM Low Mass
6:45 PM Lenten Supper
7:30 PM Stations, Sermonette, Sorrowful Mother Novena, Benediction

NO All Night Adoration

First Friday Intention: That all members of the Church Militant may grow in fervor in the practice of their holy faith.

¶ FIRST SATURDAY

7:05 AM Confessions
7:30 AM Low Mass
8:05 AM Ave, Sermon
8:15 AM High Mass
First Saturday Intention: In reparation for the offenses of those who outrage Our Lady directly in Her holy images.



¶ NEXT SUNDAY: PASSION

Next Sunday we begin the solemn season of Passiontide. The Blessing of Religious Articles will be available after all Masses. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM, and *final Short Stations* at 11:15. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 *Set Your Missal:*

Passion Sunday, second collect for the Church. Preface of the Holy Cross.

¶ EASTER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES

Envelopes are available in the **vestibule** for the

Easter Novena of Masses and the Lily Memorials. Please fill them out and return them in the collection basket, bookstore, or the office by **Palm Sunday**, April 13.

¶ SHROUDED STATUES

We will be covering the statues in church for Passiontide after the second Mass on **Saturday**.

¶ FIRST COMMUNION TESTING

Testing and First Confessions for First Communicants take place on **Easter Saturday, April 26**. Baptism certificates and registration forms must be submitted before the test, or your child **will not be tested** on the day. Please contact the office as soon as possible to receive the form.



Wedding Banns

First time:

William Long & Kayla Lynch

Collection Report

Sunday, March 23rd\$9,812.00

**ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI ON
MEEKNESS & ANGER**

“Learn of Me, because I am meek and humble of heart.” (Mt 11:29)

Meekness was the beloved virtue of our Savior. He showed the extent of His meekness in doing good to the ungrateful, in submitting sweetly to His enemies, and in bearing without complaint all that insulted and maltreated Him.

St. John Chrysostom says that meekness is, of all virtues, that which renders us most like God. Yes, for it belongs only to God to render good for evil.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the land.” (Mt 5:4) St. Francis de Sales says that meekness is the flower of charity.

The virtue of meekness consists in two things:

1.) In restraining the motions of passion against those who provoke us to anger.

2.) In bearing insults.

He who feels himself prone to the vice of anger should endeavor to avoid the occasion of it; and should he through necessity (necessary occasion of sin) be exposed to them, he ought to prepare himself beforehand by good resolutions either to:

a.) be silent

b.) to answer with sweetness

c.) to pray to God for strength to resist temptation (to anger).



*Note of
Thanks*

Thank you Church Family for my birthday wishes. You are all remembered in my daily Masses. – *Judy*

¶ **PASCHAL SACRAMENTS 2025**

Children’s Day of Recollection (for Confirmands): Thursday, June 5th

Confirmations: Vigil of Pentecost, Saturday, June 7th

First Communion: Corpus Christi Sunday, June 22nd



God’s way of doing good to us, of healing us, of giving back the life of grace we lost in Adam, of leading us to life eternal, is the way of trial, the way of suffering, the way of the Cross. If there had been a better way than this, He would have given it. If a life of affluence and ease and gaiety would have served His purpose as well, think you that the Son of God would have chosen a life of poverty and suffering and sorrow? Is sorrow something to be sought for its own sake, or is poverty, or is suffering? And, if not, is it not plain that these things are sought for the sake of some greater good? Let us, then, learn to look upon physical evils that are incident to our life here below, and, in our present state, inseparable from it, as indeed blessings in disguise, as the needful instruments of healing to our souls in the hands of an all-wise Providence. We are told for our comfort that those whom God loves He chastises; that if we suffer with the Son of God, we shall be glorified with Him; that our present tribulation, which is momentary and light, worketh for us above measure an eternal weight of glory. – *The Ave Maria, “Lessons for Lent”*

TO KEEP A TRUE LENT

Is this a Fast, to keep
The larder lean,
And clean
From fat of veals and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish
Of flesh, yet still
To fill
The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an hour,
Or ragg’d to go,
Or show
A downcast look and sour?

No: ’tis a Fast to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat
And meat,
Unto the hungry soul.

It is to fast from strife,
From old debate
And hate;
To circumcise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent;
To starve thy sin,
Not bin:
And that’s to keep thy Lent.

