

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

October 12, 2025
PENTECOST XVIII
OUR LADY OF EL PILAR



¶ PENTECOST XVIII

The **Autumn Bake Sale** takes place after the morning Masses today. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers, October Devotions & Benediction are at 4:30 PM.



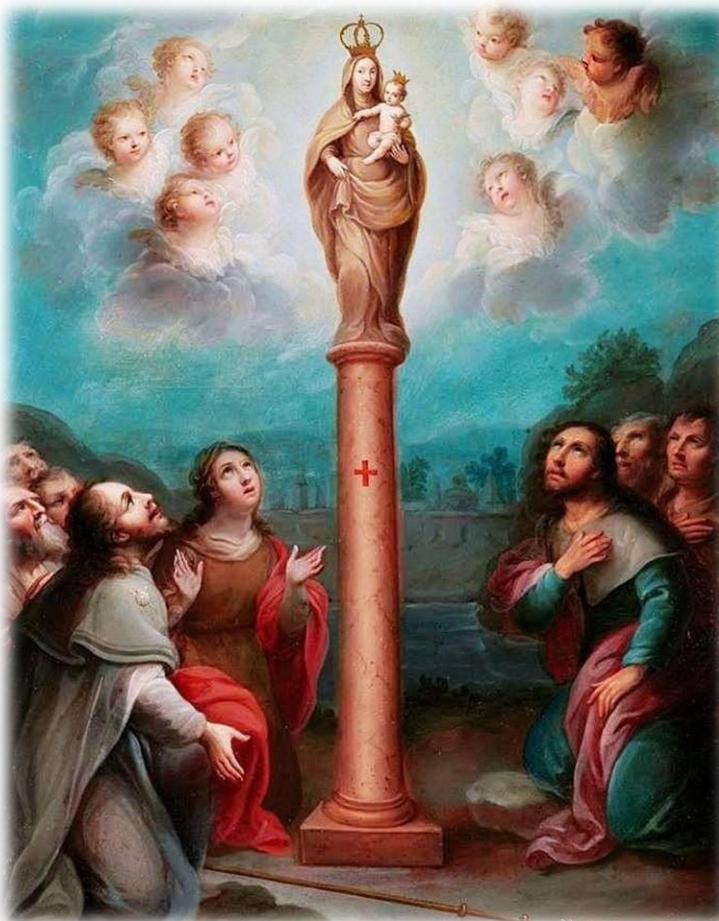
¶ CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION

Tomorrow, **Monday**, is Columbus Day and there's no school, but don't forget it's also the evening for the final **Fatima Rosary Procession** of the year.

We meet in the parking lot at Union Centre Blvd. & Floer Drive (look for First Watch restaurant). Candles will be distributed for all the participants to carry. Plan to arrive by about **7:00 PM** to get your candle and line up. The procession will commence promptly at 7:15 PM.

¶ GOODWILL

We are always striving towards charity and goodwill...but the church is **NOT** a Goodwill donation center. **Please do not leave boxes of religious items** without first asking the Bishop if you may do so. You would not leave unwanted belongings at someone else's house; you should at the *very* least show God's House as much respect. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping the church tidy and clutter-free!



¶ OCTOBER DEVOTIONS

The Rosary is recited on school days at **3:00 PM**. On Wednesdays at 2:45 it is recited before the Blessed Sacrament Exposed, with Benediction and Holy Communion at 3:10 PM. Join our children in prayer!

Collection Report

Sunday, October 5th.....\$9,665.00
Second Collection.....\$6,047.00
Alter Christus.....\$407.00
Thank you for your generosity.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: MISSION SUNDAY

The **Blessing of Expectant Mothers** will be available after all Masses. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Vespers, October Devotions and Benediction will be at 4:30 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Pentecost XIX, second collect of St. Peter of Alcantara, third for the Propagation of the Faith. Trinity Preface.

¶ FORTY HOURS OPENING & CHILI SUPPER

Friday, October 24th, our annual devotion of the Forty Hours begins with High Mass at 5:30 PM. Mark your calendars and plan to be with us! A Harvest Chili Supper follows the Mass. Bring your favorite chili (with meat or meatless) to share. The church will provide beverages, "fixin's" and dessert. All those who attend the opening Mass on Friday evening may consider themselves dispensed from the abstinence.

