

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • PARISH OFFICE: (513) 645-4212 (9 AM-3 PM)
parishoffice@sgg.org • bpmcguire@sgg.org • frlehtoranta@sgg.org • firmckenna@sgg.org
www.sgg.org • www.SGGResources.org • traditionalmass.org • EMERGENCY LINE: (513) 509-0424
TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Sundays 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

Most Rev. Charles J. McGuire, *Pastor* • Rev. Stephen McKenna
Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Thomas Simpson • Rev. Anthony Brueggemann




November 19, 2023

PENTECOST XXV


ST. ELIZABETH, W • ST. PONTIANUS, PM

THANKSGIVING

Join us for special holiday Masses, with prayers of  **THANKSGIVING** on Thursday, November 23, at 7, 8, (with music) and 9 AM. Holy Mass is the best way to give thanks! Let's joyfully and thankfully stress the religious character of this holiday. The abstinence is traditionally dispensed the Friday after Thanksgiving and meat may be eaten. Happy Thanksgiving!

NEXT SUNDAY

Last Sunday After Pentecost: The end of the Liturgical Year. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM, and Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

 **Set Your Missal:** Last Sunday After Pentecost, second collect of St. Sylvester, third of St. Peter of Alexandria. Trinity Preface.

YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Jim Soli, Judith Parlett, Timothy & Jean Robson, and all of the intentions that have been recommended to us.

Collection Report

Sunday, November 12th.....\$5,333.00
Thank you for your generosity.



Lumen Christi

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

Conversion of the Kennedy & Mason families
(Sally Mason)

We cannot get holy by thinking; we must ask God's help and keep asking Him for it. We must talk things over with Him. He knows all about it already, but it is His Will to give us help in proportion as we ask Him and talk things over with Him. He is so interested and knows so well how to help us and is so able to help us. You never think of this? "No." Then no wonder you make so little progress in the art.



St. Elizabeth of Hungary – a Saint for Thanksgiving!



SOLEMNITY OF ST. GERTRUDE

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available at the Communion Rail following all Masses today. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM, and Vespers at 4:45 PM.

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday is the Presentation of Our Lady. **Wednesday** is the feast of the patroness of music, St. Cecilia. On **Thursday** we close the Octave and Novena of St. Gertrude. St. John of the Cross comes **Friday**. **Saturday** is the feast of the patroness of philosophers and young ladies looking for suitable husbands, St. Catherine.

To assist the souls of the faithful departed is a yearlong duty, obligatory on our sense of love and gratitude in all seasons, but especially incumbent upon us during the month



specifically called the Month of the Holy Souls. The most effective method of coming to their aid is, without doubt, to have the Adorable Sacrifice offered for their repose; and this is perhaps the most common form of assistance proffered to them. There is, however, another excellent means of coming to their aid,—a means quite within the competency even of those who are unable to secure the offering of as many Masses as they would like to have celebrated for their departed loved ones,—attending daily Mass for their intention.

St. Augustine assures us that “Prayer is the key by which we open the gates of heaven to the suffering souls;” and theologians teach that, as the Sacrifice of the Mass is more excellent than any other act of worship, so the prayers offered during Mass are more efficacious than any others. It is quite reasonable that it should be so; for whenever we hear Mass our own prayers are strengthened by those of Our Lord Himself; and His prayers, so St. John bids us believe, are never offered in vain; “for the Father heareth Him always.” St. Francis of Sales holds that prayers offered in union with the Divine Victim have an inexpressible power; favors can be obtained during the time of Mass which could be secured at no other period of the day.

Here, then, is an easy means of assisting those faithful departed who have claims on our good offices. Let us, at least throughout this month which is peculiarly theirs, attend Mass every day and unite our prayers to Our Lord’s for their eternal rest.



IN PURGATORY THERE IS ALSO JOY

Generally, Purgatory is thought of as a place of suffering, albeit temporary. But in reality, as explained by St. Catherine of Genoa, Purgatory is not without its joys: just as Christ Himself consoles the souls of the Church Militant, so does He with the Church Suffering, and just as we can cheer each other during our life on Earth, we can do so in Purgatory.

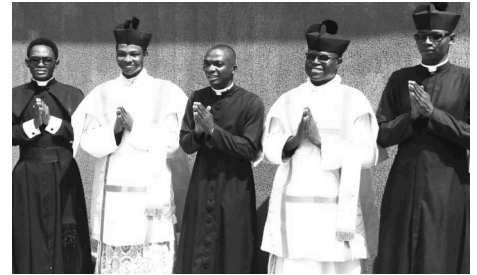
But wait, there’s more. Saint Catherine explains:

“The fire of God’s love is precisely what consumes all rust or stain of sin in the soul. The suffering of Purgatory is therefore above all the pain of loss, much more than the pain of sense, that is, much more than any other penalties that may be found there.

