

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

*"Invenies Me in corde Gertrudis"*

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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*"You will find Me in the heart of Gertrude"*

EMERGENCY LINE: (513) 509-0424

Most Rev. Charles J. McGuire, Pastor  
Rev. Stephen McKenna  
Rev. Vili Lehtoranta  
Rev. Thomas Simpson  
Rev. Anthony Brueggemann



**January 18, 2026**  
**EPIPHANY II • ST. PETER'S CHAIR**  
**AT ROME • ST. PRISCA, VM**

## ¶ EPIPHANY II

Today we open the Chair of Unity Octave. The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available after all the Masses. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

## ¶ CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE

Today is the feast of St. Peter's Chair at Rome, the opening of the *Chair of Unity Octave*, which features special prayers each day for the conversion of different non-Catholic groups, ending on the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25th). Pope St. Pius X sanctioned and blessed this devotion, and Pope Benedict XV extended its observance to the Universal Church, highly enriching it with indulgences.

The Chair of Unity Octave has accomplished an immense good in awakening Catholics to the need of interesting themselves in the conversion of those outside the fold. When the enemies of Christ seem to be triumphing as never before, how great is our obligation to pour forth fervent prayer for the millions who wander in darkness! *An Indulgence of 300 days is granted each day during the Octave, with a plenary indulgence on the usual conditions at the close of this devotion.*



¶ **YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED** the Lost & Found table in the vestibule. Items not claimed today will be donated or sold in the bookstore. Please look and see if you have left anything.

## ¶ KNIGHTS OF ST. MARTIN

The St. Martin Men's Group will meet on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM.

## ¶ PASCHAL SACRAMENTS

*Please note these important dates:*

**First Confessions & Testing:**  
Saturday, April 18. (Baptismal certificate must be already presented, and registration form completed *before* the test. Contact the church office for the necessary form.)

**Confirmands' Day of Recollection (for Children):**

Thursday, May 21

**Confirmations:** Vigil of Pentecost, Saturday, May 23

**First Communion:** Corpus Christi Sunday, June 7

**Parents, please note:** the Baptismal certificates of children not baptized at St. Gertrude the Great must be submitted to the church office by Saturday, March 28. If your child is not enrolled in the school or in Sunday catechism, please let us know if you are planning on bringing him to be tested on April 18.

It is sometimes difficult to know if the children are ready, but if they know their basics, and are reverent at Mass, they probably are! Please speak with Bishop McGuire.

### **Please note the following:**

Children and parents must be attending Mass (and the children Class) **every Sunday**, not once or twice a month as sports or Sunday activities permit, in order to receive the Sacraments.

No child will be tested without his Baptismal Certificate and form filled out.

Sponsors must be members of St. Gertrude the Great, or a church affiliated with us. Please ask if you have a question.

### **Collection Report**

Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, .....\$6,910.00  
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

THE GOSPEL

...Consider the injunction of Christ: "Fill the water pots with water" (John 2:7). It was wine that was wanted, and He bids them to fill the vessels with water. He could as easily have created wine in them, as have changed the water into wine. But God frequently commands things which seem to have little connection with the desired effect, in order to try our obedience. Besides, He wishes that we should concur with Him in the work of our salvation. "He Who created you," says St. Augustine, "without your own exertions, will not save you without them."

Consider the perfect example of obedience given by the servants. They make no reply; they inquire for no reason for the command, but instantly fill the vessels completely. Thus ought we to fulfill the commands of God, and the injunctions of His vicegerents, readily, entirely, and fully. Almighty God will have nothing maimed or imperfect offered to Him in sacrifice. Take care that your works are full and perfect, lest you hear the complaint of God: "I find not thy works full before my God" (Apoc 3:2).

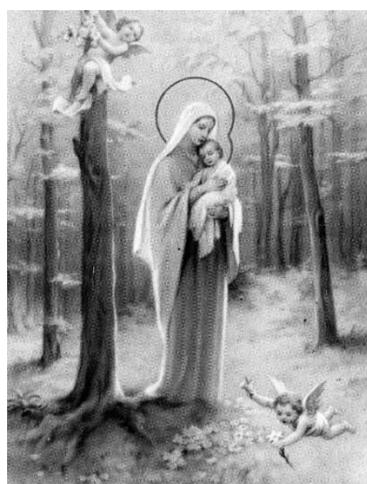
— Fr. Nathaniel Bacon (d. 1676), a gifted Jesuit priest whose spiritual writings long sustained the underground Church in England.



Dear Parishioners,

Thank you very much for all of your generous donations and support! You are all remembered in our prayers. If you would prefer to donate items instead of funds to the Sisters, we have put together a little list of things of which we are still in need for our home. Please contact the office if you are interested. May God bless you abundantly.

— The Oblate Sisters



¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Sorrowful Mother Novena begins:** Friday, January 30
- **Purification of Our Lady, Winter Soup Supper:** Monday, February 2
- **Ash Wednesday:** February 18
- **Ladies' Lenten Retreat:** Saturday, March 14
- **Altar Boys Day:** Saturday, March 21
- **Lenten Children's Day of Recollection:** Wednesday, March 25

A LESSON THE BEE TEACHES

The industrious bee does not stop to complain that there are so many poisonous flowers and thorny branches in his road, but buzzes on, selecting the honey where he can find it, and passing quietly by the places where it is not. There is enough in this world to complain about and find fault with, if we have the disposition. Let us cultivate a different one.

OUR LADY'S TITLE

What is Our Lady's title?

What places her apart

From every earth-born creature,  
though enshrined in every heart?

What is her matchless title?

Her undisputed fame,  
Which never mortal being  
in heaven or earth can claim?

Is it the name of Mary?

God's angel called her this.

No: there are thousand Marys  
enthroned with her in bliss.

Is it the title Blessed?

Why, no: what tongue can tell  
The hosts of blessed spirits  
who now in heaven dwell!

Then surely Blessed Mother  
is a title all her own?

Oh, countless saintly mothers  
surround her peerless throne!

Is Virgin, then, the title  
which Our Lady only wears?  
No, for unnumbered virgins  
throng heaven's golden stairs!

Yet Virgin is her title,  
but the name is incomplete.

In "Virgin-Mother" only,  
all God's secrets meet.  
She is the Virgin-Mother  
of God's Incarnate Son,  
And only He can measure  
the glory she has won.

Then call her "Virgin-Mother."

Take not the words apart.

They tell the sacred story  
of Our Lady's sinless Heart.  
Oh, wed the words together  
in song and speech and prayer;

For God's infinite power  
shines all triumphant there!

— S.B.E.



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## ❖ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ❖

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Today we begin the Chair of Unity Octave and pray for that true unity which Our Lord asked His Heavenly Father for when He said, “That they all may be one, as Thou, Father in Me, and I in Thee...” The world today has a false notion of unity, which is nothing more than ecumenism. These people desire that somehow falsehood should exist simultaneously with truth, that heresy should coexist with the true Faith, that Christ should coexist with antichrist. But this cannot be. Christ did not come from Heaven to earth to establish a Church to which membership is optional, or whose teachings could change with the times. Christ established a Church which will last until the end of time, a Church whose doctrines will not change with the times, and to which all who wish for salvation must belong. Therefore, the Church is praying that those who are outside the Catholic Church give up their heresy, schism, and error and convert to the Catholic Faith, which is the only path that leads souls to heaven. Pray very fervently for this, my dear parishioners!

**Fr. McKenna** went home to visit his parents for a day or two last week before heading to Dallas for weekend Masses. Our chapel in Dallas (St. Anthony's) has grown quite a bit over the years and now gets two Sunday Masses every week. Our Lady of Sorrows Mission in Austin has recently seen some growth. I believe the number I heard was around forty souls! There is always something to be thankful for, isn't there?! **Fr. Lehtoranta** visited **Fr. Brueggemann's** home last week to see their historic Christmas tree. I hear that it has quite the history and is rather a lovely tree! Fr. Brueggemann is finally back from the seminary, but **Fr. Simpson** is away for the entire week visiting the northern missions.

