

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212  
parishoffice@sgg.org • 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



February 18, 2018  
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  
ST. SIMEON, BPM  
ST. BERNADETTE, V



## ¶ LENT I – INVOCABIT SUNDAY

Today is the First Sunday of Lent. The ushers will be distributing the Lenten coin folders. Please take yours home and return it, filled with change, on Good Friday. The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available at the Communion Rail following all Masses. Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM. Short Stations are at 11:15 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

## ¶ EMBER DAYS

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this week are the Lenten Ember Days. All Catholics, age seven or older, must keep the abstinence, partial on Wednesday and Saturday; total on Friday. All those between the ages of 21 and 59 are obliged to follow the Church laws of fast anyway during Lent.

## ¶ NEXT SUNDAY: LENT II

Sunday Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Short Stations will be at 11:15 AM. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 *Set Your Missal:* Lent II with collects of Our Lady & All the Saints, and the Living & the Dead. Lenten Preface.

## ¶ OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed from Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Collection Report

Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.....\$3,916.00  
Bake Sale.....\$603.00

## Lumen Christi

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

God's Holy Will  
(Patrick Curry)



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: *This struggle between light and darkness, characteristic of the Lenten season, has two phases—the defensive and the offensive.*

*The defensive appears especially in the Gospel for this first Sunday, wherein we see Christ at grips with the spirit of darkness. Jesus is tempted in the desert by Satan.*

Lenten Friday Evening  
of Recollection – February 23<sup>rd</sup>

5:45 PM: Low Mass

6:45 PM: Lenten Supper: Tuna Salad, Rolls, Mac 'n Cheese, Fruit

7:30 PM: Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Mother Novena, Blessing of the Sick, and Benediction

8:30 PM (approximately): Distribution of Holy Communion

## ¶ SORROWFUL MOTHER NOVENA

Our annual novena to the Sorrowful Mother, with the Blessing of the Sick, now follows Stations each Friday evening. Be sure to bring the sick to be blessed, and call or email the office with their names, to be mentioned during the novena.

## ¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

February 22: Episcopal Consecration of Fr. Joseph Selway in Florida.

February 28: Children's Day of Recollection.

March 11: Laetare Sunday, Sister Sunday.

2018 YAG: June 22-24

Girls' Camp: June 27-29

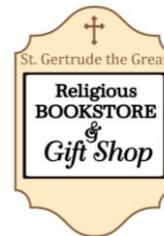
Boys' Camp: July 24-26

## ¶ YOUR PRAYERS

In your prayers please remember Sharon Patton, Sr. Jeanne Marie, Rick Woods, Connie Kamphaus, Elaine Pawinski, Anny Reilly, Ken Gilliam, and Fr. Thielen.

## ¶ CHARGE IT

The bookstore/gift store takes charge cards now. Come in and see new gift ideas. We carry sterling silver chains for just \$5. The sisters have supplied handmade items including their no-tie apron. New pictures and great Lenten reading. Stop in today!



How does the Church's liturgy manifest the spirit of the Lenten season?

The Church points out Lent to us as a time of combat and mortification by: A special daily Mass celebrated with violet vestments, without the *Gloria* and the *Ite, missa est*.

A supplementary Postcommunion prayer "over the people."

The use of the folded chasuble (a sign of penance).

Prohibition of the solemn nuptial blessing.

Daily fasting (except Sunday). Of obligation.

Imposition of the ashes—a token of penance and humility.

Vespers before lunch to recall the former fast which was unbroken until Vespers. (*Starts Feb. 26, this year.*)

Alms-giving (the Lenten pardon).

More frequent: Our prayers, Masses, Communions.

Recommended devotion: the Way of the Cross.

