

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



November 9, 2025
DEDICATION OF ST.
SAVIOR'S BASILICA

PENTECOST XXII • ST. THEODORE, M

¶ PENTECOST XXII

Today we begin with gratitude the devotion of the **12 Sundays in Honor of the Mother of Good Counsel**. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM, and Vespers at 4:45 PM. Don't miss the **Martinmas Festivities** after the 5:45 PM Mass, at approximately 7 PM.

¶ THIS WEEK

Tuesday is Veterans Day. Join us as we pray for the Poor Souls of our wars, and remember the futility of war, "a punishment for sin," which we impose on ourselves. The tolling of the bell is at **11:00 AM**, followed by the Absolution for Veterans and war dead, sermon, and High Mass of St. Martin at 11:25. The **Catholic Mothers' Consortium** meets on Thursday, with Mass at 5 PM followed by a spiritual talk, supper and other fun activities.

¶ UPCOMING

- **Thursday, November 20:** St. Monica Club meeting, after the 11:25 AM Mass. Knights of St. Martin Meeting, 5:30 PM
- **Sunday, November 23:** Rosary Procession at Gate of Heaven Cemetery
- **Sunday, November 30:** First Sunday of Advent



Foundation of the Lateran Basilica, Paris Nogari

St. Gertrude's Day Sunday, November 16

**22nd Anniversary of our Church's
Dedication
Ordination Anniversaries of
Bishop McGuire & Fr. Lehtoranta**

Solemn Pontifical Mass: 9 AM
COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

Collection Report

Saturday, November 1st.....\$3,905.00
Sunday, November 2nd.....\$7,826.00
Second Collection.....\$3,763.00
Alter Christus Confraternity.....\$333.00
Thank you for your generosity.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is St. Gertrude's Feast Day: the anniversary of the dedication of our church, and the ordination anniversaries of Bishop McGuire and Fr. Lehtoranta. There will be NO Catechism Classes. Vespers at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** St. Gertrude the Great, with commemoration and Proper Last Gospel of Pentecost XXIII. Trinity Preface.

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Anny Reilly, Terri Young, and all of our sick and shut-in.

¶ ALL SAINTS WINNERS

Tied for youngest group:

Alice Ball as our Lady, Star of the Sea
Anthony Giese as St. Peter

Middle group:

Isaac Wright as St. Theodore (and
Killian the Dragon)

Tied for oldest group:

Lucia Constantino as St. Catherine of
Siena
Claire Smith as St. Brigid

Honorary mentions:

Silas & Samuel Shultz as Ss. Crispin &
Crispian
Gavin Wright as St. Camillus

FRIENDSHIP WITH THE HOLY SOULS

Some of the Church's most earnest and unctuous prayers are those she lifts up for the dead.

St. Thomas Aquinas is attributed as saying that, of all prayers, the most meritorious, the most acceptable to God are prayers for the dead, because those prayers imply all the works of charity, both corporal and spiritual.

If we think about it, prayers for the dead stand as a most exquisite expression of friendship. By them, we are saying to God and to those who have predeceased us: *Yes, they committed sins; they were not attentive enough to their self-perfection. But they lived as fellow believers in the Faith. They are our friends—baptized members of the Body of Christ! And we are certain that, deep in their hearts, what they desire most of all is a holy and everlasting union with Thee, Lord! With death, the possibility of their being able to merit the graces they need to attain eternal life has ceased. So for them we plead: Please honor that desire in them which has not died, loving Savior, and let our penances offered for their purification make up for anything they lack.*

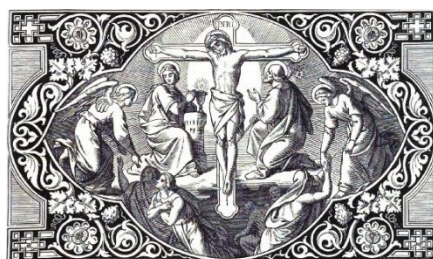
That friendship will be reciprocated. In his classic book *Purgatory and the Means to Avoid It* (1949) Fr. Martin Jugie assures us of the benefits of our prayers for the holy souls:

"Here is an easy means of surrounding ourselves in eternity with many grateful friends, whose gratitude will augment our glory in paradise: for we can make all the friends we wish in purgatory. What we shall have done for them on earth shall establish between us and them, in eternity, a bond of unspeakable sweetness. God will reveal to them the good we have done them, and they will know us to eternity as their benefactors. We shall find them crowding around to intercede for us when we come before the judgment seat of God."



