

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 25, 2026

EPIPHANY III

CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL, AP

¶ EPIPHANY III

Today we close the Chair of Unity Octave and the Twelve Sundays in Honor of Our Mother of Good Counsel. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ THIS WEEK

Tomorrow is the feast of St. Polycarp, and **Tuesday** St. John Chrysostom, the golden-tongued preacher. Our diocesan patron, St. Francis de Sales, has his feast on **Thursday**, with Solemn High Mass at 11:25 AM. The **Knights of St. Martin** will be meeting in the evening on Thursday, beginning with Mass at 5:30. The Sorrowful Mother Novena begins on **Friday**. Be sure to submit the names of the sick to be remembered in the novena.



¶ WINTER SOUP SUPPER

Next **Monday, February 2**, is the feast of the Purification of Our Lady, or *Candlemas*. Our **Winter Soup Supper** follows the 5:30 PM High Mass. Please bring your favorite soup to share! There will be stations available to plug in crockpots. If you don't have a favorite soup, bring a delicious dessert. The church will provide bread and drinks. We look forward to seeing you at this cozy winter event!



Eumen Christi

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

Joseph Eluszkiwicz – special intention

(Catherine Tardugno)

Collection Report

Sunday, January 18th.....\$6,170.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: SEPTUAGESIMA

Next week we begin the short pre-Lenten season. The second collection will be for our Oblates. The Blessing of Religious Articles will be available after all Masses. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM. **Set Your Missal:** Septuagesima, second collect of St. Ignatius, third of the octave of St. Francis de Sales. Trinity Preface.

¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Blessing of Throats in honor of St. Blaise:** Tuesday, February 3
- **CMC Meeting:** Thursday, February 12, 5 PM
- **Ash Wednesday:** Feb. 18
- **St. Monica's Club:** Thursday, February 19, 11:25 AM
- **Knights of St. Martin Meeting:** Thursday, February 26, 5:30 PM
- **Ladies' Lenten Retreat:** Saturday, March 14
- **Altar Boys Day:** Saturday, March 21
- **Lenten Children's Day of Recollection:** Wednesday, March 25

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

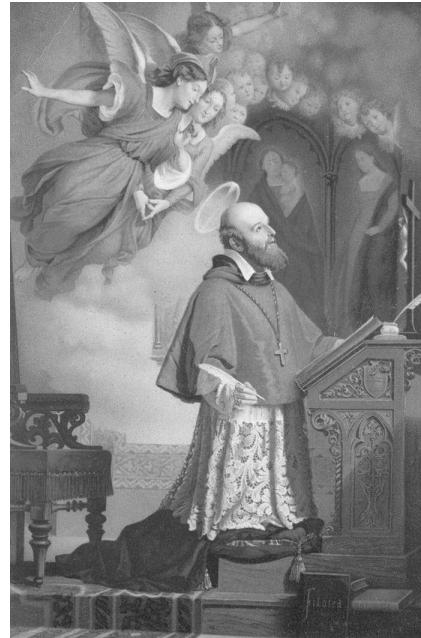
Please pray for Augustine Good, Rebekah Robson, Diane O'Hehir, Diane Holappa, Patty, and the repose of the soul of Fr. Martin Gomez's mother, **†Cirina Bravo**.

ETERNITY

They pass away, these temporal years, my brother; their months melt into weeks, weeks into days, days into hours, and hours into moments, which last are all we possess: and these we only possess as they perish and make up our perishable life. This life, however, must on this account be more dear to us, since being full of misery, we cannot have any more solid consolation therein than that of being assured that it gradually disappears to make room for that holy eternity which is prepared for us in the abundance of God's mercy. To this eternity our soul aspires incessantly by the continual thoughts its very nature suggests to it, though it cannot have hope for eternity except by other and higher thoughts which the Author of nature bestows upon it.

Truly, my brother, I never think of eternity without much sweetness; for, say I, how could my soul extend its thought to this infinity unless it has some kind of proportion with it? Certainly, a faculty which attains an object must have some sort of correspondence with it. But when I find that my desire runs after my thought upon this same eternity, my joy takes an unparalleled increase, for I know that we never desire, with a true desire, anything which is not possible. My desire then assures me that I can have eternity: What remains for me but to hope that I shall have it? And this is given to me by the knowledge of the infinite goodness of Him Who would not have created a soul capable of thinking of and tending toward eternity, unless He has intended to give the means of attaining it. Thus, my brother, we shall find ourselves at the foot of the crucifix, which is the ladder by which from these temporal years we pass to the eternal years.

