

# 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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EMERGENCY LINE: (513) 509-0424



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



**April 13, 2025**  
**PALM SUNDAY**  
**ST. HERMENEGILD, M**

## ¶ PALM SUNDAY

Blessed palms are available at every Mass today. Feel free to take extra palms to bring home or to a shut-in. Remember to return your Easter Memorial Flower offering envelopes today, so your memorials may be included in the Easter bulletin. Envelopes for the Easter Novena of Masses are also available. The Novena will be said daily beginning Easter Sunday.

Confessions will be heard before and during the morning Masses. Sunday Classes are on a brief vacation and resume on Low Sunday. Vespers and Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

## ¶ MAUNDY THURSDAY

Holy (Maundy) Thursday is *the day* of the year to hear Mass and receive Holy Communion. **Mass** begins at **9:00 AM**. Bring the whole family to experience the "Birthday of the Mass" with bells and clackers; the Blessing of the Holy Oils; the Pange Lingua as Our Lord leaves the church; the sorrowful Stripping of the Altars. **Parents, bring your children to walk in procession to the beautiful Altar of Repose, dropping rose petals along the way to show Him love and adoration.** A **potluck** luncheon follows the Mass. Please do come, and stay for the Maundy.

The **Maundy** is a rich Sacramental



of the Church, performed on Holy Thursday, in honor of Our Lord Who washed the feet of His Apostles. This service is an ideal one for mothers with little ones, as it is short, and children can sit so as to see the ceremony. Come **Thursday** at **1:00 PM**.

**The Blessed Sacrament will be in the side chapel** at the beautifully decorated Altar of Repose, or Sepulchre, for 24 hours, and should not go unvisited, or be left unattended. The **Men of the Guard of Honor** are asked to keep their hours for All Night Adoration to guarantee that Our Lord is not left unprotected during the hours of the night.

## ¶ GOOD FRIDAY


You may make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament all morning long. **Stations** begin at **11:25 AM**, followed at **12:00 noon** by the traditional Tre Ore ("three hours"), with the chanting of the Passion, solemn prayers, the unveiling and adoration of the Cross, and finally the mystic rites of the Mass of the Presanctified. A sermon and devotions take us to **3 PM**, when the relic of the True Cross is venerated. **Confessions** are heard starting at **3 PM**.

## ¶ HOLY SATURDAY

The **Easter Vigil** begins at **8:00 AM** on **Saturday** with the Blessing of the Fire and the Prophecies, with the **Mass** commencing closer to

**10:30**. The **Blessing of Easter Baskets** takes place at the Communion rail after the Mass. All are then invited to a luncheon, and there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

## ¶ NEXT SUNDAY: EASTER

The Easter Sunrise Office of Matins & Lauds is at **5:45 AM**. No Sunday Classes. Please note, there will be **no 5:45 PM Mass on Easter Sunday**. Easter Vespers are at 6:00 PM.  **Set Your Missal:** Easter, Sequence, Preface of Easter with special *Communicantes* and *Hanc Igitur*.





**PALM SUNDAY**

Seemingly, Mother Church has made an inventory of her bridal treasures, choosing the finest and fairest in music and memories, in script and souvenirs, to envisage and acclaim for the many-hundredth time the triumphant march of her Bridegroom, the King of Israel. She has brought forth the antique tomes of Moses, the scrolls of the prophets, the Psalms of David, the parchments of her mediaeval poets. The sanctuary is filled with fragrant palm and olive branches. Amid the choicest prayers, jubilant melodies and colorful rites we witness a stirring dramatization of the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

And why all this lavish demonstration? There are many reasons, but for one, the Church can never forget the sweet melody of her cradle song of long ago: "Now, this was done that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: ...Behold, thy King comes to thee" (Gospel of the Palms). When Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King, some people wondered, others scoffed. Poor, ignorant worldlings! They did not understand the perennial vitality of our liturgy. They did not realize that Palm Sunday had been the Feast of Christ the King from the Church's early days.

