

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

¶ MARCH 9, 2008 - PASSION SUNDAY

At approximately 12:45 PM a delicious *Spaghetti Dinner* will be offered as a little fund raiser - \$5/adults; \$3/children; \$20/family - followed at 2:00 PM by the Medieval mystery play *The Judgement*, presented by the students, staff and volunteers of St. Gertrude the Great School.

¶ SORROWFUL MOTHER NOVENA

The last of our Lenten Friday Nights is this week, the FEAST OF THE SEVEN SORROWS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. At 7:30 PM will be the Stations of the Sorrowful Mother and the *final evening* of the Sorrowful Mother Novena and Blessing of the Sick. Come to comfort your Mother and beg her for peace in the world and the grace of a good Holy Week.

¶ EASTER NOVENA / MEMORIAL FLOWER OFFERINGS

Envelopes for the Easter Novena of Masses and Flower donations are available in the pews. The Novena of Masses will be said daily beginning with Easter Sunday. Names of loved ones for the Memorial Flower Offerings will be listed in the Easter bulletin. Envelopes for the flower offerings must be returned by Monday of Holy Week to be included in the Easter bulletin. Please be generous.

¶ CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This is the last week for the Wednesday afternoon stations at 3:00 PM with our children. Have you made your *Stations* this Lent? At least *once*?

¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. Palms are blessed and distributed at 7:15 AM as well as at the moving Blessing Ceremony and Procession at 9:00 AM. There are no Children's Catechism Classes. Palms are available at every Mass. *Confessions will be heard as possible*. Vespers and Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

Set your *missal: March 16th. Palm Sunday, Pref: Holy Cross*. At Low Masses - **Proper Last Gospel:** from Blessing of Palms.



Our sympathy goes to Gary Amyx on the death of his mother Lucille, on February 27th, along with the promise of our prayers.



"I adore the Host which Jesus instituted to be forever the memorial of His death. I adore my Savior who was crucified, dying and entombed on Calvary"

—MOTHER KATHERINE DREXEL

"Even though all Christians find nourishment in the Passion of Christ, those are delighted above all who experience themselves as being rescued and liberated through Christ's Passion from grave evils and dangers and sins."

—ST. BONAVENTURE

"Our Lord came from another realm into our own, out of the land of the living into the land of the dead, from the heights of bliss into the vale of sorrow...to wipe out the debt of sin, He Who was without guilt poured out His Blood."

—ST. AUGUSTINE

¶ Hishers

MARCH 16, 2008

7:30 AM John Wiesman, Kent Maki, Joe Andreotta, Tom Kamphaus
9:00 AM Jim Gebel, Richard Smith, Dale Wilker, Jim Kolenich
11:30 AM Bob Uhlenbrock, Kirby Bischel, Dennis Hille, Tim Carney
5:45 PM John Seyfried

¶ Servers

MARCH 10 - MARCH 16, 2008

•MON 03/10 5:00 PM Low: G. Keaveney
•TUE 03/11 5:00 PM Low: J. Bayer
•WED 03/12 6:30 AM Low: T. & C. Simpson, Sr.
5:00 PM Low: G. Keaveney
•THU 03/13 5:00 PM Low: C. Ritze
•FRI 03/14 5:45 PM Low: T. Simpson, T. Simpson
7:30 PM STATIONS & BENEDICTION: T. Simpson, T. Simpson, C. & J. Simpson
•SAT 03/15 7:30 AM Low: C. & T. Simpson, Jr.
8:00 AM High: G. Keaveney, M. Briggs
•SUN 03/16 7:30 AM Low: D. & S. Brueggemann
11:30 AM Low: M. & J. Brugger
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
5:45 PM Low: G. Miller

SERVERS: For the Palm Sunday schedule and the Holy Week schedule, please consult the list posted in the Servers' Sacristy. If you are unable to serve for any of the times for which you are scheduled, and you have not found a suitable substitute, you **MUST** contact Patrick Lotarski or Bishop Dolan far enough in advance so they are able to find a replacement.

