

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



February 1, 2026

SEPTUAGESIMA

ST. IGNATIUS, BPM • ST. BRIGID, V



¶ SEPTUAGESIMA

Today we begin the short pre-Lenten season of Septuagesima. The second collection is for our Oblates, and the Little Church is in the vestibule to receive your alms for poor priests. The Blessing of Religious Articles is available after all Masses. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers & Benediction are at 4:45.

¶ THIS WEEK

Tuesday is the feast of St. Blaise. Throats will be blessed after all Masses.

We have our firsts this week as well: **First**

Wednesday (pray to St. Joseph!), **First Thursday** with the holy hour for priests at 5 PM, and **First Friday** and **Saturday** with their usual schedules, Sorrowful Mother Novena, and **All Night Adoration**. Call or email the office with the names of the sick to be remembered in the Novena.



¶ CANDLEMAS

Tomorrow is the feast of the Purification of Our Lady, or Candlemas Day. The ceremonies of this great feast begin at **5:30 PM** with the ancient and beautiful Blessing of Candles, followed by the procession and Solemn High Mass. The Winter Soup Supper closes the evening. Bring a soup or dessert to share!

¶ FIRST FRIDAY

8:00 AM Low Mass
11:00 AM Confessions
11:25 AM Low Mass, Benediction
8:00 PM Exposition
5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary
5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena VII
5:45 PM Low Mass
6:30 PM Sorrowful Mother Novena,
Blessing of the Sick

6:45 PM Novena, **All Night Adoration**

First Friday Intention: For our youth: Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious life and for all: Generosity in the practice of the Faith.



¶ LENTEN FRIDAYS

Volunteer cooks needed for Lenten Friday night suppers! All of the Fridays in March are available. Team up and take your pick. Please let us know your date and menu so we can keep everything in order. Sign up on the Lotsa Helping Hands website, or contact the office.

Volunteers will be cooking meatless for about 80 people. No dessert, but fruit may be provided. Drinks are usually water, tea, coffee, or maybe fruit juice. Your meal cost can be reimbursed; just turn in your receipts to the office.

Each party signing up provides the setup, meal, and clean

up. Paper products are supplied and located in the movable counter.

Have a friend to help? A partner really lightens the load. It is suggested that one person make the main dish, the other partner provides drinks, bread, sides, and fruit.


¶ FIRST SATURDAY

7:05 AM Confessions & Rosary
7:30 AM High Mass
8:10 AM Devotions, Benediction
8:30 AM Meditation
8:40 AM Low Mass

First Saturday Intention: Reparation for immodest fashions and sins of the flesh.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: SEXAGESIMA

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

 **Set Your Missal:** Sexagesima, second collect of St. John of Matha, third of Against the Persecutors and Evildoers. Trinity Preface.

FAITH'S PROMISES & DEMANDS

Faith... is a giant cannon which hurls man out beyond the boundaries of the universe into the world of the infinite. It is not to be conceived of as something mild, sweetly enfeebling. Rather it must be thought of in terms of strength, of an explosion which has broken down the walls of the world, of a storming of nature by the hosts of heaven that man might be released from the limitations of his humanity. It grants to man the freedom by which he can surpass not only the limits of the present, of the past, of space, of material things, but even the limits of all nature. By its mind walks into the limitlessness of God.

In the face of faith we feel an irritation at its darkness, its obscurity. Of course faith is obscure. The whole point of faith is precisely that it gives us a truth we cannot see of ourselves. Because we are using the eyes of God, in the darkness we can know the incredible truths that only God can see....

The obscurity of faith gives us a promise that here and now in this darkness we will hear of unutterable things, things that only God has a right to see. More than that, it is a promise that when this present darkness covers and flies before an eternal sun, these incredible truths will remain for us to see with our own eyes. Indeed this obscurity is a beginning of a future life, the beginning of that vision of God which will reach its full clarity only when life is over and we have attained our goal. The authority to which we must submit is not an insult, it is a guarantee, a guarantee that trusting ourselves to God in this darkness, nothing of injury shall come to us. We shall not be misled, not be tricked; but rather we shall be shown the riches, the beauty, the goodness of divinity.

