

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



November 2, 2025
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

PENTECOST XXI • WITHIN THE
OCTAVE • OUR LADY OF SUFFRAGE

¶ ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

The second collection today is for our Oblates, and the Little Church is in the vestibule to receive your alms for poor priests. The Blessing of Religious Articles is available after all Masses. All are welcome to the **All Saints Party** that follows the High Mass today. **Please note a correction from last week in the evening schedule:** Exposition, October Devotions, and Benediction will be at **5 PM**, followed by the usual 5:45 PM Low Mass. **Double Vespers** of the Sunday and All Souls will be at **6:45 PM**.

¶ ALL SOULS' DAY

Nine Holy Masses will be offered **tomorrow**. The principal Mass is sung at 11:25 AM, with sermon and Absolution. The *Toties Quoties* indulgence may be gained all day. Be sure to turn in your envelopes with the names of your dead, for whom Masses will be offered all November.

¶ INDULGENCED CEMETERY ROSARY PROCESSION

The school children will meet at St. Stephen's Cemetery at 1:15 PM on **Tuesday** for an indulgenced rosary procession.

¶ SPECIAL DATE MASSES

Please note that "special date Masses" should be reserved for special dates, such as birthdays, anniversaries, surgeries, etc., and *not* as a means to get your Mass in earlier, as this may prevent others from having Masses offered on anniversaries.



¶ **FIRST THURSDAY:** We have our Holy Hour for Priests at 5 PM, with the altar boys' pizza and game night following.

¶ TOTIES QUOTIES

You may gain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions each time you make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, from **noon today** until the church is closed on **Monday**, praying six Paters, six Aves and six Glorias for the intentions of Holy Mother Church. This wonderful indulgence is applicable only to the Poor Souls.

¶ FIRST FRIDAY

8:00 AM Low Mass
10:55 AM Confessions
11:25 AM Low Mass, Benediction
5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary
5:45 PM Low Mass
6:30 PM Novena, Benediction
NO All Night Adoration
First Friday Reparation Intention: For our own Poor Souls in Purgatory.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Next week we begin with gratitude the devotion of the **Twelve Sundays of the Mother of Good Counsel**. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM, and Vespers at 4:45 PM. Don't miss the **Martinmas Festivities** after the 5:45 PM Mass, at approximately 7 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Dedication of St. Savior's Basilica, commemoration and Proper Last Gospel of Pentecost XXII. Third collect of St. Theodore in Low Masses. Trinity Preface.

¶ MARTINMAS

Follow **St. Martin and his horse** in a lantern



procession after the evening Mass **next Sunday!** Lanterns for the procession will be provided. Supper will follow the procession, and will include the traditional goose and *Martinsbörnchen*, or "St. Martin's Croissants," which recall both the hooves of St. Martin's horse and the parting of his mantle. Don't miss this striking and unusual liturgical observance!

¶ **YOUR PRAYERS:** Please pray for Mr. & Mrs. Fields, Jane Fitzgibbon, and Barbara O'Connor.

THE PURIFYING FIRES OF GOD'S LOVE



The soul was created for reaching perfection if it lives as God has ordained and does not stain itself with any sin. But having stained itself by original sin, it loses its gifts and graces and lies dead. Nor can it rise again except by God's means. And when God, by baptism, has raised it from the dead, it is still prone to evil, inclining and being led to actual sin unless it resists. And thus it dies again. Then God by another special grace raises it again....

All the divine workings of which we have spoken are needed to recall it to its first state in which God created it. Without them it could never get back there. And when the soul finds itself on the road back to its first state, its need to be transformed in God kindles in it a fire so great that this is its purgatory....

A last act of love is done by God without help from man. So many hidden imperfections are in the soul that, did it see them, it would live in despair. But in the state of which we have spoken they are all burnt away, and only when they have gone does God show them to the soul, so that it may see the divine working which kindles the fire of love in which its imperfections have been burnt away....

If a work is to be perfect it must be wrought in us but not chiefly by us, for God's works must be done by Him and not wrought chiefly by man. Such works are those last wrought in us by God of His pure love, but Him alone without merit of ours.... That love for God which fills the soul to overflowing gives it, as I see it, a happiness beyond what can be told.

