

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645x-4212

www.sgg.org • www.SGGResources.org

Traditional Latin Mass: Sundays 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan, Pastor • Rev. Anthony Cekada
Rev. Charles McGuire • Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Stephen McKenna

November 22, 2015

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ST. CECILIA, VM



¶ PENTECOST XXIV

Today is the Last Sunday after Pentecost, the final Sunday of the liturgical year. The blessing and dedication of our new organ follows the High Mass today. Sunday classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ THANKSGIVING DAY



A special holiday Mass of Thanksgiving is offered Thursday at 9:00 AM. If you prefer, an earlier Mass is at 8:00 AM. Assisting at Holy Mass is the best way to thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us. Let's joyfully and gratefully stress the religious character of this holiday. *The abstinence is traditionally dispensed on the Friday after Thanksgiving and meat may be taken.*

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT I

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath takes place at 7:25 AM. The Advent Procession and Blessing of the Advent Wreath begins at 9:00 AM. Please note, Sunday Catechism classes will be at 10:50 AM. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 Set Your Missal: Advent I, with collects of St. Saturninus and Our Lady in Advent. Trinity Preface.

Collection Report
Sunday, November 15th.....\$3,862.00



THEN SHALL APPEAR THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN
IN HEAVEN

¶ BLACK FRIDAY

Please note that "Black Friday" is white for us! If you're not out shopping (a good idea!) come to Mass at 11:20 for Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and Benediction. Please note that Benediction will be at the 11:20, rather than the 5:45. And don't forget the Blessings Boxes, and what a blessing the Miraculous Medal is.

¶ OUR SICK...YOUR PRAYERS

Jane Donadio had a bad fall and is in the hospital. Please keep on praying for Paul O'Connor, Angela Segrist, Elizabeth Smith and Joan Landry, as well as Bee Lutkehaus for a special intention, and all of our sick and shut in.

¶ BLESSINGS

If you still have a gift, please drop it in the box in Helfta Hall. All Blessing Boxes must be at church by Thanksgiving. There will be a workshop on Friday, November 27, to finish the shipping, from 1:00 - 3:30 PM.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
(Recite on Saturday evening, November 28)

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R. Who made heaven and earth.



Let us pray O God, by Whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Let us pray. Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, O Lord, and come, so that we may escape through Thy protection and be saved by Thy help from the dangers that threaten us because of our sins. Who livest and reignest forever and ever. R. Amen.

¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 6th: St. Nicholas will be visiting the children after all morning Masses.

¶ FOR SALE

New in box: Perfection Schwank Inc. Space Heater • 6 in. flue • auto draft control • #1 oil • model H950J-1 • 38,000 BTU • trouble free • efficient • reliable. \$595 - see Darlene or leave a message: 513-574-7106.

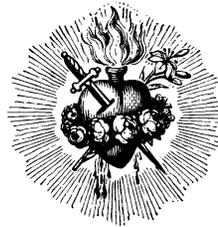
NOVEMBER is the month of All Saints and All Souls. It is also the month of Thanksgiving. Centuries before Mother's Day and Boys' Week and even before Thanksgiving Day became popular, the Church had set aside seasons, months and days to honor God and His Saints and to remind the faithful of the four most important things that happen to man—death, judgment, heaven, and hell. Nor did she forget to promulgate and inculcate at these times the instructions that her Divine Founder left regarding the manner of life one must lead in order to meet death, to face judgment, to gain heaven and to avoid hell as becomes a child of God and an heir to the Kingdom of Heaven.



The Old Testament speaks of feasts and fasts, of days of Thanksgiving and days of penance, but with the establishment of the Church the Christian year became not so much a succession of seasons of months and of days but rather a commemoration of the events of Our Lord's life. Starting with Advent which is the time set aside to prepare for the coming of Christ and passing on to the feast of Christmas, the feast of the Circumcision, the feast of the Epiphany and on through the Lenten season to the Resurrection, the Ascension, the Descent of the Holy Ghost, it leads the Christian from Christ's cradle to His grave and shows him the way a Christian should live.



In the new dispensation, after designating the seasons as times of rejoicing and of penance, particular attention was given to God's friends, first among whom was His own Blessed Mother. The months of May and October were especially dedicated to her. Then particular days were designated as the feasts of the Apostles and other saints. There were not sufficient days to go around so the first day of November is dedicated to all who have reached heaven whether their name be found in the calendar of saints or not.