— Fr. Walter Farrell, O.P.

Fr. Farrell († 1951) was a noted Dominican friar, preacher, and scholar.



We are all now actually upon this race, all hastening to an eternity. There's proposed a prize of everlasting bliss: And who shall gain it? Only those that run well. 'Tis a point therefore everyone ought seriously to consider this day, and see whether they make any advance toward it. Following the allusion will be some help for their making a true judgment of themselves. For, as in a race, those who run from the mark are not in a possibility of winning, if they turn not their course; but the more they go on, the farther they are out of the way. Those who fall are in a like impossibility, if they rise not again and with new vigor pursue their course. Those who are at a stand, or go out of their way, are in evident danger of losing the prize, if by extraordinary diligence they regain not the ground and time that was lost. And only those stand fair for the crown who are ever careful with their best speed to advance. So it is with us in the race of this life; and in proportion to this, may every one judge of himself. Tell me therefore, dear Christian, what is thy state? Thou art on thy race, and believest heaven the recompense of those that win: How is it with thee?

— Fr. John Gother († 1704)



Collection Report

Sunday, January 25th.....\$1,949.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

CANDLEMAS

The town is half awake; the nave, the choir,
Are dark, and all is dim, within, without;
But every chapel fringed with the devout,
Is bright with February flowers of fire.

At Mass, a thousand years ago in Rome,
Thus Priest, thus Server at the altar bowed;
Thus knelt, thus blessed itself the kneeling crowd,

At Dawn, within the secret catacomb.

Thus shall they meet for Mass, until the day

The glory of the world shall pass away,
And beauty far away from human reach,

And power, and wealth beyond all mortal price,

And glory that outsoars all thought, all speech,

Speak in the whispered words of sacrifice.

— Maurice Baring



If you were busy being kind
Before you knew it you would find
You'd soon forget to think 'twas true
That someone was unkind to you.

If you were busy being glad
And cheering people who are sad
Although your heart might ache a bit
You'd soon forget to notice it.

If you were busy being good
And doing just the best you could
You'd not have time to blame some man
Who's doing just the best he can.

If you were busy being true
To what you know you ought to do
You'd be so busy you'd forget
The blunders of the folks you've met.

— Rebecca Foresman

✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

Last weekend's snowstorm turned out to be the real deal; the type of storm that I haven't seen since my childhood days—although we did get one last year for the Epiphany, too! Some say we got as many as 16" of snow. It was enough to keep pretty much everyone off the roads. On that Sunday, we only had 40 to 50 souls come to Mass and we even had to cancel the 11:30. **Fr. Lehtoranta** commented that he has not seen a Sunday like that since he has been working here. Nor have I! The Sisters got both of their cars stuck and **Fr. McKenna** and **Fr. Brueggemann** had to go shovel them out and bring at least one of the cars back to church. Somehow they managed to crash into each other in the process, not doing any damage to the cars! The angels witnessing these scenes must have been amused. I am just happy that the angels saw to it that no one was hurt!

While you were suffering through a blizzard here in Ohio I was enjoying 80 degrees and sunny weather down in Florida. It was nice to see **Bishop Sanborn**, who offered a Solemn Pontifical Mass on the celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Selway. I used the opportunity to visit with many of the people whom I taught in the Queen of All Saints Academy in my last year as a seminarian and my first year as a priest. I knew these people when they were just teenagers and now most of them are either religious or have gotten married. It was so good to see them and to get reacquainted. It was also a stark reminder of how fast time goes by. The trip also took me a little farther south to visit with Fr. McKenna's parents whom I have not seen for a while. When all was over I had been thinking about all the snow in Ohio and how I had parked my car on the top level of the parking garage and that now it had to be cleaned off upon my arrival at the airport. But God provided! A big thank you to Fr. McKenna and **Fr. Simpson** for going all the way to the airport to clean off my car. It was very thoughtful of them!