– *Robert Herrick*



Good is never done except at the expense of those who do it; truth is never enforced except at the sacrifice of its expounders. At least they expose their own inherent imperfections if they incur no other penalty; for nothing could be done at all if a man waited till he could do it so well that no one could possibly find fault with it.

– *Newman*

We have much to be thankful for this week. Last Tuesday, the feast of the Annunciation and “birthday” of the Hail Mary, was also the day of our annual Children’s Day of Recollection. We had over sixty children in attendance! The day is filled with spiritual conferences from the different priests, devotions, time for quiet prayer, and Holy Mass—the highlight of the day. The kids got to take home a holy card, as well as a book or two with some excerpts taken from St. Alphonsus’ writings (which Dr. Stanislawski and Mr. Caggese so kindly put together). After the Rosary, Sr. Regina got all the younger children together for story time in Helfta Hall. This has to be my favorite part of all! Someone snapped a nice group photo, which you can see below.



Miss Mikesell has a weekly cooking class with two of our students from the school. Each Friday, they go back to the kitchen in Helfta Hall and cook away...it always smells really good. You can see a picture of the class below. Thanks, Miss Mikesell, for doing this class. It is something the children will remember forever, and a life skill they will be grateful they were taught both at school and at home.



I depart for Florida tomorrow for some business, as well as some pastoral work. Please do say prayers for a safe trip and successful work. I’ll be back on Thursday, but all of the other Fathers will be here to take care of things.

Don’t forget to come to the Holy Hour for priests this Thursday. The clergy really depend on your prayers, not only for the success of our apostolate, but also for our salvation. First Friday comes this week, but there is no All Night Adoration since we will be having Adoration just a couple of weeks from now on Maundy Thursday.

Lactare! Rejoice! Today we are more than halfway through Lent. Take courage, and resolve to make the second half even more fruitful than the first!

– Bishop McGuire

How Deserving Jesus Christ is of Our Love, on Account of the Love He has Shown us in His Passion.

The whole sanctity and perfection of a soul consists in loving Jesus Christ, our God, our sovereign good, and our Redeemer. Whoever loves Me, says Jesus Christ Himself, shall be loved by My Eternal Father: *My Father loves you because you have loved Me.* Some, says St. Francis de Sales, make perfection consist in an austere life; others in prayer; others in frequenting the Sacraments; others in alms-deeds. But they deceive themselves: perfection consists in loving God with our whole heart. The Apostle wrote: *Above all things...have charity, which is the bond of perfection.* It is charity which keeps united and preserves all the virtues that render a man perfect. Hence St. Augustine said: “Love God, and do whatever you please,” because a soul that loves God is taught by that same love never to do anything that will displease Him, and to leave nothing undone that may please Him.

But perhaps God does not deserve all our love? *He has loved us with an everlasting love.* O man, says the Lord, behold I was the first to love thee. Thou wast not yet in the world, nay, the world itself was not and I already loved thee. As long as I am God, I loved thee; as long as I have loved Myself, I have also loved thee. With good reason, therefore, did St. Agnes, that young holy virgin, reply to those who wished to unite her to an earthly spouse: “I am engaged to another lover.” “Go,” said she, “O lovers of this world, cease to sue my love; my God was the first to love me. He has loved me from all eternity: it is but just, then, for me to give Him all my affections, and to love none other but Him.”

As Almighty God knew that man is won by kindness, He determined to lavish His gifts upon him, and so take captive the affections of his heart. For this reason He said, *I will draw them with the cords of Adam, with the bands of love.* I will catch men by those very snares by which they are naturally caught, that is, by the snares of love. And such exactly are all the favors of God to man. After having given him a soul created in His own image, with memory, understanding, and will, and a body with its senses, He created heaven and earth for him, yes, all that exists, all for the love of man—the firmament, the stars, the planets, the seas, the rivers, the fountains, the hills, the plains, metals, fruits, and a countless variety of animals: and all these creatures that they might minister to the uses of man, and that man might love Him in gratitude for so many admirable gifts.

“Heaven and earth, and all things, tell me to love Thee,” says St. Augustine. “My Lord,” he said, “whatever I behold on the earth, or above the earth, all speak to me, and exhort me to love Thee; because all assure me that Thou hast made them for the love of me.”