Mindful of the words of Sacred Scripture, "It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead," the Church calls November "Poor Souls Month" and admonishes all her children to pray for the faithful departed, for those who have gone to the land from whose shores no traveler returns. Many of these—among them, perhaps our parents, our brothers, our sisters, or at least our friends—were surprised by death before they had time to satisfy for the sins committed during this life. These are in that place where the last farthing is paid for all debts owed to God. From there they cry to us, "Have pity on me; at least you, my friends, have pity on me."



During this month of November, the month of thanksgiving, while we thank God for all His graces and blessings, particularly for

permitting us to live, to love and serve Him and for having pardoned us our many failings, we must not forget that this is also "Poor Souls Month," and offer frequent and fervent prayers for our friends who have gone. They were our friends in life—at least friends we called them—let us prove it now by helping them when they can no longer help themselves.

-Edgar B. Casey, O.F.M.

P.S. St. Gertrude the Great thanks God for all the good friends who read our bulletin and who help the causes it represents. St. Gertrude the Great will not forget those who were with us last year, but who have since met death and faced judgment.

THE LAST JUDGMENT

When rising from the bed of death,
O'erwhelmed with guilt and fear,
I see my Maker face to face,
O how shall I appear?

If yet, while pardon may be found,
And mercy may be sought,
My heart with inward horror
shrinks,
And trembles at the thought;

When Thou, O Lord, shalt stand disclosed
In majesty severe,
And sit in judgment on my soul
O how shall I appear?

But Thou hast told the troubled
mind,
Who does her sins lament,
The timely tribute of her tears
Shall endless woe prevent.

Then see the sorrows of my heart
Ere yet it be too late;
And hear my Savior's dying groans,
To give those sorrows weight.

For never shall my soul despair
Her pardon to procure,
Who knows Thine only Son has died
To make her pardon sure.

-Joseph Addison 1672-1719

As Thanksgiving nears, we mark with gratitude milestones both great and small, for they are all reminders of God's mercy and calls for us "to give thanks constantly." November 12 was the 100th anniversary of Fr. Martin's birth. He left this earth just three years ago, full of good works, a true friend and benefactor to us at St. Gertrude the Great.



Someone remarked to me last week how moving is that hymn "A Priestly Heart, the Sacred Heart," which served as the processional as stately servers and clergy entered church on St. Gertrude's Day, Fr. McGuire's 10th anniversary. Thank God for priests both young and old, for parents who provide them, and dedicated teachers who prepare them, as well as for the faithful whom they serve, and who care for them in return. We all have so much for which to give thanks. "Be in these things," the Apostle says. Or, "Stay on the sunny side," as the old song goes.

Our mild sunny weather continued through much of St. Gertrude's Day. The school choir sang beautifully for the occasion, and Mark and Joan Lotarski and family provided a beautiful luncheon buffet for the happy occasion which hosted so many of you. The McGuires from Chillicothe were with us, and Fr. Thielen who was also able to join us for awhile as we celebrated our anniversary and Fr. McGuire's together with the first vows of the Sisters of Our Lady of Reparation. Congratulations all around!

Oh, the devil did try a trick or two to disturb things, including the old tactic of malfunctioning smoke detectors. But the angels came to our rescue, and silence was restored for the beautiful Solemn High Mass and Vow Ceremony. Thanks to all who helped behind the scenes. Fr. Cekada was, as usual, wearing several hats that day.

Don't forget Advent preparations this week. When "Thanksgiving Sunday" coincides with Advent Sunday, the start of this serious season of spiritual preparation tends to be overlooked, as somebody declares "Let the party begin!" I wish you a good, generous spiritual Advent, full of holy longing and true devotion, source of all lasting joy. Start thinking, start planning.

See you at Mass on Thursday? Get a head start that way for Advent, and go to the very heart of this dear old holiday.

"Let us give thanks to the Lord our God."

-Bishop Dolan



FOR ST. CECILIA'S DAY

Let the deep organ swell the lay
In honor of this festive day;
Let the harmonious choirs proclaim
Cecilia's ever blessed name.

Rome gave the virgin martyr birth,
Whose holy name has filled the earth;
And from the early dawn of youth,
She fixed her heart on God and truth.

Then from the world's bewildering
strife,
In peace she spent her holy life—
Teaching the organ to combine
With voice, to praise the Lord divine.

Cecilia, with a twofold crown
Adorned in heav'n, we pray look down
Upon thy fervent votaries here,
And hearken to their humble prayer.