The old home place back in Chillicothe has finally sold. It is bittersweet. On the one hand, it is nice to have one less property to have to manage. On the other hand, it is the closing of a chapter of life which is rich in many good memories. There are the family memories, of course, but that little house was also the last site of the old St. Clare Mission. In that house had been offered many a Holy Mass, and many souls were absolved of their sins, and Confirmations administered. Many priests visited there and Faithful came from as far away

as Columbus to attend Mass. The Blessed Sacrament was reserved there as well. Well, it is now the closing of this chapter. However, it is best (at least in my opinion) to not spend too much time dwelling on the past, but to look forward so as not to miss the next opportunity of doing good.

Monday is the feast of Candlemas! I hope to see you at the ceremonies in the evening. It is a feast rich in mysteries and in lessons.

— **Bishop McGuire**



ST. BLAISE, FEBRUARY 3 – BLESSING OF THROATS



The third of this month is the Feast of St. Blaise, Patron of Throats. St. Blaise, was Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia, who died as a martyr in 316. His remains were transferred to Paris where a church was erected in his honor. He is considered to be one of the wonder workers. The faithful call upon him in diseases of the throat and teeth. According to some authors, while St. Blaise was in prison he kept a young boy who had a fish bone lodged in his throat from choking to death. The blessing of St. Blaise is given with two candles formed in the cross of St. Andrew.

During the blessing of throats on this day, the Church prays over her children by the lips of the priests: "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, may God deliver thee from troubles of the throat, and from other evil, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Blessing of throats will take place after each Mass.

THE HUMILITY AND OBEDIENCE OF MARY

Mary, whose divine childbearing had only made her purer and more virginal, was certainly exempt from the precept relative to the ceremony of purification. Nevertheless, she subjected herself to it, and, keeping to the letter of the law, appeared at the temple forty days after the Savior's birth. The imitator of her Son, Who hid His divinity under the weakness of infancy, Mary wished to hide her august dignity of Mother of God, by comporting herself outwardly like ordinary women. Does the spirit of Jesus and Mary dwell in us?

— *Msrgr. Jean-Joseph Gaume († 1879)*

✠ CALENDAR

MON	2/2/26	PURIFICATION OF OUR LADY CANDLEMAS DAY 8:00 AM Low Mass Happy Birthday, Bud (<i>Your sisters – Donna, Lori, & Julia</i>) 5:30 PM Blessing of Candles, Procession, Solemn High Mass Francis Caggese – Happy Birthday (<i>Dad & Mom</i>) (from 2/1) Winter Soup Supper
TUE	2/3/26	ST. BLAISE, BPM PRAYER OF OUR LORD IN THE GARDEN BLESSING OF THROATS AFTER ALL MASSES 7:00 AM Low Mass Special Intention (<i>Lucia McConnell</i>) (from 2/2) 11:25 AM High Mass Raymond & Angela Garrison (<i>The Siqueira Family</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass Special Intention (<i>Cleo Speckert</i>)
WED	2/4/26	ST. ANDREW CORSINI, BPC FIRST WEDNESDAY – PRAY TO ST. JOSEPH 8:00 AM Low Mass †Catherine Vinski (<i>Mary Egger & Lauren Caggese</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Our benefactors (<i>St. Monica Club</i>) 5:10 PM Low Mass †Richard H. Smith (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell</i>)
THU	2/5/26	OCTAVE DAY OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES ST. AGATHA, VM • ST. PHILIP OF JESUS, M FIRST THURSDAY – PRAY FOR PRIESTS 7:00 AM Low Mass The Clergy of SGG (<i>Tom Gardner</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Special intention deceased (<i>Cleo Speckert</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass For God's Will (R. & R. Uhlenbrock) 5:00 PM Holy Hour for Priests: Low Mass For the sanctification of priests (<i>Alter Christus Confraternity</i>)
FRI	2/6/26	FIRST FRIDAY • ST. TITUS, BPC ST. DOROTHY, VM 8:00 AM Low Mass Audrey Dunaway – Thank you so very much (<i>Nathalie Andreotta</i>) 11:00 AM Confessions 11:25 AM Low Mass, Benediction Gerri Woods & Family (<i>Doloris Ritzke</i>) 5:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena VII 5:45 PM Low Mass Thank you for graces to relocate to SGG (<i>Tyler Wooden</i>) 6:30 PM Sorrowful Mother Novena II, Blessing of Sick Sacred Heart Novena All Night Adoration
SAT	2/7/26	FIRST SATURDAY • ST. ROMUALD, AB 7:05 AM Confessions, Rosary 7:30 AM High Mass Dad & Mom (<i>Cecilia Brueggemann</i>) 8:10 AM Alma, First Saturday Devotions 8:20 AM Benediction 8:30 AM First Saturday Meditation 8:40 AM (approx.) Low Mass Poncho & Emily Capetillo – Happy Anniversary (<i>Mom & Dad</i>)

