



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 • frmckenna@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

March 10, 2024
LENT IV – LAETARE SUNDAY
FORTY HOLY MARTYRS



¶ **LAETARE SUNDAY**
Today is Laetare, or Rejoice Sunday, marking the halfway point of Lent. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM, Short Stations at 11:15. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ **SHROUDED STATUES**
We will be **covering the statues** for Passiontide after the second Mass on **Saturday**. The **Solidarity of Charity** will also be meeting this day.

¶ **EASTER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES**
Envelopes are available in the pews for the Easter Novena of Masses and the Lily Memorials. Please fill them out and return them in the collection basket, bookstore, or the office by **Palm Sunday, March 24**.

¶ **FIRST COMMUNION TESTING**
Testing and First Confessions for First Communicants takes place on **Saturday, April 13**. The baptism certificates and registration forms **must** be submitted before the test, or your child *will not be tested* on the day. Please contact the office as soon as possible to receive the form.

Collection Report

Sunday, March 3rd.....\$8,051.00
Second Collection.....\$2,891.00
Alter Christus Confraternity.....\$409.00



¶ **NEXT SUNDAY**
Next Sunday we begin the season of Passiontide. It is also St. Patrick's Day. The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available at the Communion Rail. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM, and **final** Short Stations at 11:15. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.
📖 **Set Your Missal:** Passion Sunday, second collect of St. Patrick. Holy Cross Preface.

*Lenten Friday
Evening of*

Recollection—March 15th

5:45 PM Low Mass
6:45 PM Lenten Supper: *Eggplant parmesan, spaghetti, spinach dip, caesar salad, fruit.*
7:30 PM Stations, Sorrowful Mother Novena, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction
8:30 PM (approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion

Wedding Banns
First time: *John Brueggemann & Julie Hudson*

Lumen Christi

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

God's blessings on M.C.
(K.C.)

Note from the Office: If you intend to submit an intention for the Sanctuary Lamp, please be aware these intentions are currently backed up to May 2022.

Mass offered privately:

†Therese Lamb (*Michelle Mikesell*)



LENTEN EXAMINATION

This then is the good Christian's dilemma: we must love our neighbor, yet we keep encountering people who, by any human standard, are completely unlovable. It would be a dilemma of discouraging proportions if God had not given us a special talent for loving. In the sacrament of Baptism God infused into our soul the virtue of charity, a power for loving which far surpasses any merely human facility for love. With the virtue of charity we can do supernaturally what we never could do naturally. When we are faced with a person who puts an impossible strain upon our capacity to love, the virtue of charity comes into operation. Supposing good will on our part, God will give us specific graces to enable us to surmount our natural revulsion.

Like our love for God, supernatural love for neighbor is not something that we have to feel emotionally. Supernatural love for neighbor inheres in the will rather than in the emotions. On a purely natural level we may experience a strong feeling of distaste for another person, and still have supernatural love for him. The essence of love for neighbor consists in wanting for him what God wants for him: a virtuous life here and heaven hereafter.

The practice of this love demands that we distinguish a person's malicious or revolting actions, and the person's essential self as a soul created, redeemed, and loved by God. Here again it is a matter of loving the sinner even though we must hate his sin; of condemning evil without condemning him who does the evil.

It is very easy for us to test our supernatural love for our neighbor. If someone has hurt me or has hurt someone whom I love; or if someone has a particularly obnoxious personality and makes himself thoroughly

unlikeable—then let me ask myself: Do I want to see this person save his soul and get to heaven? Will I pray for this person, especially for his spiritual welfare, and repeat my prayer for him each time I find myself tempted to despise him? If he here and now were in need, perhaps perishing of hunger or injured in an accident, would I do all that I could to help him, even though he might show no gratitude for my efforts? If I can answer such questions as these with a sincere "yes," then I have at least the minimum degree of love for neighbor which Jesus demands of us all. Remembering always that it is for Jesus that I show this love; because this person, so unlovable to me, is a soul for whom Jesus died. Loving him, I love Jesus.

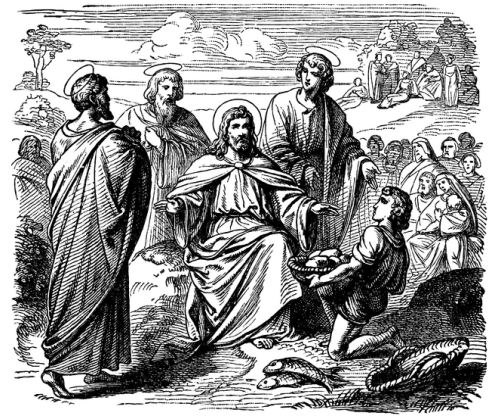
Hatred is the specialty of the devil. There is nothing that will bring us into closer fellowship with the devil than the sin of hatred. And conversely there is nothing that will bring us closer to Christ than love for those who are hardest to love.

— Leo J. Trese,
"More Than Many Sparrows"



FOR THE SORELY TEMPTED

O Mary, Immaculate Mother of Jesus, offer, we beseech thee, to the Eternal Father the Precious Blood of thy Divine Son, to save the sorely tempted this day from falling into sin. *Indulgence of 300 days*



Some people mourn without hope over their dead.

The ancient Greeks represented death symbolically as a genius holding an inverted and extinguished torch, typifying the extinction and end of life. This is not the Christian idea of death, and it ought not be engraved on the tomb of one who believes in Christ, since we know that life is not extinguished like a light, and we do not mourn like those who have no hope. The power of death is great, but that of Christ is far greater, and He will eventually triumph over death. He raised the widow's son at Naim, the daughter of Jairus and His friend Lazarus from the dead, but He did not deliver sinful men from the penalty of death. He wished to display His power to do what will finally take place, when the sting of death is broken, and death itself is swallowed up in victory; for then the dead will be raised again to life.

Is your hope in the future resurrection so strong that nothing can overthrow it? If so, you will behold God's glory even now. This is the experience of all who stand firm in the Faith; for though Christ's faithful servants feel the power of death in their mortal bodies, which perish and decay, their inner man is renewed day by day through the victory of the spirit over the flesh; and they know that there is nothing to fear for the future, since, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord" (*Apoc. 14:14*).

— Knud Karl Krogh

Spring seems to be coming in pretty fast as the trees are blooming and some of the flowers are coming up nicely in the garden. One of the flowers outside **Fr. McKenna's** office is very interesting to watch as it opens up on the sunny days, but then closes its petals on cloudy days. I think it seems to be that way for most people, too. The holy angels, God's beautiful spiritual creatures, are not affected by such things as we are. They do not change, but are stable beings, always in a state of joy. As we try to convert ourselves to God, by His grace, of course, we have no reason not to be joyful. St. Thomas said that he wonders how a person in the state of mortal sin could ever smile—a good question indeed. Those who are turned away from the creature and converted to God, however, ought never give in to sadness. It is in our power to resist this tool of the devil. Stay in the state of grace. Ask your angel to help. In this way, you will always be joyful.

Bishop Nkamuke and I have been playing some phone tag lately, but we managed to correspond via email and WhatsApp, at least. His father, Gabriel, recently had to have an amputation, but is bearing it all very well. Please say a prayer for Gabriel. His Excellency plans to do some of the pontifical ceremonies for Holy Week. Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday will be done pontifically, but the rest will be done as Solemn Masses.

Fr. Hecquard and I have been playing phone tag as well. I hope to reach him soon, though. He is off on his own taking care of a few small missions in France and is doing quite well. I hope to receive more news from him soon.

Fr. Contreras wrote a few days ago asking for prayers for the second anniversary of the death of Bishop Morello, who was his superior for many years. Bishop Morello passed away only about a month and a half or two months before Bishop Dolan. Afterwards, through the mediation of **Fr. Ercoli**, Fr. Contreras reached out to us for help. Father and the priests of the Company of Jesus and Mary are most devoted and zealous priests, the kind this world surely needs more of! It was very hard on them, too, when they lost their bishop and mentor.

Fr. Valerii wishes everyone a fruitful Lenten season and mentioned how happy he is to see how much St. Gertrude's is growing.

We are working on the summer travel schedule and it will prove to be a very busy time. There are all the normal camps to take care of, the YAG, Sodality meetings, a priest's retreat, then an abundance of places to visit for Confirmations. I plan to do Confirmations in Mexico, Seattle, Colorado, Milwaukee, Dallas, El Paso,

Austin, and perhaps North Dakota and Illinois if there are any to be done in those two states. In October, Confirmations will be done in Boston, Connecticut and New Jersey if need be. Our own Confirmations are, of course, scheduled for the Vigil of Pentecost. This sacrament is most important for the Faithful in these days when the Faith and every virtue are attacked from every direction. The graces and Gifts of the Holy Ghost help us to see things as they really are before God, and give us the strength to do what God expects of us no matter the sacrifice.

Dr. Dan Stanislawski, our school principal, has a podcast which he does on the side called "Open Secrets." I have been listening to it quite often and find it to be spot on. Very enlightening. He explains complicated world events in an easy and down-to-earth way that most will understand. I recommend listening to them.

All the cats and snails seem to be doing fine. It seems the snails have laid some eggs which should hatch before long. That should be quite interesting to see all these tiny snails scooting around their little home. God's creation is too marvelous not to enjoy.

We are past the halfway point of Lent now. Courage! Don't give up! Remember the sense of triumphant joy that will be yours if you persevere until Easter. Think of all the merits and graces you will win, and look forward to a higher place in heaven which awaits the persevering soul! All ye holy angels and archangels, pray for us!

– **Bishop McGuire**



"How indescribable are the joys and delights of a soul that is in the state of grace! Sensual pleasures bring satiety, an evidence of their imperfection; but the contentments of the soul are infinite, always increase the appetite, and never lose their sweetness, because they have no end, and are not limited by the senses, or by sensible objects."

– *Consoling Thoughts of St. Francis de Sales*

MON	3/11/24	FERIAL DAY 8:00 AM Low Mass †Peter J. Gebel, Jr. – Happy Birthday (<i>Willia</i>) 11:25 AM Low Mass Happy Birthday Karen (<i>Tom Simpson</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers
TUE	3/12/24	ST. GREGORY THE GREAT, BPCD 7:00 AM Low Mass Poor Souls (<i>Dan & Mary</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Gabriel Nkamuke – recovery from amputation (<i>Nathalie Andreotta</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Billy & Mary Rose Young – Happy Anniversary (<i>Bob & Becky Uhlenbrock</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 5:00 PM Low Mass Judith Sharpe (<i>Hudson Family</i>)
WED	3/13/24	FERIAL DAY 7:00 AM Low Mass Souls entrusted to my charge (<i>Collin Smith</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Happy Birthday Judy! (<i>Your SGG family</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass †John Sharpe (<i>Hudson Family</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 3:00 PM Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion 5:10 PM Low Mass Victoria & Steven Cerise – We love you! (<i>Kevin & Phyllis Kiernan</i>)
THU	3/14/24	FERIAL DAY 7:00 AM Low Mass Reparation to the Sacred Heart (<i>Collin Smith</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Our children, grandchildren & godchildren (<i>S. & C. Hudson</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Our children & their families (<i>S. & C. Hudson</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 5:00 PM Low Mass Norman West (<i>Elizabeth Gunsher</i>)
FRI	3/15/24	FERIAL DAY • ST. CLEMENT MARY HOFBAUER, C <i>THE PRECIOUS BLOOD</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass Special intention deceased (<i>Maria Miller</i>) 11:00 AM Confessions 11:25 AM High Mass Special intention deceased (<i>Bob & Becky Uhlenbrock</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 5:15 PM Confessions, Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass Poncho & Emily Capetillo – Happy Anniversary (<i>Bob & Becky Uhlenbrock</i>) Sacred Heart Novena 6:45 PM Lenten Supper 7:30 PM Stations, Sermonette, Sorrowful Mother Novena VIII, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction 8:30 PM (approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion
SAT	3/16/24	FERIAL DAY 7:10 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass †Angela Appelhanz – anniversary of death (<i>Mary Christensen</i>) 8:10 AM Ave Regina Caelorum 8:20 AM High Mass & Sermon †Ritchie VandeRyt (<i>The Servers</i>) Sodality Meeting

PRAYER TO ALL THE ANGELS AND SAINTS



Angels, Archangels, Thrones, Dominations, Principalities, Powers, Heavenly Virtues, Cherubim and Seraphim! All ye holy saints of God, both men and women, and ye, especially, my patrons, graciously intercede for me that in the eyes of Almighty God I may acceptably offer this sacrifice to Him for the praise and glory of His Name, for my own benefit and that of His entire holy Church. Amen.

O Mary, most pure Virgin, sacred source whence our Savior drew the first drops of the Blood which He was later to shed for me; thou who didst follow the Victim of our salvation to the place of sacrifice, and with such sorrowing love didst adore His divine outraged Blood—O Mary, offer to Jesus all the reparation which thy holy Mother’s Heart made before Him in His Passion. Consider the indigence and impotence of my poor heart, and let the unction of thy acts of adoration, thanksgiving and reparation supply before God for the coldness of mine; and may thy powerful intercession obtain for me the grace of having the merits of the Blood of Jesus applied to my soul, both now and at the hour of my death. Amen.



