



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

March 15, 2020

LENT III

ST. CLEMENT MARY HOFBAUER, C



¶ OCULI SUNDAY

Today is the third Sunday of Lent. The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available at the Communion rail after all Masses. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Short Stations are at 11:15 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

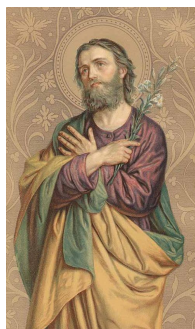
¶ ST. PATRICK



The feast of St. Patrick is on **Tuesday**. The Lenten fast is traditionally dispensed on this day. Come to Mass to celebrate his feast: 7, 8, and Solemn Mass at 11:25 AM.

¶ ST. JOSEPH'S FEAST

Join us **Thursday** for the great feast of St. Joseph. Low Masses are at 7 and 8 AM. Solemn High Mass is at 11:25 AM followed by the Blessing of Bread. Those who attend are dispensed from the fast. Bring some food for the poor to the St. Joseph Table.



¶ NEXT SUNDAY: LENT IV

Next Sunday is Laetare, the fourth Sunday of Lent. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Short Stations will be at 11:15 AM. There will be no Vespers.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Lent IV, second collect of St. Isidore the Farmer. Preface of Lent.

Lumen Christi

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

**Personal intentions of Gisèle Demers
& sister Francine**
(Gisèle A. Demers)



Lenten Friday Evening of Recollection March 20th

5:45 PM: Low Mass

6:45 PM: Lenten Supper:
Vegetable lasagna, potato soup,
bread, salad and fruit.

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

8:30 PM (approx.): Distribution
of Holy Communion

¶ UPCOMING

Altar Boys Day: Saturday, March 28th.
First Communion Testing: Saturday,
April 18th.

¶ CATECHISM CORNER

The Eight Beatitudes (Matt. v):

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are the meek; for they shall possess the land.
3. Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted. (*To be continued.*)

¶ LENTEN DEVOTIONS

The **Sorrowful Mother Novena** with the Blessing of the Sick is every **Friday night after Stations**. Bring the sick to be blessed, and contact the office with their names, to be mentioned during the novena.

Every Sunday at 11:15 AM, **Short Stations** are on offer. They are very brief, and certainly will not take up too much of your Sunday. Children's Stations on Wednesdays at 3 PM with Benediction complete our offerings.

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Fr. Cekada, Mary McGuire, David & Anita Nelson, and all of the intentions that have been recommended to us.

A CARD OF THANKS

We thank you so very much for all the prayers, especially the Mass, and condolences on the death of our dear brother Steve. May God reward you for your kindness. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for the intentions of all who prayed for the repose of his soul.

— Mike & Lexi Briggs

Collection Report

Sunday, March 8th\$4,889.00

HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON A FATHER

It is the same hand that forms the hearts of men one by one who placed a father's heart in Joseph and a son's heart in Jesus. This is why Jesus obeyed, and why Joseph did not fear to command Him. Whence the boldness to command his Creator? The true Father of Jesus Christ, the God who begot Him in eternity, chose holy Joseph to serve as the father for His Only Begotten Son in time and caused his veins to flow with a certain ray or spark of His infinite love for His Son. He changed his heart; He gave him a father's love. And Joseph, who sensed in himself a paternal heart, formed by the very hand of God, also sensed that God had ordained him to employ paternal authority; and thus, he dared to command the one whom he recognized as his master.

And after all of this, need I explain Joseph's fidelity in guarding this sacred trust? Could he have been wanting in fidelity toward the one whom he recognized as his only Son?...

For here we learn, by the continual journeys that were required of Saint Joseph once Jesus Christ was placed under his protection, that this trust cannot be preserved without effort, and that, to be faithful to grace, one must be prepared to suffer. Yes, certainly, when Jesus came into a place, He brought His cross, He carried with Him all of His sorrows, and He shared them with those He loved. Joseph and Mary were poor, but they did not yet lack a home. They had a roof over their heads. As soon as this Child came into the world, there was no more home for them, and their shelter was a stable....