**Bishop Selway's** parents are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this coming weekend. I will be going there for the occasion. They have always been most kind to me over the years since I was in the seminary, just a few years behind their son. 50 years of married life is quite an accomplishment and should be celebrated with the greatest solemnity in these days when the family is so furiously attacked on all sides.

Christmas isn't over yet. Officially, it is Christmas season until the feast of the Purification, though Septuagesima falls on the preceding Sunday this year. Stay near Christ's manger and adore the Holy Child Who came to save our fallen race. Jesus, Jesus, be to me Jesus!

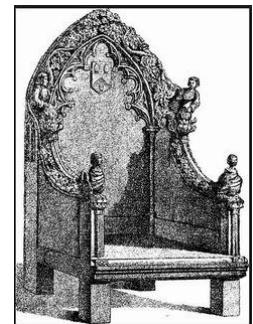


### OFFICIAL OCTAVE PRAYER for the Chair of Unity devotion

**Antiphon:** That they all may be one, as Thou, Father, in Me and I in Thee; that they also may be one in Us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.

**V.** I say unto thee that thou art Peter.

**R. And upon this Rock I will build My Church.**



**Let us pray:** O Lord Jesus Christ, Who saidst unto Thine Apostles: Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: regard not our sins, but the faith of Thy Church, and vouchsafe to grant unto her that peace and unity which are agreeable to Thy Will. Who livest and reignest God forever and ever. **Amen.**



**“Thou hast saved the good wine until now.”** The Holy Eucharist is another manifestation, or epiphany, of Christ. Here God reveals Himself in the form of bread and wine. Having partaken of this miraculous wine, we also experience a change. We are strengthened, cleansed, and purified. “Shout with joy to God, all the earth, sing ye a psalm to His Name. Come and hear all ye that fear God, and I will tell you what great things the Lord hath done for my soul” (Offertory). In the Eucharist we see His glory. We believe in Him; we follow Him. Let us each day in the Holy Eucharist be filled with His grace and divine presence, and become ever more intimately united with Him. What a holy, grace-filled wedding feast! It is the introduction to and the preparation for the eternal wedding feast in heaven.

— Dom Benedict Baur

— Bishop McGuire

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## CALENDAR

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MON	1/19/26	<b>Ss. MARIUS &amp; COMPANIONS, MM</b> ST. CANUTE, KING, M • CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE: “The return of Oriental schismatics (the Orthodox) to the Apostolic See of Rome.”
	8:00 AM	<b>Low Mass</b> †William Egger ( <i>Mary Egger &amp; Lauren Caggeso</i> )
	11:25 AM	<b>Low Mass</b> Gabriella Lucas – 28 <sup>th</sup> Birthday ( <i>Jane Childers</i> )
TUE	1/20/26	<b>Ss. FABIAN, P &amp; SEBASTIAN, MM</b> ST. HENRY OF UPPSALA, M CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE: “The conversion of Anglicans and Episcopalian throughout the world”
	7:00 AM	<b>Low Mass</b> Family Conversions ( <i>Charles Simpson Family</i> )
	8:00 AM	<b>Low Mass</b> Special intention ( <i>Cleo Speckert</i> )
	11:25 AM	<b>High Mass</b> Sister Magdalen ( <i>The Ballesteros Juniors</i> )
	5:00 PM	<b>Low Mass</b> For the sanctification of priests ( <i>Alter Christus Confraternity</i> )
WED	1/21/26	ST. AGNES, VM • CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE: “That Protestants throughout the world might find their way back to Holy Church”
	7:00 AM	<b>Low Mass</b> For all who cook for us and for our devoted drivers ( <i>The Fathers</i> )
	8:00 AM	<b>Low Mass</b> In thanksgiving to Our Mother of Perpetual Help ( <i>C. Simpson Family</i> )
	11:25 AM	<b>High Mass</b> Special Intention – St. Joseph ( <i>Michelle Mikesell</i> )
	5:10 PM	<b>Low Mass</b> †Fr. Eldred Leslie – 17 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary ( <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Joseph Prell</i> )
THU	1/22/26	Ss. VINCENT & ANASTASIA, MM • CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE: “For the conversion of America.”
	7:00 AM	<b>Low Mass</b> Anita, Mary, Beverly – Thank you for prayers ( <i>S. Kurtz</i> )
	8:00 AM	<b>Low Mass</b> †Grandpa ( <i>Sister Eulalia &amp; Sister Magdalen</i> )
	11:25 AM	<b>Requiem High Mass</b> Purgatorial Society
	5:00 PM	<b>Low Mass</b> The Clergy of SGG ( <i>Tom Gardner</i> )
FRI	1/23/26	<b>ST. RAYMOND PENNafort, C</b> ST. EMERENTIANA, VM • <i>ESPOUSALS OF OUR LADY</i> CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE: “Return to the Sacraments of fallen-away Catholics”
	8:00 AM	<b>Low Mass</b> In Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
	11:00 AM	<b>Confessions</b>
	11:25 AM	<b>Low Mass</b> Victor Ritze – Happy Birthday! ( <i>Hill Family</i> )
	5:15 PM	<b>Confessions &amp; Rosary</b>
	5:35 PM	<b>Infant of Prague Novena V</b>
	5:45 PM	<b>Low Mass</b> Ben – Happy Birthday! ( <i>Capetillo family</i> )
	6:30 PM	<b>Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction</b>
SAT	1/24/26	ST. TIMOTHY, BPM • CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE: “The conversion of the Jews.”
	7:05 AM	<b>Confessions</b>
	7:30 AM	<b>Low Mass</b> Carolee Rabjohns ( <i>KR</i> )
	8:05 AM	<b>Alma, Sermon</b>
	8:15 AM	<b>High Mass</b> Deus Vult! Deo Gratias! ( <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Fernandez</i> )