Servers

FRI 3/15	5:45 PM Low: Capetillos
SAT 3/16	7:30 AM Low: L. & J. Rabjohns 8:20 AM High: D. Simpson, Brueggemanns
SUN 3/17	7:30 AM Low: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 9:00 AM High: MCS: M. Simpson, N. McClorey TH: N. Kolenich ACs: M. Kolenich, D. Simpson TB: J. & I. Smith, N. & J. Hudson, Ma. Caggese, C. VanderPutten 11:30 AM Low: Capetillos 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: D. Simpson, I. Smith 5:45 PM Low: C. & J. Plucker

SUN	3/17/24	PASSION SUNDAY • ST. PATRICK, BPC <i>ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA, C</i> 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass Mrs. Brueggemann & her family – Thanks! 9:00 AM High Mass Repose of soul – †Lucille Moffat (<i>Hudson Family</i>) 10:40 AM Catechism Classes 11:15 AM Final Short Stations 11:30 AM Low Mass †Brian McMahan & †Ryan Greenwell 4:45 PM Vespers, Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
------------	----------------	--

MONDAY IN LENT IV

Meditation: It is taught by St. Thomas Aquinas, as well as many Fathers and Doctors of the Church, that every country has its own Guardian Angel. In fact, St. Clement of Alexandria goes so far as to state that whole “regiments of angels are distributed over nations and cities.”

Prayer to the Guardian Angel of the United States

O Glorious Guardian Angel of the United States, to whom God has entrusted the care of our beloved country, we honor you and thank you for the care and protection you have given to this great nation from the first moment of its inception.

O Powerful Angel Guardian, whose watchful glance encompasses this vast land from shore to shore, we know that our sins have grieved you and marred the beauty of our heritage. Pray for us.

O Holy Angel, before the throne of God, obtain for us, from the Queen of Heaven, the graces we need to overcome the forces of evil so rampant in our beloved land.

Help us, our God-given protector and friend, to respond wholeheartedly to the urgent pleas of the Mother of God at Fatima. Assist us to offer the prayer and sacrifice necessary to bring peace and goodness to our nation.

We want to make you known and loved throughout our land, so that with your help we may become once more “a Nation under God!” Amen.

TUESDAY IN LENT IV

Meditation: Whenever something is to be done needing great power, Michael is sent forth so that from his action and from his name we can understand that no one can do what God can do. Hence that old enemy who through pride desired to be like God, saying, “I will scale the heavens, I will set up my throne, I will be like the Most High,” is shown at the end of the world left to his own strength, and about to undergo the final punishment, as destined to fight with Michael the Arch-

angel. Similarly, Gabriel was sent to Mary; he who is called “strength of God” came to announce Him who deigned to appear in humility to conquer the powers of the air. And Raphael is interpreted, as we said, “Medicine of God,” for when he touched the eyes of Tobias to do the work of healing, he dispelled the night of his blindness.

— St. Gregory the Great

Practice: If I am tempted to pride today I will ask St. Michael to help me conquer my pride. I will have great confidence in his prayers for this intention since it was he who brought down Lucifer, the very spirit of pride. “Who is like unto God!”

WEDNESDAY IN LENT IV

Thought: Although she experienced suffering from an early age, St. Gemma Galgani found friendship and comfort in her guardian angel. She first saw her guardian angel at seventeen. As her sickness and suffering increased, she found comfort in the guidance of this angel. As she says in her Diary, “From the moment when I got up from my sickbed, my Guardian Angel began to be my master and guide.” St. Gemma’s angel offered guidance and instruction but also a great comfort. Once, her guardian angel even brought her a cup of coffee.

Practice: When I am in pain of soul or of body, I will run to the protection of St. Gabriel the Archangel, who comforted Our Blessed Lord in His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

THURSDAY IN LENT IV

Thought: St. Michael remained true to God when thousands of other angels became faithless to Him. He followed not their example. You also should not follow the bad example of others, but fulfill God’s commandments. Remain faithful to the Lord though thousands of others leave Him.

Practice: To say the following hymn asking for the grace of fidelity to God:

Praise to St. Michael, the Prince of the Celestial Army

“At that time shall Michael rise up, the great prince, who standeth for the children of thy people.” -Dan xii i

Hail, bright Archangel!
Prince of Spirit divinely strong!
To whose rare merit hath been given heaven!
To head the angelic throng!