— St. Francis de Sales



¶ 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.

ST. PAUL

When I was Saul, and sat among the cloaks,
 My eyes were stones, I saw no sight of Heaven,
 Open to take the spirit of the twisting Stephen.
 When I was Saul, and sat among the rocks,
 I locked my eyes, and made my brain my tomb,
 Sealed with what boulders rolled across my reason!

When I was Saul and walked upon the blazing desert
 My road was quiet as a trap.
 I feared what word would split high noon with light
 And lock my life, and try to drive me mad:
 And thus I saw the Voice that struck me dead.

Tie up my breath, and wind me in white sheets of anguish,
 And lay me in my three days' sepulchre
 Until I find my Easter in a vision.

Oh Christ! Give back my life, go, cross Damascus,
 Find out my Ananias in that other room:
 Command him, as You do, in this my dream;
 He knows my locks, and owns my ransom,
 Waits for Your word to take his keys and come.

— Thomas Merton, S.B.E.



❖ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ❖

Thanks be to God for the lovely weather that He so graciously gave us last week. It has been a particularly bleak winter and the bright sunshine was a great boost for all of us! There might be a **Fr. McKenna** sighting at St. Gertrude's the weekend if the weather in Dallas is as bad as they are saying. Texans aren't used to the snow and ice since they rarely get it, so it really does impact travel down there. The weather is saying that we might get around 5 inches of snow, but they often predict storms that never happen, so don't let them scare you away from Mass. I am down in Florida where it is a little warmer. God willing, I will be back in time for the feast of our patron, St. Francis de Sales!

I was thinking of all of our Sebastians and Agneses on their feast days and praying for them. Happy belated feast day to each of them! **Fr. Brueggemann** tells me that his family, who owns a few sheep, had two lambs born on the feast of St. Agnes. How providential is that!

Bishop Nkamuke sent a report from Nigeria. It seems that **Fr. Ikbiaemoh** has been quite ill and will have to go to Lagos to receive better treatment. Please keep him in your prayers. His Excellency and the Fathers have been doing much to start a new school in one of their missions and have (or will) purchase a piece of land for it. The parents have already taken their kids out of the state schools and are ready to make this happen. Bishop just had his car give out on him and is forced to get a new one. Thanks to some benefactors he has the money to be able to do so. Not much has changed with regard to the persecutions in Nigeria so we must keep up our prayers. God does hear them!

Fr. Martín's mother died on the feast of St. Agnes, January 21st. Remember her soul in your prayers. **Fr. Contreras'** mother is ill as well. While you pray for their mothers, pray also for the priests. It is never easy to lose a mother. **Fr. Siordia** asked for Confirmations in Cocoyoc this summer. As of now, it looks like there will be long trip to Mexico for Confirmations at the chapels of Fr. Martín, Fr. Siordia, and **Fr. Mardones**. In November, the yearly trip to **Fr. Arnoldo's** chapel in Tijuana and hopefully La Paz. We are hoping to finish planning a trip to India and the Philippines as well. It looks like a busy year for the missions. *Deo gratias et Mariae!*

Report cards were passed out on Thursday and the school children did a fine job this quarter. It would be nice to hear from time to time how the homeschoolers are doing. I get little snippets of information from

the kids every now and again and all seems very positive.

May the Holy Family protect you and yours!

— Bishop McGuire



PRAYER TO SAINT PAUL

O glorious Saint Paul, from a persecutor of the Christian name, thou didst become an Apostle of burning zeal, and in order that Jesus Christ might become known to the furthermost bounds of the earth, thou didst joyfully suffer imprisonment, scourging, stoning, shipwreck, and every kind of persecution. Obtain for us now the grace to pray at all times for those who have not as yet been blessed with the gift of faith. Help us to use all our strength for the conversion of those who have not as yet heard the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.



The Catholic Liturgy has a great attraction for me; I love to live the great communal life of the Church in the course of the year, uniting myself with its joys and sorrows, joining my poor prayers with its prayers, my weak voice with its strong voice. It is consoling to go through the liturgical cycle, living our Savior's life, from His Incarnation to His death and Ascension; through the words of the prophets, fathers, and saints of all ages to speak my faith and my love; to adore Him in company with those who have adored Him through the centuries; to offer myself with shepherds, disciples, and martyrs, with people from all times; to feel myself living in the great Catholic communion, after so many others, and before so many who will follow me, with my homage to the Infant God, the suffering Christ, the risen Lord. — *Elisabeth Leseur*

CALENDAR

MON	1/26/26	ST. POLYCARP, BPM
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Thanksgiving – In honor of St. Joseph (<i>C. Simpson Family</i>)
	11:25 AM	Low Mass My godparents – Merry Christmas (<i>Sister Eulalia</i>)
TUE	1/27/26	ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BPCD
	7:00 AM	Low Mass My family – Merry Christmas! (<i>Sister Eulalia</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Special Intention (<i>Cleo Speckert</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass “Thou Knowest, O Lord!” (<i>Eddie & Renee Fernandez</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass †Thomas Simpson (<i>Doby Curran</i>)
WED	1/28/26	ST. PETER NOLASCO, C • ST. AGNES (SECOND TIME)
	7:00 AM	Low Mass The Clergy of SGG (<i>Tom Gardner</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass St. Peregrine, St. Jude – Thank you. Please help me (<i>S. Kurtz</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Poor Souls in Purgatory (<i>AMB</i>)
	5:10 PM	Low Mass Abby Lawrence – Merry Christmas! (<i>Cora Arlinghaus</i>)
THU	1/29/26	ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, BPCD
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Special Intention Deceased (<i>Audrey Dunaway</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Special intention in honor of St. Jude (<i>Dominic & Florence Swinney</i>)
	11:25 AM	Solemn High Mass The Clergy – Merry Christmas! (<i>The Oblates</i>)
	5:30 PM	Low Mass The McGill Family Knights of St. Martin Meeting
FRI	1/30/26	ST. MARTINA, VM
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Cynthia Chiarello (<i>Michael Rabjohns</i>)
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	Low Mass Fr. Lehtoranta Anniversary (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ritze</i>)
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:35 PM	Infant of Prague Novena VI
	5:45 PM	Low Mass James Kern (<i>Erika McKnight</i>)
	6:30 PM	Opening of Sorrowful Mother Novena, Blessing of the Sick
	6:45 PM	Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	1/31/26	EPIPHANY IV ANTICIPATED • ST. JOHN BOSCO, C IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, REFUGE OF SINNERS
	7:05 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Merry Christmas Fr. Brueggemann (<i>Your goddaughter</i>)
	8:05 AM	Alma, Sermon
	8:15 AM	High Mass †Frank Kiernan, 1 st Anniversary of death (<i>Kevin & Phyllis Kiernan</i>)
SUN	2/1/26	SEPTUAGESIMA • ST. IGNATIUS, BPM ST. BRIGID, V
	7:05 AM	Rosary
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Happy Thanksgiving Dad & Mom (<i>Cecilia Brueggemann</i>)
	9:00 AM	High Mass Thank you, St. Anthony & St. Philomena (<i>The Hudson Family</i>)

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Today the Church admires the faith of the Roman centurion. He has not been prepared for the coming of Christ by the prophets, the Scriptures, or the miracles wrought by God to strengthen the faith of His people. And yet he believes. He not only believes that Christ can heal his servant, but is persuaded that it is not even necessary for Christ to come down to his house; His mere word will suffice. In fact, his great reverence for the Person of Christ leads him to believe that it would be an indignity for Christ to enter his house.

...The workings of grace are indeed mysterious. “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy; and I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy” (Rom 9:16). And the apostle continues: “So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy” (Rom 9:16). If, then, we have been called to the Kingdom of God, it is not of our own doing nor because of our worthiness, but because of the mercy of God. How wonderful is God’s mercy toward us!

— Dom Benedict Baur



Servers

FRI 1/30	5:45 PM Low: Capetillo BENEDICTION: MCs: T. Capetillo, D. Simpson TH: J. Capetillo TBs: Ma. & P. Caggeso
SAT 1/31	7:30 AM Low: Rabjohns 8:15 AM HIGH: T. Lawrence, B. Constantino, I. Smith
SUN 2/1	7:30 AM Low: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCs: D. Simpson, A. McClorey TH: T. England ACs: A. Constantino, J. Hudson TBs: E. Garcia, V. Siqueira, I. Smith, Ma. Caggeso, J. Rabjohns, J. Stewart 11:30 AM Low: Capetillo 4:45 PM VEPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: D. Simpson ACs: I. Smith, F. Caggeso CROSS: J. Smith 5:45 PM Low: P. McClorey

10:40 AM	Catechism Classes
11:05 AM	Rosary
11:30 AM	Low Mass Poor Souls (<i>Mr. & Mrs. William H. Young III</i>)
4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great