

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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



March 3, 2024 LENT III

¶ OCULI SUNDAY

The second collection for our Oblates is taken up during the Offertory today. The Blessing of Religious Articles is available at the Communion Rail. You will find the “Little Church” in the vestibule to receive your alms for poor priests. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Don’t forget Short Stations at 11:15 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

We offer many opportunities for extra Masses and devotions during Lent. **Stations of the Cross** are available at 3 PM on Wednesdays (followed by Holy Communion), 7:30 PM on Fridays, and 11:15 AM on Sundays. **Vespers** would make an excellent Lenten addition: Available every school day at 12:25 PM, and the usual time of 4:45 PM on Sundays. And of course the **Friday evenings of recollection!** Or a Saturday morning Mass? Our ample church schedule makes it easy to add a little something extra for Lent.



¶ NEXT SUNDAY: LENT IV

Next Sunday is Laetare or Rejoice Sunday. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM, and Short Stations at 11:15. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Lent IV, second collect of the Forty Holy Martyrs, third of Our Lady & All the Saints. Preface of Lent.

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Nathan Harkleroad, Becky Uhlenbrock, Anny Reilly, Norman West, and the repose of the soul of Dominic O’Donnell’s godfather.

¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Joseph’s Feast Day with St. Joseph’s Table for the poor: Tuesday, March 19.

The Annunciation of Our Lady (moved due to Holy Week): Monday, April 8.

YAG 2024: July 12-14. Registration now open on yagincincy.org.

THE PASCHAL SACRAMENTS 2024

First Confessions & Testing: Saturday, April 13 (*Baptism certificate and registration form must be submitted before the test. Contact the office for the form.*)

Confirmants’ Day of Recollection: Thursday, May 16

Confirmations: Saturday, May 18

First Communions: Sunday, June 2

Collection Report

Sunday, February 25th\$6,342.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

Lenten Friday Evening of Recollection—March 8th

5:45 PM Low Mass

6:45 PM Lenten Supper: Tuna sandwiches, mac-n-cheese

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

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

¶ VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

Thank you for your generosity! All the Lenten Fridays have been taken but the last, **March 22nd**. If you would still like to volunteer, contact the office.

¶ DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday. Be sure to put your clocks *forward* one hour Saturday night.



ACT OF REPARATION

O good Jesus, in gratitude for Thy many graces, and in sorrow for the many abuses of these graces, I wish at this moment, both for myself, ever ungrateful, and for the world, ever criminal, to make an Act of solemn Reparation. Listen, then, O merciful Savior of our souls, listen to these Acts of Faith, to these expressions of sorrow:

For the irreverence we have committed in the House of God, *I wish to make reparation.*

For our careless and distracted attendance at Sunday Mass, *I wish, etc...*

For our lack of preparation before, and our poor thanksgiving after Holy Communion, *I wish, etc...*

For our failure to cooperate with Thy daily graces, *I wish, etc...*

For our sins of pride, sensuality and of our entire life, *I wish, etc...*

For our bad example and the sins we have caused in others, *I wish, etc...*

For the frightful blasphemies uttered against Thee and Thine Immaculate Mother, *I wish, etc...*

For the deplorable untruths of heresy; for all deserters and apostates, *I wish, etc...*

For the pleasure-seeking and money-mad profaners of the Lord's Day, *I wish, etc...*

For the sacrilegious treatment of Thy churches and altars, *I wish, etc...*

For the diabolical agents of hell, ever seeking whom they may devour, *I wish, etc...*

For the heartbreaking outrages committed by those who should be Thy greatest consolation, *I wish, etc...*

"O Love neglected! O Goodness but too little known!"



MEDITATE ON THE CROSS

You know that I am frank with you, even if it means saying terrible things to you. Well, look—never write and never think that now you have the right to rest in an artificial and illusory life! If you thought that, you would be insulting the cross. Mama, after years spent far from the Lord, it is not rest that awaits you, but repentance. You have to expiate and ask forgiveness from God. You do not have great misdeeds to your account, but great lacks. It is this passivity that must be filled up. The acts of love that you are making now, God appreciates and takes into account.... As a result He will enlighten you some day.... Then saving tears will flow down your cheeks! But to describe to you the joys which will flood your soul cannot do it in human words!...