They have even forgotten that when they cheer or welcome their own heroes in sport or game, their champions in politics or leaders in military exploits, their vociferous "Hurrahs" or "Hoorays" are nothing else but corrupted forms of the joyful *Hosannas* that greeted the Savior at the gate of ancient Sion. Perhaps no other church festivity has so deeply penetrated Christian life and routine as has Palm Sunday. And hence it is hardly right to call it superstition when some forlorn immigrant trudges to church on Palm Sunday—the only time in the year—to carry away his cherished palm. His faith may have been badly shattered, but this tiny spark of loyalty will not be forgotten by the Great King. Nor should we ourselves disdain to treasure the sacred sacramental of the palm in our homes, that "those who dwell in the place may obtain Thy blessing" (second oration); that it may be a holy keepsake to us until next Ash Wednesday, when it will serve as the symbol of our mortality.



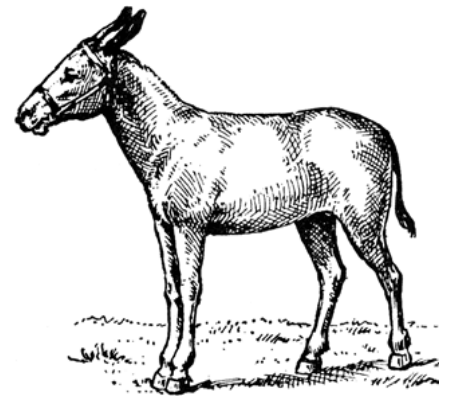
Palm Sunday is children's day. So it was decreed by the King Himself when He answered the cantankerous, jealous Pharisees: "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of infants and sucklings Thou hast perfected praise?'" (Matt. 21:16). What a bright spot it was in the heaven of our own childhood when, as some of us recall, on the days before Palm Sunday we would scour woodlands and swamps to find the loveliest greenery and flowers with which to greet the King of glory! And how in spirit we mingled our youthful cheers with the jubilant melodies of the ancient *Pueri Hebraeorum*—the Hebrew children bearing branches of olives, spreading their garments in the way and crying out: "Hosanna to the Son of David!" May the frigid and mechanical stress of this bustling day never wholly chill and kill our youthful spirit and outlook as children of the Church. And listen to this: "Behold, thy King comes to thee meek and seated upon an ass, and upon a colt, the foal of a beast of burden." What gloomy pessimist is there among us who is not stirred to the core when he sees the kindly Savior riding upon the humble beast, the little colt meanwhile trotting beside her mother; the children leading the procession, waving palm and olive branches, and singing their jubilant Hosannas!

— "From Sunday to Sunday"

**LAMENT FOR A DONKEY**

Oh, little donkey with such grave,  
tired eyes!  
Oh, small plush-coated beast! What legends rise  
From your long lineage of servitude!  
Yet now I find you in this attitude  
Of patient doggedness; the long ears set  
Awry, head drooping. Do you then forget  
How centuries ago some grandsire bore  
Upon his stolid back a burden more  
Precious than figs or wine? She was a stranger  
In Bethlehem's dark streets, seeking a manger.  
Years later it was one of your race that came  
Into a city bearing Him whose name  
Was like a singing and a sudden glory  
To certain Jewish hearts. There runs a story  
Of how Christ's creature stepped upon spread palms  
Daintily while dark children chanted psalms.  
Today you draw these peasants to His feast,  
A half-forlorn and stubborn little beast,  
Trundling your burden of a two-wheeled cart  
With what old grandeurs sleeping in your heart!

— Sarah Litse



**Collection Report**

Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> .....\$5,944.00  
Second Collection.....\$2,805.00  
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

Last week's note was a short one, not so much for lack of news, but more so for lack of time. Fr. McKenna had to compile the Lenten insert and Theresa did pretty much the entire bulletin, including the schedule. I only had to give a few minor instructions. I never have to really worry about pastoral issues when I am away since the other Fathers are so conscientious about them. It is so nice to have people around who are willing to take care of those things should the need arise.



