

# 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 11, 2026**  
**THE HOLY FAMILY**  
**EPIPHANY SUNDAY • ST. HYGINUS, PM**

## ¶ HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY

Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

## ¶ THIS WEEK

We return to our usual Mass schedule this week with the return of the school children. Take advantage of daily Mass and Communion! On **Tuesday** we conclude Epiphany with its octave day, and **Wednesday** we return to the sanctoral cycle with the great Doctor of the Church St. Hilary. **Thursday's** devotional feast, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, recalls an American miracle during the War of 1812. Ask Our Lady for prompt assistance still today. Remember **Friday's** 5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena, Mass at 5:45 PM and 6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena and Benediction. Our Lady of Good Hope is honored on her **Saturday**; as we recall the apparition at Pontmain, France. Saturday too, is the feast of the original animal patron, St. Anthony of Egypt.



## ¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday we begin the Chair of Unity Octave. The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available after all the Masses. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45. **Set Your Missal:** Epiphany II, second collect of St. Peter's Chair at Rome, third of St. Paul, fourth of St. Prisca, fifth Against the Persecutors and Evildoers. Trinity Preface. Proper Last Gospel of St. Peter's Chair.

## ¶ Amen Christi

*The Sanctuary Lamp will burn before the Blessed Sacrament during the next fortnight for the following intention:*

**Christian Withers**  
(Maureen Scanlon)

## ¶ 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, January 1 <sup>st</sup> .....	\$3,934.00
Sunday, January 4 <sup>th</sup> .....	\$22,660.00
Second Collection.....	\$4,056.00
Alter Christus.....	\$824.00

Thank you for your generosity.

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY**

O God of goodness and mercy, to Thy fatherly protections we commend our family, our household and all that belongs to us. We commit all to Thy love and keeping; do Thou fill this house with Thy blessings even as Thou didst fill the holy House of Nazareth with Thy presence.

Keep far from us, above all things else, the taint of sin, and do Thou alone reign in our midst by Thy law, by Thy most holy love and by the exercise of every Christian virtue. Let each one of us obey Thee, love Thee and set himself to imitate in his own life Thine example, that of Mary, Thy Mother and our Mother most loving, and that of Thy blameless guardian, St. Joseph.

Preserve us and our house from all evils and misfortunes, but grant that we may be ever resigned to Thy divine will even in the sorrows which it shall please Thee to send us. Finally give unto all of us the grace to live in perfect harmony and in the fullness of love toward our neighbor. Grant that every one of us may deserve by a holy life the comfort of Thy holy Sacraments at the hour of death. O Jesus, bless us and protect us.

O Mary, Mother of grace and of mercy, defend us against the wicked spirit, reconcile us with Thy Son, commit us to His keeping, that so we may be made worthy of His promises.

St. Joseph, foster-father of our Savior, guardian of His holy Mother, head of the Holy Family, intercede for us, bless us and defend our homes at all times.

St. Michael, defend us against all the wicked cunning of hell.

St. Gabriel, make us to understand the holy will of God.

St. Raphael, keep us free from all sickness and from every danger to our lives.

Our holy Guardian Angels, keep

our feet safely on the path of salvation both day and night.

Our holy Patrons, pray for us before the throne of God.

Yea, bless this house, O God the Father, Who hast created us; O God the Son, Who hast suffered for us on the holy Cross, and Thou, O Holy Spirit, Who hast sanctified us in holy Baptism. May the one God in three divine Persons preserve our bodies, purify our minds, direct our hearts and bring us all to everlasting life.

Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son, glory be to the Holy Ghost! Amen.

