

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 15, 2026

QUINQUAGESIMA

Ss. FAUSTINUS & JOVITA, MM

¶ HOLY FACE SUNDAY

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available after all Masses. Don't miss the **St. Valentine's Day Bake Sale** in Helfta Hall! Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers & Benediction are at 4:45 PM.



¶ THIS WEEK

Tuesday we conclude our triduum in honor of the Holy Face. Don't forget to feast a little for Mardi Gras! Masses on **Ash Wednesday** are at 7, 8, & 11:25 AM and 5 PM. See the back page for the full schedule. The St. Monica Club meets on **Thursday** with Mass at 11:25 AM. **Friday** is the first of our **Lenten Evenings of Recollection**, with Mass at 5:45, followed by a supper, Stations at 7:30, Meditation, the Sorrowful Mother Novena and Blessing of the Sick. The first names of the sick can still be submitted.

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Gary Shepherd and the repose of the souls of †Mary Helen Miller and †Deborah Benedetto.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of †Elaine Perry, who died on Tuesday. Her visitation and funeral will be on February 27 at SGG; Burial on February 28.

Collection Report

Sunday, February 8th.....\$8,085.00
Thank you for your generosity.



FIRST LENTEN FRIDAY EVENING OF RECOLLECTION

5:45 PM Low Mass

6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena,
Lenten Supper: *Pastas, salad, bread, fruit*

7:30 PM Stations of the Cross,
Meditation, Sorrowful Mother
Novena, Blessing of the Sick,
Benediction

8:30 PM (approx.) Holy Communion

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: LENT I

Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Our **Lenten Short Sunday Stations** will be at **11:15 AM** next Sunday. Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Lent I, second collect of St. Peter's Chair at Antioch, third of Against the Persecutors and Evildoers. Trinity Preface.



St. Valentine, pray for us!

¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Knights of St. Martin Meeting:** Thursday, February 26, 5:30 PM
- **Ladies' Lenten Retreat:** Saturday, March 14. Fliers in vestibule!
- **Altar Boys Day:** Saturday, March 21
- **Lenten Children's Day of Recollection:** Wednesday, March 25

LIVING WITH THE CHURCH

There is probably no cycle in the ecclesiastical calendar that the liturgy of the Catholic Church invests with greater beauty and inspiration than that of the Lenten season, which is now upon us. Fully conscious that the unfolding of the mystery of the Redemption flashes before the mind at once the saddest and the sweetest story ever told, Holy Mother Church pressed into the service every available means of bringing home to us the meaning and purpose of Lent, which she regards as “the soul’s heroic progress through the purifying fire of penance.” The Catholic who studies the liturgy of this most sacred season with becoming reverence and devotion will be richly rewarded for his pains. Above all he will appreciate more deeply the purpose of Lent, which is to give us divine life, at once the essence and goal of Christian piety—divine life as Christ has bestowed upon the world through His sufferings and death. Witness, for example, this extract which reflects the Church’s mind with regard to fasting. Intending Lent to be a renewal of Christian life, the Church understands by fasting, not only abstinence from food and drink to a certain extent; she embraces in it all actions that might be of use to us in the regeneration of the life of grace. The Lenten hymn, from the breviary, carries this message:

*Henceforth more sparing let us be
Of food, of words, of sleep;
Henceforth beneath a stricter guard
The roving senses keep.
And let us shun whatever things
Distract the careless heart;
And let us shut our souls against
The tyrant tempter’s art;
And weep before the Judge, and strive
His vengeance to appease;
Saying to Him with contrite voice
Upon our bended knees;
Much have we sinned, O Lord! and still
We sin each day we live;
Yet look in pity from on high,
And of Thy grace forgive.*

¶ LENTEN FRIDAYS

Volunteer cooks needed for Lenten Friday night suppers! March 20 and 27 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.



¶ 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.)

Confirmants’ 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.

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.

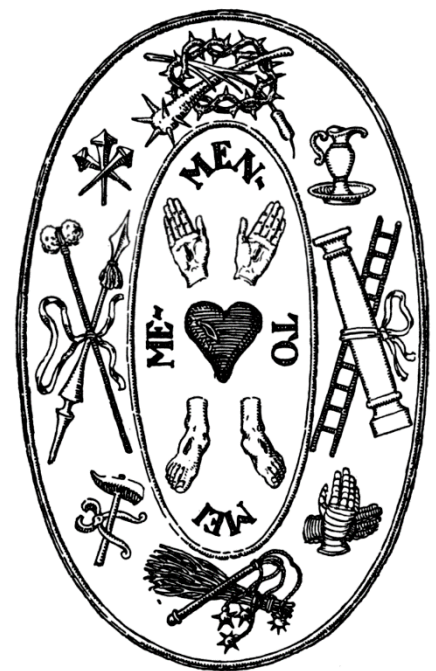
Sponsors must be members of St. Gertrude the Great, or a church affiliated with us. Please ask if you have a question.

WINTER TWILIGHT

A thousand altars burn on western hills,
And through the shadowed valleys radiance sweeps,
Touching the tree tops with a light that leaps
Like flame from tip to tip; the meadow rills
Are fairies’ golden paths; each bush distills
Bright bud and bloom; and where each dark field sleeps
In snowy silences, a crimson harvest creeps
Down furrows that no more a toiler tills.

The altar fires grow dim, and fading slow
From gold to rose the valleys vanish far,
And darkness snuffs the tree-top candles bright.
By road and lane the cheery home lights glow
And usher in with peace no wild winds mar
The grave hushed beauty of the winter night!