They lived together in their home, in poverty but with sweetness, overcoming their poverty by their patience and hard work.... Picture for yourselves a poor artisan. His

hands are his only inheritance. He has no wealth beyond his workshop, no income beyond what his labor provides. He is forced to go to Egypt and to suffer a troublesome exile, and why? Because he has Jesus Christ with him. Does he complain about this difficult Child, who tears him away from his homeland and brings torment to him? On the contrary, he counts himself happy to suffer in His company; all that troubles him is the peril of the Divine Infant, more dear to him than his own life.

— Bishop Jacques-Bénigne Bossuet



PRAYER IN TIME OF CONTAGION

Glorious St. Roch, present in our favor thy efficacious prayers to the throne of Divine Mercy, that we may not be affected by the scourge of contagion. Preserve us, by thy intercession, from the pestilence of the body; and above all, obtain for us deliverance from the more grievous maladies of the soul. Amen.

Many cities have been speedily delivered from the plague by imploring the intercession of St. Roch; in particular, the City of Constance, during the General Council held there in 1414. St. Roch was born of a noble family in Montpellier, and making a pilgrimage of devotion to Rome, he devoted himself entirely to serving the sick during a ravaging pestilence.

HOMECOMING

I return to you,
Sorry but certain
You will not turn me away.
Youth is carefree
Before truth that is flesh and bleeds
But will not go away.
The weight I've come to bear
But did not need to carry,
I place at your feet.
Tears, relief, a bit of fear—
After all these years
I dare to approach your longing for me.
The true weight I bear
Is a love that cannot be overcome.
The years gone by, my offering.
I am old now, but your presence
won't recede.
I've given up everything
That can't live with you eternally.

— Rita A. Simmonds

A meditation on the Prodigal Son. "Forgive us...as we forgive."



ECCE ANCILLA

Behold the Lord's handmaiden
In her dawn-gardened room,
As though some nook of Eden
Survived with its best bloom.

She stands so like a flower,
Most pleased to bow and nod
Beneath the Spirit's shower
Or to the breath of God.

The Lord's handmaiden, behold her,
The rose of Sharon, blush
At what a strange wind told her
During a strange rain's rush.

— Fray Chavez O.F.M.

Krogers was crazy the last few days, but customary quiet reigned in church. Nobody was crowding in to hear Mass or receive the Sacraments during the Plague Days. Perhaps this is the greatest plague of all. Oh, we had a little uptick in attendance last Sunday, mostly due to visitors here for a baptism. But some who have been “sheltering in place” all Winter did return.

We suffer from not one but three plagues. The official one is thus far invisible, a matter of faith. The second one, mass panic, is everywhere, egged on by the media and government officials. The one job they seem to do quite efficiently is panicking the public. Witness the empty store shelves and now legendary missing toilet paper. Those who live by the media die by the media. The third plague, the imposition of a police state, marches on quietly and more quickly now in these troubled days.

Let us then invoke the Heavenly and earthly Trinity, Almighty God, the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, Joseph. St. Michael looks over our church. Beg him frequently to sheath the sword of God's wrath. Holy Mother Church provides a special procession for times of plague, and invokes St. Sebastian (who is also patron of police officers!) against it.

Our church remains open, and this week's great and cheering feasts, St. Patrick and St. Joseph, beckon with the promise of powerful patronage. May God deliver you from panic, and increase your piety to face the plagues with peaceful calm. Pray.

Fr. Nkamuke has asked for our prayers as he has set out on a long “routine” mission trip in a chaotic and now murderously anti-Christian country. God reward his zeal for souls, and keep him safe.

Did you see the trophies in the vestibule? Amidst all the bad news, I'm eager to report some good. We're ever so proud of our High School boys who were the Fencing Tournament Champions, Divisions 1 and 2. Congratulations! Fencing is not sport, but a classical art which once formed gentlemen. It teaches poise and self-confidence among other qualities. Our students once again prove themselves as good learners...and gentlemen.

Fr. Cekada resumed his seminary classes via Skype this past week, teaching two mornings. His rehabilitation therapy continues, as does his progress, and our prayers.

So, for that matter, does the Spring. How cheery is each unexpected burst of sun, or Spring blossom. My forsythia are glowing yellow. Two mourning doves arrived and proceeded to conduct a demure courtship

on my kitchen porch. Puccini is on endless patrol of our peripheries now. He got the bad end of an encounter with some enemy animal, with a head wound to show for it. But his appetite continues unabated. An excellent sign.