ST. CECILIA'S SACRIFICE

Like so many Christian ladies of her time, St. Cecilia had taken, in imitation of Our Blessed Lady, a vow of perpetual virginity... It would be hard to estimate, I think, how much of its unpopularity in Roman society the Christian faith owed to its tradition of virginity. You know the horror the world feels when somebody becomes a Catholic; you know the horror the world feels when somebody goes into a convent: combine those two, and transplant them into a society which is heathen and regards the Christian religion as a dangerous and de-based cult and you will realize what the pagans thought of a resolution like St. Cecilia's.

Virginity is an ideal which the pagans had no right to misunderstand. For, in theory, they, too, honored it; and it should have commended itself to their heathen instinct for sacrifice. For the point of a sacrifice is that the victim should be spotless, the best of its kind. You must offer not what you can well afford to spare, but what will cost you something. The victim must be young, not old; perfect, not mutilated; pure bred, not of inferior stock: it is the fairest flower that must wither in front of the statue. That is the pagan idea of sacrifice; and the Christian idea of sacrifice is based on the same principle. In order to give up something to God, we forgo, not the sinful pleasures which we have no right to in any case, but the lawful pleasures which He has given us to enjoy if we will. And it is not broken hearts or wasted careers that produce vocations to the religious life. It is the young, the attractive, the brilliant, those who have the fullest life and the highest hopes before them, who make the perfect sacrifice when they devote themselves to almighty God in holy religion.

-Monsignor Ronald A. Knox

THE LEPER'S THANKSGIVING

A friend dared me to start counting one thousand things I loved. I took the dare, accepted the challenge, kept track of one thousand things, one thousand gifts—a thousand graces.... Before I knew it, thankfulness to God began fully to change me.

What I actually found—startling!—was more daily wonder and surprising beauty than I ever expected. And in a few short years, this daily hunt for God's grace, His glory, had ushered me into a fuller life. A life of joy!...

I decided to try to live this giving thanks as I believe Jesus did each day, regardless of His circumstances. And what I found was that in giving thanks for each moment and savoring it as bread from His hand, I'd find sustenance and the grace of God Himself in it....

Even when I am sometimes impatient or unwilling, when I face conflict and heartache, I've begun to accept that even the impossible is a possible opportunity to thank God, to experience the goodness and grace of the Giver of all!

There is always only more grace.

And it's always more than I expect.

And you? You in the midst, you in the mire, are you too thinking about counting one thousand gifts, about making your life all about joy in Christ, about loving God and enjoying Him forever?

There is so much joy in seeing how He uses our simple act of noticing the blessing He bestows all around us to transform our lives and the lives of those we touch...

Praise Him for the unexpected and the unlikely, for the daily and the difficult, and the graces in



disguise. The more you count, the more gifts you will see. Do not disdain the small. The moments add up, and we might come to believe it—the *whole earth is full of His glory!*...

Whatever you do, the practice is intended to be a way of cultivating a habit, of learning to live praise, to make gratitude and joy your default, to move thanksgiving away from a holiday to a *lifestyle*—that all the days might be holy and set apart for real joy....

God is waiting to reveal so much through your desire to know Him more deeply and completely.

-Ann Voskamp



FOR A VISIT OR THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

O Blessed Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I worship Thee, I love Thee, I thank Thee, and prostrate myself before Thee. O my God, accomplish in me that for which Thou didst come, remove from my heart all that displeases Thee, and place therein that which will render me agreeable in Thy sight.

Purify my body, sanctify my soul. Bestow on me the infinite merits of Thy life and of Thy Death, unite me to Thee, abide in me that I may live by Thee, in Thee and for ever for Thee.

O my God, let me die rather than permit that I should not act for Thy greater glory.

Or fail in anything whatsoever Thou dost ask of me.

Or that I should do harm to any single soul. O my God, by the merits of Thy Divine Son, bless the Church, and save our beloved country. Have pity on poor sinners who need Thy help, and more especially on all those who will die today.

My Jesus, grant that all people who, till the end of time, will enter a sanctuary where Thou art present, may carry away the seed of their conversion and be saved.

My God, permit me to do a little good around me. Grant that I may make Thee known, for we cannot know Thee without loving Thee.

Holy Spirit, inspire me always how to speak, act and behave for the best, for the greater glory of God and for the greatest good to souls.

Grant that each day I may serve Thee even better, O my divine Savior, and that I may ever love Thee more and more. Amen.