Collection Report

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2008 \$3792.19
SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION \$1478.00
FRIDAY NIGHT IN LENT \$ 103.00

*Thank you for your generosity!
Remember St. Gertrude's in your will!*

✠ POETRY CORNER

THE MAN BORN BLIND

Fresh from the anointing
he cracked his eyes across
the pool of Siloam.

A kaleidoscope of color crashed
his temples like a silent thunder
burst
cascading through his marrow
with an avalanche of joy.

The dappled daylight dancing
through the leafy cypress trees
revealed his stunning features
shining on the shaken surface
with traces of Eden awe
written in the creases of his cheeks.

So close to Yahweh's pristine touch
no time to tarry paradise
he leaped and bolted back his path
skipping through the city streets
his fiery eyes ablaze like lightning
shocking vendors in the market
parting family, friend and foe
smashing theologians' equilibrium
till he fell at the feet of his mystic
Healer, swimming in a sea of light
at home at last in new skin.

—Jerome L. McElroy
Notre Dame, Ind.



SPLINTERS FROM HEAVEN

I yearned for a cross, to courageously
carry;
Gigantic, of one piece, certain and sure –
God sent instead, bits and pieces to harry
And wear me - small worrisome things to
endure.

Oh, I had great visions of how I could
serve Him
And in self-deception I idled the day
Of my years, while chafing at splinters –
Complaining of slights as I went my way.
The shadows grew long, and my hair
became silver –
The splinters were there, but my heart
was too blind
To see the full cross, made up of the slivers
Each day sent my way, which God hoped
I would find.

—ADA FEDERSPIEL

✠ THE CALENDAR

MON	03/10/08	FORTY HOLY MARTYRS - FAST
	11:25 AM	High Mass <i>Purgatorial Society</i>
	12:20 PM	Vespers
	4:15-6:00 PM	Knights of the Sacred Heart (St. Gertrude the Great) St. Angela Merici Girls' Group (St. Gertrude the Great)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass <i>Special Intention for Children (GPK)</i>
TUES	03/11/08	FERIAL DAY - FAST
	11:25 AM	High Mass <i>Benefactors of St. Gertrude School</i>
	12:20 PM	Vespers
	5:00 PM	Low Mass <i>Paulina Strauss-Thanks for Rose (Connie Kamphaus)</i>
WED	03/12/08	ST GREGORY THE GREAT, PCD - FAST
	6:30 AM	Low Mass <i>Natalie Brown (Susan Brown)</i>
	11:25 AM	High Mass † <i>Eileen Bartels (Barbara & David Moorehous)</i>
	12:20 PM	Vespers
	3:00 PM	Children's Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion
	5:00 PM	Low Mass <i>Special Intentions (K & J Bischel)</i>
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
THUR	03/13/08	FERIAL DAY - FAST
	11:25 AM	High Mass <i>Ann Arlinghaus & Family (The Paul Arlinghaus Family)</i>
	12:20 PM	Vespers
	5:00 PM	Low Mass <i>Constance Wozny-Her Intentions (Rebecca Hinton)</i>
	7:00 PM	Compline
FRI	03/14/08	SEVEN SORROWS OF THE BVM - FAST
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	High Mass <i>Romilda Uhlenbrock (Bob & Becky Uhlenbrock)</i>
	12:20 PM	Vespers
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass & Sacred Heart Novena <i>Mr. William Harris-Special Intentions (Dale Wilker Family)</i>
	6:45 PM	Parish Potluck Plus Supper - Baked Potato Night
	7:15 PM	Confessions
	7:30 PM	Stations, Sermon, Conclusion of the Sorrowful Mother Novena & Blessing of the Sick, Benediction, Holy Communion, Confessions
SAT	03/15/08	FERIAL DAY - FAST - ST CLEMENT MARY HOFBAUER
	7:15 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass † <i>Dolores Maki (Kent Maki)</i> Confessions
	8:00 AM	High Mass <i>B & †R Brueggemann</i> Confessions
SUN	03/16/08	PALM SUNDAY
		CONFESSIONS WILL BE HEARD AS POSSIBLE
	6:55 AM	Rosary
	7:15 AM	Blessing & Distribution of Palms
	7:30 AM	Low Mass <i>For Our Godparents (The Brueggemann Children)</i>
	9:00 AM	Asperges, Blessing of Palms & Procession High Mass <i>For the People of St. Gertrude's</i>
	11:30 AM	Low Mass <i>Matthew Falcon (Kristi Engel)</i>
	4:45 PM	Vespers and Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass † <i>Helen R. Morris-Anniversary of Death, March 22nd (Carol M. Niehaus)</i>

