

# 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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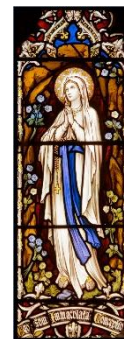
EMERGENCY LINE: (513) 509-0424

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

**February 8, 2026**

**SEXAGESIMA**

**ST. JOHN OF MATHA**



## ¶ SEXAGESIMA

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

## ¶ THIS WEEK

The Catholic Mothers Consortium meets on **Thursday**, beginning with Mass at 5 PM. On **Friday** we continue the Sorrowful Mother Novena with Blessing of the Sick. Be sure to bring the sick to be blessed, and call or email the office with their first names to be mentioned in the novena. The Sodality of Charity meets on **Saturday**.

## ¶ NEXT SUNDAY:

### QUINQUAGESIMA

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available after all Masses. Don't miss the **St. Valentine's Day Bake Sale** in Helfta Hall! 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.

## ¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Andrew Desborough, Margaret Walz, and the repose of the soul of †Suzanne Clingman, Fr. Simpson's aunt.

### Collection Report

Sunday, February 1st.....\$9,048.00  
Second Collection.....\$3,135.00



*The Mass of St. John of Matha*

## Tumen Christi

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

**Intentions of the St. Monica Club**

## ¶ 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.

## ¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

- **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

Perhaps when you read or hear today's parable, you focus on the different kinds of soils, or the environments on which the seeds fall. Maybe you even wonder which one of these soils best fits you, and you hope that you are like the good soil that produces abundantly. But how about seeing yourself as the sower instead? Maybe it's worth considering how much God may want you to sow the seed of His word.

If there is one word that characterizes the sower in this parable, it is *generous*. This fellow spreads his seeds everywhere. He doesn't seem all that concerned about where the seed will fall. He simply casts it to and fro.

Isn't this a great image for how we should view spreading the Faith? Shouldn't we be generous, almost indiscriminate, in the way we share God's word and His promises? We really shouldn't worry about where the seeds fall or the "soil quality" of those with whom we share the word. Whether, in our judgment, the ground is weedy, thorny, or fertile shouldn't matter. After all, it is the Lord Who gives the growth, not us (*1 Corinthians 3:6-7*). All we have to worry about is sowing as generously as we can.

Think for a moment how many other seeds the world, the flesh, and the devil are sowing all around us. There's nothing stingy in their tactics. How much more, then, should we counter all these poisonous seeds with the seeds of the Gospel! The need is great, so don't be intimidated! And by all means, don't feel defeated or outnumbered! God has promised to be with you always as you spread His word.

So how are you going to sow today? What opportunities will you seize to spread the seeds of the Gospel? They're all around, after all. Keep your eyes open, as you ask Our Lord to help you see ways you can show others His love. Who knows? He may even give you brethren in Christ who are just as zealous as you to proclaim God's word, in season and out!

*A sincere Thank You to everyone who helped with the Winter Soup Supper, especially the mystery clean-up crew—what a wonderful surprise! We also had a truly splendid array of soups and sides. God bless all of you for your contributions!*



### *Our Beloved Dead - February*

Eileen R. Bartels	2-03-2008
Margaret Winningham	2-04-2002
Betty Joliffe	2-04-2011
Richard Smith	2-04-2019
Carol Jean Mincey	2-07-2009
Dorothy Stoll	2-10-2002
Peter J. Gebel	2-11-2006
Patrick Kurtz	2-12-2021
Homer (Dale) Downing	2-14-2003
Estrella I. Simpson	2-14-2012
Vashtie Strunk	2-16-1991
Robert H. Gough	2-16-2000
Bernard Brueggemann	2-19-2011
Mary O'Donnell	2-20-2000
Joseph D. Wilson	2-20-2002
Paul J. Ewers, Sr.	2-22-1984
Frank Beckerich	2-23-2021
Sharon Patton	2-24-2018
Nancy Seyfried	2-25-2025
Rita Brueggemann	2-27-2008
Mary A. Mahsling	2-27-1994

### CANDLE-LIGHT

Day has its sun,  
And night the stars,  
But God has candle-light.

Upon the world's great candle-stick He  
sets

The little taper of yourself ashine,  
That when the sun has sputtered out  
And all the stars are dead,  
Your immortality may flame and burn  
Across His infinite immensity forever.

Wherefore He will sometime blow out  
the sun,  
And snuff the stars,  
Preferring the candle-light.