"It would take too long to tell you all the stories about this famous impostor (...) Mohamed's religion consists of a monstrous mixture of Judaism, Paganism and Christianity. Mohamed propagated his religion, not through miracles or persuasive words, but through the force of arms. [It is] a religion that favors every sort of licentiousness and which, in a short time, allowed Mohamed to become the leader of a troop of brigands. Along with them he raided the countries of the East and conquered the people, not by introducing the Truth, not by miracles or prophecy; but for one reason only: to raise his sword over the heads of the conquered shouting: believe or die."

-St. John Bosco

A UNIVERSAL PRAYER

The following prayer is attributed to Pope Clement XI. The prayer acts as an excellent guide for us as we strive to live a life centered around our Lord, working toward our heavenly goal. Through this prayer we present ourselves to God and beg Him for His assistance to obtain an increase in virtue and to order our days in the manner



He wills, keeping Him ever before our thoughts. As St. Paul writes in Thessalonians, "Pray without ceasing." St. Alphonsus de Liguori comments on this verse in *How*

to Pray at All Times, writing,

"Now, you are not required to apply your mind so constantly to prayer as to forget your ordinary work and recreation. 'Praying always,' means that, without neglecting your ordinary occupations, you treat God as you treat the friends who love you and whom you love. God is ever near you, even within you....

"Never, then, forget His sweet presence, as do the greater part of men. Speak to Him as often as you can, for He does not grow weary of this nor disdain it, as do the lords of the earth. If you love Him, you will not be at a loss what to say to Him. Tell Him all that occurs to you about yourself and your affairs, as you would tell it to a dear friend. Do not look upon Him as a haughty monarch who will converse only with the great and on great matters. He, your God, is pleased to lower Himself to you, and to hear you communicate to Him your smallest and most ordinary concerns. He loves you as much—He has as much care for you—as if He had no one else to think of but you. He is as completely devoted to your interests

as though the only end of His providence was to help you, of His almighty power to aid you, of His mercy and goodness to take pity on you, to do you good and to win by His kindness your confidence and love. Manifest to Him, then, freely your whole state of mind and pray to Him to enlighten you that you may perfectly accomplish His holy will. Let all your desires and aims be directed to learn His good pleasure and to do what is agreeable to His divine Heart...."

A Universal Prayer for all Things Necessary to Salvation

† O my God, I believe in Thee; do Thou strengthen my faith. All my hopes are in Thee; do Thou secure them. I love Thee; teach me to love Thee daily more and more. I am sorry that I have offended Thee; do Thou increase my sorrow.

† I adore Thee as my first beginning; I aspire after Thee as my last end. I give Thee thanks as my constant benefactor; I call upon Thee as my sovereign protector.



† Vouchsafe, O my God! to conduct me by Thy wisdom, restrain me by Thy justice, to comfort me by Thy mercy, to defend me by Thy power.

† To Thee I desire to consecrate all my thoughts, words, actions, and sufferings; that henceforward I may think of Thee, speak of Thee, refer all my actions to Thy greater glory, and suffer willingly whatever Thou shalt appoint.

† Lord, I desire that in all things Thy will may be done because it is Thy will, and in the manner that Thou willest.

† I beg of Thee to enlighten my understanding, to inflame my will, to purify my body, and to sanctify my soul.

† Give me strength, O my God! to expiate my offenses, to overcome my temptations, to subdue my passions,

and to acquire the virtues proper for my state of life.

† Fill my heart with tender affection for Thy goodness, hatred of my faults, love of my neighbor, and contempt of the world.

† May Thy grace help me to be submissive to my superiors, condescending to my inferiors, faithful to my friends, and charitable to my enemies.

† Assist me to overcome sensuality by mortification, avarice by alms-deeds, anger by meekness, and tepidity by devotion.

† O my God! make me prudent in my undertakings, courageous in dangers, patient in affliction, and humble in prosperity.

† Grant that I may be ever attentive at my prayers, temperate at my meals, diligent in my employments, and constant in my good resolutions.

† Let my conscience be ever upright and pure, my exterior modest, my conversation edifying, and my comportment regular.

† Assist me that I may continually labor to overcome nature, to correspond with Thy grace, to keep Thy commandments, and to work out my salvation.

† Make me realize, O my God! the nothingness of this world, the greatness of Heaven, the shortness of time, and the length of eternity.

† Grant that I may prepare for death; that I may fear Thy judgments, and in the end obtain Heaven; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



-composed by Pope Clement XI

✠ CALENDAR

All Sunday Masses, school day Masses, Friday evening and Saturday morning Masses are webcast at SGGresources.org.