It used to be that people would turn to God, however briefly, in times of crisis. I remember the numbers crowding churches after the September 11th attack years ago. But now churches stay quiet, and the Novus Ordo bishops mostly anticipate even the government rush to close them down. Pray that ours stays open. Don't take it for granted. But if it didn't, would it bother you? Pray it does, but no panic!

Jesus, Mary, Joseph assist you, Michael and Sebastian protect you!

– Bishop Dolan

P.S. Please say these prayers daily:

PLAGUE PRAYERS TO BE RECITED EVERY DAY

Vouchsafe to hear us, O God, our only salvation! And through the intercession of the glorious and blessed Mary, Mother of God and ever Virgin, of Thy blessed martyr, Sebastian and of all the saints, deliver Thy people from the terrors of Thy wrath, and restore their confidence by the outpouring of Thy compassion.

Be moved to pity, O Lord, at our earnest entreaties, and heal the illnesses of body and soul; so that experiencing Thy forgiveness, we may ever rejoice in Thy blessing.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, grant us a hearing as we devoutly raise our petitions to Thee, and graciously turn away the epidemic of plague which afflicts us; so that mortal hearts may recognize that these scourges proceed from Thine indignation and cease only when Thou art moved to mercy. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and evermore. Amen.

clip and save

Fulton Sheen said, “...if Christ is in any one of the churches of the world today, He must still be hated as He was when He was on earth in the flesh. If you would find Christ today... Look for the Church that is hated by the world, as Christ was hated by the world.” No one is feared and even hated more than those true Catholics they call the Sedevacantists.



✠ CALENDAR

MON	3/16/20	FERIAL DAY <i>FAST</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass For all who cook for us and for our devoted drivers (<i>The Fathers</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass †Angela Appelhanz (<i>K & M Christensen</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers
TUE	3/17/20	ST. PATRICK, BPC <i>NO FAST</i> <i>ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA, C</i> 7:00 AM Low Mass †Maria Hernandez Alejos (<i>Mike Sieverding</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Fr. Cekada – Health (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ritze</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass In honor of St. Patrick for the Poor Souls in Purgatory (<i>A.M. Omlor</i>)
WED	3/18/20	ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BPCD <i>FAST</i> 7:00 AM Low Mass Mary Kate Strasser (<i>Mr. & Mrs. William H. Young III</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Relief of the Holy Souls (<i>Kolenich Family</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Fr. Cekada (<i>Alexander Krawczyk</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 3:00 PM Stations, Benediction & Holy Communion ☞ 5:10 PM Low Mass Special Intentions (<i>P.T. & A.M. Omlor</i>)
THU	3/19/20	ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF OUR LADY <i>FAST</i> 7:00 AM Low Mass In honor of St. Joseph – My Intentions (<i>Fr. Lehtoranta</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass In honor of St. Joseph – Thanksgiving (<i>Sarah Burns</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass †Samuel Zuccaro (<i>Dave & MaryAnn Marko</i>)
FRI	3/20/20	FERIAL DAY <i>FAST</i> <i>THE FIVE HOLY WOUNDS</i> <i>SS. PHOTINA & COMPANIONS, MM</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass †Margaret L. Soli 3 rd Anniversary (<i>Jim Soli</i>) 11:05 AM Confessions 11:25 AM High Mass †Ryan Greenwell (<i>Eva Nellenbach</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass Fr. Bede Nkamuke (<i>Marguerite Benedetto</i>) 6:45 PM Lenten Supper 7:30 PM Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Mother Novena VII, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction 8:30 PM (approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion
SAT	3/21/20	ST. BENEDICT, AB <i>FAST</i> 7:15 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass †Sylvia Good, Birthday 27 Feb., Sister (<i>Deloris Ritze</i>) 8:20 AM Ave & Sermon 8:30 AM (approx.) High Mass For my family (<i>Jason Murray</i>)
SUN	3/22/20	LENT IV, LAETARE SUNDAY <i>ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER, C</i> <i>ST. CATHERINE OF GENOA, W</i> 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass Cecilia Rossi (<i>Joe & Nathalie Andreotta</i>)

THE SEVEN PETITIONS OF LIFE (CONTINUED)

But we cannot follow God's will without subduing the world; the last three petitions of the prayer ask for help in doing that.