Everyone should adopt his own personal Lenten mortifications, according to his needs! For instance, trying to "ration" our selfish, pleasure-loving minds, by **LIVING IN THE STATE OF GRACE**. This is elementary. We might draw up a "Lenten schedule" for ourselves in keeping with our habits, as: no drinking, no cigarettes, no soft drinks, no candy or sweets. If you're courting, come to church. Pray the Rosary together. No dancing, TV or radio, an all-time ban on immorality. A banishing from memory of songs and stories with double meaning, being kinder, more helpful to others, less envious, more indulgent, patching up old quarrels, practicing great modesty of the eyes and clothing, more charity in our dealings with our neighbor, a ban on useless visits and criticism, etc. Make every effort to get to daily Mass.

*Do you like to travel?* I'm hoping to get together a group of senior (age 60+) parishioners for a trip to Ireland in the summer of 2019. The Road Scholar organization (formerly called Elderhostel) offers reasonably priced tours that include lodging and all but one or two of our meals. If we start planning now, I think we can raise enough money (through bake sales, donations to travel scholarship funds, etc.) so that everyone who wants to go will be able. If interested, please call Becky Hinton at 513-232-2465. If I can't answer the phone, please leave a voice mail and I'll get back.

### KEEP CALM



### AND JUST BUY A TICKET

March 11<sup>th</sup> is Sister Sunday and now is your chance to Split-the-Pot with the Sisters! Tickets are available in the gift shop today so that you can get a head-start.

1 TICKET FOR \$1  
6 TICKETS FOR \$5  
13 TICKETS FOR \$10

### Oh, By the Way...

#### ARE YOU THRIFTY?

Pick up some neat items and donate them to the Sister Sunday silent auctions!

#### ARE YOU CRAFTY?

Express your creative talent and donate handmade items to the Sisters' sale or auction tables!

#### ARE YOU HANDY?

Lend a hand and volunteer to help out with the event!  
Contact the Sisters at:  
513-376-6011

### IN LENT

I'm just a boy, and mother says  
I do not have to fast,  
But I must try to keep this Lent  
More strictly than the last.

There's many things a boy can do  
For God in time of Lent,  
So that he'll be much better when  
The forty days are spent.

For one thing, he can go to Mass  
Before it's time for school,  
And he can try his very best  
To keep each little rule.

Or, if he wants to, he may fast  
From candy every day,  
And spend some time at study  
when  
He'd like to be at play.

No matter what he says he'll do,  
He should be true to it;  
And, though he thinks it mighty  
hard,  
He shouldn't yield a bit.

So that when Easter comes along  
'Twill bring him greater joy,  
Because he pleased God very much  
And proved a faithful boy.

- Edmund G. Lamb

### Children's Day of Recollection Wednesday, February 28



The day begins at 9:00 AM &  
concludes at 3:00 PM  
A lunch will be provided.  
No charge.  
Please call the school if your  
children will be attending:  
513-645-4216



Lent got off to a good, but quiet start at St. Gertrude the Great. Like last week's rain you came in dribs and drabs all day, rather than a downpour. But this rain will bring the green for St. Patrick's Day and Spring, even as St. Valentine blessed your hearts, and you came quietly, off and on, for ashes and a blessing, for devotions and Mass. We will, or God will, see the growth come Easter. And now today we have our solemn public opening of the Forty Day Fast. Happy Lent!

**Fr. Lehtoranta** gave a nice report in his latest newsletter on last Tuesday's activities, the feast of the Holy Face, and a little Mardi Gras party that followed for our students. Write to him at [fr.lehtoranta@yandex.com](mailto:fr.lehtoranta@yandex.com) to receive this free e-publication.

Isn't the church beautiful in its Lenten array? Its stark images and sorrowful shades call us to repentance, to Mass, to the Passion of Christ. We must thank the same devoted few, or even fewer, who came again last week. They are the ones who put Christmas away after Candlemas. But see, all is in readiness. Attend!

That being said, you will note a lighter Lenten schedule this week, due to the episcopal consecration of **Fr. Selway** at Most Holy Trinity Seminary. Please consult the bulletin carefully, as always. There are still a variety of Masses and devotions at different times to enable everyone to do something.

