

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 23, 2025
LAST SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

ST. CLEMENT, PM • ST. FELICITY, M

¶ PENTECOST XXIV

Today marks the end of the Liturgical Year. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. There are **no Vespers**. We have instead our indulgenced Rosary Procession at Gate of Heaven Cemetery at **3:00 PM**.

¶ THANKSGIVING

Join us for special holiday Masses, with prayers of thanksgiving, on **Thursday**, at 7, 8, (with music) and 9:15 AM. Holy Mass is the best way to give thanks! Let's joyfully and thankfully stress the religious character of this holiday. The abstinence is traditionally dispensed the Friday after Thanksgiving and meat may be eaten. Happy Thanksgiving!



¶ DON'T FORGET!

Monday, December 1:

Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. Christmas Novena begins.

Sunday, December 7: St. Nicholas will be visiting the children after the morning Masses.

Monday, December 8: The Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation.

Collection Report

Sunday, November 16th.....9,274.00
Thank you for your generosity.

My God, I give Thee thanks for what Thou givest, and for what Thou takest away; Thy will be done. (300 days indulgence)



Congratulations to
Daniel & Michelle
Hille on the baptism
of their son, Leo Augustine, on Sunday,
November 16, 2025.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT I

The **Lighting of the Advent Wreath** will take place at **7:25 AM**, and the **Advent Procession and Blessing of the Advent Wreath** will take place at **8:50 AM**. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Advent Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** First Sunday of Advent. Second collect of Our Lady in Advent, third for the Church. Trinity Preface.

¶ STOP BY THE BOOKSTORE

Advent calendars, wreaths, and candles are in. The bookstore has great stocking stuffer ideas, and Christmas gifts in stock and ready to go! Hard to find Saints in 5-inch statues are available. Keep an eye on the supply as it changes weekly. Bead art is a great winter activity. Pocket-knives, blankets, Biblical craft kits and toys can be found here. Hardbound books make a wonderful gift. A new supply just arrived. Give and live the faith this season.



Thanksgiving! What a beautiful feast! To the good Christian, every day is Thanksgiving Day, but is it not well to set aside one day to give God special thanks for His innumerable blessings which we are all too inclined to forget? As we go about our daily duties, do we thank God for life, for Baptism, for faith? Do we thank Him for the air we breathe, for the health we enjoy and for the strength and happiness He gives?

Perhaps there are some,—we hope there is not one among our readers,—



who think that this year they have nothing for which to be grateful. Times are hard, days

may be sad and dreary, but be your plight what it may, you have thousands of things for which to thank God. Poverty, sickness and disappointments are often great trials, but if we remember that the one and only real evil in the world is sin, no matter what our poverty, how great our sufferings or how many our disappointments, we are still able to “seek the kingdom of God” and, does not He Who is Lord and Master of all things say: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all other things will be added unto you?”

Beautiful November, which brings All Saints and Thanksgiving and also brings Poor Souls Day.

While we give God thanks for the favors He bestows, and rejoice with the saints who have preceded us to glory, let us not forget those who suffer to pay the last farthing of their earthly debt, those who from the prison house of purgatory cry out: “Have pity on me, have pity on me; at least you my friends have pity on me.” If we do this, then we, too, with joy in our hearts, can sing with the poet: “Behold congenial autumn comes, the Sabbath of the year.”

— Edgar B. Casey, O.F.M.
St. Anthony Messenger, 1930



THE PRESENTATION

When the little Mary
Sweet and full of grace,
Mounted the steps of the temple
Angels thronged the place.
Fairer was she than the lily,
Purer than white, swirling snow
Lovelier than the pink decked
dawn

When soft, warm breezes blow.

When the little Mary
Folded her hands in prayer,
The sky bent low in awe and love
And silence filled the air.

— Sister Claude of Jesus, S.N.J.M



One act of Thanksgiving, when things go wrong with us, is worth a thousand thanks when things are agreeable to our inclinations.

— Blessed John of Avila (16th century)

YES, I KNOW NOVEMBER

Yes, I know November
The tolling of the bell
The whispers of the suffering souls
From mountain top to dell.

The chilly, gray, damp mornings
The rustling of the leaves
The whispers of the suffering souls
Like moans from one who grieves.

And in the windy noon-time
When clouds fight 'gainst sun's might
The whispers of the suffering souls
Cry, “Sanctuary light!”

So 'fore the red-glassed candle
Compelled I go to pray
The whispers of the suffering souls
Plead, “Sacrifice today!”

Now deep, dark sanctuary
Is lit by candle bold
The whispers of the suffering souls...
“Your prayers are autumn gold!”

So like the leaves of autumn
I fall to kneeling posture
The whispers of the suffering souls beg,
“Say a Pater Noster!”

The flicker in the red glass
Burns hotter now with Creed.
Oh, yes I know November
The month of Hope...souls freed!

— M.O.



✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

The cats have been a bit rambunctious as of late, but quite good company, especially in the office where they now like to spend part of their time napping or climbing over desks and such. Having the catnip toys here really makes it interesting. There have been no more skunk reports, but the other day while Miss Mikesell and Lucia Constantino were working in the sacristy the subject of opossums came up. Miss Mikesell thinks they are cute animals, but Lucia and I disagreed. Well, a few hours after that conversation I opened my office door and what did I see but a possum scurrying across the garden patio. Lucia and I were right...those things are ugly!

The Oblate Sisters have been busier than usual this week as they were moving into their new temporary house. Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way. It has taken a long time to arrive at this point, but everything is in God's good time. Now that the Oblates are together they can begin to live more as religious. They have been given a schedule and a house rule to follow. The schedule of an oblate has to give them time to be prayerful and recollected, time for silence and time to put down their phones, but it also has to be flexible enough to allow them to help with whatever needs to be done at church or elsewhere. Pray for them as they learn to adapt to community life.

Fr. Lehtoranta and **Fr. Brueggemann** are taking care of St. Gertrude's while the rest of us are traveling in the missions. **Fr. Simpson** has been all over the northern missions this past week and is in Milwaukee today, while **Fr. McKenna** is in Dallas for the day. I am with **Fr. Arnoldo** in Tijuana this morning and then in Mexicali in the evening for Confirmations. A fuller report will be given later.

Thanksgiving comes this week and we certainly have much to be thankful for...here at St. Gertrude's especially. Take some time to recall not just the temporal, but the spiritual blessings which you have received from Our Lord. Don't forget—Advent starts two Sundays from now. It is a good time to plan out this season of graces a little in advance.

— **Bishop McGuire**

"When a man renders Thee any service, O Lord, Thou rewardest it with some affliction. And oh, of how inestimable a value is this reward for those who love Thee indeed! Oh, that it might be granted to them to know the worth of it!"

— *St. Teresa*

Thank God for everything!



BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(Recite on Saturday evening, Nov. 29, as you light the first candle on your Advent Wreath.)

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.

Let us pray: O God, by Whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent

Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, O Lord, and come, so that we may escape through Thy protection and be saved by Thy help from the dangers that threaten us because of our sins. Who livest and reignest forever and ever. **R. Amen.**



THANKSGIVING

O God, Whose mercy is without measure and Whose bountiful goodness knows no end: we give thanks to Thy gracious majesty for the gifts conferred on upon us, ever beseeching Thy clemency; that even as Thou dost grant the wishes of Thy suppliants, Thou wouldst not abandon them but dispose them to receive still further rewards.