Our Beloved Dead ~ November

Ida Youngworth	11-05-2012
Robert M. Deardorff	11-07-2003
Judith E. LeBlanc	11-08-1996
John Madaffari	11-10-2016
Blanche Ciarkowski	11-10-2016
Thelma Sieverding	11-10-2017
Viola M. Ripperger	11-12-2019
Edward P. Fradl	11-13-1989
Larry J. Adams	11-13-2011
Patrick S. Meredith	11-14-1987
Charles S. Blase	11-15-1999
Paul J. Leurck	11-17-2017
Fr. Martin Stepanich	11-18-2012
Geraldine Gilker	11-18-1993
Gertrude Bollhauer	11-19-1982
Alex Bearov	11-20-2011
Helen A. Herz	11-20-2023
Judy M. Parlett	11-20-2023
Edward Sayre	11-21-2010
Patricia A. Buckley	11-23-1987
Nick DiBerardino	11-26-1999
Frank Alban Sr.	11-27-1987
Iris Wilson	11-27-2013
Elaine Manuele	11-27-2019



HAVE MERCY ON THE SUFFERING SOULS, O LORD!

Hear ye not the spirits' moaning
From the depths of cleansing fire?
Know ye not the burning anguish
Of these souls—their love's desire?

Hear them cry in bitter sorrow,
Sighing, weeping in their pains,
While they call on us who love them:
"Break our heavy prison-chains!"

Though their lives on earth were holy
And their virtue manifest,
Yet some stains of imperfection
Still prevent their peaceful rest.

And they weep in mournful numbers,
Pleading for our fervent prayer,
Oh, take pity on their sorrow,
Let their solace be your care.



"If all the prayers of loving hearts from the beginning of the world, and all the seraphic worship of the thrones and principalities of heaven, and the burning devotion and love of the Virgin Mother of God, and the million voices of the universe of all creatures of heaven and earth and sea were offered up in one universal and harmonious act of praise and adoration, they would not equal or even approach in value and efficacy the infinite worth of a SINGLE MASS."

— Archbishop W. Walsh, of Dublin

✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

God has certainly blessed us with beautiful weather as of late. There are some beautiful Fall colors in the leaves, and the moon has been stunningly bright at night. God's creation is fantastic...and to think that each star has been given an angel to watch over it and guide it in its course! God is good. If earth has such beauty, what will heaven be?! May the Saints help us to get there so that we can find out.

We had over 60 children at last Sunday's All Saints party, and the costumes and presentations were really great...and edifying. There were moments of humor, too, with the little baby dragon who wandered into the crowd, thankfully not breathing fire! And the cow who charged at Ss. Perpetua and Felicity. I have to admit, the children stumped me quite a bit this year. It is quite encouraging to know that the children know their saints and enjoy dressing up as saints. My prayer is that they themselves become the saints God wants them to be.

All Souls' Day was well attended and it was gratifying to see some of you coming back for several Masses throughout the day. **Fr. Simpson** said his three Masses in El Paso at the end of a long Texas trip, while **Fr. McKenna** offered his three Masses in Milwaukee at the end of a mission trip. The school visited St. Stephen's cemetery last week to pray the Rosary for the repose of the souls buried there. We ended at Bishop Dolan and Fr. Cekada's graves. I have not been to their graves since Bishop Dolan's funeral and so I took the opportunity to have a little chat with them after blessing their graves. They left us rather suddenly, but it was perfect timing because it was God's timing. We must never forget all the good they did for us and for the Church, and we must repay them by praying for the repose of their souls. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord!

Tonight we have the St. Martin's Day festivities consisting of hymns and a lantern-lit procession with St. Martin and his horse. The evening is concluded with a meal which some of the men have prepared. Next Sunday is the feast of St. Gertrude the Great. I was reading an old bulletin and learned that the dedication of our new church building, which took place on the feast of St. Gertrude,

would have marked 23 years that we had been in the old Sharonville church. That was in 2003, which means we have been here in West Chester for 22 years. The feast day is also **Fr. Lehtoranta's** 14th priestly anniversary, and my 20th. A big day indeed! We have so much to be thankful for!