Please do offer extra prayers this week for the new bishop who will serve as **Bishop Sanborn's** assistant in his heavy apostolate at the seminary and abroad. We should gratefully reverence our clergy, overlook the odd fault we may seem to see at times, and give them our sincere support, our prayers and donations. So, do be with us in prayer on Thursday, feast of St. Peter's Chair, and the historical occasion of the consecration of a true Catholic bishop, with the full ceremonial of the Church.

Plan to come to Mass or Stations Friday evening and get a firsthand report. Plan to come anyway! Don't forget the short Sunday stations (10 minutes), the long Sunday Vespers and Benediction (50 minutes), and all the Holy Masses, both high (week-days—50 minutes or so) and low (35 to 45). I thought the time chart might be helpful for those who have a lot to do. We made a good beginning this past week. It is the Mass we wish to emphasize above all this Lent. The Mass, like our life, lent to us for a time. Use your time well.

But is anybody reading any good books this

Lent? A few years ago we used to have all of our students, both school and Sunday, read a life of a saint and do a book report for Lent. I've forgotten the last few years to request this, but if any teachers are reading this.... And I'd be happy to get and grade any book reports. I'm a great believer in reading. You should be too. We have a little used parish library of a sort, back in the school hall. We have wonderful, fresh, and highly recommended reading as well in our gift shop. Do yourself a favor. Read a book.

But most of all, go to Mass!

A Lenten blessing to you and yours!

— Bishop Dolan

P.S. Oh yes, the cats. They're mistaking these warm humid late winter days for Spring, and are eager to get out. Caravaggio even fasted from his dinner one night, but he complained about it too much the next morning. Puccini was in a rush last Saturday. I was shaving with the door slightly ajar. Maybe he was in a hurry to get out and use the facilities, but he just reached in one paw, and pulled down my towel from its rack. Message delivered. Staff hopped to it.



The name "bishop," slightly abbreviated from the Greek word "to oversee," implies the work of a bishop—to direct, to rebuke, and to supervise those under his care. And his emblems of authority are very significant—the pastoral staff, which marks the chief shepherd; and the mitre, emblematic, in its divided shape, of the "cloven tongues as of fire" which descended on the heads of the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost.



*Pray for our new bishop, Fr. Joseph Selway*



*Let us not forget during the first week of Lent, the Ember Days, days of more intense penance and of greater zeal.*

*The great duel of Light vs. Darkness, characteristic of the Lenten period, has passed its first phase—Christ and His Church on the defensive against the Devil.*

*By a generous spirit of penance, the soul is trained to resist evil. It has defended itself against the spirit of darkness.*

THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD  
OF THE NEW & ETERNAL TESTAMENT



ON UNSTEADY GROUNDS

*Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!  
Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!*

If you've seen *The Wizard of Oz*, that refrain might be familiar to you. It's the one Dorothy and her comrades chant as they approach a dark and sinister-looking forest on their way to Oz. Whatever is lurking there is all that stands between them and the wizard who will grant them their wishes.

Perhaps this Lent you've already been approached by wild beasts of doubt threatening your attempts at mortification, spiritual progress, and prayerful resolve. "What was I thinking, trying to fit daily Mass into my schedule with all I have to do!" "A weekly holy hour during Lent? I don't even have ten minutes to myself!" "Read the Bible? Where to begin...?"

One Lent I pledged myself to forego a daily cup of overpriced coffee from a coffee shop near my office and donate the money to charity. No sooner had I knelt down before the start of Ash Wednesday Mass, when a woman came in smelling of that heavenly, freshly brewed coffee. And no sooner had Mass ended and I'd made my thanksgiving offering, than I was in that coffee shop!

Jesus lasted forty days in the desert. Me? Forty minutes, max. But the wild beast of my disordered self had awakened and could then begin to be tamed.

- Rev. T.S. Hickey



THE OLD FAST: A FAMILY LENT!