The choir has been quite busy preparing for Holy Week. I wish everyone knew just how much work they put into all the ceremonies. The organist and choir members really do not get enough credit for what they do. They have a practice each Wednesday evening, a Schola practice on Saturday, not to mention all the practice time they put in at home. It is a thankless task, but one which is truly done for the love of God. The reward that He will give is far greater than any payment we could give. Still, a thank you from time to time goes a long way. So, thank you to each and every one who helps with the music, singing, and chanting!

Sister Eulalia takes good care of the sacristy. Holy Week is one of the most stressful weeks of the year for the sacristan. In small parishes, the priest is often the sacristan, too. I could not imagine having to do the sacristy work on top of all the other ceremonies and sermons though! We are grateful to Sister, too, for taking a load of work off of our shoulders. Oh! Sister got a new vacuum cleaner last week since the other one finally gave up the ghost. I think getting the new sweeper made her day!

Monday and Tuesday were quite eventful days on the playground. One boy took a hard fall and scraped his face pretty badly, but he recovered quickly. Then two little girls were sneakily standing right behind me as I was watching some other students playing pickle ball. Not knowing they were right behind me, I backed up and tripped over them, almost falling over into a big puddle and bringing them down with me! Thankfully, our Angels were watching and helped me to catch my balance, thus sparing two girls and injury and my having to get a cassock dry cleaned a little earlier than planned.

It's Holy Week now! The world will try to get you distracted with temporal matters, but do not forget that this is the most sacred week of the entire year. Our Lord came down from heaven to earth to suffer and to die for our sins. This is the week in which the

human race was reconciled to His Heavenly Father, and in which we were ransomed from the devil. As much as possible, let this thought fill your mind. And if you haven't made the best of Lent, remember that you can make up for it during this week if only you won't let it slip through your fingers. Come to an extra ceremony or two, at least. With a little imagination, and a little planning, it can be done.

Blessed Holy Week to you all!

– Bishop McGuire



## Wedding Banns

*Third time: William Long & Kayla Lynch*

*Second time: Edward Fernandez &  
Renee Arlinghaus*

### ¶ THIS WEEK: TENEBRAE

Tenebrae, Latin for "darkness," is the chanting of the Divine Office of Matins and Lauds of the following day. The mood is somber, quiet and reflective; its dramatic features are the gradual extinction of a 15-branch candelabra in the sanctuary, as the Church contemplates the temporary triumph of the prince of darkness over the world, and a loud noise at its conclusion, suggesting the earthquake described in the Passion narratives. Tenebrae is at **6:30 PM** on **Wednesday, Thursday & Friday**.

Tenebrae is a popular service (but not good for very little ones, because the silence is important), especially for its dramatic ending when you finally get to make noise. Translations provided.

### ¶ OFFICE CLOSED

Please note: The office will be closed from Holy Thursday, April 17, through Easter Tuesday, April 22. It will reopen on Easter Wednesday, April 23.

### ¶ FIRST COMMUNION TESTING

Testing and First Confessions for First Communicants takes place on **Easter Saturday, April 26**. The 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.

### Easter Sunday Ashers

**7:30 AM:** Scott Pepiot, Paul McConnell, Alexander McConnell, John Brueggemann

**9:00 AM:** Paul Arlinghaus, Conrad Arlinghaus, Philip Brueggemann, Vincent Brueggemann, Mark Lotarski

**11:30 AM:** Bob Uhlenbrock, Paul Puglielli

## ✠ THE HOLY WEEK CALENDAR ✠

**MON 4/14/25 MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK** *FAST*  
 ST. JUSTIN, M • SS. TIBURTIUS & COMPANIONS, MM  
**8:00 AM Low Mass** Happy Birthday, Dad & Mom  
*(Simpson kids)*  
**11:25 AM High Mass** Grandpa & Karen Simpson *(Levi Giese family)*  
**12:25 PM Vespers**