MON 11/23/15	OCTAVE DAY OF ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ST. CLEMENT, PM ST. FELICITY, M 11:20 AM High Mass For my wonderful parents – Happy 30 th Anniversary (<i>Clare Lotarski</i>)
TUE 11/24/15	ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, CD ST. CHRYSOGONUS, M 8:00 AM Low Mass My sons' conversions (<i>JM</i>) 11:20 AM High Mass For all the dead whose names are on altar 5:00 PM Low Mass In honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help for Norm W. & Jennifer W.
WED 11/25/15	ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, VM 8:00 AM Low Mass For all my prayer intentions (<i>Beckie Mattingly</i>) 11:20 AM High Mass Edward Heckenkamp (<i>Fr. Lehtoranta</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass Poor Souls (<i>JCS</i>)
THU 11/26/15	THANKSGIVING DAY ST. SYLVESTER, AB ST. PETER OF ALEXANDRIA, BPM ST. LEONARD OF PORT MAURICE, C 8:00 AM Low Mass Poor Souls (<i>JCS</i>) 9:00 AM Low Mass & Festive Music Poor Souls (<i>JCS</i>)
FRI 11/27/15	FERIAL DAY <i>No SCHOOL – ABSTINANCE DISPENSED</i> <i>OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass In honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help for Norm W. & Jennifer W. 10:55 AM Confessions 11:20 AM Special Low Mass & Sermon in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal In honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help for the repose of the soul of †Janice West Novena & Benediction 1:00 PM Blessing Boxes! 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass Poor Souls (<i>JCS</i>) Novena
SAT 11/28/15	VIGIL OF ST. ANDREW ST. CATHERINE LABOURÉ 7:10 AM Confessions 7:30 AM High Mass In honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help for Anne, Patrick, & Paddy Omlor 8:20 AM Sermon & Low Mass St. Jude – Thank you – answered prayers (<i>Rios family</i>)
SUN 11/29/15	ADVENT I ST. SATURNINUS, M 7:30 AM Low Mass Chris Smith (<i>Rob & Jane Brockman</i>) 9:00 AM Procession & High Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great ☞ 10:50 AM Sunday Classes 11:30 AM Low Mass My family (<i>Joan Landry</i>) 4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass Cecilia C. Gunsher (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Gunsher</i>)

THE ANTICHRIST

“The world must have an end, and that end will not take place until the Antichrist has appeared.

“Protestantism and unbelief reject the individuality of the Antichrist. They consider him to be a mere myth, an allegorical, imaginary person; or else they see this man of sin, foretold by St. Paul, as nothing more than the leader of the anti-Christian fight, the chief and messiah of Freemasonry and the sects, raised up in order to bring civilization to its zenith, by liberating it forever from the darkness of superstition—in other words, eliminating all positive religion and every revealed truth from the whole surface of the earth.”

–Abbe Arminjon

(*The Little Flower's favorite spiritual reading*)

CATHOLIC NUMBERS

THE 7 CAPITAL SINS AND THEIR CONTRARY VIRTUES

Pride (*Humility*), Greed (*Liberality*), Lust (*Chastity*), Anger (*Meekness*), Gluttony (*Temperance*), Envy (*Brotherly Love*), Sloth (*Diligence*).



FROM: A SONG FOR ST. CECILIA'S DAY 1687

As from the power of sacred lays
The spheres begin to move,
And sung the great Creator's praise
To all the blest above;
So when the last and dreadful hour
This crumbling pageant shall devour,
The trumpet shall be heard on high,
The dead shall live, the living die,
And music shall untune the sky!

–John Dryden 1631-1700

Servers

THU 11/26	9:00 AM LOW: J. & M. Simpson
FRI 11/27	11:20 AM LOW: B. Lotarski, L. Arlinghaus
SUN 11/29	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: R. Vande Ryt, T. Simpson TH: A. Richesson ACs: S. & L. Arlinghaus CROSS & TORCH MC: B. Lotarski MITRE: M. Simpson CROZIER: C. Richesson BOOK: T. Lawrence BUGIA: C. Arlinghaus HOLY WATER: D. Simpson TORCH: B. Lotarski, M. Simpson, C. Richesson, T. Lawrence, C. Arlinghaus, D. Simpson 11:30 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, B. Lotarski 4:45 PM VESPERS: G. Miller 5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller