

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



January 4, 2026

THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

OCTAVE DAY OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

¶ THE HOLY NAME

The second collection is for our Oblates today. The Blessing of Religious Articles is available at the Communion Rail, and the Little Church is in the vestibule to receive your alms for poor priests. Catechism Classes resume at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ THIS WEEK

Tuesday is the great feast of the Epiphany. Solemn Mass is at 5:30 PM, followed by the Blessing of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, and the parish Christmas party. Remember St. Joseph on **First Wednesday**. The Catholic Mothers' Consortium meets on **Thursday** after the 5 PM Mass. We continue the Novena to the Infant of Prague on **Friday**.

O Jesu, sweetest Child, Who, shut up for nine months in Thy Mother's womb, wast looked for with eager expectation by Mary and Joseph, and wast offered to God the Father for the salvation of the world; have mercy upon us. Ave Maria.



¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the feast of the Holy Family. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45. **Set Your Missal:** The Holy Family, second collect of Epiphany I, third Within the Octave of Epiphany, fourth of St. Hyginus, fifth Against the Persecutors and Evildoers. Preface and Communicantes of the Epiphany.

¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Friday, January 30:** Opening of the Sorrowful Mother Novena
- **Monday, February 2:** Feast of the Purification of Our Lady, Candlemas
- **February 18:** Ash Wednesday

Collection Report

Thursday, December 25th...\$8,133.00
Sunday, December 28th.....\$6,676.00
Thank you for your generosity.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

The Epiphany of Our Lord

**5:15 PM Blessing of Gold,
Frankincense & Myrrh
5:30 PM Pontifical
High Mass**

*You are invited to
our annual Appreciation Dinner
following the Mass.*



The Name [of Jesus] stands as a complete summary and description of Our Lord's character and office, and it is under this aspect that it has been regarded by thousands of saints, whose hearts have melted at its mere sound. To them *Jesus* is their God, *Jesus* is their King, *Jesus* is their Redeemer, *Jesus* is their Mediator, *Jesus* is their Savior, *Jesus* is their great Priest, *Jesus* is their Intercessor, *Jesus* is the Captain under Whom they fight, *Jesus* is their Leader Whom they follow, *Jesus* is their Teacher, *Jesus* is the Giver of their law, *Jesus* is the Spouse and Shepherd of their souls, *Jesus* is their Light, *Jesus* is their Life, *Jesus* is the Judge before Whom they rejoice to think that they must one day stand, *Jesus* is their final and eternal Reward, for which alone they live.

— *Abp. Alban Goodier*



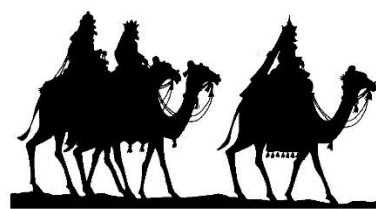
O Sweet Jesus: what is there sweeter than Thee? Sweet is Thy memory, sweeter than that of honey or any other object. Thy very Name is a Name of sweetness, a Name of Salvation. For what does the Name of Jesus signify, if not Savior? Therefore good Jesus, for Thine own sake, be to us a Jesus; so that Thou Who gavest us the beginning of sweetness—that is, faith—might give us also hope and charity, so that living in it we might die in Thee and come to Thee.

— *St. Anthony of Padua*



Someone has said that when the devil cannot tempt us in any other way, he tempts us to make a good resolution. That is to say, with many, making a resolution is the end of it. They think, when they have resolved to do a thing, that the thing is as good as done; and they forget all about it, as though it actually had been done. It might be well if we keep this delusion in mind, now that the open season, so to speak, of good resolutions is upon us. Into the very real advantages of making good resolutions, there is no need to enter, but we must realize that New Year's resolves would not be so notoriously futile if everyone brought it home to himself that a good resolution is only the beginning, and not at all the end, of better conduct. It is well for us to resolve, for example, to say our morning prayers faithfully, but the resolution itself does not say the prayers—it only points the way to the fulfillment of a daily duty. To have value it must represent not merely an inclination, which is nothing, but a will act, which is real motor power.

— *The Ave Maria*



TO BETHLEHEM

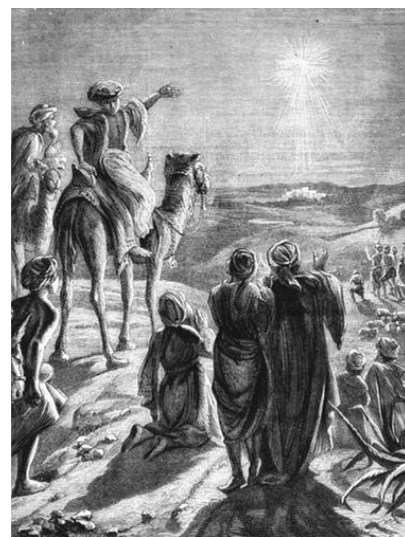
Who are these in silk and gold,
Bearing treasures manifold?
Caspar, Melchior, Balthazar,
Guided by a lonely Star;
Alien tongues the travellers speak,
Eagerly one goal they seek.