"The first time that I felt like Lent really worked for me was when my husband introduced me to the Eastern practice for Lent."

(The Eastern church preserves the old fast, followed by everybody for centuries. You might call it "vegan plus." No meat, fish, dairy, wine, olive oil or eggs. Wow! Why? I think these foods represent Christ in one way or another. Sounds pretty strict. Oh, you should also forgo deserts and alcohol. Shrimp, of all things, is okay, as are scallops and even lobster. But that's another story.... Sounds pretty penitential, except for the fancy seafood, doesn't it? What's the benefit? Read on what this mother has to say. - *Bishop Dolan*)

"Switching from giving up meat once a week and struggling to come up with some other forbidden item, to a dedicated forty days without any meat or dairy, transformed Lent from a lame diet into a liturgically-minded lifestyle. You have to alter everything—how you shop, how you plan meals, how you cook, how you eat. Lent is, then, always on your mind, whether you are pushing a grocery cart around Costco or planning your daughter's birthday dinner. Lent is no longer once a week plus that one luxury item that you gave up for forty days. It is your whole day, your whole week, your whole month. Altering your food habits so thoroughly fosters a greater mindfulness of the liturgical season. *When families observe Lent like this together*, instead of a mash of individual, different sacrifices, you get *a community fully engaged in the season*, because *you have invited Lent into your home*. Two millennia of Christian tradition proves to be a very useful and wise method of uniting you to our suffering Savior.

"I should point out that small children, the sick, pregnant women, and the elderly are, as they always

have been, exempted from the full rigors of Lent. The traditional Lent, properly understood, has never been about damaging bodies but about elevating souls. When my husband and I sit down to coconut curried lentils, our two year old has a side of chicken nuggets and a glass of milk.

"Our medieval ancestors had many helpful elements of practice that we lack which tied the liturgical calendar to daily life and united the secular and the sacred. One of my favorite paintings is Jean-François Millet's "L'Angelus," in which two farmers pause in their field to pray the *Angelus* at the sound of the noon bells. Medieval poetry beautifully describes how the first harvest of wheat was liturgically minded, as it was donated to the local church to make into the Eucharist. ...In our modern world, many of these intersections of daily life and liturgical life have been drowned out by noise or antiquated by a radically altered economy. Often, we have to go outside of the usual in order to find the Sacred. But Lent remains a perfect opportunity to pin your daily life to the liturgical calendar, even if society at large is not doing it with you.

"...these days we Catholics end up following the minimum requirements as if they were the ideal practice, and end up missing out on the spirit of the season. Perhaps this year, we should resurrect the old custom...by saying farewell to the foods of ordinary time and commit every day to living Lent. I promise that you will find it a transformative experience." - *Mary Cuff*



ALL SUNDAY MASSES, SCHOOL DAY MASSES, FRIDAY EVENING AND SATURDAY MORNING MASSES ARE WEBCAST AT SGGRESOURCES.ORG.