The full Forty Hours weekend schedule will appear in next week's bulletin.

¶ MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Forty Hours:** October 24-26
- **All Saints Day (Holy Day!):** Saturday, November 1
- **All Saints Procession & Party:** Sunday, November 2
- **All Souls Day:** Monday, November 3
- **Martinmas Festivities:** Sunday, November 11

OUR LADY OF THE PILLAR

Our Lady of the Pillar (officially in Spanish, Nuestra Señora del Pilar de Zaragoza), is recognized as the first Marian apparition in the history of Christianity and is the only one that happened while the Virgin Mary was still alive.

Although it was technically a bilocation of Our Lady, because she was living with St. John the Apostle in Jerusalem, it is still regarded as an apparition by the tradition of the Church.

According to tradition, St. James the Greater, brother of St. John the Evangelist, traveled with great effort to Roman Hispania (modern-day Spain) to convert the local tribes. He not only confronted great difficulties, but he also saw very little apostolic fruits of conversion. Tradition says that when he was at his lowest point of discouragement, in A.D. 40, while he was sitting by the banks of the Ebro river in Zaragoza (back then known as Caesaraugusta) Mary appeared to him accompanied by thousands of angels, to console and encourage him.

The Virgin Mary, with the Child Jesus in her arms and standing on a pillar, asked St. James and his eight disciples to build a church on the site, promising that “it will stand from that moment until the end of time in order that God may work miracles and wonders through my intercession for all those who place themselves under my patronage.”

The church of Our Lady of the Pillar in Zaragoza is the first church dedicated to Mary in history, and it remains standing to this day, having survived invasions and wars. During the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) the Communists dropped three bombs on the church from an airplane. The bombs tore through the roof and hit the floor, but none of them exploded. The three now deactivated bombs are currently on display in one of the Basilica's walls.

Our Lady is also said to have given the small wooden statue of the apparition to St. James, which now stands on the pillar she arrived on.

The wooden statue is a relatively simple image 15 inches high, standing on a jasper pillar 5.9 feet tall. But the crown adorning her head is a masterpiece. It was made in 44 days by 33 workmen. The sun-like crown is made of 2,836 diamonds cut triangularly, 2725 roses, 145 pearls, 74 emeralds, 62 rubies and 46 sapphires. The crown of the baby Jesus is identical in shape although not in size.



...Nuestra Señora del Pilar is not only the patroness of Spain, but also of all Hispanic peoples since it was on October 12, 1492, the feast of Our Lady of the Pillar, that Christopher Columbus arrived at American land and the first Mass in the Americas was celebrated.



SONNET I

(Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, 2014)

Weak heart, that bears the lash of holy fear,
Ascend the breathless height where true Love died,
Before the waning of another year,
Before the endless death that comes of pride.

Pursued and hounded by deceiving dreams,
Deep in the forest on a starless night,
Where no fair shape is ever as it seems,
And all things shun the stirring of the light,

Mount Sorrow's sacred summit and behold
The breaking of the dead enshrouded earth,
With bones made flesh arising from the cold
To warm and breathing life in second birth!

Lest all thy poet's words be dull and vain,
Let Love Himself from thy sin's chaff yield grain.

— Joseph Charles McKenzie

PRAYER TO THE QUEEN OF THE ROSARY

Queen of the most holy Rosary, in these times of such brazen impiety, manifest thy power with the signs of thine ancient victories, and from thy throne, whence thou dost dispense pardon and graces, mercifully regard the Church of thy Son.... Do thou, who art the powerful vanquisher of all heresies, hasten the hour of mercy, even though the hour of God's justice is every day provoked by the countless sins of men. For me who am the least of men, kneeling before thee in supplication, do thou obtain the grace I need to live righteously upon earth and to reign among the just in heaven, while in company with all faithful Christians throughout the world, I salute thee and acclaim thee as Queen of the most holy Rosary: Queen of the most Holy Rosary, pray for us.

(An indulgence of 500 days – Leo XIII, 1886)

✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

It is a crisp, sunny Wednesday morning as I write this. Yesterday was quite gloomy and rainy, just the type of weather we needed to help bring color to the fall leaves. The cats are resting well and catching birds in their free time.

Fr. Nowrouz gave a really nice talk about his call to the Faith and path to the priesthood, offering some interesting perspectives on the world. It is always so fascinating to see God's grace at work in a soul and how He draws certain souls to the true Faith during these days of general apostasy! The attendance was very good at the High Mass, and the procession went off without a hitch. Meanwhile, in Nigeria, First Holy Communions were administered at St. Louis de Montfort Chapel in Owerri. The picture is below. **Fr. Okafor** gave these children Our Lord for the first time and they also had a Rosary Procession after the Mass. I would say that everyone had a very pleasant Rosary Sunday!

More work has been done on our cloister floors and some of the men have organized to work on it some more on October 18th. It is coming together nicely! We are hopeful to have it completed by the time Forty Hours comes around at the end of October. **Fr. Simpson** is arranging to get the church reroofed after finding some bad spots up there. The sanctuary floor will have to wait until next summer before getting repaired, but it is still on the list. The school air conditioner had some additional problems after the company came to fix it, but I think it has been figured out. Progress is being made on the plans for the rectory addition and I am very thankful to Billy Young for his assistance in this regard. He has been a very big help!

I will be away this weekend and again the following weekend to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. The first stop will be to Sacred Heart Church in Lawrence, Massachusetts, where **Fr. McKenna** used to attend Mass. **Br. Gerard** has done an excellent job in the maintenance of this old church. Each time I arrive I find more renovations have been done. **Fr. Santiago Richards** takes care of the pastoral side of things. He also tends to the monastery which is about 30 minutes from the church. You can see some pictures of the church online at sacredheart-op.com. The next stop will be to Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel in Monroe, Connecticut, where **Fr. Adan Rodriguez** is pastor. This, too, is a beautiful edifice, though not nearly as large as Sacred Heart. †Bishop McKenna was pastor of this chapel until his death some years ago. His Excellency was known for doing exorcisms, some of them very

high profile ones. One can still see a stained-glass window in the choir loft that was charred as a demon left the soul of a possessed person and departed the church. It is eerie, but a reminder of how closely united our world is with the spiritual world. If you want to see some photos of this chapel, go to rosarychapel.net. The final stop will be to a mission chapel in New Jersey, where the Kiernans attended Mass before moving here. There are plenty of places to travel to for Confirmations. We still have not been to Texas or North Dakota yet this year.

We have plenty of parish activities and feast days to choose from this week. The highlight of the week, however, is tomorrow—the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. The last of our Fatima Rosary Processions will take place by candlelight, which is always a sight to behold. Come to pray the Rosary for Peace. The words of Pope Pius XI out to be taken to heart: “The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin.... If you desire peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary. Let not even one day pass without saying it, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labors.”

— Bishop McGuire



Fr. Jonathan Okafor with First Communicants,
St. Louis de Montfort Chapel, Owerri, 10/5/25

THE ROSARY

*There is one harp my hand can play,
And from its strings what harmonies arise!
There is one song that any mouth can say,
A song that lingers when all singing dies.*

*When on their beads our Mother's children pray
Immortal music charms the grateful skies. — Joyce Kilmer*



MON 10/13/25 ST. EDWARD, KING, C • OUR LADY OF FATIMA
COLUMBUS DAY

8:00 AM Low Mass Intentions of Bishop McGuire
(*C. Simpson Family*)
October Devotions

5:45 PM Low Mass In thanksgiving for our marriage (*Dan & Diane Stanislowski*) (from 10/10)

7:15 PM Candlelight Fatima Rosary Procession

TUE 10/14/25 ST. CALLISTUS I, PM

8:00 AM Low Mass For Boyd/Murray family intentions
(*John Boyd*)

11:25 AM High Mass Adam Young – Happy Confirmation
(*Grandma & Grandpa Young*)

3:00 PM October Devotions

5:00 PM Low Mass †Alvaro Siqueira (*Anna Siqueira*) (8/3)

WED 10/15/25 ST. TERESA OF AVILA, V

8:00 AM Low Mass Special Intentions (ENR)

11:25 AM High Mass Special Intention – St. Joseph (*Michelle Mikesell*)