– St. Alphonsus Liguori, “The Holy Eucharist”

✠ CALENDAR

MON 3/31/25 Ferial Day *FAST*
8:00 AM Low Mass Tom Simpson (*Nathalie Andreotta*)
11:25 AM High Mass †Judy Fradl – Rest in peace (*Sr. Eulalia*)
12:25 AM (approx.) Vespers

TUE 4/1/25 Ferial Day *FAST*
8:00 AM Low Mass For all who cook for us and for our devoted drivers (*The Fathers*)
11:25 AM High Mass †Sharon Patton Anniversary 2/24 (*St. Gertrude the Great School*)
12:25 AM (approx.) Vespers
5:00 PM Low Mass Tom Simpson (*Christopher Browne*)

WED 4/2/25 ST. FRANCIS OF PAULA, C *FAST*
 FIRST WEDNESDAY – PRAY TO ST. JOSEPH
8:00 AM Low Mass In honor of St. Joseph for Grandpa (*Theresa Simpson*)
11:25 AM High Mass Seraphina Horton & family (*Fr. B*)
3:00 PM Children's Stations, Holy Communion
5:10 PM Low Mass Special intention (*Michael Simpson*)

THU 4/3/25 FIRST THURSDAY – PRAY FOR PRIESTS
 Ferial Day *FAST*
8:00 AM Low Mass Happy Birthday Mom (*The Brueggemann girls*)
11:25 AM High Mass †Kirby & †Jean Bischel (*C.L. & D. Payne*)
12:25 AM (approx.) Vespers
5:00 PM Holy Hour for Priests: Low Mass For the sanctification of priests (*Alter Christus Confraternity*)

FRI 4/4/25 FIRST FRIDAY • ST. ISIDORE OF SEVILLE, BPCD
 THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD *FAST*
8:00 AM Low Mass The Ball Family – Thank you for Sunday meals (*Fr. Lehtoranta*)
11:00 AM Confessions
11:25 AM Low Mass, Benediction Special intention deceased (*Sr. Eulalia*)
12:25 AM (approx.) Vespers
5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary
5:45 PM Low Mass †Kirby Bischel (*Mike & Julie Bischel*)
6:45 PM Lenten Supper
7:30 PM Stations of the Cross, Sermonette, Sorrowful Mother Novena VIII with Blessing of the Sick, Benediction, Sacred Heart Novena
8:30 PM (approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion
NO All Night Adoration – Adoration for April will take place on Holy Thursday.

SAT 4/5/25 FIRST SATURDAY • ST. VINCENT FERRER, C *FAST*
7:05 AM Confessions
7:30 AM Low Mass Cheryl Christensen (*Keith & Mary Christensen*)
8:05 AM Ave, Sermon
8:15 AM (approx.) High Mass †Jean & †Kirby Bischel (*Levi Giese family*)

SUN 4/6/25 PASSION SUNDAY • BL. JULIANA, V
7:05 AM Rosary



The Holy Face is the Soul's Spring PRAYER OF ST. GERTRUDE

O Lord Jesus, delightful and majestic is Thy Countenance, where there radiates the beautiful aura of the divinity. Incline Thy adorable Face towards me that I may draw so close as not to be near but rather within Thee. When will I come to contemplate that coveted, desirable and adorable Face of my Jesus, whose beauty my soul has long thirsted to behold? When will I appear before Thy throne to look upon Thy delightful Face, whose divine splendor in itself fulfills the desire of the saints and brings forth praises of exultation from the heart and lips? Grant forthwith, that I may be hastily delivered from this land of exile, that I may behold Thy most gentle Countenance. How can eyes be satiated in beholding and ears in hearing of the glory of Thy Countenance! Without Thee, Heaven and earth and all things are like total bleakness. Thy adorable Face alone is my solace and the placidness of Spring. O Jesus, sprinkle my members with the blood that streams from the wounds of Thy glorious Head, crowned with thorns. The ineffable perfume of that blood and of those sufferings shall banish slothfulness and torpidity from the soul and adorn it anew, as it comes to pass in the Springtime when the frost of Winter is over. Amen.