— St. Catherine of Genoa
St. Catherine of Genoa (†1510) was the director of the hospital that cared for victims of the plague. Her Treatise on Purgatory relates a mystical vision of the experience of the souls in purgatory.

PRAYERS FOR THE POOR SOULS

St. Bernard...relates that one day he saw his sister, who had been dead for some time. She was doing her purgatory in the cemetery. On account of her vanity and the attention she had devoted to her hair and body, she had been sentenced to live in the very grave where she had been buried, and to witness the dissolution of her body. The saint offered the Sacrifice of the Mass for her for thirty days; at the end of this period he saw his sister again. This time she had been sentenced to complete her purgatory at the gate of the church, doubtless because of her irreverent demeanor in the holy place; perhaps she had distracted the faithful from the Sacred Mysteries in order to draw eyes and appreciation to herself. She was exceedingly sad, wearing a mourning veil, and was in extreme anguish. The saint offered the Sacrifice once more for thirty days, and she appeared to him for the last time in the sanctuary, with unruffled countenance, radiant in a white robe. The bishop knew by this sign that his sister had gained her deliverance.

— *The End of the Present World*

Prayer: O God, Who hast commanded us to honor father and mother, look in loving kindness upon the souls of my father and mother, and forgive them their trespasses, and grant unto me the joy of being reunited to them in the glorious light of everlasting life. Through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

Special intercession: Pray for the souls of parents who have been forgotten by their children.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them; may they rest in peace. Amen. (*Three times*)

Practice: Mortify yourself by an act of obedience.

Invocation: My Jesus, mercy!

A BALLAD OF SAINTS

*One may not always feel in want
 Of saints of whom the records tell
 They found perfection at the font,
 Or, once converted, never fell.
 Whilst admiration these compel,
 Our soul at their example saints:
 Methinks they cast a stronger spell,
 The saints who were not always saints.*

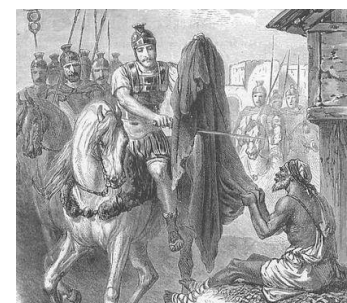
*The Doctor famed for gentleness,
 Whom men "the Ox" were wont to call,
 We had not loved as such unless
 He'd been a lion first of all.
 The thorn which pierced the flesh of Paul,
 Whilst Heaven unheeded left his plaints,
 Made him the dearest loved of all
 The saints who were not always saints.*

*Ignatius in Manresa's cave
 St. Bernard, first of heavenly guides,
 Incurred, in youth, the censure grave
 Of larger selves at later tides.
 Now each for love a rule provides
 Of wisely balanced "mays" and "mayn'ts."
 They made mistakes—and much besides,
 The saints who were not always saints.*

*Did not Teresa's sainthood know
 The goad which spurs the brave heart's pace?
 Did he his "stepping-stones" forego,
 The great Augustine called to grace?
 A faulty portrait he would trace
 Whose brush the Seer of Patmos paints,
 Nor dares the Son of Thunder place
 With saints who were not always saints.*

*Up many a cul-de-sac they trod
 Whilst following yet the heavenly trend;
 Quite holy people thought them odd,
 "Good" folk found much to reprehend.
 But She who reached her journey's end
 Her heart untouched by aught that taints
 Shall gladliest to Her Son commend
 The saints who were not always saints.*

— Enid Dinnis



✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

Last Monday evening, as I was driving past the convento a little skunk was merrily scampering across the lawn. We see skunks all the time around here so I did not think much of it. Now, Black Cat has been recuperating from his procedure and still hobbling along on three legs, so he has been spending the days in my office and then the nights at the rectory since he is not allowed outside. As I was carrying him back to the rectory after dinner and was crossing the little bridge behind the church, that skunk scurried out from under the bridge and ran into the woods. I never saw him until he was in front of me. Black Cat and I narrowly escaped a good spraying that night, I think!