Try to meditate on the cross a little. You do not understand it. I am sure you do not see the connection between Jesus crucified and yourself. Ask God to enlighten you, and when you come to understand that the nails that pierced Christ's hands and feet have their like awaiting you, then you will be saved!... Finally, dear Mama, until tomorrow, big, big kisses.

— Jacques Fesch

Jacques Fesch († 1957) was a murderer who experienced a profound conversion before his execution in a French prison. He wrote this letter a few days before he died.

A HYMN FROM THE OFFICE OF ST. MICHAEL

O Christ, the glory of the angel choirs!
Of man the Maker and Redeemer
blest!

Grant us one day to reach those bright
abodes,
And in Thy glory rest.

Angel of Peace! Thou, Michael, from
above,

Come down, amid the homes of man
to dwell;

And banish wars with all their tears
and blood,

Back to their native Hell.

Angel of Strength! Thou, Gabriel, cast
out

Thine ancient foes, usurpers of thy
reign;

The temples of thy triumph round the
globe,

Revisit once again.

And Raphael, physician of the soul
Let him descend from his pure halls of
light,

To heal our sicknesses, and guide for
us

Each dubious course aright.

Thou, too, fair Virgin, Daughter of the
skies!

Mother of light, and Queen of Peace!
Descend;

Bringing with thee the radiant court of
Heaven,

To aid us and defend.

This grace on us bestow, O Father
blest!

And Thou, O Son by an eternal birth;
With Thee, from both proceeding,

Holy Ghost,
Whose glory fills the earth. Amen.



Fr. Lehtoranta filled us in on the Sodality's excursion to Maria Stein last weekend and said that everything went very smoothly. The weather held out, but it was still a little cold. The bus driver accidentally bumped the switch and turned off the heat on the way up, which left the girls feeling a little cold, but that didn't take the joy out of riding on a school bus for the first time. I heard they really enjoyed it! Thankfully, these girls do not have to ride the bus to public school as so many of us did growing up. Most, if not all, of these young ladies attend Catholic school or are home-schooled. Deo gratias! Father said the shrine was not as busy as it was when he last visited, so everyone was able to take their time and really enjoy seeing all the different relics.



I took a trip to Chillicothe with my uncle last Tuesday to get some work done. It was a nice visit with him and with my sister and niece, who met up with us. After all the business, we stopped by our old school, which was called St. Peter's when my mother and uncle attended, and Bishop Flaget when my siblings and I attended. Above the main entrance is inscribed the words of Our Lord: "*Sinite Parvulos Venire*" (Suffer the Children to Come). I was very touched by that. I don't remember seeing that as a kid, and I certainly would not have understood it if I did.

Speaking of the children, we had sixty of them for the Day of Recollection on Wednesday. Most of them were younger than twelve. I cannot remember having so many. I heard Fr. Lehtoranta gave a really nice opening talk. The highlight of my day with them was the Rosary in church. I don't think anything this side of heaven could have sounded so angelic. Story-time with the youngest was quite entertaining, too, as we read about Whupsy the Angel...one of the best children's stories I have ever read!

I am all out of news for now, but will keep you up to date on things as I can. May the angels help you to persevere!

– Bishop McGuire



PRAYER TO THE QUEEN OF ANGELS

Hail Daughter and Handmaid of the Most High King and Spouse of the Holy Ghost; we beseech thee that thou, with St. Michael the Archangel, and all the Powers of Heaven, and all the saints, wouldst deign to intercede for us with thy most beloved Son, Our Lord and



Master, Who with the same Father and Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION OF THE CHURCH AND HER MEMBERS

O glorious St. Michael, guardian and defender of the Church of Jesus Christ, come to the assistance of this Church, against which the powers of Hell are unchained; guard Her and obtain that for us the hour of triumph may speedily arrive. O glorious Archangel St. Michael, watch over us during life, defend us against the assaults of the demon, assist us especially at the hour of death; obtain for us a favorable judgment, and the happiness of beholding God face to face for endless ages. Amen.