Fr. Mardones sent a picture of his All Souls' Day Mass, which he said in a wheelchair at a small altar. This is true priestliness and a good example to us all. It must be very difficult for Father not to be able to walk and to say Mass standing at the altar of God. But it is good to see that that does not keep him from saying the Holy Mass. It is from the altar that he will receive strength, as is the case for each and every one of us. God bless you, Fr. Mardones! May your example teach us all how important is the Holy Mass.

Don't forget the Veteran's Day service on Tuesday at 11:00. Oh! and Moms, don't forget the CMC meeting on Thursday evening beginning with the Holy Mass. Finally, don't forget the Poor Souls in Purgatory!

– Bishop McGuire



St. Jean Vianney: "O my dear parishioners, let us endeavor to get to heaven! There we shall see God. How happy we shall feel! If the parish is converted we shall go there in procession with the parish priest at the head. ...We must get to heaven."



The Canon Law states in simple and unmistakable terms that all parents are bound by a most grave obligation to provide for the religious education of their children. ***“1113. Parents are bound by a most grave obligation to provide to the best of their ability for the religious and moral as well as for the physical and civil education of their children, and for their temporal well-being.”***

A grave obligation binds under mortal sin. The determination to avoid an obligation so binding, when it can be fulfilled, debars from the Sacraments. Consequently, parents who refuse to provide *to the best of their ability* for the moral and religious education of their children cannot be admitted to the Sacraments. And in view of existing circumstances in this age and country, it is practically impossible to ensure the religious education of their children, in the sense of canon 1113, unless the children are placed in a Catholic school. It is decreed in canon 1374:

“Catholic children must not attend non-Catholic, neutral or mixed schools; that is, such as are also open to non-Catholics. It is for the Bishop of the place alone to decide, according to the instructions of the Apostolic See, in what circumstances and with what precautions, attendance at such schools may be tolerated, without danger of perversion to the pupils.”

This is the law for the universal Church. Because of the public-school system, it is particularly pertinent in this country.

THE CHILD IN A NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOL

There are apparent exceptions. But these increase rather than diminish the responsibilities of the parent, described in canon 1113. If no Catholic school exists in a given locality, and parents are not able to make other arrangements, the child may be enrolled in a non-Catholic school. In this case, the burden of providing for the child's religious education is thrown almost entirely upon father and mother. The child may not be permitted to possess, still less to use, textbooks which contain teachings contrary to faith or morals. Parents, therefore, rest under a grave obligation to examine these texts. If the texts are offensive, and if the authorities refuse to change them, the child must be withdrawn. This obligation to withdraw the child is even more pressing, should the personal character of the teachers be objectionable, should they inculcate principles or advise practices contrary to faith or morals, or should the companionship of the pupils be found unwholesome for a Catholic child. Are the majority of Catholic parents capable of making this examination? Can they

exorcise the anti-Catholic tone and spirit often found in these schools? Yet they are bound in conscience to ascertain that nothing in the non-Catholic school is hurtful to the Faith or morals of their children.

PARENTAL DUTY IN THIS CASE

This, however, is but the beginning of parental duty toward a child in a non-Catholic school. After first making sure that the school is not positively harmful—for no school which divorces religion from education can be approved by a Catholic—parents are obliged actively to provide for religious instruction at home. It is supposed, of course, that the Bishop has been consulted. *“Religious instruction” does not simply mean that the child must be taken to Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.* A religious education implies regular and careful instruction in the truths of revealed religion, none excepted. The child must be made to

know, and according to his capacity, to understand, his duties to God, to his neighbor and to himself. The syllabus of any adequate religious course is long and intricate. The child must be taught, not left to pick up scraps of information from example only or from a chance word. He must be trained in the practice of religion; he must be so instructed that, as far as diligence, knowledge and good will on the part of his parents can secure the result, he will become all that is meant by the term “a practical Catholic.”

Is this easy? How many Catholic fathers and mothers can spare the time for careful, intelligent, systematic religious instruction? Granting that they know their religion, how many have the teacher's ability to impart what they know? For knowledge is but one part of the teacher's equipment, and a man as wise as Solomon may be an abject failure as a teacher. Yet, *unless they entrust their children to a Catholic school, all Catholic parents are obliged, under pain of mortal sin, to furnish an equivalent training.* True, to genuine good will God will supply what is wanting, but only a miracle of grace can supply for the lack of training in a Catholic school. Instruction in a Sunday school alone, or occasionally after school hours, is not enough. In the abstract it is possible to provide adequately for the child's religious instruction at home. Practically, however, this is rarely possible, and for the reasons given above.