*An indulgence of 500 days once a day.*



*Our Beloved Dead – January*

Jean Ostendorf	1-01-1990
Robert H. Lutkehaus	1-02-1992
Vivian Wainright	1-04-2018
Joseph R. Duff	1-06-1993
Steven A. Nemeth	1-08-2002
Ernest Nellenbach	1-08-2011
Althea LeBlanc	1-12-2013
Kent Maki	1-12-2021
John A. Donadio	1-14-2004
James W. Bragley	1-15-1991
Vivian Deardorff	1-15-1996
Kim LeBlanc	1-17-2015
Evelyn Rentschler	1-18-1999
George C. Vande Ryt	1-18-1997
Robert J. Kunkel	1-19-1995
Rev. Eldred Leslie	1-21-2009
Nellie Sutton	1-23-2014
Matthew Nies	1-24-1985
Rev. Urban Snyder	1-25-1995
Rev. Roy Randolph	1-26-1998
Elizabeth Binzel	1-27-2003
Robert Blomker	1-28-2001
Robert A. Stirnkorb	1-30-1991
Jane Donadio	1-30-2018

**THE WISE MEN**

Step softly, under snow or rain,  
To find the place where men can pray,  
The way is all so very plain  
That we may lose the way.

Oh, we have learnt to peer and pore,  
On tortured puzzles from our youth,  
We know all labyrinthine lore,  
We are the three Wise Men of yore  
And we know all things but the truth.

We have gone round and round the hill,  
And lost the wood among the trees,  
And learnt long names for every ill,  
And served the mad gods, naming still  
The Furies the Eumenides.

The gods of violence took the veil  
Of visions and philosophy,  
The Serpent that brought all men bale,  
He bites his own accursed tail,  
And calls himself Eternity.

Go humbly...it has hailed and snowed...  
With voices low and lanterns lit,  
So very simple is the road,  
That we may stray from it.

The world grows terrible and white,  
And blinding white the breaking day;  
We walk bewildered in the light,  
For something is too large for sight,  
And something much too plain to say.

The Child that was ere worlds beg—  
(...We need but walk a little way...  
We need but see a latch undone...)  
The Child that played with moon and sun  
Is playing with a little hay.

The house from which the heavens are fed  
The old strange house that is our own,  
Where tricks of words are never said,  
And Mercy is as plain as bread,  
And Honor is as hard as stone.

Go humbly; humble are the skies,  
And low and large and fierce the Star,  
So very near the Manger lies  
That we may travel far.

Hark! Laughter like a lion wakes  
To roar to the resounding plain,  
And the whole heaven shouts and shakes  
For God Himself is born again  
And we are little children walking  
Through the snow and rain.

– Gilbert Keith Chesterton

What a joy it was to see such a good attendance for last week's feast of the Epiphany! I was telling Fr. McKenna that he and Olivia (my 7 year old niece) have something in common. They both love the Epiphany very much, and both like the Three Kings songs a lot—Father has one as his ringtone. Well, while I was talking on the phone with my sister and she was trying to decide if she would be able to make it to the ceremonies, I could hear Olivia asking if the choir would be singing *We Three Kings* at Mass. When I answered that they would, her response was, "Okay, Mom, start the car, we're going!" We both got a chuckle out of that. They did come and join for the Mass and the reception afterwards.



Fr. McKenna left for Milwaukee on Friday and will be doing the funeral for a longtime parishioner and friend, Mr. Robert Poggel. Mr. Poggel was around during the days of Fr. Hugh Wish, who is the priest in Milwaukee who resisted the changes and kept the Latin Mass going. Before Fr. Wish died, he left Fr. Cekada a sum of money to be used to build a chapel to keep the Mass going in that city. With that money he purchased the present St. Hugh of Lincoln which is situated on the corner of 12th and Hayes...just one block away from Lincoln Ave. In any case, Mr. Poggel was around during those early days and was one of the most devoted Catholics I know. Oh, how he loved Holy Mass! He is one of those old-timers who served until he could serve no longer, and then still continued to serve when needed. He was in his late 80s and still an enthusiastic acolyte. He led the Rosary before almost every Mass, drove the priests anywhere they asked, and several times even drove the priests on the missions. He was generous and enthusiastic, a model Catholic. May he quickly join the saints in heaven!

School started up again last Wednesday. It was always hard to go back to school after Christmas break, I remember, but nowadays it is so refreshing to see our kids return to school and things go back to the normal routine. Somehow it seems a little too quiet without the school children around. Welcome back, children!

May the Three Kings inspire you with generosity and promptness in carrying out the Will of God!



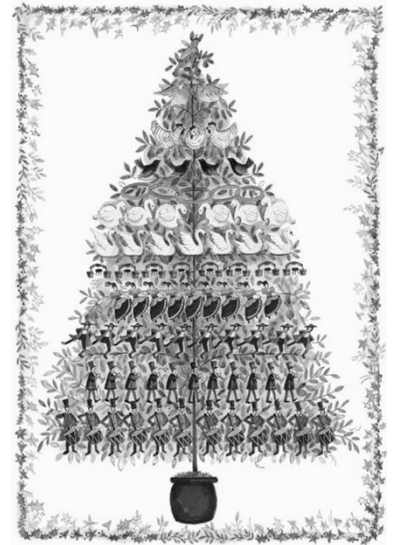
– Bishop McGuire

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written. It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts.

Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law—private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith—a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in writing indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head—or hanged, drawn and quartered, a rather peculiar and ghastly punishment I'm not aware was ever practiced anywhere else.

The song's gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under My wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."



The other symbols mean the following:

- **Two Turtle Doves** = the Old and New Testaments
- **Three French Hens** = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- **Four Calling Birds** = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- **Five Golden Rings** = the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- **Six Geese A-laying** = the six days of creation
- **Seven Swans A-swimming** = the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost, the seven sacraments
- **Eight Maids A-milking** = the eight beatitudes
- **Nine Ladies Dancing** = the nine Fruits of the Holy Ghost
- **Ten Lords A-leaping** = the ten commandments
- **Eleven Pipers Piping** = the eleven faithful apostles
- **Twelve Drummers Drumming** = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

– Fr. Hal Stockert, 12/17/95

## ✠ CALENDAR

<b>MON</b>	<b>1/12/26</b>	<b>WITHIN THE OCTAVE • ST. BENET BISCOP, AB</b> <b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> Andrew Prell ( <i>Dad &amp; Mom</i> ) <b>11:25 AM High Mass</b> †Bob Poggel ( <i>The Fathers</i> )
<b>TUE</b>	<b>1/13/26</b>	<b>OCTAVE DAY OF THE EPIPHANY</b> <b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> Deceased Members of the Rosary Confraternity ( <i>Rosary Confraternity</i> ) <b>11:25 AM High Mass</b> †Jean & †Kirby Bischel ( <i>Rosary Confraternity</i> ) <b>5:00 PM Low Mass</b> Congratulations to Andrew & Eliza Kiernan on the birth of their son ( <i>Love, Mom &amp; Dad</i> )
<b>WED</b>	<b>1/14/26</b>	<b>ST. HILARY, BPCD • ST. FELIX, PRM</b> <b>7:00 AM Low Mass</b> Justin Herman ( <i>William Herman</i> ) <b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> †Tom Simpson ( <i>Rosary Confraternity</i> ) <b>11:25 AM High Mass</b> Teresa Boyd ( <i>John Boyd</i> ) <b>5:10 PM Low Mass</b> Thou knowest, O Lord ( <i>Arlinghaus family</i> )
<b>THU</b>	<b>1/15/26</b>	<b>ST. PAUL, FIRST HERMIT • ST. MAURUS, AB</b> <i>OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR</i> <b>7:00 AM Low Mass</b> Thank you Bishop McGuire & the Holy Angels ( <i>Jacinta Giese</i> ) <b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> The Clergy of SGG ( <i>Tom Gardner</i> ) <b>11:25 AM High Mass</b> For our fallen-away children ( <i>St. Monica's Club</i> ) <b>St. Monica's Club Meeting</b> <b>5:00 PM Low Mass</b> Alfonso T. Capetillo ( <i>Nana &amp; Grandpa</i> )
<b>FRI</b>	<b>1/16/26</b>	<b>ST. MARCELLUS I, PM</b> <b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> †Jeff Knight ( <i>The Hudson Family</i> ) <b>11:00 AM Confessions</b> <b>11:25 AM Low Mass</b> †Ronald Lotarski ( <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Mark Lotarski</i> ) <b>5:15 PM Confessions &amp; Rosary</b> <b>5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena IV</b> <b>5:45 PM Low Mass</b> Our Children, Grandchildren & Great-grandson ( <i>Joe &amp; Kathy Bayer</i> ) <b>6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>1/17/26</b>	<b>ST. ANTHONY, AB • OUR LADY OF PONTMAIN</b> <b>7:05 AM Confessions</b> <b>7:30 AM Low Mass</b> Dad & Mom ( <i>Brueggemann family</i> ) <b>8:05 AM Alma, Sermon</b> <b>8:15 AM High Mass</b> Repose of the soul of †Jim Condit ( <i>Bob &amp; Becky Uhlenbrock</i> )
<b>SUN</b>	<b>1/18/26</b>	<b>EPIPHANY II • ST. PETER'S CHAIR AT ROME</b> <i>ST. PRISCA, VM</i> <i>OPENING OF THE CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE: "The return of all the other sheep to the one fold of St. Peter, the one Shepherd."</i> <b>7:05 AM Rosary</b> <b>7:30 AM Low Mass</b> †Ann M. Marko – Rest in peace ( <i>Dave &amp; MaryAnn Marko</i> ) <b>9:00 AM High Mass</b> Pierce Kiernan, Happy Birthday ( <i>Love, Mom &amp; Dad</i> ) <b>10:40 AM Catechism Classes</b> <b>11:05 AM Rosary</b> <b>11:30 AM Low Mass</b> My Family ( <i>Sr. Ulrica</i> ) <b>4:45 PM Vespers &amp; Benediction</b> <b>5:45 PM Low Mass</b> For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