— *Roman Missal, collect (After 9th century)*

MON 11/24/25	ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, CD ST. CHRYSOGONUS, M
8:00 AM	Low Mass Philip, Mattias & Vincent – Thanks for helping with the grotto (<i>Fr. Brueggemann</i>)
11:25 AM	High Mass Terri Young – good health (<i>Bob & Becky Uhlenbrock</i>)
TUE 11/25/25	ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, VM
7:00 AM	Low Mass †Gus Kurtz – Happy Birthday (<i>Sue Kurtz</i>)
8:00 AM	Low Mass Special intention (<i>Eddie & Renee Fernandez</i>)
11:25 AM	High Mass Ann Garrison (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski</i>)
5:00 PM	Low Mass †Nancy Seyfried (<i>JCS</i>)
WED 11/26/25	ST. SYLVESTER, AB ST PETER OF ALEXANDRIA, BPM ST. LEONARD OF PORT MAURICE, C
7:00 AM	Low Mass Family Conversions (<i>C. Simpson family</i>)
8:00 AM	Low Mass In honor of St. Joseph – in thanksgiving (<i>TRCS</i>)
11:25 AM	Low Mass Alfonso T. Capetillo (<i>Nana & Grandpa</i>)
THU 11/27/25	THANKSGIVING DAY • FERIAL DAY OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL
7:00 AM	Low Mass In thanksgiving for prayers answered (<i>Anna Brueggemann</i>)
8:00 AM	Low Mass with hymns Thanksgiving – St. Anthony (<i>Collin Smith</i>) Te Deum
9:15 AM	Low Mass Thanksgiving for prayers answered (<i>The Stafford Family</i>)
FRI 11/28/25	FERIAL DAY • ST. CATHERINE LABOURE, V
8:00 AM	Low Mass For Bret Johnson (<i>James Stanislawski</i>)
5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
5:45 PM	Low Mass †Nancy Seyfried (<i>JCS</i>)
6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT 11/29/25	VIGIL OF ST. ANDREW • ST. SATURNINUS, M
7:05 AM	Confessions
7:30 AM	Low Mass The Holy Spirit (<i>Mike Hagle</i>)
8:05 AM	Salve, Sermon
8:15 AM	High Mass In honor of Our Lady (<i>Michael Simpson</i>)
SUN 11/30/25	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8
7:05 AM	Rosary
7:25 AM	Lighting of the Advent Wreath
7:30 AM	Low Mass Special Intentions (<i>Leo & Katelyn Arlinghaus</i>)
8:50 AM	Procession, Blessing of Advent Wreath, High Mass †Anne McMahon
10:40 AM	Catechism Classes
11:05 AM	Rosary
11:30 AM	Low Mass †Nancy Seyfried (<i>JCS</i>)
4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

ST. GERTRUDE AND PURGATORY

During her whole life Gertrude enjoyed the privilege of seeing the Holy Souls and discoursing with them. Their approach caused her no alarm, for “perfect love casteth out fear,” and she talked to them and questioned them as if they had been living members of her community. It was one of the means our Lord made use of for instructing her on many points concerning the perfection He demands, not only from religious, but from all Christians.

With regard to her Sisters in religion, the supernatural knowledge granted to Gertrude not infrequently began during their last agony. She saw her beloved abbess, Gertrude Hackeborn, after death, and the same privilege was accorded to her in the case of St. Mechtilde. Sometimes she learnt from our Lord the faults which the dying person had committed, so that atonement being made for them beforehand, the soul might go straight to heaven.

For instance, Gertrude prayed for a long time for a Sister whose initials are given as M.B., whose fault, made known supernaturally, was a too great attachment to exterior things, such as an ornamental quilt for her bed, gilded pictures and other things of like nature. On the morning of this Sister’s death, as Gertrude was trying during Mass to make reparation for this fault, she felt the soul near her though she could not see it. Fearing that it was detained in purgatory, she enquired of our Lord, Who replied that it was with Him. This caused Gertrude great joy, for she knew that what she had offered before the Sister’s death had been accepted, and that she had been allowed to go straight to God.



Servers

FRI 11/28	5:45 PM Low: J. & I. Smith BENEDICTION: MCS: D. Simpson, I. Smith TH: A. Constantino TBS: B. Constantino, J. Smith
SAT 11/29	7:30 AM Low: Brueggemanns 8:15 AM High: M. Simpson, I. Smith, A. Constantino
SUN 11/30	7:30 AM Low: M. Schneider, Brueggemann 9:00 AM High: MCS: M. Simpson, S. Richesson TH: D. Hudson ACS: M. Caggese, J. Hudson MITRE: I. Smith CROZIER: F. Caggese TRAIN: Ma. Caggese TBS: N. Hudson, B. & A. Constantino, J. Smith, V. Siqueira, V. Horton 11:30 AM Low: Capetillos 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: D. Simpson ACS: I. Smith, B. Constantino, F. Caggese 5:45 PM Low: P. McClorey