Servers

FRI 4/4 5:45 PM **LOW:** T. Lawrence
SAT 4/5 7:30 AM **LOW:** Rabjohns
 8:20 AM **HIGH:** M. Simpson, N. & M. Kolenich
SUN 4/6 7:30 AM **LOW:** M. Schneider, Brueggemann
 9:00 AM **HIGH:** MCS: C. Richesson, P. Caggese **TH:** S. Richesson
ACs: J. Stewart, F. Caggese **TBS:** M. Drevenak, B. Constantino, J. & I. Smith, N. Hudson, Ma. Caggese
 11:30 AM **LOW:** Kolenichs
 4:45 PM **VESPERS & BENEDICTION:** D. Simpson, I. Smith, A. Constantino, F. Caggese
 5:45 PM **LOW:** P. McClorey

7:30 AM Low Mass Mary Christensen (*Keith & Mary Christensen*)

9:00 AM High Mass Thou knowest, O Lord (*Arlinghaus Family*)

10:40 AM Catechism Classes

11:15 AM Final Short Stations of the Cross

11:30 AM Low Mass Special Intention (*Dean & Carolyn McClorey*)

4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction

5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

Monday in Lent IV

Reflection: Isaias also called Jesus Christ the man of sorrows. It is to Jesus crucified that the words of Jeremias are especially applicable: *Thy grief is as great as the sea.* As all the waters of the rivers meet in the ocean, so in Jesus Christ are united all the pains of the sick, the penitential sufferings of anchorites, and all the pangs and contempts endured by martyrs. He was laden with sorrows both of soul and body. *Thou hast brought all Thy waves over me.* – *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Prayer: O my sweet Savior, how dearly has my salvation, and Thy desire of gaining the love of me, a miserable worm, cost Thee! And I have so often ungratefully refused Thee my love, and have turned my back upon Thee.
– *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Tuesday in Lent IV

Reflection: To form a conception of what Jesus Christ suffered in His life, and still more in His death, we must consider what the Apostle says in his letter to the Romans: *God sending His own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh, and by sin condemned sin in the flesh.* Jesus Christ being sent by the Father to redeem man, clothed Himself with that flesh which was infected with sin; and though He had not contracted the pollution of sin, nevertheless He took upon Him the miseries contracted by human nature, as the punishment of sin; and He offered Himself to the Eternal Father, to satisfy the divine justice for all the sins of men by His sufferings; He was offered because He Himself willed it; and the Eternal Father, as Isaias writes, *laid upon Him the iniquity of all.*

– *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Prayer: My Jesus, do not permit me to be among the number of the unhappy damned. No; I will

never cease to think of the love which Thou hast shown me in bearing so many torments and ignominies for me. Help me to love Thee, and always to remember the love that Thou hast borne me.

– *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Wednesday in Lent IV

Reflection: *My soul is sorrowful even unto death.* And since this anguish was enough to cause death, why did He not die? St. Thomas answers that He did not die because He Himself prevented His own death, being ready to preserve His life, in order to give it in a while upon the tree of the cross. This sorrow also, which most deeply afflicted Jesus Christ in the garden, afflicted Him also throughout His whole life; since, from the first moment when He began to live, He had ever before His eyes the causes of His inward grief; among which the most afflicting was the sight of the ingratitude of men towards the love which He showed them in His Passion. – *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Prayer: Yes, my Lord, for Thy sake, I embrace all crosses which Thou wilt send me. Thou, an innocent, hast suffered for my sake, and shall I, a sinner, after having so often deserved hell, refuse to suffer in order to please Thee, and to obtain from Thee the pardon of my sins, and Thy grace? *Not as I will, but as thou wilt: let not my will, but Thine, be always done.* – *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Thursday in Lent IV

Reflection: The revelation stated that the stripes [of the scourging] not only struck Him, but ploughed into His most holy flesh. He was so torn open that, as the same revelation declares, His ribs appeared laid bare. With this agrees what was written by St. Jerome: “The stripes cut the most holy Body of God;” and also what St. Peter Damian

wrote, that the executioners exhausted themselves with fatigue in scourging our Lord. All this was already foretold by Isaias in the words, *He was bruised for our iniquities;* the word bruised signifying the same as being broken to pieces, or as being pounded in a mortar.