## LITTLE LITANY OF THE HOLY CHILD

Lord, have mercy on us.  
 Christ, have mercy on us.  
 Lord, have mercy on us.  
 Dear little Lord Jesus, *Come and bless us.*  
 Baby Jesus, coming to Mary, *Little Lord Jesus, bless us.*  
 Baby Jesus, born in a manger, *Little Lord Jesus, bless us.*  
 Baby Jesus, announced by a star, *Little Lord Jesus, bless us.*  
 Baby Jesus, adored by the angels, *Little Lord Jesus, bless us.*  
 Baby Jesus, seen by the shepherds, *Little Lord Jesus, bless us.*  
 Baby Jesus, sought by the Wise Men, *Little Lord Jesus, bless us.*  
 Baby Jesus, loved by Thy Mother, *Little Lord Jesus, bless us.*  
 Baby Jesus, protected by Joseph, *Little Lord Jesus, bless us.*  
 Baby Jesus, blessing all men, *Little Lord Jesus, bless us.*



O Dear Lord God, Who became a little child for our sake, teach us to be meek and humble like the Little Child of Bethlehem. Amen.



Offered privately by Bishop McGuire on 1/5:  
 Holy Souls & for Frances Mendez

### Servers

<b>FRI 1/16</b>	<b>5:45 PM LOW:</b> Capetillos <b>BENEDICTION: MCS:</b> T. Capetillo, D. Simpson <b>TH:</b> J. Capetillo <b>TBS:</b> I. Smith, P. Caggese
<b>SAT 1/17</b>	<b>7:30 AM LOW:</b> Rabjohns <b>8:15 AM HIGH:</b> D. Simpson, B. & A. Constantino
<b>SUN 1/18</b>	<b>7:30 AM LOW:</b> M. McConnell, Brueggemann <b>9:00 AM HIGH: MCS:</b> S. Richesson, N. Kolenich <b>TH:</b> D. Hudson <b>ACS:</b> M. Kolenich, I. Smith <b>TBS:</b> E. Garcia, J. Kolenich, G. & C. Wright, Ma. Caggese, A. Constantino <b>11:30 AM LOW:</b> Capetillos <b>4:45 PM VESPERS &amp; BENEDICTION: TH:</b> D. Simpson <b>ACS:</b> I. Smith, F. Caggese <b>CROSS:</b> B. Constantino <b>5:45 PM LOW:</b> A. McClurey