Thine the first worship was, when gloom
Through heaven’s thinned ranks did move,
Thus giving unto God the bloom
Of young creation’s love.

O trumpet-tongued! O beautiful!
O force of the Most High!
The blessed of the earth look dull
Beside thy majesty.

First servant of the Ineffable!
The first created eye
That ever, proved and perfect, fell
On the dread Trinity!

O Michael! worship Him this night,
The Father, Word, and Dove,
Renewing with strong act the might
Of thy first marvelous love.



FRIDAY IN LENT IV

THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

Meditation: Sin came. With sin came many fearful consequences. This beautiful earth was completely wrecked. It went on through space in the sunshine as before; but in God’s sight, and in the destiny of its inhabitants, it was all changed. Jesus could no longer come in a glorious and unsuffering incarnation. Mary..., though she was sinless, ...would need to be redeemed with a single and peculiar redemption, a redemption of prevention, not of rescue. She also, the Immaculate Mother and Queen of creation, must be bought by the Precious Blood. Had it not been for Jesus, the case of earth would have been hopeless, now that sin had come. God would have let it go, as He let the Angels go. It would have been all hateful and dark in His sight, as the home of the fallen spirits is. But it was

not so. Earth was dimmed, but it was not darkened, disfigured, but not blackened. God saw it through the Precious Blood, as through a haze; and there it lay with a dusky glory over it, like a red sunset, up to the day of Christ. No sooner had man sinned, than the influence of the Precious Blood began to be felt. There was no adorable abruptness on the part of God, as with the Angels. His very upbraiding of Adam was full of paternal gentleness. With His punishment He mingled promises. He spoke of Mary, Eve's descendant, and illumined the penance of our first parents by the prophecy of Jesus. As the poor offending earth lay then before the sight of God, so does it lie now; only that the haze is more resplendent, since the Sacrifice on Calvary was offered. — *Fr. Faber*

Prayer: May Thy Blood, O Lord, by my salvation!

SATURDAY IN LENT IV

Reading: Many are the titles by which Mary is the Queen of angels. She is the Mother of Christ, Who created the angels, “for in Him,” says St. Paul, “were all things created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominations, or principalities or powers: all things were created by Him and in Him.” (*Colos. i. 16.*) She is, therefore, their Queen, according to the observation of St. John of Damascus. “Mary,” says he, “was made the Queen of all creatures, because she was made the Mother of the Creator.” She is their Queen, because, as she is elevated far above them in dignity and glory, they look up to her with the reverence which such superiority is so well calculated to excite, and had she no other title to their homage, they would, on the sole principle of her superior greatness and glory, say: “Rule thou over us; and thy Son.” She is, in fine, their Queen, because her Son Jesus Christ is the restorer not only of earth, but of heaven; according to the decree of God, Who has willed “to reestablish all things in Christ, whether in heaven or on earth.” By Christ's having redeemed man, those seats of glory, which were vacated by the disobedience of the fallen angels, are filled up; and the angels—whose charity is great in

proportion as they approach God, Who is charity itself—rejoice at the elevation of every child of Adam, who, through His redeeming merits, is raised to the glory which their unfaithful companions forfeited. Mary is, then, the Queen of angels.

Prayer: Say multiple times during the day: “Queen of Angels, pray for us.”

PASSION SUNDAY



An angel appears to St. Patrick

see the heavens opened, and Jesus standing surrounded by a multitude of angels; and whilst he meditated on these great visions his soul was altogether lost in God.’ Three times in the week the angel Victor visited and conversed with him, filling his soul with celestial consolations. The labors of the day amongst men seem to have been less arduous than those of the night with God.”

— *The Life of St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland*

Prayer of St. Patrick: I bind to myself today the power in the love of the Seraphim, in the obedience of the Angels, in the ministration of the Archangels, in the hope of Resurrection unto reward, in the prayers of the Patriarchs, in the predictions of the Prophets, in the preaching of the Apostles, in the faith of the Confessors, in the purity of the holy Virgins, in the deeds of Righteous men.

— *St. Patrick of Ireland*

Meditation:

“The man of God, Patrick, was marvelously favored with heavenly visions and revelations in prayer. ‘When,’ says his biographer, ‘he every day in the Mass sacrificed the Son to the Father, or devoutly recited the Apocalypse of St. John, it was granted to him to

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*