“Indeed, the most terrible thing for the soul is the inner tear produced by a love that, because of these still not completely annihilated impediments, sees his perfect possession of God delayed. And the more purification, the more intense the love and, hence, the cruelest the pain. Love and pain appear and grow in Purgatory in an accelerated progression.

“Purgatory is thus a crescendo of love and pain that leads to heaven, the perfect happiness. The souls in Purgatory do experience great joy, similar to that of the Heavens, and also experience an immense pain, similar to that of Hell; and one does not remove the other.”

Congratulations to Rev. Mr. Benjamin and Rev. Mr. Jonathan, who were ordained to the diaconate by the Most Rev. Bede Nkamuke in Nigeria on November 16, 2023.



PSALM FOR ORDERS

Make of me what Thou wouldst,
My God:
A plough, a sword, an eagle black
against the sky:
A book, a torch, a battle flag to fly:
A root, a tree, a square-set
cornerstone;
A temple of my very flesh and bone.

Beat me out upon Thy forge,
Fan the puring flames with Love
Divine:
Test me hard against Thy Hand
With all devices that are Thine.

Only use me, Lord, a poor,
misshapen thing...
Then may I wander not
To serve another King.

– William Noe Field

PARADOX



“O God, grant me a
good day today,”
I pray.

What I mean,
but do not say, is,
“Spare me sufferings,
pain, or loss.”

And I sign myself
with the Sign
of the Cross.

St. Ambrose once said that no duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks. Last week, we spoke about silver linings and how hard it is to see them in the misfortunate events that happen in our lives. This week, the virtue of gratitude should hold a prominence in our day to day. That's right! Gratitude for all the good things that God has given us, the "not so good things" which His Providence wisely sees fit to send us, and everything in between. We say "Gimme" to God many times each day, but how many times do we remember to say "Thank You?" There should be at least as many *Thank yous* as there are *Gimmes*, right?



St. Gertrude's feast day reminded me of all we have to be thankful for during the years under our present roof. My sister was the last one to be married at the old church and I was the first to be ordained in the new one. Since changing locations twenty years ago, we have had eight priestly ordinations, three episcopal consecrations, countless Masses, confessions, confirmations, holy communions, and baptisms. It is amazing to think of all that goes on in the house of God where the true Faith is followed and the true sacraments are administered. Think of the number of souls to whom the gates of heaven have been opened for the first time through baptism, or reopened through confession, or the fact that God Himself lives in our tabernacle surrounded by the constant presence of angels. A true house of God is a place where souls are led to heaven.

It is good, when things get rough for you, to call to mind with the greatest gratitude all that God has given to us, in spite of our infidelities and ingratitude. Do this every day as part of your morning and evening prayers and you will find reasons for keeping a cheerful heart.

So instead of the constant and demanding *gimme*, let's focus on the *Thank You* this week.

On another note, the Nigerian missions are buzzing with excitement. Two subdeacons became deacons on the feast of St. Gertrude while their Forty Hours Devotion began on the following day and ends today. **Fr. Valerii** has written a couple of nice emails expressing his gratitude for everyone's support. **Fr. Contreras** sent his greetings to all for a blessed feast of St. Gertrude and I even heard from our good friend, **Fr. Mardones**, who also sent his regards on the feast day. Please keep all of our missions and missionaries in your prayers.

I hope you remember to come to at least one extra Mass this weekend to give thanks to God. Happy Thanksgiving to you all!
 – Bishop McGuire

SUBLIME ACT OF THANKSGIVING

From the devotions of St. Gertrude the Great

Blessed be Thy goodness, O my God, and blessed be Thy compassion, O Thou one and true Godhead, Thou one and holy Trinity, Thou one and supreme God, for all the benefits and loving kindnesses with which Thy profuse and loving compassion has surrounded me, undeserving as I am.

For all these I praise and bless Thee, O my most tender Lord and God, in union with that supernal praise with which Thou, O glorious Trinity, art Thine own sufficient praise, which pours down from Thee upon the blessed Humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ, upon His glorious Mother, and upon all holy angels and saints; and from them flows back again into its source in the abyss of Thy Divinity.

I give Thee thanks for the love with which Thou hast created and redeemed me, sanctified me, called me, preserved me, and endowed me with all manner of good things. And since praise is not seemly in the mouth of a sinner, I beseech Thee, O sweetest Jesus, by that prevailing love wherewith Thou sittest at the right hand of the Father, to pay for me to my God eternal, infinite, unflinching, unceasing praises, such as Thou alone canst pay, and such Thou knowest to be befitting His most dread glory and the honor of His Majesty, for all the good which has ever flowed forth upon me from the inexhaustible abyss of His Godhead.