PRAYER TO THE NINE CHOIRS OF ANGELS

Come, O ye **Angels** and **Archangels**, hasten to establish the dominion of God in kingdoms and provinces, in towns and country-places, and in all who dwell therein; ye sacred **Principalities**, rule all hearts, possess them, that you may subject them to the empire of Jesus and Mary; ye admirable **Powers**, confound the devils, who oppose themselves thereto, defeat the designs of hell, and the malice of all sorcerers and magicians, and other enemies of God; ye divine **Virtues**, lead souls to walk in the solid paths of Divine love; ye glorious **Dominations**, make known to men, to this end, the will of God concerning them; ye amiable **Thrones**, establish in their inmost hearts that peace which our Lord bequeathed to us; ye **Cherubim**, princes of heavenly science, communicate its excellent light to our earth; and ye **Seraphim**, princes of pure love, cause men to live only by its flames, that God Only may be the true Sovereign and the absolute Master of all we are, and all we do. Amen. Amen. Amen. God Only, God Only, God Only.

MON	3/4/24	ST. CASIMIR, C ST. LUCIUS I, PM
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Poor Souls in Purgatory (<i>Collin Smith</i>)
	11:25 AM	Low Mass For all the Saturday helpers – Thank you! (<i>Sr. Eulalia</i>)
	12:25 PM	Vespers
TUE	3/5/24	FERIAL DAY
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Thanksgiving to St. Anthony (<i>S. Kurtz</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass The soul in Purgatory most in need
	11:25 AM	Requiem High Mass Purgatorial Society
	12:25 PM	Vespers
	5:00 PM	Low Mass †Mrs. Jean Bischel (<i>Levi Giese Family</i>)
WED	3/6/24	SS. PERPETUA & FELICITY, MM FIRST WEDNESDAY – PRAY TO ST. JOSEPH
	7:00 AM	Low Mass The McConnell Family (<i>The Hudson Family</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Joseph Belansky (<i>Collin Smith</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass My mother, †Shiv Jen Cheng – rest in peace (<i>H.Y.</i>)
	12:25 PM	Vespers
	3:00 PM	Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion
	5:10 PM	Low Mass †Mrs. Jean Bischel (<i>Mr. & Mrs. William Oleyar</i>)
THU	3/7/24	ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, CD FIRST THURSDAY – PRAY FOR PRIESTS
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Wedding Blessing for Steven & Stephanie Vena (<i>Mr. & Mrs. William Oleyar</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Happy Birthday Theresa (<i>Your family</i>)
	11:25 AM	Solemn High Mass Mark & Joan Lotarski – Thank you (<i>Families & Faculty of SGG School</i>)
	12:25 PM	Vespers
	5:00 PM	Low Mass For the sanctification of priests (<i>Alter Christus Confraternity</i>)
FRI	3/8/24	ST. JOHN OF GOD, C <i>THE FIVE HOLY WOUNDS</i>
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Robin Brown – health (<i>Audrey Dunaway</i>)
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	High Mass The Zver Family (<i>The Hudson Family</i>)
	12:25 PM	Vespers
	5:15 PM	Confessions, Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For all who helped with the Vines wedding reception (<i>Mr. & Mrs. David Swinney</i>)
		Sacred Heart Novena
	6:45 PM	Lenten Supper
	7:30 PM	St. Alphonsus Stations, Sermonette, Sorrowful Mother Novena VII, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction
	8:30 PM	(approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion
SAT	3/9/24	ST. FRANCES OF ROME, W <i>ST. DOMINIC SAVIO</i>
	7:10 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Happy Birthday, James (<i>Rabjohns family</i>)
	8:10 AM	Ave Regina, Sermon
	8:20 AM	High Mass My Godparents (<i>Love, Maria</i>)

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FOR PRIESTS



O glorious St. Joseph, thou who, on the word of the angel speaking to thee in the night, didst put fear aside to take thy Virgin Bride into thy home, show thyself today the advocate and protector of priests.

Guardian of the Infant Christ, defend them against every attack of the enemy, preserve them from the dangers that surround them on every side. Forget not Herod's threats against the Child, the anguish of the flight into Egypt by

night, and the hardships of thy exile.

Stand by the accused; stretch out thy hand to those who have fallen; comfort the fearful; forsake not the weak; and visit the lonely. Let all priests know that in thee God hath given them a model of faith in the night, of obedience in adversity, of chastity in tenderness, and of hope in uncertainty.

Thou art the terror of demons and the healer of those wounded in spiritual combat. Come, then, to the defense of every priest in need; overcome evil with good. Where there are curses, put blessings, where harm hath been done, do thou good. Let there be joy for the priests of the Church, and peace for all under thy gracious protection. Amen.

