

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT + ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Invenies me in corde Gertrudis"

"You will find Me in the heart of Gertrude"

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Sundays 7:30 AM,
9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

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



September 14, 2025
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY
CROSS • PENTECOST XIV

¶ THE HOLY CROSS

The blessing and veneration of the Relic of the True Cross is available after all Masses. Catechism Classes resume at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE

A triduum in honor of Our Lady of La Salette (the *Weeping Virgin of La Salette*) begins **Wednesday** and concludes **Friday** on her feast.

¶ FEASTS THIS WEEK

The Seven Sorrows of Our Lady leads off the week **tomorrow**. Two Franciscan feasts follow, the Stigmata of St. Francis on **Wednesday**, and the "flying Franciscan," St. Joseph Cupertino, on **Thursday**. On **Friday** are the feasts of Our Lady of La Salette and St. Januarius.

¶ EMBER DAYS

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this week are the Fall Ember Days. Catholics between the ages of 21-59 are bound to the Laws of Fast; those who have reached their 7th year may eat meat only once, at the principal meal, on Wednesday and Saturday. The Ember Days were instituted for a good harvest and to draw down God's blessings upon the September ordinations. Pray for priests!

¶ MARIAN FEASTS

Envelopes are in the vestibule to submit your intentions for the September Marian Feasts. Return them in the collection basket, bookstore, or office.



Collection Report

Sunday, September 7th.....	\$7,163.00
Second Collection.....	\$5,574.00
Alter Christus.....	\$600.00

Mass offered privately on 9/13:

In petition to Our Blessed Mother & St. Gerard for Renee (TRCS)

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: PARISH PICNIC / ST. MATTHEW, AP

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available after all Masses next Sunday. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. There will be **no Vespers**.

The **Parish Picnic** will take place at the Butterfly Bluff Shelter at **Winton Woods** this year, from 1-5 PM. (**Extra parking** at the nearby Redbird Roost Shelter.) The church is providing hot dogs, burgers, and drinks; parishioners are asked to bring a dish to share. See you there!

📖 **Set Your Missal:** St. Matthew, Apostle; commemoration and Proper Last Gospel of Pentecost XV. Preface of the Apostles.

¶ PLEASE...

...if the person for whom you are submitting a Mass intention is Catholic (and this includes people who go to the Novus Ordo), **check the box** that asks, "Catholic?" on your Mass Request envelopes. If not checked, unless we absolutely recognize the name, we have to assume they are non-Catholic and the Mass will be listed as a Special Intention. Masses can and should be offered for non-Catholics, but only privately; that

is, not announced publicly. So you see, we do need this information! Don't agonize over whether a particular Novus Ordo is a Catholic; public Masses may be offered for them. In doubt, ask a priest. We appreciate your cooperation!

OUR LADY OF SORROWS

Richard of St. Victor says: "In martyrs, the intensity of their love mitigated their sufferings, but with Mary it was different; the more she loved, the more she suffered, and the greater was her martyrdom."

To her was wanting that great support which the martyrs enjoyed in their sufferings. During their torments, they directed their inward gaze toward Our Lord, by whose grace and love they were strengthened and consoled. The flames of the love of Jesus cooled the fires of torture, softened the strokes of the scourges, and blunted the sharpness of the sword.

But in her anguish, where could Mary turn her gaze as she stood beneath the Cross? Upon Jesus? Ah, it was precisely the sight of her divine Son that caused her the most intense suffering. Her one consolation at the sufferings of her Son was the knowledge that through His death we would be redeemed. She offered her Son willingly for our salvation; yes, the sacrifice she made in union with Him was so great that St. Alphonsus says, "Two hung upon one Cross."

St. Thomas wrote that omnipotence itself could not invent a "greater greatness." It was necessary that Mary's sorrows should correspond to her holiness, for the sufferings and tribulations of the saints always keep pace with their sanctity.

The picture of Mary filled with sorrow on Calvary teaches us that on earth pain is the twin sister of love.