(To be continued.)

— Fr. Paul L. Blakely, S.J.





Saint Martin of Tours was a native of Pannonia, which is approximately modern day Hungary. He served in the Roman cavalry in Gaul, and it was there that he did his most famous act of sanctity. One day, while still a catechu-

men, he met an ill-clothed beggar, and he cut his cloak in two and gave one half to the beggar. Sulpicius Severus, who wrote the *Life of St. Martin* and met the saint personally, wrote that some around St. Martin laughed when they saw him in half of his cloak, though some were silent with shame that they had not done something similar to help the poor man. That night, St. Martin had a vision of Jesus clad in the half of his cloak he had given to the beggar, and, upon waking, St. Martin discovered his cloak restored to wholeness. Later in life, St. Martin was chosen to be bishop of Tours, and he hid in a pen of geese in an attempt to escape his appointment. However, the geese made such a cackling that he was discovered.

Saint Martin's Day, or Martinmas, marks a day of feasting which precedes the penitential season before Christmas. The season of penance was known as St. Martin's Lent and coincides with Advent. The degree of fasting has varied over years and regions.

Martinmas takes place at the end of the harvest, when animals are butchered and when much beer and wine is ready. Pastries in the shape of a croissant are made especially in Germany and Poland signifying the hooves of St. Martin's horse as well as the half of his cloak, as the shape of the croissant is the half of a pretzel. The Polish version has its origin when a baker saw St. Martin on his horse which lost a golden horseshoe. The baker was inspired to bake the croissants and give them to the poor. Interestingly, the authentic recipe is a Polish state secret.

Czechia has a pastry roll in the shape of a horseshoe, as well. In Malta, children are given a red and

white checkered bag (St. Martin's bag) which contains nuts, fruit, and a unique sweet bun.

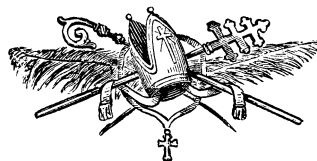
Goose is traditionally served commemorating the geese that betrayed St. Martin's hiding place, and bonfires are lit. Children carry lanterns and sing songs, for which they are rewarded with candy or sweet breads in some places. Lanterns used to be made by hollowing out gourds or turnips and are the inspiration for the jack-o-lantern. The tradition especially of children carrying lanterns may have originated from children who saw St. Martin give the beggar half his cloak and ran back to the town with their lanterns to tell the townspeople. Taking place as the nights approach swifter each day, the lanterns also represent the light that holiness brings to the darkness.

St. Martin's Day is popular across Europe, and the lit procession behind a man dressed as St. Martin on horseback is especially prominent in Germany. In some places in Europe, the man on the horse would give nuts and sweets to children. Also, in one city of Belgium, children would hang stockings full of hay on Martinmas Eve and awake to find gifts in them (in thanks for feeding St. Martin's horse).

St. Martin's Day festivities are less common in America and are more of a local matter if any, though there have been lantern processions in St. Paul, Minnesota. If St. Martin processions happen in America, they are usually in German culture societies.

Martinmas contains the celebration of bounty held by Thanksgiving and the lights and sweets notable in Halloween, but, most of all, it leads those who bear the light of the Faith to the season of Advent, as St. Martin on his horse leads those who bear the light of lanterns.

— Levi Giese



WAIVE THE SWORD

It's Martinmas!
The Glory of Gaul
Lifts his sword
And slits his cloak
To clothe a beggar,
Naked, cold
Who swaddles quick
The offered wool.

The soldier dreams
Of Christ the Lord
As mendicant
In lotted garb
Whose Kingdom strikes
His call and corps
To raise the Cross
And waive the sword.