|     |            |  |      |
|-----|------------|--|------|
| MON | 2/19/18    | FERIAL DAY<br>PRESIDENTS DAY   | FAST |
|     | ☞ 7:00 AM  | Low Mass Sharon & her family (C. Simpson family)   |      |
|     | 11:25 AM   | High Mass †Paul Puglielli, Sr., Feb. 19 (12 years)<br>(Diane Youngworth)                   |      |
| TUE | 2/20/18    | FERIAL DAY   | FAST |
|     | 11:25 AM   | High Mass †Ryan Greenwell  |      |
| WED | 2/21/18    | EMBER WEDNESDAY  | FAST |
|     | ☞ 11:25 AM | Rosary   |      |
|     | 3:00 PM    | Children's Stations of the Cross   |      |
| THU | 2/22/18    | ST. PETER'S CHAIR AT ANTIOCH   | FAST |
|     | 11:25 AM   | Low Mass For Bishop Selway   |      |
| FRI | 2/23/18    | EMBER FRIDAY<br>ST. PETER DAMIAN, BPCD<br>VIGIL OF ST. MATTHIAS<br>THE LANCE AND NAILS     | FAST |
|     | 11:25 AM   | Rosary   |      |
|     | 5:15 PM    | Confessions & Rosary   |      |
|     | 5:35 PM    | Closing of Infant of Prague Novena   |      |
|     | 5:45 PM    | Low Mass In petition to the Holy Child Doctor & Our Lady, Health of the Sick               |      |
|     | 6:45 PM    | Lenten Supper  |      |
|     | 7:30 PM    | Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Mother Novena<br>V with Blessing of the Sick, Benediction |      |
| SAT | 2/24/18    | ST. MATTHIAS, AP<br>EMBER SATURDAY   | FAST |
|     | 7:10 AM    | Confessions  |      |
|     | 7:30 AM    | Low Mass Bishop Selway & all MHT Clergy & Seminarians (C. Simpson family)                  |      |
|     | 8:10 AM    | Ave & Sermon   |      |
|     | 8:20 AM    | Low Mass Sharon Patton (Jim Soli)  |      |
| SUN | 2/25/18    | LENT II<br>ST. WALBURGA, V<br>BL. SEBASTIAN OF APARICIO, C                                 |      |
|     | 7:05 AM    | Rosary   |      |
|     | 7:30 AM    | Low Mass †Mrs. Wilma Schappacher (Dan, Mary & family)                                      |      |
|     | 9:00 AM    | High Mass James Kolenich & family (Jeanne Omlor)   |      |
|     | 10:40 AM   | Sunday Classes   |      |
|     | 11:15 AM   | Short Stations of the Cross  |      |
|     | 11:30 AM   | Low Mass †Mary Jane Donadio (John Brockman)  |      |
|     | 4:45 PM    | Vespers & Benediction  |      |
|     | 5:45 PM    | Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great  |      |

*"The Mass renders to God the greatest honor that can be given to Him, it procures the most powerful help for the souls in Purgatory...it appeases the anger of God against sinners, and obtains for us the Divine grace in the fullest abundance."*  
 — St. Alphonsus

YOUNG SERVERS GUIDE

*Each week our young servers are learning (and older servers reviewing) one response of the Mass. Parents, please help.*

THIS WEEK'S LESSON

*P. Ostende nobis, Domine, misericordiam tuam.  
 S. Et salutare tuum da nobis.  
 (Ett sah-loo-tah'ray too'oom dah no'beese.)*

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

This Sunday is held so sacred by the Church that it can never be set aside by any feast, however solemn. For although we regard Lent as beginning on Ash Wednesday, in the early ages of the Church this Sunday was looked upon as the formal entry upon the season of penance. St. Gregory, in one of his homilies, bears witness to this fact. He speaks of the thirty-six days of fasting (the exact number of days in Lent, omitting Sundays, which are never fast-days) as the tenth part of the year,—our "tithe" offered to God. The four weekdays from Ash Wednesday were added later, to bring the exact number up to forty.



*Our Beloved Dead – February*

| <u>Name</u>          | <u>Date of Death</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Eileen R. Bartels    | 2-03-2008            |
| Margaret Winningham  | 2-04-2002            |
| Betty Joliffe        | 2-04-2011            |
| Carol Jean Mincey    | 2-07-2009            |
| Dorothy Stoll        | 2-10-2002            |
| Peter J. Gebel       | 2-11-2006            |
| Homer (Dale) Downing | 2-14-2003            |
| Estrella I. Simpson  | 2-14-2012            |
| Vashtie Strunk       | 2-16-1991            |
| Robert H. Gough      | 2-16-2000            |
| Bernard Brueggemann  | 2-19-2011            |
| Mary O'Donnell       | 2-20-2000            |
| Joseph D. Wilson     | 2-20-2002            |
| Paul J. Ewers, Sr.   | 2-22-1984            |
| Rita Brueggemann     | 2-27-2008            |
| Mary A. Mahsling     | 2-27-1994            |