**TUE 4/15/25 TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK** *FAST*  
**7:00 AM Low Mass** †Kirby Bischel *(Virginia Johnson)*  
*(rescheduled from 4/9)*  
**8:00 AM Low Mass** Angela Beattie-Petrobono *(Horton Family)*  
**11:25 AM High Mass** Grandpa & Karen *(Sister Regina)*  
**12:25 PM Vespers**

**WED 4/16/25 SPY WEDNESDAY • ST. BENEDICT JOSEPH LABRE, C**  
**7:00 AM Low Mass** †James Merk, †Dolores Rogers *(AMB)*  
**8:00 AM Low Mass** Special intention *(Horton Family)*  
**9:15 AM High Mass** †Gerald Wilker *(The Stafford Family)*  
*(from 4/18) followed by Vespers*  
**6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae**

**THU 4/17/25 MAUNDY THURSDAY** *FAST*  
**9:00 AM Pontifical High Mass** For our priests, living and  
 deceased, and our seminarians *(Alter Christus)*  
**Blessing of the Holy Oils, Procession to the  
 Altar of Repose, Vespers, Stripping of the  
 Altar**

*Adoration continues at the Sepulchre until  
 12:00 PM on Good Friday*



**12:00 PM Potluck Luncheon**  
*(Please bring a meatless dish to share)*  
**1:00 PM The Maundy (Washing of the Feet)**  
**6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae**

### All Night Adoration Holy Thursday Guard of Honor

**7:00 PM - 8:00 PM:** David Swinney, Joseph Vines  
**8:00 PM - 9:00 PM:** Tim Giese, Michael Simpson  
**9:00 PM - 10:00 PM:** Collin Smith, Justin Soeder  
**10:00 PM - 11:00 PM:** Nathan McClorey, Anthony Caggese  
**11:00 PM - 12:00 AM:** James Kolenich, Paul Puglielli  
**12:00 AM - 1:00 AM:** Levi Giese, Alfonso Capetillo  
**1:00 AM - 2:00 AM:** Keith Elflein, Dan Stanislawski  
**2:00 AM - 3:00 AM:** Dan & Philip Brueggemann  
**3:00 AM - 4:00 AM:** McConnell Brothers  
**4:00 AM-5:00 AM:** Matthew Giese, Bruno Siqueira  
**5:00 AM - 6:00 AM:** Joseph Simpson, Bill Herman  
**6:00 AM - 7:00 AM:** John Riggs, Robert Rosendale

☞ *If you cannot make your hour, please contact the church office immediately: (513) 645-4212.*

☞ *If you have finished your hour but no one has arrived to relieve you, please call Fr. Brueggemann (513-378-2705) or Fr. Simpson (513-378-2870) to substitute.*

**FRI 4/18/25 GOOD FRIDAY** *FAST*  
**11:25 AM Stations of the Cross**  
**12:00 PM Tre Ore**  
*It is a fine tradition to keep silent from Noon to 3:00 PM today*  
**12:15 PM Mass of the Presanctified, Reading of  
 the Passion, Adoration of the Cross**  
**2:15 PM Tre Ore Devotions and Sermon**  
**3:00 PM Blessing with the Relic of the True  
 Cross**  
**3:00 PM Confessions**  
**3:15 PM Vespers**  
**6:20 PM Sacred Heart Novena**  
**6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae**  
**8:30 PM Church Decorating for Holy Saturday**  
*Come when you can, leave when you must.*



**SAT 4/19/25 HOLY SATURDAY** *FAST TILL NOON*  
**8:00 AM Easter Vigil: Blessing of Fire, Prophe-  
 cies, Blessing of the Font, Baptisms,  
 First Mass of Easter** For our choir and serv-  
 ers, sacristans and workers *(Bishop McGuire)*  
**Vespers, Blessing of Easter Food**  
*A complimentary Easter Luncheon follows Mass—all are invited*  
**4:00 PM Confessions (till 5 PM)**