Fr. Mardones, who lost a leg recently due to diabetes, told me just the other day that he will start saying Mass on a small altar on November 1st. He is asking for prayers. **Fr. Benegas** has been busy building his chapel in Argentina and says that most of it is complete, except for the pews and a few other items. It is a charming little chapel! **Fr. Contreras** went to visit and they performed a blessing ceremony. Pictures below.



A number of our school children have been promoted to new serving roles for the school High Mass. Adam Young and Liam Lotarski served as Acolytes on Wednesday and Isaac Wright on Thursday, and Gavin Wright was made torchbearer. They did a fine job, and it was nice to hear from **Fr. Lehtoranta** that even their classmates commented on how well they did. I am often impressed at the charity of our students. It is both an edification and an inspiration. Simon and Austin handle well their role of training new servers and of making corrections when necessary. They have come a long way since they first learned to serve!

Bishop Nkamuke has returned to Nigeria and had a good time during his stay at St. Gertrude's. He has his own Forty Hours Devotion in Owerri from November 14-16, when we will be celebrating our patroness' feast. Wasn't our own Forty Hours such a time of grace!? The choir, schola, organist, as well as the servers and clergy all did a fantastic job! A big thank you to all who helped in any way with this Devotion.



All Souls Day is tomorrow and there are plenty of Masses to choose from. Come to one, or come to several, but do come. These souls suffer so patiently and are waiting for a kind soul to do them the service of relieving them of their pains and sending them to heaven. They will never forget their benefactors and will more than repay them for their charity by praying for them before the very throne of God in heaven.

– **Bishop McGuire**

P.S. It is interesting what some of the priests will find during their research and study. For example, why there is no fast on the Vigil of All Saints. Recently, a priest sent **Fr. McKenna** something on the Fatima Prayer (O My Jesus) for the Rosary. The question was presented to the Sacred Penitentiary whether the "O My Jesus" prayer was allowed to be said between the decades, and if so, would it in any way cancel the indulgences of the Rosary. The answer given was that it is allowed to be said, and also that it does not cancel the Rosary indulgences. This question was dealt with on February 4, 1956, under Pope Pius XII. Interesting!

Lumen Christi

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

Healthy & safe pregnancy, labor & delivery (*Jena DuRousseau*)

¶ MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Sunday, November 23: Rosary Procession at Gate of Heaven Cemetery

Collection Report: Sunday, October 26th.....\$7,226.00

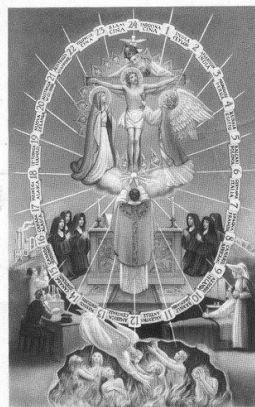
Servers

FRI 11/7 5:45 PM LOW: Capetillos
SAT 11/8 7:30 AM LOW: Rabjohns
 8:15 AM HIGH: C. Richesson, B. Constantino, I. Smith
SUN 11/9 7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann
 9:00 AM HIGH: **MCS:** C. & S. Richesson **TH:** T. England **ACS:** J. Hudson, M. Kolenich **TBS:** T. Stanislawski, J. Kolenich, J. Stewart, V. Horton, J. Smith, A. Constantino
 11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos
 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: **TH:** F. Caggese **ACS:** I. Smith, P. Caggese **CROSS:** Ma. Caggese
 5:45 PM LOW: P. McClorey
MARTINMAS PROCESSION: **MCS:** M. Simpson, D. Simpson **TH:** N. McClorey **ACS:** I. Smith, B. Constantino **CROSS:** M. Caggese
BOOK: J. Smith