All Night Adoration Guard of Honor February 2026

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: David Swinney, Joseph Vines
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Tim Giese, Jim Phelan
9:00 PM - 10:00 PM: Collin Smith, Justin Soeder
10:00 PM - 11:00 PM: Anthony Caggese, Jim Stanislawski
11:00 PM - 12:00 AM: James Kolenich, Paul Puglielli
12:00 AM - 1:00 AM: Levi Giese, Alfonso Capetillo
1:00 AM - 2:00 AM: Dan Stanislawski, *temp. volunteer needed*
2:00 AM - 3:00 AM: Dan & Philip Brueggemann
3:00 AM - 4:00 AM: McConnell Brothers
4:00 AM-5:00 AM: Matthew Giese, Bruno Siqueira
5:00 AM - 6:00 AM: Joseph Simpson, Bill Herman
6:00 AM - 7:00 AM: John Riggs, Robert Rosendale

✠ *If you cannot make your hour, please contact the church office immediately: (513) 645-4212.*

✠ *If you have finished your hour but no one has arrived to relieve you, please call Fr. Brueggemann (513-378-2705) or Fr. Simpson (513-378-2870) to substitute.*

Masses offered privately by Bishop McGuire:

†Virgil Kinzler (*The Hudson Family*)
 Poor Souls (*Mr. & Mrs. William H. Young III*)
 Special Intention (*Sister Eulalia*)
 Special Intention – AL (*Sister Eulalia*)
 Special Intention (*Michael Simpson*)
 Bishop McGuire & his intentions (*Anonymous*)

Servers

MON 2/2	5:30 PM SOL.HIGH: MCS: C. Richesson, D. Simpson TH: S. Richesson ACS: N. Kolenich, M. Schneider CROSS: A. McClorey TBs: A. & B. Constantino, I. Smith, W. Young, I. Wright, F. Caggese
FRI 2/6	5:45 PM LOW: M. Caggese, D. Simpson
SAT 2/7	7:30 AM HIGH: L. Rabjohns, F. Caggese BENEDICTION: MCS: D. Simpson, F. Caggese TH: L. Rabjohns TBs: I. & J. Smith 8:40 AM LOW: I. & J. Smith
SUN 2/8	7:30 AM LOW: M. Schneider, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: M. Simpson, N. McClorey TH: J. Rabjohns ACS: J. Stewart, M. Caggese TBs: V. Horton, J. Smith, I. & D. Wright, B. Constantino, F. Caggese 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: D. Simpson

SUN 2/8/26	SEXAGESIMA • ST. JOHN OF MATHA, C
7:05 AM	Rosary
7:30 AM	Low Mass †Frank Beckerich (<i>Rose Beckerich</i>)
9:00 AM	High Mass Poor Souls – Thanksgiving (<i>C. Simpson family</i>)
10:40 AM	Catechism Classes
11:05 AM	Rosary
11:30 AM	Low Mass †Mary P. Kassenbrock (<i>Jane Brockman</i>) (rescheduled from 1/25)
4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great