**SUN 4/20/25 EASTER SUNDAY**  
**5:45 AM Easter Matins & Lauds**  
**7:05 AM Rosary**  
**7:30 AM Easter Sunrise Low Mass** †Rosemarie  
 Zuccaro—Rest in peace *(Dave & MaryAnn Marko)*  
**9:00 AM Pontifical High Mass** Easter Novena I  
**11:30 AM Low Mass** For the people of St. Gertrude the  
 Great, **Benediction**  
**6:00 PM Vespers**  
*No 5:45 PM Mass*



Holy Thursday—April 17, 2025—1:00 PM

### THE MANDATUM

**ALBERT D. KINNETT, JOHN SEYFRIED, JOSEPH BAYER, LEVI  
 GIESE, TIM GIESE, JOE CAPETILLO, BEN CAPETILLO, TIM  
 CAPETILLO, MIKE HAGLE, DANIEL STANISLAWSKI, DOMI-  
 NIC CAGGESO, DOMINIC SWINNEY, BRENDAN LOTARSKI.**

*The above listed men should arrive no later than 12:45 PM  
 and report to the sacristy to prepare and receive instructions.*

SERVERS: SEE SACRISTY BULLETIN BOARD FOR SERVING SCHEDULES

SUN 4/20 7:30 AM LOW: M. Schneider, Brueggemanns  
 11:30 AM LOW & BENEDICTION: Kolenichs

## Monday in Holy Week

**Meditation:** Jesus stretches forth His holy hands, and at the same time offers up the sacrifice of His life to the Eternal Father, and prays of Him to accept it for the salvation of mankind. In the next place, the executioners savagely lay hold of the nails and hammers, and, nailing His hands and His feet, they fasten Him to the cross. O ye sacred hands, which by a mere touch have so often healed the sick, wherefore are they now nailing you upon this cross? O holy feet, which have encountered so much fatigue in your search after us lost sheep, wherefore do they now transfix you with so much pain?

**Prayer:** O my sweet Savior! so much did the desire of seeing me saved and of gaining my love cost Thee! And I have so often ungratefully despised Thy love for nothing; but now I prize it above every good.

## Tuesday in Holy Week

**Meditation:** Jesus, from the cross, asks us not so much for our compassion as for our love; and, if even He does ask our compassion, He asks it solely in order that the compassion may move us to love Him. As being infinite goodness, He already merits all our love; but when placed upon the cross, it seems as if He sought for us to love Him, at least out of compassion.

**Prayer:** O my Redeemer! receive back a sinner, who, sorrowing for having offended Thee, is now earnestly longing to love Thee. I love Thee, I love Thee, O infinite goodness, O infinite love. O Mary, O Mother of beautiful love! obtain for me a greater measure of love, to consume me for that God who has died consumed of love for me.



## Spu Wednesday

**Meditation:** While Jesus upon the cross is being outraged by that barbarous populace, what is it that He is doing? He is praying for them, and saying, *O my Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.* O Eternal Father, hearken to this Thy beloved Son, who, in dying, prays Thee to forgive me too, who have outraged Thee so much. Then Jesus, turning to the good thief, who prays Him to have mercy upon him, replies: *Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise.* Oh, how true is that which the Lord spake by the mouth of Ezechiel, that when a sinner repents of his faults, He, as it were, blots out from His memory all the offences of which he has been guilty: *But if the wicked do penance...I will not remember all his iniquities.*

**Prayer:** Oh, would that it were true, my Jesus, that I had never offended Thee! But, since the evil is done, remember no more, I pray Thee, the displeasures that I have given Thee; and, by that bitter death which Thou hast suffered for me, take me to Thy kingdom after my death;

and while I live, let Thy love ever reign within my soul.