— Sister M. Madeleva, C.S.C.



### THE SACRED TRINITY

Three folds of the cloth, yet only one  
napkin is there,  
Three joints in the finger, but still only  
one finger fair;  
Three leaves of the shamrock, yet no  
more than one shamrock to wear.  
Frost, snow-flakes and ice, all in water  
their origin share,  
Three persons in God; to one God  
alone we make prayer.

— Translation by Eleanor Hull  
(February is the Month  
of the Blessed Trinity)



*This design gives the three sowers featured in the liturgy of Sexagesima Sunday: Noe, with his three sons, the ark, the rainbow, and vine; Paul, the great herald of Christ; and our Blessed Savior Who is both the Sower of good seed and wheat to be eaten in the Eucharist.*



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## ✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

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It's funny how much we have become dependent upon computers and the internet these days. Last week someone tried to fix the internet so that it didn't slow down or shut down whenever the priests taught their online classes for the seminarians. Well, the problems got worse and now we're reduced to using our phones as hotspots. Not having the internet really slows things down. And that's the point! It's a time killer and keeps us so occupied that we scarcely find time to think of the more important things. Besides, after reading today's Epistle on the long litany of St. Paul's adventures in the apostolate, not having the internet seems to be a very minute inconvenience.

Our Candlemas ceremonies had a few minor glitches this year, but were very good overall. We do try our best to be perfect in the worship of God, but we are human and will, as humans do, make clumsy mistakes. Our Lord understands us though and does see our goodwill. We never will worship God as perfectly as the angels, but God does not expect us to—any more than He expects a little child to pray as a grown man. Still, with all of the human errors, Our Savior came down upon the altar, sacrificing Himself mystically—and this is the sacrifice that pleases our heavenly Father most perfectly, and which more than makes up for our human blunders.

Attendance at Candlemas was impressive and shows your devotion to Our Lady. **Fr. McKenna** said that all had a good time at the soup supper. I was really looking forward to it, but ended up having to leave during the Mass due to the cold/flu that's been getting everyone lately. As of Friday I still have not recovered my voice (it's been three days) and so **Fr. Lehtoranta** kindly volunteered to preach. The thoughtfulness of the priests and people here at St. Gertrude's always catches me off guard and is so encouraging and edifying!

Sister Eulalia said that the Christmas decorations came down fairly quickly—and that with only a few families helping. Thank you to all that helped. The monthly shrine in the side chapel is dedicated to the Holy Face. It does look really nice. It isn't too often that Mass is offered over there anymore, but make it a point to go over and make quiet prayers of reparation to Our Lord's Holy Face.

This Wednesday, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, is Fr. McKenna's anniversary of ordination. It will be celebrated with a Solemn High Mass. I do hope you can come—if not to that Mass, at least to one of the other Masses—to pray for Father on his big day. If

you can't do that, maybe just say a Hail Mary for him. He's a good priest and has done much good for souls.



**Fr. Brueggemann** rarely goes to St. Hugh's but has been there these last two Sundays. This evening, he departs from there to go to Seattle for his monthly seminary visit. **Fr. Simpson** is here today (another rarity!) and for the next week.

Just over a week until Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent! What sacrifice will you offer Our dear Savior? As **Fr. Ojeka** would say: "Think on it!"

– **Bishop McGuire**



(P.S. Fluffy, the sacristy cat, warming herself in front of a heater on another cold winter's day.)

### MANY ARE CALLED BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN

While it is proper to look forward to a time when justice shall be done in the world, when virtue shall be rewarded and wrongs redressed, we must now, with boundless charity, pity and pray for all poor sinners, realizing the innate frailty of human nature and the evils besetting it in a hard life from birth to death. We must also, consequently, be on our guard against all rash speculations and judgments about the number of the saved and the lost, and the condition and punishments of the latter, never presuming to be privy to the divine counsels or to set limits to the divine mercy and goodness. Above all, we should never be guilty of even thinking of entertaining that inhuman and barbarous state of mind which led some writers and preachers of the past to rejoice over the punishments and tortures of lost souls. We are all, good and bad, children of the one Heavenly Father. He brought us all into the world and He wants us all to be saved.