SERVERS

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| SUN 2/25 | 7:30 AM Low: Brueggemann Bros.<br>9:00 AM High: CHAPLAINS: J. Simpson, J. Lacy TH: L. Arlinghaus ACs: C. Richesson, C. Arlinghaus TORCH: C. & J. Mourer, D. Simpson, J. Stewart<br>11:30 AM Low: A.D. Kinnett, B. Lotarski<br>4:45 VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G Miller<br>5:45 PM Low: G Miller |
|----------|---|

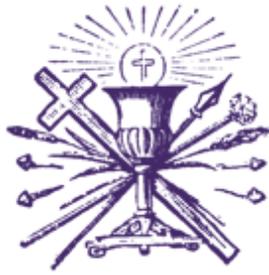
## MONDAY IN LENT I

**Thought**—“Whatsoever you have done unto the least of My brethren, you have done it unto Me.” (Gospel)

**Practice**—Today I shall do an act of charity for a poor or suffering person, even if I have to go out of my way to do it.

**Prayer**—My God, make us to be of one mind in the truth and of one heart in charity. (300 days indulgence)

*“The salvation of the whole world is bound up with this Mystery.”* – St. Odo of Cluny



## TUESDAY IN LENT I



have mercy on him, for He is very ready to forgive.” (Epistle)

**Practice**—I shall try to arouse sorrow for my sins many times today by saying the act of contrition either in my own words or according to the formula, thoughtfully and sincerely.

**Prayer**—O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. (500 days indulgence)

**Thought**—“Seek the Lord while He can be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked give up his way and the unjust man his evil desires. Let him return to the Lord! Our God will

*“The world owes its preservation to the Mass.”* – Timothy of Jerusalem

## WEDNESDAY IN LENT I

**Thought**—“He arose and ate and drank, and walked in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights.” (Epistle)

**Practice**—I will not complain today because I am hungry or because I don’t like some food I am expected to eat. I will think of the Will of God as my food, with which I am always satisfied.

**Prayer**—Teach me, O Lord, to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. (500 days indulgence)



*“The Mass is a memorial of God’s goodness to us and a summing up of all His benefits.”*

– St. Bonaventure

## THURSDAY IN LENT I



**Thought**—“The soul that sins, that one shall die; but if a man be just, ...and keep My commandments, he shall surely live.” (Epistle)

**Practice**—Today I shall avoid the occasions of sin—those people, places, things (TV, magazines,

movies) which most frequently tempt me to sin.

**Prayer**—O Lord, throughout this day, keep us free from sin. (500 days indulgence)

*“Each Mass has for the welfare and salvation of men the same efficacy as the Sacrifice of the Cross.”*

– St. Thomas

## FRIDAY IN LENT I THE LANCE AND NAILS

**Thought**—“...when the just man turns away from his justice and commits sins, he shall die in them; when the wicked turns away from his sins, and does penance and corrects his evil ways, he shall live forever.” (Epistle)

**Practice**—Every time that I shall find myself either speaking or thinking of other people’s faults, I shall make an act of contrition for my own.

**Prayer**—O Lord, remember not our former iniquities, and be merciful to our sins for Thy Name’s sake. (500 days indulgence)

*“Spiritual gifts will be rich bestowed upon those who assist at Mass with proper dispositions.”*

– St. Cyril



## SATURDAY IN LENT I

**Thought**—“Pray without ceasing. In all things give thanks.” (Epistle)



**Practice**—Besides saying, “Thank you,” or “God bless you,” I shall also offer a prayer for everyone who shows me any kindness today.

**Prayer**—My God, I give You thanks for what You give and for what You take away; Thy will be done. *(300 days indulgence)*

*“(At Mass)...those in mortal sin, which they cannot bring themselves to give up, may get the strong grace they require to break their chains...”*  
— Mother Loyola

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

**Thought**—“But lifting up their eyes they saw no one, but only Jesus.” (Gospel)

**Practice**—Today I shall try to see Jesus in every person—even in those who may be in some way unkind, because in them Jesus is present but is not allowed to act because their free will refuses to give Him this freedom.