✠ CALENDAR

MON	11/3/25	ALL SOULS' DAY
	7:00 AM	Low Mass All whose names are on the altar
	7:30 AM	Low Mass The Mind of the Church
	8:00 AM	Low Mass All the Faithful Departed
	11:25 AM	Requiem High Mass, Absolution All whose names are on the altar
	12:30 PM	Low Mass All the Faithful Departed
	1:00 PM	Low Mass The Mind of the Church
	5:00 PM	Low Mass All whose names are on the altar
	5:30 PM	Low Mass The Mind of the Church
	6:00 PM	Low Mass All the Faithful Departed
TUE	11/4/25	ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO, BPC SS. VITALIS & AGRICOLA, MM
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Sophie Hudson – Happy Birthday! <i>(Sister Eulalia)</i>
	11:25 AM	High Mass Madison Wilker – Happy Birthday <i>(The Stafford family)</i> (from 11/3)
	1:00 PM	Departure to St. Stephen's Cemetery for Rosary Procession
	5:00 PM	Low Mass For Bishop McGuire's Intentions <i>(Carolyn McClorey)</i>
WED	11/5/25	WITHIN THE OCTAVE • THE HOLY RELICS FIRST WEDNESDAY – PRAY TO ST. JOSEPH
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Shantel Dour <i>(KR)</i>
	11:25 AM	High Mass Repose of the soul of †Jean & †Kirby Bischel <i>(Simon Richesson)</i>
	5:10 PM	Low Mass Billy & Mary Rose Young – Happy Anniversary <i>(Bob & Becky Uhlenbruck)</i>
THU	11/6/25	FIRST THURSDAY – PRAY FOR PRIESTS WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Special intention in honor of the Poor Souls <i>(Joseph Simpson family)</i>
	11:25 AM	High Mass Alfonso T. Capetillo <i>(Nana & Grandpa)</i>
	5:00 PM	Holy Hour: Low Mass For the sanctification of priests <i>(Alter Christus Confraternity)</i> Altar Boys' Pizza Party
FRI	11/7/25	FIRST FRIDAY • WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Elisabeth <i>(KR)</i>
	10:55 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	Low Mass, Benediction Happy Anniversary Dad & Mom <i>(The Brueggemann family)</i>
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For my husband & our marriage on our 5 th wedding anniversary <i>(Victoria Cerise)</i>
	6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction NO ALL NIGHT ADORATION
SAT	11/8/25	OCTAVE DAY OF ALL SAINTS HOLY FOUR CROWNED MARTYRS
	7:05 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Special Intention <i>(Cleo Speckert)</i>
	8:05 AM	Salve, Sermon
	8:15 AM	High Mass Happy Anniversary Dad & Mom <i>(Anna & Cecilia Brueggemann)</i> (from 11/7)

INVITED TO THE KING'S BANQUET



In the Old Testament we read that most noble account of the paschal lamb, which was ordered to be eaten in every family, in every house. If anything was left over, it could not be eaten, but had to be consumed by fire. That lamb was the figure of the immaculate Lamb, Christ our Lord, Who was going to be offered on the altar of the cross to the eternal Father on our behalf, Christ Whom the precursor John exclaimed over, saying, *Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world.* That most beautiful symbol and figure taught us that whatever could not be eaten from the paschal lamb with the teeth of contemplation had to be entirely consumed with the fire of love. But when I meditate within myself on the fact that the Son of God has bestowed Himself entirely on us as food... I ask you, my children, what impelled God, as good and most great, to communicate Himself as food to this most miserable creature man, a rebel from the beginning, who for having tasted the forbidden fruit at the beginning of his creation had been expelled from the earthly paradise into this most miserable valley... What, I ask again, so impelled God if not love alone?...

But God had always loved man to such a point that He was immediately thinking of man's restoration as soon as he had fallen. And in order to turn him away from the food of beasts, He gave His very self to men as food. You, Christ Jesus, Who are the Bread of Angels, did not disdain to become the food of rebellious men, the food of most ungrateful sinners. O dignity of human excellence, and how much greater is the restoration than the fall! How much the sublimity of this dignity surpasses previous calamities! O most singular favor bestowed on us by God! O inexplicable love of God toward us! Only love impelled God to do so much.

– St. Charles Borromeo

SUN	11/9/25	DEDICATION OF ST. SAVIOR'S BASILICA PENTECOST XXII • ST. THEODORE, M PATRONAGE OF OUR LADY
	7:05 AM	Rosary
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Mary Kunkel – Birthday <i>(Doloris Ritze)</i>
	9:00 AM	High Mass Thou Knowest, O Lord <i>(Arlinghaus Family)</i>
	10:40 AM	Catechism Classes
	11:05 AM	Rosary
	11:30 AM	Low Mass Kevin O'Donnell <i>(The Oblate Sisters)</i>
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
	7:00 PM	Martinmas Procession & Festivities