— Rita A. Simmonds



✠ CALENDAR

✠ THE POOR SOULS

MON	11/10/25	ST. ANDREW AVELLINO, C SS. TRYPHON & COMPANIONS, MM 8:00 AM Low Mass †Alexa Martin – 1 year anniversary of death (<i>Lauren Caggese</i>) 11:25 AM Low Mass †Mike Briggs – 4 year anniversary (<i>AMB</i>)
TUE	11/11/25	ST. MARTIN OF TOURS, BPC • ST. MENNAS, M 7:00 AM Low Mass Safe delivery & healthy baby for Sarah (<i>C. Simpson family</i>) 11:00 AM Veteran's Day Observance: Absolution 11:25 AM High Mass All the Poor Souls whose names are on the altar 5:00 PM Low Mass †Grandpa & †Grandma Bischel (<i>Chris Richesson</i>)
WED	11/12/25	ST. MARTIN I, PM 7:00 AM Low Mass In Thanksgiving to Poor Souls (<i>Donna Patton</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Harrison Korzekwinski – 14 th Birthday (<i>Jane Childers</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Alfonso T. Capetillo (<i>Nana & Grandpa</i>) 5:10 PM Low Mass Holy Souls & for Frances Mendes
THU	11/13/25	ST. DIDACUS, C • ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA, C 7:00 AM Low Mass Special Intention (<i>KR</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Intentions of Karen Simpson (<i>C. Simpson Family</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Poor Souls in thanksgiving for favor received (<i>Terri Young</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass Intentions of the CMC Catholic Mothers' Consortium Meeting
FRI	11/14/25	ST. JOSAPHAT, BPM 8:00 AM Low Mass Infant of Prague – Prayers Answered (<i>Donna L. Jones</i>) 11:00 AM Confessions 11:25 AM High Mass Special intention – C.M. (<i>Sister Eulalia</i>) 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass Stasia Stout (<i>Eddie & Renee Fernandez</i>) 6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	11/15/25	ST. ALBERT THE GREAT, BPCD <i>OUR LADY OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE</i> 7:05 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass Lisa Lynch (<i>KR</i>) 8:05 AM Salve, Sermon 8:15 AM High Mass Thanks to Dominic Simpson (<i>Ambrose Constantino</i>)
SUN	11/16/25	PENTECOST XXIII • St. Gertrude the Great, V 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass Fr. Lehtoranta – Happy Anniversary (<i>The Fathers</i>) 9:00 AM Solemn Pontifical Mass Veronica Briggs (<i>Renee Fernandez</i>) 11:05 AM Rosary 11:30 AM Low Mass Daisy Kennedy in thanksgiving for helping me (<i>Albert D. Kinnett</i>) 4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great



We should not fail to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and Holy Communion very frequently for the faithful departed. Many powerful motives should induce us to be most fervent in assisting them. By this spiritual work of mercy we prove our love for God, we benefit our neighbor and acquire great merits for ourselves. We prove our love for God by interceding for those who are so dear to Him and whom He so ardently longs to glorify forever. We perform an act of the greatest charity towards these suffering holy souls by endeavoring to shorten their banishment, and we serve our own souls by providing powerful advocates who will not forget us when they stand before God.

If we pray for them, God will, after our death, inspire compassionate souls to pray for us should we be in Purgatory, for, says our Divine Savior—"With what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again." *Matt., vii., 2.* We should realize how vast is our power to draw freely on "the riches of Christ," and thus to enrich and help those who are so poor and unable to help themselves. There is no duty which demands greater attention than praying for the dead. The infinite wisdom of God orders it, the Holy Church daily begs it and rewards it, charity demands it, the poor souls need it since they cannot help themselves, our own necessity requires it, and in proportion as we pray for them will they remember us. Praying for the dead keeps our last end before us, and Holy Scripture says—"Remember thy last end and thou shalt never sin."

Servers

FRI 11/14	5:45 PM LOW: B. & A. Constantino BENEDICTION: B. & A. Constantino, D. Simpson, P. Caggese, Ma. Caggese
SAT 11/15	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemanns 8:15 AM HIGH: D. Simpson, M. Caggese, J. Stewart
SUN 11/16	7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 9:00 AM PONT.: MCs: C. Richesson, D. Simpson, N. McClorey TH: A. McClorey CROSS: T. England ACs: S. Richesson, J. Rabjohns MITRE: I. Smith CROZIER: F. Caggese BOOK: D. Hudson BUGIA: M. Caggese TRAIN: J. Smith GREMIALE: B. Constantino TBS: L. Rabjohns, V. Siqueira, Ma. Caggese, N. & J. Hudson, A. Constantino 11:30 AM LOW: Kolenichs 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: D. Simpson ACs: J. & I. Smith CROSS: A. Constantino 5:45 PM LOW: A. McClorey