— *Devotion the Sorrowful Mother*



¶ MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

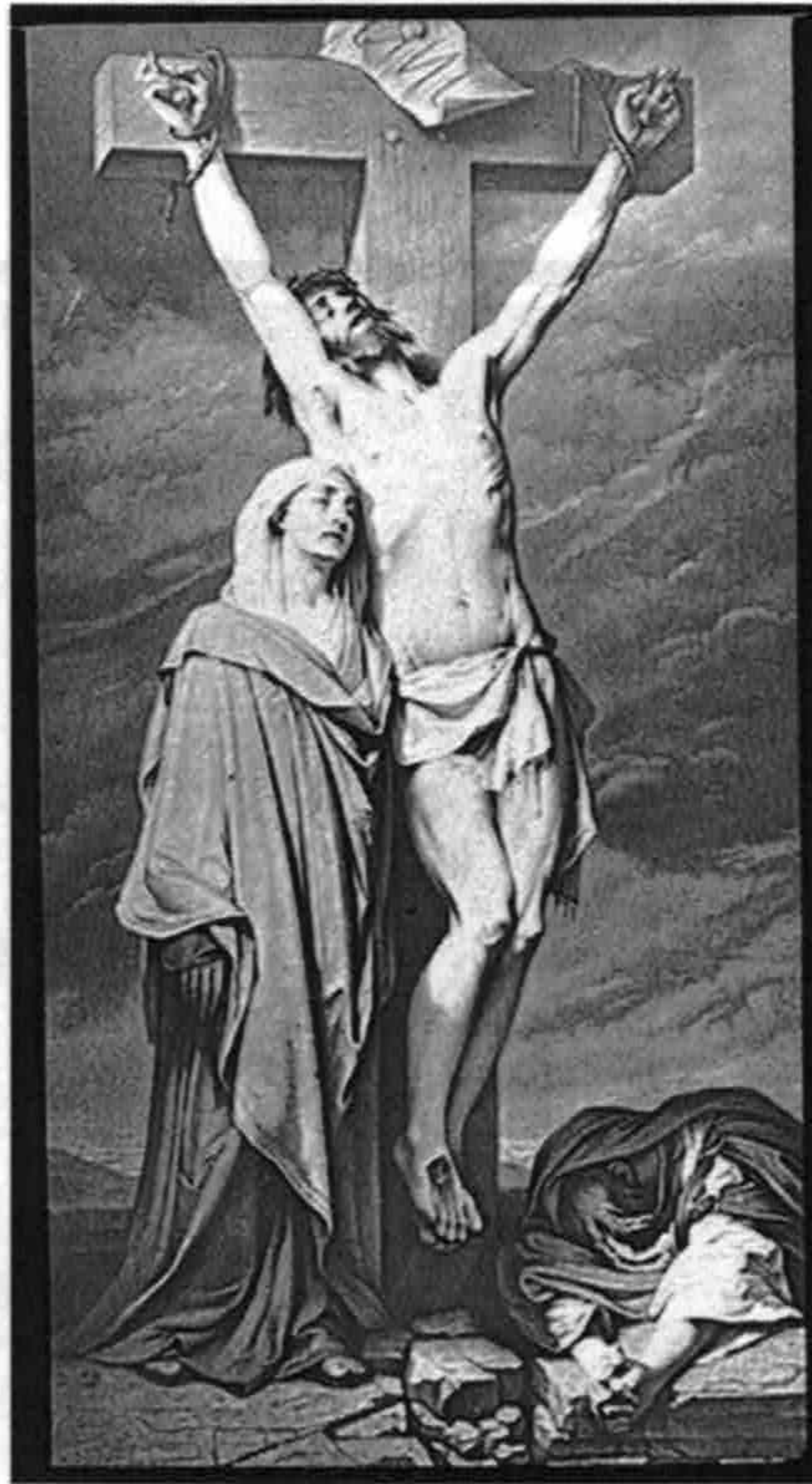
Parish Picnic: Sunday, September 21. Winton Woods, Butterfly Bluff Shelter.

Knights of St. Martin Meeting: Thursday, September 25, after the 5:30 PM Mass.

Angel Sunday: September 28. Blessing of Children after all Masses.

Rosary Sunday: October 5

Forty Hours: October 24-26.



O Cross, chosen and prepared for such ineffable good, the work that was accomplished on thee exalts thee more than all the praises of human or angelic thought and tongue.

In thee and through thee is my life and my salvation; in thee and through thee is the whole and all my good; "forbid that I should glory save in thee."

In what way, then, shall I praise thee, how shall I exalt thee, with what love shall I pray to thee, and with what joy shall I glory in thee?

By thee the world is renewed and made beautiful with truth, governed by the light of righteousness; by thee, sinful humanity is justified.

— *St. Anselm*

FOR MARY

I bring an imperfect gift,
Like a measure of wine
From the tainted grape,
But the gift is mine.

I sing an imperfect song,
Like a withered vine,
Like a flowerless bush,
But the song is mine.

I love with imperfect love,
Like the tear that blurs,
Like the night without stars,
But my love is yours.

— N.E.

*"If you wish, in your trials, to find
some consolation, go to Mary."*

— *Thomas a Kempis*

A PICTURE INSPIRES

In sorrow and silence alone she stands,
Our Virgin Mother true;
The tired Babe asleep in her arms
She folds in her mantle blue.