**Prayer**—Lord, increase our faith. *(500 days indulgence)*

*“God does not hear sinners, said the blind man in the Gospel; but he was wrong. He hears them willingly, hears them always, and, above all, hears them at Mass.”*  
— Mother Loyola

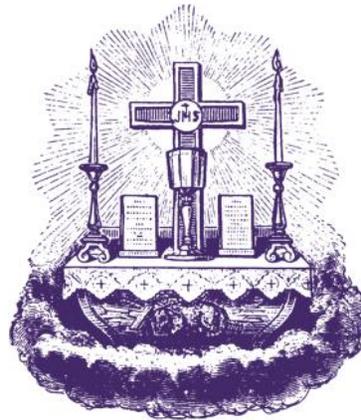


## ON HOLY MASS

How seldom do we thank Jesus Christ that...He has left us a sacrifice that cannot fail to be pleasing to God, a thank-offering proportionate to the benefits we have received from Him, a victim capable of effacing the sins of the world.

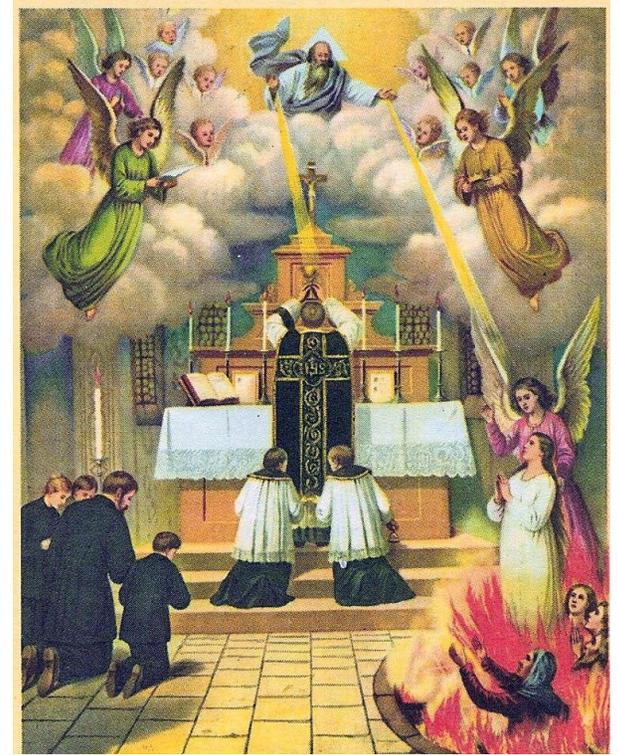
[During Lent I may] offend God by my bad intention or by the way I act more than I glorify Him. ...But when I hear Mass...I can with full courage and confidence defy heaven to do anything that pleases God more. Then I can ask for pardon and be sure of obtaining it no matter how great or numberless my sins. Whatever I hope for and desire I can pray for confidently. I can ask for great graces of every kind for myself, my friends, and my enemies, and, far from being ashamed at asking for so much, I shall know it is little in comparison with what I offer. My only fear is that I shall ask too little and not have a firm, unshakable hope of obtaining not only what I ask but far more.

— Bl. Claude de la Colombiere



St. Gertrude the Great Church  
4900 Rialto Rd., West Chester, Ohio 45069  
(513) 645-4212 [www.sgg.org](http://www.sgg.org)

## Our Lent: A Mass



## Daily Meditations for Lent

2018

“God is more honored by a single Mass than He could be by all the actions of angels and men together, however fervent and heroic they might be. Yet, how few hear Mass with the intention of giving God this sublime honor! How few think with joy on the glory a Mass gives to God. How few rejoice to possess the means of honoring Him as He deserves! ...If we only knew the treasure we hold in our hands!” — Bl. Claude de la Colombiere