– *Fr. Callan, OP*

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## ✠ CALENDAR

## ☞ NEED THE FORM? CONTACT THE OFFICE

MON	2/9/26	<b>ST. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA, BPCD</b> ST. APOLLONIA, VM
		<b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> For all who cook for us and for our devoted drivers ( <i>The Fathers</i> )
		<b>11:25 AM High Mass</b> Kay Capetillo – Happy Birthday ( <i>Capetillo family</i> )
TUE	2/10/26	<b>ST. SCHOLASTICA, V</b> COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSION
		<b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> Special Intention ( <i>Cleo Speckert</i> )
		<b>11:25 AM High Mass</b> Deo gratias et Mariae! ( <i>Sister Eulalia</i> )
		<b>5:00 PM Low Mass</b> Repose of the soul of †Suzanne Lee Thomas ( <i>Joseph &amp; Kathryn Bayer</i> )
WED	2/11/26	<b>OUR LADY OF LOURDES</b>
		<b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> Conversion of family ( <i>Alex Ball</i> )
		<b>11:25 AM Solemn High Mass</b> Fr. McKenna – Happy Anniversary ( <i>The Fathers</i> )
		<b>5:10 PM Low Mass</b> Claire & Lucia – Happy Birthday! ( <i>Sister Magdalen</i> )
THU	2/12/26	<b>THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS</b>
		<b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> In memory of †Patrick Kurtz ( <i>Sue Kurtz</i> )
		<b>11:25 AM High Mass</b> Bishop McGuire Anniversary ( <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Victor Ritze</i> )
		<b>5:00 PM Low Mass</b> Intentions of the CMC <b>Catholic Mothers Consortium Meeting</b>
FRI	2/13/26	<b>FERIAL DAY</b>
		<b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> Liam (KR)
		<b>11:00 AM Confessions</b>
		<b>11:25 AM Votive Low Mass of the Passion</b> St. Anthony – Thanksgiving ( <i>Doloris Ritze</i> )
		<b>5:15 PM Confessions &amp; Rosary</b>
		<b>5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena VIII</b>
		<b>5:45 PM Low Mass</b> For Michael (TRCS)
SAT	2/14/26	<b>6:30 PM Sorrowful Mother Novena III, Blessing of the Sick, Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction</b>
		<b>OUR LADY'S SATURDAY • ST. VALENTINE, PRM</b>
		<b>7:05 AM Confessions</b>
		<b>7:30 AM Low Mass</b> Victor Siqueira – Happy Birthday ( <i>Mom &amp; Dad</i> )
		<b>8:05 AM Ave Regina, Sermon</b>
		<b>8:30 AM High Mass</b> †Tom & †Stella Simpson ( <i>Karen Simpson</i> )
		<b>Sodality of Charity Meeting</b>
SUN	2/15/26	<b>QUINQUAGESIMA • SS. FAUSTINUS &amp; JOVITA, MM</b> <i>ST. VALENTINE'S DAY BAKE SALE!</i>
		<b>7:05 AM Rosary</b>
		<b>7:30 AM Low Mass</b> Isaac Brueggemann ( <i>Tom Gardner</i> )
		<b>9:00 AM High Mass</b> Thou knowest, O Lord ( <i>Arlinghaus Family</i> )
		<b>10:40 AM Catechism Classes</b>
		<b>11:05 AM Rosary</b>
		<b>11:30 AM Low Mass</b> †Dennis Hille – 5 year anniversary ( <i>J. Hille</i> )
		<b>4:45 PM Vespers &amp; Benediction</b>
		<b>5:45 PM Low Mass</b> For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

## ☞ PASCHAL SACRAMENTS

**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.



## Servers

FRI 2/13	5:45 PM LOW: Capetillos
	<b>BENEDICTION: MCS:</b> D. Simpson, J. Capetillo <b>TH:</b> T. Capetillo <b>TBS:</b> Ma. Caggese, J. Smith
SAT 2/14	7:30 AM LOW: Rabjohns
	8:30 AM HIGH: D. Simpson, Brueggemanns
SUN 2/15	7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann
	9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: C. Richesson, T. Lawrence <b>TH:</b> F. Caggese
	ACS: A. & B. Constantino <b>TBS:</b> V. Siqueira, E. Garcia, Ma. Caggese, L. Rabjohns, I. Smith, T. Stanislawski
	11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos
	4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: <b>TH:</b> F. Caggese <b>ACS:</b> I. Smith, P. Caggese <b>CROSS:</b> D. Simpson
	5:45 PM LOW: P. McClorey