## PRAYER TO OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

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Mary, Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God and our mother, thou seest how the Catholic Faith is assailed by the devil and world—that Faith in which we purpose, by the help of God, to live and die—Do thou, O Help of Christians, renew thy victories as of old, for the salvation of thy children.

To thee we entrust our firm purpose of never joining assemblies of heretics. Do thou, all

holy, offer to thy Divine Son our resolutions, and obtain from Him the graces necessary for us to keep them unto the end.

Support the Catholic episcopate; protect the clergy and the people who proclaim thee Queen. Hasten, by the power of thy prayers, the day when all nations shall be gathered around the Supreme Pastor. Amen.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us. Amen.

Offered privately by Bishop McGuire on 1/12:  
Deceased Members of the Rosary Confraternity (*Rosary Confraternity*)

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### Servers

FRI 1/23	5:45 PM Low: J. & I. Smith BENEDICTION: MCs: D. Simpson, A. Constantino TH: I. Smith TBS: J. Smith, B. Constantino
SAT 1/24	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemanns 8:15 AM HIGH: D. Simpson, M. & F. Caggeso
SUN 1/25	7:30 AM LOW: M. Schneider, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCs: T. Lawrence, C. Richesson TH: J. Rabjohns ACs: J. Stewart, M. Caggeso TBS: T. Stanislowski, J. Smith, I. & D. Wright, B. Constantino, F. Caggeso 11:30 AM LOW: Kolenichs 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: D. Simpson ACs: I. Smith, B. Constantino CROSS: A. Constantino 5:45 PM LOW: Brueggemanns

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SUN 1/25/26	EPIPHANY III • CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL, AP CLOSING OF THE CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE: The Missionary Conquest of the World for Christ
7:05 AM	<b>Rosary</b>
7:30 AM	<b>Low Mass</b> Isaac Brueggemann ( <i>Tom Gardner</i> )
9:00 AM	<b>High Mass</b> For our children & grandchildren ( <i>S. &amp; C. Hudson</i> )
10:40 AM	<b>Catechism Classes</b>
11:05 AM	<b>Rosary</b>
11:30 AM	<b>Low Mass</b> †Mary P. Kassenbrock ( <i>Jane Brockman</i> )
4:45 PM	<b>Vespers &amp; Benediction</b>
5:45 PM	<b>Low Mass</b> For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

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