Who is this, with trait'rous smile,
Bidding them to pause a while—
Aye, beseeching that they bring
Tidings where to find the King?
Let us steal away with them
Silently to Bethlehem.

Whose the wailing loud and deep?
Why do women moan and weep?
They are mothers mourning sore,
To be comforted no more
For the babes that shall not wake,
Murdered all for Jesus' sake.

Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men three,
Innocents from pain set free,
May our childish voices ring
Praises to the newborn King!—
Keeping company with them,
In the peace of Bethlehem.

— *For "The Ave Maria" from the Spanish*



✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

This Christmas week has brought with it a bit of everything. Rain and thunderstorms, tornado watches, high winds, spring temperatures, a drop in temperature of 48 degrees from one day to the next, snow, gloomy skies for the most part, but with a couple of sunny days. God planned it thus. Most of all, this Christmas week has been a time of grace. It seems that our Infant Savior only wants to give us gifts on His birthday. We mustn't let Him be the only giver, but should ourselves give Him as much as we can—especially more and more of our love, growing in supernatural charity each and every day. Oh! Infant Savior, even the love that You ask us to give You is a gift that You have given to us for we are not capable of loving You unless Your grace implants that charity into our hearts and inspires us to acts of charity. Sacred Heart of the Infant Jesus, grant that I may love Thee ever more and more!

It was most edifying to see such a full church at the Midnight Christmas Mass, but that Mass is always a popular one. This year, many of you came back for the String Quartet Mass the next morning. One of the violinists said that he has been coming to St. Gertrude's to play for the 9am Christmas Mass for 41 years and he has never seen such a big crowd in all those years. I think it is a fine tradition to come back for a second Mass on Christmas. I can remember that, when I was pastor at St. Hugh of Lincoln and still living there, many of the Faithful would attend the Midnight Mass and then come back the next day for one or two of the morning Masses, too!

St. Stephen's Day was a more or less quiet day around here, but St. John's Day saw many of you returning to church for the High Mass and Blessing of Beverages with a little celebration back in Helfta Hall. Holy Innocents fell on a Sunday this year, which is why red vestments were used instead of violet, and there were a lot more children at the Holy Innocents Party after High Mass. It was such an enjoyable time, although I am not sure who enjoys it more...me or the children. The innocence of children is such a precious thing that one must strive never to be the occasion of its loss. **Fr. Brueggemann** gave an excellent sermon on that very matter. As he said, television and unsupervised screen time, and the like, are killers of innocence. You might almost say that it is the technological Herod of our day. Children really should not have cell phones and definitely should not be allowed on social media platforms, nor be permitted to watch movies or shows on those gadgets, except under the strictest supervision. You know—you really do—that it is not good for them. You know—and you really do—how dangerous these things are, especially with advertisements and everything else. Instead, give them wholesome, Catholic entertainment and send them outdoors to play. All ye Holy Innocents, pray for our youth!

Our seminarians, Alphonso Capetillo and Christopher Brueggemann, are home for Christmas break and have already been on a ski trip with the young Fathers. It is nice to have them here for a little while. **Fr. Lavery** was in town for a visit with family and stopped by for a short visit before the New Year. He is now stationed in Maine, I believe, and has a small parish with a school. **Fr. Lehtoranta** made it back safely from his Milwaukee trip, which was a very busy one for him this year. Bob Poggel, one of the Faithful at St. Hugh's, died on St. Stephen's Day. Mr. Poggel was a man with a big heart who has done much for his church and clergy over the years. It was his love for the Faith and for Holy Mass that was most edifying—and his joyful spirit, too. He will be missed, but I am confident that he had a holy death. Merciful Lord Jesus, grant him eternal rest.

I wish you a holy and happy New Year with many graces ahead. Stay with Our Lady and recite the daily rosary. You will never regret having done so. Oh! and don't forget the Epiphany this week!

— Bishop McGuire

BECOMING LITTLE BEFORE THE LORD



Jesus looks for littleness, because He knows well that there is nothing greater on earth than that which is insignificant in the eyes of the world. His crib was small. His boat was small. His cross was small and narrow. Tabernacles are small, as are the Sacred Hosts and the souls that He chooses for His delight and repose.

How good Jesus is! How He delights in resting among the sons and daughters of man in spite of possessing heaven itself and the pure and loving bosom of His Beloved Father. Jesus rests in the souls that know how to understand Him. *I have called you friends, since I have made known to you all that I heard from My Father* (John 15:15).... But Jesus did not rest in any other soul as He did in Mary's, because her virginal and maternal heart reminded Him of the most loving bosom of the Father....

The Eucharist and the cross are immortal monuments that assure us that God's love is totally satisfying and eternal. Not even our sinful misery, nor our ingratitude, can lessen the love that Jesus has for us. This incomprehensible Love is not founded on the basis of our fleeting and fluctuating weaknesses, but upon the immutable and eternal foundation of God's goodness....

Jesus, give us humility, purity, and a love for Thee more than for anything else on earth.... Most Holy Virgin, we too want to be thine, only thine, always thine. We want to form a resting-place for Him in this life, so that we can rest in Him for all eternity.