Servers

FRI 3/8	5:45 PM LOW: B. Constantino, I. Smith
SAT 3/9	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemanns 8:20 AM HIGH: M. Simpson, J. Stewart, F. Caggese
SUN 3/10	7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: T. Lawrence, N. McClorey TH: S. Richesson ACs: M. Caggese, D. Hudson TB: B. & A. Constantino, P. Caggese, L. & J. Rabjohns, T. England 11:30 AM LOW: Kolenichs 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: D. Simpson, I. Smith 5:45 PM LOW: P. McClorey

SUN 3/10/24	LENT IV – LAETARE SUNDAY FORTY HOLY MARTYRS
7:05 AM	Rosary
7:30 AM	Low Mass Victor Ritze 93 rd Birthday (<i>Doloris Ritze</i>) (from Oct. 2023)
9:00 AM	High Mass †Michael A. Oleyar 18 year anniversary 11/2 (<i>Mr. & Mrs. William Oleyar</i>)
10:40 AM	Catechism Classes
11:15 AM	Short Stations
11:30 AM	Low Mass Repose of the soul of †James D. Hanna Jr. (<i>Miss Mary Ann Pliska</i>)
4:45 PM	Vespers, Benediction
5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

MONDAY IN LENT III



Meditation: Be devout to the Guardian Angels of your friends; they render you in many instances greater services than you are aware; and some-

times they even give you assistance which you do not receive from your own Angel Guardian. There are occasions in which they interest themselves on your behalf for the sake of those of whom they have the care, knowing that your friendship is profitable to them for the good of their souls. As there is nothing of which these holy spirits have a greater horror than of bad or dangerous friendships, so also one of the things which affords them most consolation is a holy union in the interests of God. The devils do all they can to make men contract evil friendships, and the good angels to break them. The holy angels labor to unite those who are seeking God, and the devils neglect nothing to part them, and to create disunion between them. A holy person having contracted a truly Christian friendship with another, the devil, envious of the good which it was producing, seized one of them, and threw him down some steps to the ground. The Guardian Angel of the friend came speedily to his help, and preserved him from injury; but what is remarkable is this, that it was the friend's Angel-Guardian, and not the Guardian of him who was cast down by the devil. – *Devotion to the Nine Choirs of Holy Angels*

Practice: Remember to greet the Angel of the friends with whom you come into contact.

TUESDAY IN LENT III

Meditation: The three orders of the third and last hierarchy of angels are composed of the Angels, the Archangels, and the Principalities, or, according to some, the Virtues. This last hierarchy is specially engaged in the care of men, of kingdoms and provinces, and of other things, which peculiarly regard

the good of men. **Our Guardian Angels** are generally taken from the third order of this hierarchy; the **Archangels** watch over empires and provinces; and the **Principalities** communicate to the Angels and Archangels the orders of Divine Providence which they receive from the second hierarchy. They are called Principalities, according to St Gregory, because they are the princes of the heavenly spirits of the two inferior orders of their hierarchy. The Angels manifest the Divine will in ordinary matters; the Archangels make it known in such as are of greater moment; and both are informed and enlightened therein by the Principalities, who represent in a special manner the empire and sovereignty of God. Now the loving charity of the blessed spirits of this hierarchy towards men is so exceedingly great and so admirable, that we shall never be able to make any adequate return either of gratitude or of homage; but at least let us love them as much as is in our power. – *Devotion to the Nine Choirs of Holy Angels*

Practice: I was told by a person...that he took pleasure in **counting the number of people he was in company with, so that he might know the number of angels who undoubtedly were present;** and in course of time the All-Good God, desiring to encourage his devotion, rendered him on occasions as sensibly conscious of their presence as if he had beheld them with his bodily eyes.

– *Devotion to the Nine Choirs of Holy Angels*

WEDNESDAY IN LENT III

Meditation: The second hierarchy is composed of the Powers, the Virtues, and the Dominations, or, according to some who place the Virtues in the last hierarchy, the Principalities, the Powers, and the Dominations. The **Dominations**, as lords or primates of the second hierarchy, give orders in the things of God; the **Virtues** impart strength to obey them; and the **Powers** resist the devils who oppose their execution, overthrowing their might, and removing all the obstacles that stand in the way.

– *Devotion to the Nine Choirs of Holy Angels*

Practice: Say one decade of the Rosary in honor of these three choirs of angels.