The first difficulty we must overcome is to free ourselves from the effects of past sins and from resentment against the injuries we have suffered. "*Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us*" makes our reception of pardon conditional on our pardoning of those who have offended us. As we distribute mercy, so we shall receive it.

The second struggle in which we need God's help is that of avoiding future evil. "*Lead us not into temptation*" implores that we shall not lose our way. The way can be lost through egotism or lust or avarice: we pray for preservation from such temptations as are too strong for us, for victory over those which cannot be avoided.

The third and final fetter we must break if we are to live the lives we should is the sense of fear, frustration, boredom, ennui, despair, and melancholy which might weigh down the soul confined to a world of trials and sorrows. That is why we ask, "*Deliver us from evil.*" The evil is inevitably around us; it is our task to keep clear of it. Our Lord said to God, speaking of His own followers, "I am not asking that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them clear of what is evil." (*To be continued*)

– Bishop Sheen

"Gather up all your worries and make a bundle of them and throw them all into those most holy wounds of Jesus Christ. You could not put them anywhere better than in Jesus and His most holy Mother. They are the ones who are perfectly capable of consoling and calming the human heart."

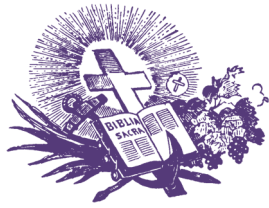
– St. Catherine de' Ricci

Servers

SUN 3/22 7:30 AM **Low**: Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM **High**: MC: J. Lacy TH: Na. McClorey ACs: T. Lawrence, C. Arlinghaus TORCH: T. & D. England, A. McClorey, J. Stewart
11:15 AM **Stations**: MC: D. Simpson CROSS: C. Arlinghaus ACs: T. & D. England
11:30 AM **Low**: A.D. Kinnett, J. Kolenich
5:45 PM **Low**: G. Miller

9:00 AM **High Mass** For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
10:40 AM **Catechism Classes**
11:15 AM **Short Stations**
11:30 AM **Low Mass** Nancy & John Seyfried (*Grau*)
5:45 PM **Low Mass** Joshua Gunsher & Family – In thanksgiving (*Janet Strauss*)

MONDAY IN LENT III



"Thy Kingdom come" (Matt. vi. 10). After having asked for what relates to the honor of God our Father, we beg for ourselves,

who are His Children, the true and eternal inheritance which He has prepared for us. This is the "*Kingdom*" of God, since there He will reign with supreme authority over His saints, without opposition or rebellion or sin, and enjoy the love of His happy subjects. It is our "*Kingdom*" also, since in it we shall possess perfect happiness; for when we speak of an earthly king, we imply a man who is rich, honored, happy, one who has all he desires. If we really wish for paradise, we must detach ourselves from the world and from this life, which we must be willing to surrender; otherwise, to ask for it is to contradict ourselves, as St. Cyprian says: "*As when someone who wishes to live a long time is asking that the Kingdom of God may come quickly.*"

TUESDAY IN LENT III

The "*Kingdom*" of God which we ask for is His reign within our hearts: "*The Kingdom of God is within you*" (Luke xvii. 21). This is when He rules them by His grace and through our love. In order to ensure His reigning there, we must drive out sin, which is His enemy, and place ourselves wholly under the guidance of His grace.



The "*Kingdom*" of God is also His

reign in the world. If men, who are the subjects of Him Who is King throughout all times and over all nations, acknowledged Him as their God and admitted the Divinity and the Sovereignty of Jesus Christ, and if they submitted to His laws, they would choose Him for their king. What happiness this would be for those who love Him! We ask for this: "*Thy Kingdom come.*" Let us add our efforts to our prayers, in order to establish a kingdom so rightful and so greatly to be desired.

WEDNESDAY IN LENT III

Jesus speaks so frequently about the kingdom; the kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven, My kingdom, and simply "the kingdom"; and He makes so many comparisons that it is difficult to define His use of the word with precision as applying to all occasions. Very frequently He uses it to refer to His visible kingdom on earth, His Church. At other times He uses the word in a more comprehensive meaning, to indicate the reign of God's Law in the hearts of men, the general reign of holiness, of God's holy will. We may safely take it in this broader sense here, when Jesus tells us to pray, "*Thy kingdom come.*" This was, we may say, the thought that continually haunted the mind of Jesus, the desire that above all others continually consumed His filial Heart. "Behold, I come...to do Thy will, O God," is His first word on entering the world, His morning offering (Heb. 10:7). To do the Father's will is



at all times His food and drink; and as He began, so He will close His earthly life, doing the Father's will. His own perfect holiness made it inevitable that this should ever be the dominant aim of His life. What wonder that in this also He would teach us to be *like* Him, *with* Him.