Her tender eyes, with upward gaze,
Show sadness e'er so deep.
Dear Mother, at thy Son's dear Cross
Alas! how thou didst weep!

The words of the prophet Simeon,
"A sword shall pierce thy heart,"
Were but to thee a mystery,
But patience was thy part.

The sleeping Baby in thy arms
Thou didst love so well,
When nailed to the Cross, He broke
thy heart,
Thy sufferings—none can tell.

Thy life was one of grief profound,
But Queen of Heaven thou'rt now;
Teach us, dear Mary, to love like Thee,
Please, Mother, teach us how.

— *Jeanne Gonsal*

*"Led by Mary, you will travel
untired; protected by Mary you will
arrive at the end."* — *St. Bernard*

There has been a lot of buzz surrounding the death of Charlie Kirk this week. Certainly, it is a sad event. I will not discuss the issue here, but would simply like to remind you to trust Our Lord's Divine Providence. This, as well as every event under the sun, is planned from all eternity and some greater good will proceed from it. In the meantime, what should we do? Well, it is our obligation to pray for our country and its leaders. We should also pray, in our private devotions, for Charlie's soul—for only God knows if he cooperated with a special grace and converted before the end. Let Our Lord sort these things out. We cannot offer a public Mass for this intention, but we can pray privately for it. May Christ the King one day reign over our country...for that we pray. But make sure, first of all, that He reigns in your own soul!

We have a lot of special intentions to pray for this week. Sick people, recovering people, young mothers with difficult pregnancies, temporal necessities, and the list goes on. It can be no coincidence that it is the month of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady and also that of the Holy Cross. Let us hand over all of our needs to the Blessed Mother and bury our sorrows in her heart, asking her for the courage to stand with her in the shadow of the Cross. Heaven awaits!

There have been many joyous occasions here at church, and we mustn't forget them! The Sodality of Charity arranged a nice Fall Festival last Sunday with all sorts of games and prizes. I had never been to one of these events before this year, but I must say that it was so very enjoyable as well as encouraging to see all of you having a good time! The next day we celebrated Our Lady's Nativity with a beautiful High Mass which was extremely well attended by homeschool families and our own school children alike. I don't remember ever having seen such a good attendance on that feast before. The pizza and birthday cake were a welcome treat for all! **Fr. Lehtoranta** took the seminarians on an outing on Wednesday, concluding the trip with a trip to Cracker Barrel. Sr. Eulalia and Sr. Ulrica renewed their Oblation at the High Mass on the feast of the Holy Name of Mary. I can just imagine how pleased the angels in Heaven were by this. After all, their Oblations consists in giving their lives to the service of the Church and striving to lead a holier life. Isn't that what life is all about anyway?!

On a personal note, I was very touched by all of the birthday greetings and generous gifts that I received this year for my 44th birthday. It was doubly celebrated, once on my birthday itself, and a second surprise party was given by the Mothers' Group two days later—and my sister came all the way from Chillicothe to be there. St.

Gertrude's has always been home, but it is on occasions like this that make one realize how much we are all a spiritual family.



Attached you will see a picture of the altar that was purchased recently by **Fr. Benegas** to go in the chapel he is building in Argentina. Work is progressing as he gets to spend a few months in his home town. Keep this project in your prayers.

The seminarians have returned to Seattle and begin classes this week. As you fast on the Ember Days, do remember them!



— Bishop McGuire

¶ FALL FESTIVAL REPORT

Thank you everyone who participated in the Fall Festival! The Sodality of Charity could not have done it without our pie bakers, crafters, judges, band, and especially our volunteer workers. It's all teamwork to pull something like this off.

There was quite the hum around the craft tables! We were able to squeeze in a couple more tables than previous years to meet the demand. As is always the case, we had a lot of neat crafts and other unique items. Keep up the crafting!

We had a record high for pie entries. Twenty-one pies for judging! Some of our own sodalists won this year.

- The Ball girls won 3rd place, \$10, with their Mississippi Mud Pie.
- David and Michelle Mikesell won 2nd place, gift basket, with their Double Chocolate Pie.
- And lastly, drum roll please, Claire Smith came in 1st and won the \$50 prize with her French Silk Pie!

If you have not received your prize, please claim it in the bookstore.

All the pies were delicious and it's always fun to see the varying types of pies. Thanks to all our pie bakers, everyone had ample dessert!

Sounds like the games were a hot commodity. By 12:30, the prizes were gone! We had several volunteer victims for the dunk booth this year; and they came prepared with swim trunks and all.

In the end, I hope the sodality provided you all with some fun. We thank you for your charity which brought in \$778 in profit. May God reward your generosity!

PS: If someone is missing some money from the festival please report to the bookstore. It was found outside with no owner.