THURSDAY IN LENT III

Meditation: The first hierarchy is composed of the Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones; it receives its lights immediately from God, which by it are communicated to the two other hierarchies.

The Seraphim excel in the pure love of God only, their very name signifying ardor and burning. All the angels are admirable in the love of God, but the Seraphim are incomparable therein. All these angelic spirits love exceedingly, but when we speak of the love of the Seraphim, we mean a fervor of love which is beyond compare—always excepting the most holy Virgin, the Queen of holy love. Seraphic love signifies intense love, which is ever burning and consuming. “...The spirits of the Seraphim are continually tending in an ineffable manner towards God. ...The Seraphim are incessantly intent on God only, never being occupied, even for the space of the briefest moment, either with themselves or with any created thing.... The love of the Seraphim is invincible; nothing can prevail against it.... The love of the Seraphim is a burning love.... The strength of Seraphic love abides ever in its fullness.... The love of the Seraphim, not satisfied with an ordinary degree of union with God, desires the closest and most intimate.... Seraphic love plunges, loses, and engulfs itself in the abyss of the Divinity by a glorious transformation.... The Seraphim carry love and light into all the choirs of the inferior angels.”

– *Devotion to the Nine Choirs of Holy Angels*

Practice: Attend Mass today, offering it in honor of the Seraphim, imploring them to increase your love of God. If you cannot attend Mass, offer your Rosary for the same intention.





FRIDAY IN LENT III *The Five Holy Wounds*

Meditation: Light is attributed specially to the Cherubim, as love to the Seraphim. They are not only styled learned in the divine science of Heaven, but St. Gregory affirms that they have the very fullness of it. Divine light imparts to them admirable knowledge, and the holy effulgence with which they are replenished is reflected in abundant streams upon the other hierarchies. They are represented by the Prophet Ezekiel (i.18) under a sensible figure, with eyes on all sides, because these spirits are all light and brilliancy. — *Devotion to the Nine Choirs of Holy Angels*

Practice: Offer one mortification in honor of the Cherubim.

SATURDAY IN LENT III

Meditation: The Thrones are thus styled with a reference to the thrones of the sovereigns of the earth, because as these material thrones are raised above the ground, so also these celestial Thrones are exalted to a most sublime height, into a close vicinity to the glory of the Majesty of God; with this difference, that the great ones of the earth are seated, support themselves, and repose upon their thrones, whereas, on the contrary, the Thrones of Heaven derive their firmness and all their repose from the Sovereign of Paradise. We are told, it is true, as St. Bernard remarks, that God is seated upon these spirits of peace, whence also they are styled Thrones; but God (continues this Father) would not be seated upon them if they did not repose upon Him: hence flows that incomprehensible peace which they possess, surpassing all that we can possibly conceive. We must add, that, like as kings sometimes cause themselves to be borne in their

royal chair, so also God in a certain manner conveys His Spirit by these angels, and communicates It to the inferior angels and to men; as kings give judgment upon their thrones, so also it is from the midst of these Thrones that God pronounces His decrees: it is there that the Dominations learn them; it is there that His Divine judgments and counsels are manifested.

— *Devotion to the Nine Choirs of Holy Angels*

Practice: Say the Our Father many times today, with special emphasis on the words, “Thy Kingdom come,” asking the Thrones to spread the Kingship of Christ in your hearts, your homes, and in society.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Meditation: “It is characteristic of God and His angels to bring to the soul, when they occupy it, true happiness and spiritual joy; and to drive from it the sadness and trials which the enemy incites in it.” — *St. Ignatius of Loyola*

Practice: O Guardian Angels of the sick, I entreat thee especially to help, console and implore the spirit of joy for all those who are deprived of health, which is among God’s most precious gifts to man. Intercede for them, that they may not succumb to despondency or lose by impatience the merits they can gain in carrying with resignation and joy the cross which Christ has laid upon them as a special token of His love.



Angels bringing crowns to the Forty Holy Martyrs

Lent with the Angels



Daily Thoughts and Prayers Lent 2024

DAILY PRAYER

Angel of God and well-beloved brother, I trust myself to your beneficence and implore thee humbly to intercede for me with my Savior so that He may forgive me my sins, strengthen me in well-doing, help me by His grace to correct my faults, and lead me to Paradise, there to taste the fruition of His presence and to possess eternal life. Amen.

— *St. Lydwine of Schiedam*