✠ BISHOP'S CORNER



Perhaps the reason – one of the reasons surely – for so sad a season as we have had this Lent, with the loss of two dear ladies of our parish, and much illness as well as harsh weather and dark days, is that we should thus turn to Our Lord, return to Him in our neediness and grief. Let us do this, especially in the very season which bears the name of “Passiontide.”

Boldly then, we approach the Cross, confidently moving forward with Mary our Sorrowful Mother, and the faithful Maries of Calvary. As we draw near to Him, with all of our griefs and sufferings let us ask Him, Physician of Souls and Doctor of the Sick, to visit us and our own. Surely, He will.

I had an excellent trip to Mexico, where I confirmed about eighty soldiers of Christ, met with many “Other Christs,” and celebrated Holy Mass for the great festival of Our Lord of Tepelcingo (the Third Fall on the Way to Calvary). Finally, I made my little promised pilgrimage to Tepeaca, to the Doctor of the Sick. There I prayed for us all.

I was so sorry to learn of the sudden passing of that true “pearl of great price,” (as Fr. Cekada eloquently phrased it in his funeral sermon) Rita Brueggemann. I feel her loss keenly, and extend my sincere sympathy to her dear family and friends. The great crowd which filled our church, as it has never been filled before, eloquently testified to the esteem and love in which we held her. I was so sorry not to be here that day. God’s Holy Will be done.

This church has lost one of our greatest and most persevering “pray-ers.” Who will, if not take her place, at least continue some of her work? May St. Rita of Cascia inspire some of you....

Come this afternoon to be inspired with our little Lenten “Mystery” play. Come, too, to enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner with your fellow Catholics. If these are serious days of sorrow for us, in so many ways, they are also days of deep consolation and spiritual joy, if only we look to Jesus, dear Doctor of our souls, and Mary, Health of the Sick and Our Lady of Consolation, to show us the way. They will!

A Blessed Passiontide,

—Bishop Dolan

✠ BLOOD IS THE PRICE OF HEAVEN

We also belong to Christ in a special way, because we have been purchased at the price of His life’s blood. More even than the rejection of the Jews or their blows and insults our sins wound the Heart of our Saviour. There might be some excuse for the Jews, but there is none for us. We know, with absolute certainty, that He is the Christ, the Son of God. We have pledged our allegiance to Him in Baptism, we have broken our pledge by our sins. However, all is not lost, because, even though we have buffeted His face, defiling it with our insults, He is still our Redeemer and His mercy can lift us up again, giving us the grace to follow Him once more. In the spiritual life it is never too late and often those who repent are more fervent than those who have sinned.


—LENTEN MEDITATIONS

BY REV. DAVID L. GREENSTOCK

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D.)




THE PASCHAL SACRAMENTS

 **First Testing & First Confessions: Saturday, April 12th.** (Baptismal Certificate must be presented before testing, and form filled out.)