## Maundy Thursday

**Meditation:** Behold how the loving Savior is now drawing nigh unto death. Behold, O my soul, those beautiful eyes growing dim, that Face become all pallid, that Heart all but ceasing to beat, and that sacred Body now disposing itself to the final surrender of its life. After Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, *It is consummated.* He then passed over in review before His eyes all the sufferings that He had undergone during His life, in the shape of poverty, contempt, and pain; and then offering them all up to the Eternal Father, He turned to Him and said, *It is finished.* My Father, behold by the sacrifice of My death, the work of the world's redemption, which Thou hast laid upon Me, is now completed. And it seems as though, turning Himself again to us He repeated, *It is finished;* as if He would have said, O men, O men, love Me, for I have done all; there is nothing more that I can do in order to gain your love.

**Prayer:** O my Jesus! Thou art, then, dead, on account of the love which Thou hast borne me! Oh, let me never again live, even for a single moment, without loving Thee! I love Thee, my chief and only good; I love Thee, my Jesus,—dead for me! O my sorrowing Mother Mary! do thou help a servant of thine, who desires to love Jesus.

## Good Friday

**Meditation:** Raise up thine eyes, my soul, and behold that crucified man. Behold the divine

Lamb now sacrificed upon that altar of pain. Consider that He is the beloved Son of the Eternal Father; and consider that He is dead for the love that He has borne thee. See how He holds His arms stretched out to embrace thee; His head bent down to give the kiss of peace; His side open to receive thee into His Heart. What dost thou say? Does not a God so loving deserve to be loved? Listen to the words He addresses to thee from that cross: "Look, My son, and see whether there be any one in the world who has loved thee more than I have."

No, my God, there is none that has loved me more than Thou. But what return shall I ever be able to make to a God who has been willing to die for me? What love from a creature will ever be able to recompense the love of his Creator, who died to gain his love?

**Prayer:** Ah, my Redeemer, O love of my soul! How shall I ever again be able to forget Thee? How shall I ever be able to think that my sins have reduced Thee so low, and not always bewail the wrongs that I have done to Thy goodness? How shall I ever be able to see Thee dead of pain on this cross for love of me, and not love Thee to the uttermost of my power?

## Holy Saturday

**Meditation:** *There stood by the cross His Mother!* Meditate, my soul, upon Mary, as she stands at the foot of the cross watching her Son. Her Son! but, O God, what a Son! a Son who was, at one and the same time, her Son and her God! a Son who had from all eternity chosen her to be His Mother, and had given her a preference in His love before all mankind and all the angels! A Son so beautiful, so holy, and so lovely; a Son who

had been ever obedient unto her; a Son who was her one and only love, being as He was both her Son and God. And this Mother had to see such a Son die of pain before her very eyes!

**Prayer:** O Mary, O Mother, most afflicted of all mothers! I compassionate thy heart, more especially when thou didst behold thy Jesus surrender Himself up upon the cross, open His mouth, and expire; and, for love of this thy Son, now dead for my salvation, do thou recommend unto Him my soul.

And do Thou, my Jesus, for the sake of the merits of Mary's sorrows, have mercy upon me, and grant me the grace of dying for Thee, as Thou hast died for me: "May I die, O my Lord...for love of the love of Thee, who hast vouchsafed to die for love of the love of me."

## Easter Sunday

**Meditation:** Beauties like the beauties of paradise, eye hath never seen; harmonies like unto the harmonies of paradise, ear hath never heard; nor has ever human heart gained the comprehension of the joys which God hath prepared for those that love Him. Beautiful is the sight of a landscape adorned with hills, plains, woods, and views of the sea. Beautiful is the sight of a garden abounding with fruit, flowers, and fountains. Oh, how much more beautiful is paradise!

**Prayer:** Ah, my God, I deserve not paradise, but hell; yet Thy death gives me a hope of obtaining it. I desire and ask paradise of Thee, not so much in order to enjoy, as in order to love Thee everlastingly, secure that it will never more be possible for me to lose Thee. O Mary, my Mother, O Star of the Sea, it is for thee, by thy prayers, to conduct me to paradise.

## 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!*