2:45 PM Exposition, October Devotions, Benediction

3:10 PM (approx.) Holy Communion

5:10 PM Low Mass †Frank Korzekwinski (*Jane Childers*)

THU 10/16/25 ST. HEDWIG, W • PURITY OF MARY
ST. GERARD MAJELLA

7:00 AM Low Mass Special intention deceased (KR)

8:00 AM Low Mass †Thomas G. Simpson (*Karen Simpson*)

11:25 AM High Mass Sister Magdalen (*The Ballesteros Family*)

3:00 PM October Devotions

FRI 10/17/25 ST. MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, V

8:00 AM Low Mass Michael Rabjohns (KR)

11:00 AM Confessions

11:25 AM Low Mass †John Michael Witherow (*Jane Childers*)

3:00 PM October Devotions

5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary

5:45 PM Low Mass Happy Anniversary to my dear husband
(*Love, Phyllis*)

6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction

SAT 10/18/25 ST. LUKE, EV

7:05 AM Confessions

7:30 AM Low Mass Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hudson (*Dan, Mary & family*)

8:05 AM Salve, October Devotions, Simple Benediction

8:30 AM Sermon

8:40 AM High Mass Special intention (*Eddie Fernandez*)

SUN 10/19/25 PENTECOST XIX • MISSION SUNDAY
ST. PETER OF ALCANTARA, C

7:05 AM Rosary

7:30 AM Low Mass Aunt Regina & Uncle Ken (*Brueggemann family*)

9:00 AM High Mass Ian Hopkins (KR)

10:40 AM Catechism Classes

11:05 AM Rosary

11:30 AM Low Mass Thanksgiving to St. Anthony (*J. Hille*)

4:30 PM Vespers, October Devotions, Benediction

5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

ST. PETER OF ALCÁNTARA

Franciscan Friar of the Stricter Observance (1499-1562)

Born in a small town in Spain, Peter of Alcántara entered the Franciscans at the age of sixteen. From the start, he adopted habits of extreme austerity. He trained himself to sleep no more than two hours a night; he wore no sandals on his feet; he would eat no flesh and drink no wine. Eventually he won permission to found a group of Franciscans along these lines. It was said that their cells—only seven feet long—resembled more graves than rooms. Nevertheless, he found enthusiastic followers.

Through his preaching tours he encouraged St. Teresa of Avila, and became her spiritual advisor. At the same time she was summoning courage to initiate a reform of the Carmelite Order, and she later testified on behalf of his canonization that it was he, more than anyone, who encouraged her mission. “When I came to know him he was very old, and his body so shriveled and weak that it seemed to be composed as it were of the roots and dried bark of a tree rather than flesh,” she wrote. She also claimed, after his death in 1562, to receive visions of Peter, so that “Our Lord has been pleased to let me enjoy more time with him than I did when he was alive.”

One time a brother was complaining to Peter about the wickedness of the world, and the saint replied, “The remedy is simple. You and I must first be what we ought to be; then we shall have cured what concerns ourselves. Let each one do the same, and all will be well. The trouble is that we all talk of reforming others without ever reforming ourselves.”

“I rejoiced at the things that were said to me: We shall go into the house of the Lord.” – Final words of St. Peter of Alcántara



Servers

FRI 10/17 5:45 PM LOW: Capetillos
BENEDICTION: MC: T. Capetillo **TH:** J. Capetillo **TBS:** D. Simpson, M. Caggese

SAT 10/18 7:30 AM LOW: Rabjohns
8:40 AM HIGH: MC: D. Simpson **TH:** M. Caggese **ACS:** A. Constantino, J. Stewart **CROSS:** F. Caggese **TBS:** V. Siqueira, J. Smith, Ma. Caggese, B. Constantino

SUN 10/19 7:30 AM LOW: M. Schneider, Brueggemann
9:00 AM HIGH: MC: D. Simpson **TH:** N. Kolenich **ACS:** M. Kolenich, D. Hudson **TBS:** J. Kolenich, V. Siqueira, Ma. Caggese, N. Hudson, I. Smith, L. Rabjohns
11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos
4:30 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: D. Simpson **ACS:** I. Smith, P. Caggese **CROSS:** F. Caggese
5:45 PM LOW: P. McClorey