• **Obligatory Day of Recollection for all First Communion Children: Thursday, May 8th.**

 • **Confirmation: Saturday, May 10th.**

 • **First Holy Communion: Sunday, May 25th.**

Parents, please remember to submit to the Office **by March 11th**, the Baptismal certificates of children not baptized at St. Gertrude the Great. If your child is not enrolled in the school or Sunday School, please let us know if you are planning on bringing him to be tested in April. Unless we have the Baptismal certificate, we will be unable to do the necessary testing. Sometimes it is difficult to tell if a child is ready for the Sacraments. Please consult the priest. The Church earnestly desires all children to receive Our Lord as soon as possible.

PASSIONTIDE/HOLY WEEK VOLUNTEERS MARCH 11TH - MARCH 22ND

SPECIAL SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK PREP AND HOLY WEEK/EASTER CEREMONIES!

Tuesday March 11th–Friday March 14th:
HOLY WEEK/EASTER PREPARATION
(The following people helped last year, the week before and during Holy Week. If you can help again this year, please call Katie or Sister.)

Katie Bischak; Rose Kuebler; Deb Wilker and girls, Lexi Briggs and girls.
Ironing - Nathalie Andreotta, Mrs. Mattingly, Linda Cardamon; sewing/mending - Rita Ferguson.

Saturday, March 15th:

PALM SUNDAY PREPARATION

We need a crew of adult men and boys to strip, cut and bundle palm for Palm

Sunday. Could the Holy Name Society men organize a crew (as you did last year) to get this done in a timely and efficient manner? Please let the office know; — plus...

Marlys Arlinghaus; Gerry Keaveney; Wilker family; Katie Bischak.

HOLY WEEK

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday; Holy Thursday afternoon & evening; and Good Friday afternoon and evening

HOLY WEEK PREPARATIONS

Rose Kuebler; Becky & Mary Rose Uhlenbrock; Katie Bischak; Theresa Hill; Gerry Keaveney; Wilker Family;

Ironing - Nathalie Andreotta, Mrs. Mattingly, Linda Cardamon; sewing/mending - Rita Ferguson.

Saturday, March 22nd:

HOLY SATURDAY PREPARATION FOR EASTER

Katie Bischak; Rose Kuebler; Rita Ferguson; Jeanne Hille; Jean Bischel; Wilker family; Gerry Keaveney; Chris Ritze.

Ironing - Nathalie Andreotta, Mrs. Mattingly, Linda Cardamon; sewing/mending - Rita Ferguson.

Volunteers, please contact Katie Bischak, or Sr. Mary Magdalen and let us know when you could help during these next two weeks.



*In memory of those we have lost
in the past few weeks...*

'I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE'

There is no need for us to be afraid of death provided we are prepared for it. Here again, Christ has come to our help, because in His Sacraments He has left us the perfect instrument for this purpose. The soul, cleansed by Penance and fortified by Viaticum, has the added grace of being perfectly prepared for union with God through Extreme Unction—the last in a series of anointings which began in Baptism. The object of Extreme Unction is to perfect the work begun in the soul by the Sacrament of Penance and to sanctify illness, making it an efficient instrument for earning heaven for us. The effects of this Sacrament are so wonderful

that we should pray earnestly to God for the grace to receive it and not leave it too late before we send for the priest when we, or others, are sick.

One day, we may find ourselves in Purgatory. Then we shall depend on the suffrages and the prayers of the faithful on earth and, since God is just, we shall share in those graces far more effectively if we have been zealous in helping those souls in Purgatory during our lifetime. These souls cannot help themselves; they depend on us for relief and it is of faith that we can help them by our prayers and good works. At times this obligation is imposed on us by the virtue of piety in the case of our friends and near relatives; at others justice comes into the picture, because we may have been the cause of the sufferings of some souls through our bad example or our co-operation in their sins. Charity demands that we help them all.

The chief means of helping these souls is through the Mass, the sacrifice of Christ's Passion. We can also offer our communions for them, gain indulgences on their behalf, do works of mortification and penance for them. Above all, we should remember that our good works performed for these souls, have a greater satisfactory value than if we did them merely for ourselves. St. Augustine insists that a soul in Purgatory will receive help from those living on earth in accordance with its devotion to the Holy Souls during life. Surely there can be no greater act of charity than this, to help those souls, so much in need and so near to God? During Lent we should remember our obligations towards them, renew our resolutions to help them by all the means in our power and so redouble our efforts on their behalf. In this way we shall also achieve merit before God and repay Him for all our sins and infidelities.