– *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Prayer: Blessed forever be Thy mercy, O my Jesus, who didst voluntarily submit to torments in order to deliver me from eternal torments. Oh! miserable and unhappy the soul that loves not Thee, O God of love! – *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Friday in Lent IV The Most Precious Blood

Reflection: St. Isidore says that other men, when their pains are great and last long, through the very severity of the pain, lose all power of feeling it. But in Jesus Christ it was not so; His last sufferings were as bitter as His first, and the first stripes in His scourging were as torturing as the last; for the Passion of our Redeemer was not the work of man, but of the justice of God, who thought fit to chastise His Son with all the severity which the sins of all mankind deserved.

– *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Prayer: Were they then my sins, my beloved Jesus, which in that hour so greatly afflicted Thee? If, then, I had sinned less, Thou wouldst have suffered less. The more pleasure I have taken in offending Thee, so much the more horror I then caused Thee. How is it that I do not die of grief in thinking that I have repaid Thy love by increasing Thy pain and sorrow? Have I, then, afflicted that Heart which has so much loved me? With creatures I have been grateful enough; with Thee only have I been ungrateful. My Jesus, pardon me; I repent with all my heart.

– *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Saturday in Lent IV

Reflection: It is useful here to note the beautiful expressions applied to the cross by St. John Chrysostom:

He calls it *the hope of the despairing*; for what hope of salvation would sinners have were it not for the cross on which Jesus Christ died to save them?

The guide of the voyager; for the humiliation of the cross (that is, of tribulation) is the cause which, in this life that is like a sea of dangers, gives us grace to keep the divine law, and to amend ourselves after our transgressions; as the prophet says, *It is good for me that Thou hast humbled me, that I might learn Thy justifications.*

— *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Prayer: Jesus Christ goes up to Calvary, and invites us to follow Him.

Yes, my Lord, Thou who art innocent goest before me with Thy cross. Walk on, for I will not leave Thee. Give me that cross which Thou willest, that I may embrace it, and with it I am willing to follow Thee even unto death. I wish to die together with Thee, who hast died for me. Thou commandest me to love Thee and I desire nothing else than to love Thee. My Jesus, Thou art, and shalt ever be, my only Love. Assist me to be faithful to Thee. Mary, my hope, pray to Jesus for me.

— *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Passion Sunday

Reflection: St. Paul says that when the Gentiles heard it preached that Jesus was crucified for the love of men, they thought it such nonsense that they could not believe it. *But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews, indeed, a stumbling block, and unto the Gentiles foolishness.* And how is it possible, they say, to believe that an omnipotent God, who wants nothing in order to be perfectly happy as He

is, would choose to become man and die on a cross to save men? This would be the same, said they, as to believe that a God had become mad for love of men: *But unto the Gentiles foolishness.* And thus they refused to believe it. But faith teaches us that Jesus has really undertaken and accomplished this great work of redemption which the Gentiles esteemed and called folly. “We have seen,” says St. Laurence Justinian, “Eternal Wisdom, the only-begotten of God, become as it were a fool through the excessive love He bears man.” Yes, adds Cardinal Hugo, for it seemed nothing but a folly that a God should choose to die for men: “It seemed a folly that God should die for the salvation of men.”

The Blessed Giacomone, who in this world had been a man of letters, and afterwards became a Franciscan, seemed to have become mad through the love that he bore to Jesus Christ. One day Jesus appeared to him and said, Giacomone, why do you commit these follies? “Why,” he answered, “because Thou hast taught them to Me. If I am mad,” said he, “Thou hast been more mad than I, in that Thou hast died for me. I am a fool, for Thou hast been a greater fool.”

— *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

Prayer: Ah, my Jesus, to what has Thy affection towards me reduced Thee? And who, more than I, has enjoyed the fruits of Thy death? Make me, I beseech Thee, understand what love that must have been that a God should die for me, to the end that from this day forth I may love none other than Thee. I love Thee, O greatest Good; O true lover of my soul, into Thy hands I here commend it. I beseech Thee, by the merits of Thy death, make me to die to all earthly loves, in order that I may love Thee alone, who art alone worthy of all my love. Mary, my hope, pray to Jesus for me.

Hail, Jesus, our Love, and Mary, our hope!

— *The Passion & the Death of Jesus Christ*

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!