✠ CALENDAR

MON	9/15/25	SEVEN SORROWS OF OUR LADY • ST. NICOMEDES, M
	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 September Marian Quadriduum Intentions
TUE	9/16/25	SS. CORNELIUS, P & CYPRIAN, BPM
		SS. EUPHEMIA, LUCY & GEMINIANUS, MM
	7:00 AM	Low Mass St. Gertrude the Great Clergy (<i>Thomas Gardner</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Special intention deceased (KR)
	11:25 AM	High Mass My children & family (<i>Michelle Lodrini</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass †Michael Briggs (<i>Karen Simpson</i>)
WED	9/17/25	STIGMATA OF ST. FRANCIS • EMBER WEDNESDAY
	7:00 AM	Low Mass St. Gertrude the Great Clergy (<i>Thomas Gardner</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Intentions of Sister Francis Marie (<i>The Richesson Family</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Doris Ritze Birthday (<i>Angela Schmidt</i>)
	5:10 PM	Low Mass Poor Souls for a special intention (<i>C. Simpson family</i>)
THU	9/18/25	ST. JOSEPH CUPERTINO, C
	7:00 AM	Low Mass St. Gertrude the Great Clergy (<i>Thomas Gardner</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Bishop's special intentions
	11:25 AM	High Mass The Joseph Young Family (<i>Mom & Pop</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass †Jean Leytem Otting (<i>Christopher Browne</i>)
FRI	9/19/25	SS. JANUARIUS, BPM & COMPANIONS, MM
		EMBER FRIDAY • OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE
		ST. EMILY RODAT, V
	8:00 AM	Low Mass St. Gertrude the Great Clergy (<i>Thomas Gardner</i>)
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	Low Mass Sister Mary Noel (<i>Sister Magdalen</i>)
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass †Ryan Greenwell (from 9/20)
	6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	9/20/25	SS. EUSTACE & COMPANIONS, MM
		EMBER SATURDAY • VIGIL OF ST. MATTHEW
	7:05 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass †Therese Martin Lamb 2 nd anniversary
	8:05 AM	Salve, Sermon
	8:15 AM	High Mass †Ryan Greenwell (<i>Colleen Greenwell</i>)
	Private Mass:	St. Gertrude the Great Clergy (<i>Thomas Gardner</i>)
SUN	9/21/25	ST. MATTHEW, APEV • PENTECOST XV
	7:05 AM	Rosary
	7:30 AM	Low Mass St. Gertrude the Great Clergy (<i>Thomas Gardner</i>)
	9:00 AM	High Mass Special intention deceased (ENR)
	10:40 AM	Catechism Classes
	11:05 AM	Rosary
	11:30 AM	Low Mass Debra Black – Restoration of health (<i>Joseph & Elizabeth Prell</i>)
	1-5 PM	Parish Picnic at Winton Woods
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

THE GOOD USE OF SUFFERINGS



...Why do we revolt against the length of our crucifixion? Only because we cling to self. It is this very clinging that God designs to uproot; for so long as we are occupied with self, His will cannot be accomplished in us.

Besides, of what have we to complain? Our misfortune is that we cling to creatures and still more to self. For this reason, therefore, God arranges a series of preconcerted circumstances, which gradually detach us from creatures and eventually from ourselves. It is a painful operation; but our perversity renders it necessary, and its very necessity makes it painful. If a man's members were sound, there would be no need of surgical cutting or cauterizing. Such operations are required only when the wound is deep and the flesh corrupt. The more pain the surgeon causes, the more certain it is that the wound is dangerous. Would it be considered cruelty on the part of the surgeon to continue cutting and probing as long as he found it needful? Certainly not. He acts through a principle of love and duty; he would not act differently toward his only son.

Thus does God deal with us. He causes us pain only when forced to do so. His paternal Heart does not wish to afflict us; but He is compelled to cut into the sound flesh, in order to heal the wound hidden deep in our heart.

"The virtue of modesty is the virtue most acceptable to the Heart of Mary." – St. John Bosco



"Lukewarmness disappears and love appears when the heart says: Ave Maria." – Thomas a Kempis

Servers

FRI 9/19	5:45 PM LOW: F. Caggese, B. Constantino
SAT 9/20	7:30 AM LOW: Rabjohns 8:15 AM HIGH: D. Simpson, I. & J. Smith
SUN 9/21	7:30 AM LOW: M. Schneider, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: D. Simpson, S. Richesson TH: T. England ACS: M. & N. Kolenich TBS: J. Kolenich, V. Siqueira, B. & A. Constantino, Ma. & P. Caggese 11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: D. Simpson, I. Smith, P. Caggese, B. Constantino 5:45 PM LOW: Volunteer