—LENTEN MEDITATIONS
BY REV. DAVID L. GREENSTOCK

"It was thou, Virgin Mary, who gavest us this Body and Blood which raiseth our status so high that it is beyond the reach of the angels. Mayest thou be blessed throughout the world for giving us such a great gift."

—ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT

☩ HOLY WEEK 2008 AT SAINT GERTRUDE THE GREAT

4900 RIALTO ROAD • WEST CHESTER OH 45069 • (513) 645-4212

PALM SUNDAY

9:00 AM Blessing of the Palms, Procession and High Mass

N.B. The Beautiful Procession and High Mass of Palm Sunday is magnificent, and well worth the extra time. We have, however, planned to shorten this Mass this year in order to accommodate traffic for the 11:30 Mass.

If you are late leaving the 7:30 Mass (around 9:30 or so, say) or arriving early for the 11:30 Mass, please note:

Be so kind as not to start or drive your car in the parking lot during the Procession or the ceremony outside the doors of the Church.

Thank you for your cooperation.

SPY WEDNESDAY

DAY OF FAST

6:30 AM LOW MASS

9:00 AM LOW MASS

6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae

9:30 PM Church decorating for Holy Thursday

MAUNDY THURSDAY

DAY OF FAST

9:00 AM PONTIFICAL HIGH MASS

Blessing of the Oils, Procession to the Altar of Repose, Vespers, Stripping of the Altar, Potluck Luncheon

Adoration continues at the Sepulcher until 12:00 o'clock Noon on Good Friday.

1:30 PM The Maundy (Washing of the feet.)

6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae

11:00 PM Rosary Confraternity Holy Hour



ALL NIGHT ADORATION GOOD FRIDAY

DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Adoration at the Sepulcher continues till Noon

11:30 AM Stations of the Cross

12:00 PM Tre Ore

12:15 PM MASS OF THE PRESANCTIFIED;
Adoration of the Cross

2:15 PM Tre Ore Devotions and Sermon

3:00 PM Blessing with the Relic of the True Cross

3-4:00 PM Confessions

6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae

8:30 PM Church decorating for Holy Saturday
Come when you can; leave when you must.

HOLY SATURDAY

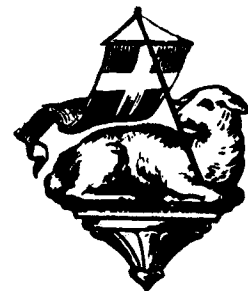
FAST AND ABSTINENCE ENDS AT NOON.

8:00 AM EASTER VIGIL:

Blessing of the Fire, Prophecies,
Blessing of the Font, Holy Baptism,
First Mass of Easter, Vespers, Blessing of Easter Food

Everyone is invited to the complimentary Easter Luncheon following Mass.

4-5:00 PM Confessions



EASTER SUNDAY

4:30 AM Solemn Matins and Lauds

6:00 AM HIGH MASS (Gregorian Chant)

7:30 AM LOW MASS

9:00 AM SOLEMN HIGH MASS

11:30 AM LOW MASS WITH BENEDICTION

4:00 PM Vespers

No evening services on Easter.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

GOOD FRIDAY 3:00 - 4:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY 4:00 - 5:00 PM

PLEASE LIMIT YOUR INCOMING CALLS TO THE CHURCH TO ONLY
ESSENTIALS DURING HOLY WEEK. THANK YOU.