Break forth, therefore, O beloved Jesus, into such thanksgivings as Thou alone canst utter; O my Lord, great and wonderful exceedingly, praise the Godhead in Thyself, in me and for me, with all the might of Thy Divinity and with all the love of Thy Humanity, in the name and on behalf of all the universe Thy hands have made. Amen.



You and I wish to save our souls. We must save our souls. We can save our souls. How? Spend no time worrying if we are going to be saved. Attend to serving God, and everything will be well. And attend to it all the time.

MON	11/20/23	ST. FELIX OF VALOIS, C 8:00 AM Low Mass Souls entrusted to my care (<i>Collin Smith</i>) 11:25 AM Low Mass Rose Kuebler (<i>Joe & Mary Kunkel</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>Charlie Henry</i>)
TUE	11/21/23	THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LADY 7:00 AM Low Mass My special intentions (<i>P. Elliott</i>) ☞ 8:20 AM Low Mass Josef Eldracher – Father’s Day (<i>Colleen Klabanes</i>) School Field Trip 11:25 AM Low Mass Special intention (<i>Cleo & Layla Speckert</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>Charlie Henry</i>)
WED	11/22/23	ST. CECILIA, VM 7:00 AM Low Mass My special intentions (<i>P. Elliott</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass †Mary McGuire (<i>Joe Druecker</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Special intention D.A. (<i>C. Simpson family</i>) 5:10 PM Low Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>Charlie Henry</i>)
THU	11/23/23	ST. CLEMENT, PM • ST. FELICITY, M THANKSGIVING DAY 7:00 AM Low Mass Poor Souls in thanksgiving for favors received (<i>Mr. & Mrs. William H. Young III</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass with music †Father Anthony Cekada 9:00 AM Low Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>Charlie Henry</i>)
FRI	11/24/23	ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, CD ST. CHRYSOGONUS, M 8:00 AM Low Mass †Gary Crabtree & the Crabtree & Long Families (<i>Joe & Kathy Bayer</i>) 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>Charlie Henry</i>) 6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	11/25/23	ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, VM 7:10 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass †Gus Kurtz – Happy Birthday (<i>S. Kurtz</i>) 8:10 AM Salve, Sermon 8:20 AM High Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>Charlie Henry</i>)
SUN	11/26/23	LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ST. SYLVESTER, AB • ST. PETER OF ALEXANDRIA, BpM ST. LEONARD OF PORT MAURICE, C 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass Lisa McConnell – Thank you for everything (<i>Laura Gilliam & Abigail</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>Charlie Henry</i>) 10:40 AM Catechism Classes 11:05 AM Rosary 11:30 AM Low Mass †Nick DiBerardino – 24 th Anniversary (<i>Nikki L. Lehman</i>) 4:45 PM Vespers, Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

ST. PONTIAN, POPE AND MARTYR

Pope Pontian’s pontificate was marked by his continued fight against heresies that were rampant in the Church. He particularly fought against heresies concerning the nature of the Holy Trinity. ...Pope Pontian also had to deal with the ongoing schism led by the antipope Hippolytus throughout his pontificate.



In 235, Maximinus Thrax seized power with the support of his army and became the Roman Emperor. Emperor Maximinus immediately ordered the arrest and imprisonment of Christian leaders. Among the first arrested were Pope Pontian and Antipope Hippolytus, who were both sent to work in the harsh conditions of the mines on the island of Sardinia.

Though their arrest might have seemed tragic, it bore good fruit. While in prison with Pope Pontian, Hippolytus repented of his schism and reconciled with the pope, bringing an end to the division that had lasted approximately eighteen years. Unable to govern the Church from prison, Pope Pontian resigned his position as pope, making him the first pope to do so. The conditions were so severe that both men died as a result, making them martyrs.

...The bodies of Hippolytus and Pontian were returned to Rome within a year of their deaths by Pope Fabian. Saint Pontian was buried in the papal crypt in the Catacomb of Callixtus, and Saint Hippolytus in a cemetery on the Via Tiburtina.

– Excerpt taken from *My Catholic Life*



Servers

FRI 11/24	5:45 PM LOW: Caggesso
SAT 11/25	7:30 AM LOW: J. & L. Rabjohns 8:20 AM HIGH: D. Simpson, I. Smith, F. Caggesso
SUN 11/26	7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: C. Richesson, N. McClorey TH: S. Richesson ACs: D. Simpson, M. Caggesso TB: P. & F. Caggesso, A. & B. Constantino, I. Smith, C. VanderPutten 11:30 AM LOW: Kolenichs 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller, D. Simpson, I. Smith 5:45 PM LOW: <i>Volunteer please!</i>