— Concepcion Cabrera de Armida

✠ CALENDAR

MON	1/5/26	VIGIL OF THE EPIPHANY • ST. TELESPHORUS, PM
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Bill & Mary Hopkins (KR)
	11:25 AM	Low Mass †Kathleen Roberts (<i>John Boyd</i>)
TUE	1/6/26	THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Patricia Culver (KR) (from 1/4)
	5:15 PM	Blessing of Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh
	5:30 PM	Pontifical High Mass For our church workers Appreciation Dinner
WED	1/7/26	WITHIN THE OCTAVE
		FIRST WEDNESDAY – PRAY TO ST. JOSEPH
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Margaret Rabjohns (KR)
	11:25 AM	High Mass †Joseph Krebs (<i>Rose Beckerich</i>) (from 1/6)
	5:10 PM	Low Mass †Frank Youngworth (<i>Diane Puglielli</i>) (from 1/6)
THU	1/8/26	WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Michael Rabjohns (KR) (from 1/6)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass For our homeschoolers – Thank you for all you do!
	11:25 AM	High Mass Alfonso T. Capetillo (<i>Nana & Grandpa</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Intentions of the CMC Catholic Mothers' Consortium Meeting
FRI	1/9/26	WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Bishop McGuire – Merry Christmas, Your Excellency! (<i>Erika McKnight</i>)
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	High Mass Victor & Doris Ritze (<i>Theresa Hill</i>)
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:35 PM	Infant of Prague Novena III
	5:45 PM	Low Mass Our children (<i>Collin & Alyssa Smith</i>)
	6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	1/10/26	WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	7:05 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Merry Christmas Dad & Mom (<i>The Brueggemann Girls</i>)
	8:05 AM	Alma, Sermon
	8:15 AM	High Mass †Tom & †Stella Simpson (<i>Karen Simpson</i>)
SUN	1/11/26	THE HOLY FAMILY • ST. HYGINUS, PM
		SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE EPIPHANY
	7:05 AM	Rosary
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Thanksgiving for prayers answered (<i>Cecilia Brueggemann</i>)
	9:00 AM	High Mass Our parents & God/grandparents (<i>Arlinghaus Family</i>)
	10:40 AM	Catechism Classes
	11:05 AM	Rosary
	11:30 AM	Low Mass Special intention & family conversion (<i>John Boyd</i>)
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

Offered privately by Bishop McGuire on 12/15:

Holy Souls & for Frances Mendez

On 12/25: †Loren & †Mary McGuire – Merry Christmas Mom & Dad!
(*Erika McKnight*); Holy Souls & for Frances Mendez

TRUSTING THE HEALER

I stand before Thee, my Savior; Thou hast not spurned my sincere offer to become Thy obedient disciple. I no longer look for comfort from either heaven or earth. Thou, divine Master, canst judge whether such are necessary for me. I propose to worry no more over the aridity Thou sendest me. Thou, my God, art the font of both aridity and grace. I am grateful to Thee for letting me learn this....

O purify my motives, my thoughts, and my desires! Of myself, I can do nothing. Tell me what to do to be worthy of Thy grace which I so need if I am to seek perfection. Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of my soul, dispel the darkness that hovers over me....

When I beg Thy grace in order to practice virtue, Thou grantest it to me and it helps me to accomplish something worthwhile. But then I become conceited and proud. When I ask Thee to send me misfortune so that I may learn the path to salvation, I then bear it with little resignation. I even ask Thee to deliver me from it. If Thou removest it, I become depressed and desolate and I feel miserable. Behold me, dear God, at the foot of Thy throne. Give me whatever Thou wilt. Spare me from whatever Thou wilt. Let me know Thy will without a doubt, for that must be my law....

True, I feel but little devotion; my soul is dry and sluggish; but yet, O Lord Jesus, I believe in Thee, I hope in Thee, I love Thee, and I grieve for having ever offended Thee! Behold my resolution to live entirely for Thee, to be patient in sufferings, diligent in the fulfillment of my duties, humble before Thee and my neighbor, and devout in Thy service. O my God, accept the sacrifice of my lowliness! Holy Immaculate Mother of my Jesus, pray for me, a poor sinner, that I may worthily receive my God! – *John Neumann*



Servers

TUE 1/6	5:30 PM PONTIFICAL: POSTED IN SACRISTY
FRI 1/9	5:45 PM LOW: A. & B. Constantino BENEDICTION: MCS: D. Simpson, F. Caggese TH: A. Constantino TBS: B. Constantino, Ma. Caggese
SAT 1/10	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemanns 8:15 AM HIGH: MC: D. Simpson ACS: I. & J. Smith
SUN 1/11	7:30 AM LOW: M. Schneider, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: N. McClorey, C. Richesson TH: M. Caggese ACS: F. Caggese, B. Constantino TBS: E. Garcia, I. Wright, J. & I. Smith, L. Rabjohns, A. Constantino 11:30 AM LOW: Kolenichs 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: D. Simpson ACS: I. Smith, P. Caggese CROSS: J. Smith 5:45 PM LOW: A. McClorey