MY SUNDAY AFTERNOON CATECHISM FOR PASSION SUNDAY

From this day, called Passion Sunday, until Easter the Church gives herself up entirely to meditation on the passion of Jesus. Today the crucifixes are covered, in remembrance that from this time until His entrance into Jerusalem Jesus walked no more openly among the Jews. From today the *Glory be to the Father* is omitted in the Mass, because in the person of Jesus Christ the Most Holy Trinity was dishonored. As on this day the high priests held council about Our Lord, the Church says, at the Introit of the Mass, in the name of the suffering Jesus, the words of the psalmist: "Judge me, O God, and distinguish my cause from the nation that is not holy; deliver me from the unjust and deceitful man, for Thou art God, my strength. Send forth Thy light and Thy truth, they have conducted me and brought me unto Thy holy hill, and unto Thy tabernacles" (Ps. xiii. 1-3).

PLEASE READ TODAY'S EPISTLE: Heb. ix. 11-15

Explanation

St. Paul here teaches that Jesus Christ has given full satisfaction for the sins of men, and opened to all the entrance into the sanctuary. The Church proposes this epistle to us in order that we may thank God for the great mercy of the redemption, love and praise Him, and be encouraged to share in His sufferings by fasting, prayer, and penitential works.

Aspiration

Give us Thy grace, O meekest Jesus, that by true sorrow for our sins, and by the practice of good works, we may become partakers of Thy bitter sufferings, and obtain the promised inheritance of eternal life. Amen.

PLEASE READ TODAY'S GOSPEL: John viii. 46-59

Explanation

When Our Saviour said: "He that is of God heareth God's words," He meant to point out to the Jews the cause of their stubborn unbelief. He that is of God hears and loves that which is Godlike. When, therefore, we gladly hear the word of God and strive to do what we have heard, we testify that we are the children of God. Instead of reflecting on Our Saviour's words the Jews poured out their offended pride and abuse, and called Him a Samaritan, and one having a devil. The same thing happens today. Instead of listening to the truth the proud man answers with calumny and contempt. Our Saviour hid Himself from the Jews to teach us to forgive and avoid our enemies rather than to oppose them and take revenge on them.

Consolation under Insults.

O friend, what insult can be given to you which your Saviour has not suffered? He was called a glutton and a drunkard, a heretic and a rebel, a friend and associate of sinners, and one who had a devil; He was even told that He cast out devils by the prince of devils (Matt. ix. 34). He, therefore, comforts His disciples with the words, "If they have called the goodman of the house Beelzebub, how much more then of his household?" (Matt. x. 25). There is no sorrow so bitter that He has not borne it, for what was more painful and grievous than the death of the cross? Christians, "think diligently upon Him that endured such opposition from sinners against Himself, that you be not wearied, fainting in your minds, at contempt and insult" (Heb. xii. 3).



TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE FAMILY (Cont'd.)

9. *The ninth commandment of the Christian order of life applies to the civil order of society.*

Love demands: Have regard for one another, do not dig pitfalls for another nor cast stones at another (John viii. 7). Assist one another both in spiritual and material needs as much as possible. Meet your neighbor with a true and upright, meek and humble spirit! The commandment of good behavior and the art of right living, courtesy and punctuality, can render good services as boundary guards of the moral order.

10. *The tenth commandment of the Christian rule of life embraces duties toward the Church.*

Holy Church has received the command from Christ to teach all nations, to raise them up to the communion of grace with God and to lead them into good pastures (Matt. xxviii. 19). It is therefore our duty to let ourselves be taught and guided by the Church. "If he will not hear the Church, let him be to thee as the heathen and the publican" (Matt. xviii. 17). We will therefore take part in the common services of the Church, live the ecclesiastical year with the Church, receive Holy Communion within the Paschal time, observe the Church laws of fasting and marriage, and be present at special manifestations of Faith, at general Communions, missions and retreats. We ought to profess our Faith before man without human respect and not darken the bright image of the Church, our Mother. She is and remains the pillar and ground of truth (1 Tim. iii. 15) of the moral and social order.

Beloved reader: the most important hour of our lives is the hour of death. May you be blessed with a holy death—the crown of a well-regulated life.