THURSDAY IN LENT III

To achieve this Christlikeness we must begin with our interior attitude, to be forged in the workshop of prayer—prayer in all its forms, as long as it is genuine prayer and not mere lip service, not mere outward forms. The liturgy of the Church, actively participated in, is bound to produce a profound effect. A fervent retreat, particularly a closed retreat, made in prayerful solitude under the direction of an experienced retreat master, can work the reorientation of a life. And once desire flowers forth in *action*, Catholic Action, works of zeal, apostolic endeavor, then interior zeal will grow by leaps and bounds. Uncounted thousands of men and women, in the cloister and in the world, have learned how to make their life beautifully Christlike in their unwearied, fiery zeal that "*Thy kingdom come.*" And it will be gratifying to note how this zeal for the coming of the kingdom will help us to advance in all that goes to a more perfect love of God and man. It is an ideal that is eminently suited to fire the imagination, capture the heart and affections, inspire devoted loyalty and heroic sacrifice.



FRIDAY IN LENT III

THE FIVE HOLY WOUNDS



God's kingdom will be promoted not only by supernatural means, but by all that makes for righteousness even in the natural order. Indeed, in our day, when

so many have flung aside all reverence for law, both supernatural and natural, we may have to consider this the fundamental task—to labor with might and main to awaken in the minds and hearts of men respect for this natural rectitude, based upon the Moral Law as expressed in our very nature. For supernatural holiness, which God requires of us, is natural holiness perfected, and thus presupposes it, and lifts it up to a higher plane, transforms it, lends it heavenly charm and value.

SATURDAY IN LENT III

If we are sincere in our desire that the kingdom of God should possess the hearts of men, we ourselves must strive to be inspiring examples of moral rectitude: of uncompromising loyalty to truth in word and conduct; honest beyond suspicion; just toward all—our justice tempered with charity, with mercy, kindness, sympathy; models of domestic fidelity; champions of the weak and poor; clean in thought, word, and conduct. Salt that has lost its savor is fit only to be cast out and trampled underfoot...

The "kingdom" as here used by Jesus,



though not restricted to His visible kingdom on earth, the Church, certainly includes it. Each time we repeat the invocation it ought to deepen in us the desire to bring all men to Christ in His Church, because there is no other way to God save the God-Man. He is THE WAY! And until they have found the living Christ in His Church, they have only seen Him from afar, or at best they have not yet fully found Him.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

And once we have come somewhat to understand God's ways with men, and our hearts, like Jesus' Heart, burn with desire that God's way may triumph everywhere, we shall find means in abundance to translate our desires into action and realization. There is, beside prayer and the other means already referred to, the spread of Catholic literature; not only so-called pious literature, but all reading that is imbued with correct principles, with truly Christian philosophy. Then there is the often sadly neglected participation in the civic, political life of our community, where we should be throwing into the scales such influence as we can command for the triumph of ethical principles as against mere expediency and political advantage. In short, if we but carry our Catholic principles and convictions into every aspect of our social as well as our private life, we shall be exercising a genuine apostolate, and one that is particularly needed in our day, when there is such a widespread tendency to relegate our zeal to our Sunday Mass and the parish church.



LENT 2020

THE OUR FATHER



THY KINGDOM COME

How to Meditate:

Say a little prayer to the Holy Ghost to start. Read over the text slowly. Pause, reread it prayerfully. Sit quietly with it. Pray in your own words. Conclude with the Our Father.

Act of Spiritual Communion

In this Sacrament Thou dost give us a foretaste of the blessedness and the entrancing delights of this Thy kingdom. For as an earnest and pledge of our future glory, Thou hast given us the Body and Blood of Thy Son, and hast thus made us, by the grace of adoption, heirs of Thyself and fellow heirs with Christ.

Meanwhile, while we yet wander in the land of exile from the Lord, grant us so to use this sacred pledge that the kingdom of Thy grace may daily advance in us more and more, and that the kingdom of Thy glory may at length come in us.