— Arthur Wallace Peach



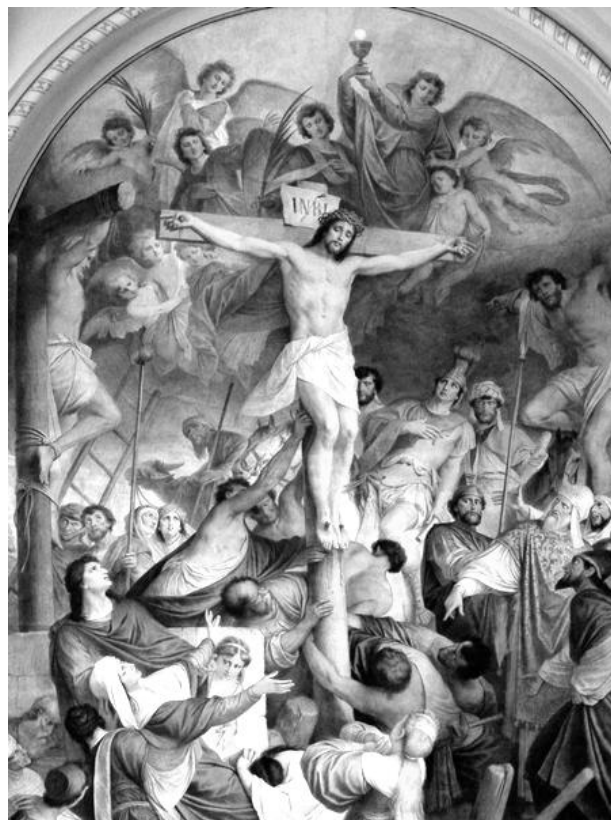
Blessed Holy Face Sunday! The Triduum started today and the feast of the Holy Face is on Tuesday. The school children traditionally sing the proper Mass of the Holy Face, which was approved by Pope Pius XII. It is such a beautiful text. The Holy Face Devotion is one of reparation for all of the sacrilegious insults committed against Our Lord during the Passion. Simply to look upon Our Lord's Face with love and contrition consoles Him Who is so much offended.

I was not around much last week. On Monday, I went home to pick up a piano from my parents' old home. Pierce Kiernan, Joseph Simpson, and Michael Caggese were all kind enough to drive up and do all of the heavy lifting. Pianos are very heavy and we had a snow-covered, hilly driveway to deal with. The men had to walk it down the hill to get it on the truck. I am grateful to the three of these men for their help, and Fr. Brueggemann for arranging it. There was more adventure after they left, however, as both my nephew and I got stuck in the snow. We couldn't get his car out, but we managed to get the U-Haul out with the help of the Amazon Prime guy who was delivering a package. It was a funny adventure!

On Tuesday, I went back to Florida on business. Someone said that people have been wondering if all of the recent visits have anything to do with forming a conclave. I guess this came about because of a bishop who recently preached about the need of forming one. Well, I can assure you that it had nothing to do with conclaves. It is rather silly to think that we bishops can all just magically get together and agree on choosing a pope when most of us do not agree on the basics. Besides, look at how many bishops or "bishops" in the traditional movement have already tried getting together to elect a pope?! It has never ended well and it just serves to make traditionalists look weird. Let God take care of solving the problem in the Church. He will do it best. We just need to focus on making reparation for the sins for which we are being punished. Eventually, He will reveal the correct solution...but all in His time and in His way.

Lent begins this Wednesday. We have a very busy schedule that day and offer many opportunities to receive ashes. Take a look at the bulletin and plan accordingly so that you make a good beginning to the penitential season.

– Bishop McGuire



Ash Wednesday: February 18

Begin your Lent well by receiving Ashes at one of the many services we will offer on that day. Ashes are distributed before AND after all Masses.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES:

7:00, 8:00 & 11:25 AM; 5:45 PM.

ASHES: Before and after all Masses, beginning at 6:50 AM, with the final distribution at 6:45 PM.

STATIONS: Children's Stations of the Cross at 3:00 PM, followed by distribution of ashes.

† Come to Stations †

Stations are available on Wednesdays at 3 PM, Fridays at 7:30 PM, and Short Stations on Sunday at 11:15 AM.

Daily Mass, or as often as possible, is an excellent Lenten observance. Maybe this Lent you could finally start the family Rosary? And what about spiritual reading—10 minutes? Your Lent will only be as good as the effort you put into it.

MON	2/16/26	FERIAL DAY
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Damon & Cecilia Harrison (<i>Anna & Cecilia Brueggemann</i>)
	11:25 AM	Requiem High Mass Purgatorial Society
TUE	2/17/26	FERIAL DAY • THE HOLY FACE <i>THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT</i>
	7:00 AM	Low Mass The Clergy of SGG (<i>Tom Gardner</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Intentions of Karen Simpson (<i>C. Simpson family</i>)
	11:25 AM	Votive High Mass of the Holy Face Happy Birthday Anna (<i>Cecilia Brueggemann</i>) (from 2/16)
WED	2/18/26	ASH WEDNESDAY FAST & ABSTINENCE ST. SIMEON, BPM • ST. BERNADETTE, V
	6:50 AM	Blessing & Distribution of Ashes
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Conversion of family (<i>Alex Ball</i>)
	7:35 AM	Distribution of Ashes
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Elsa Bowman (<i>Cleo Speckert</i>)
	8:35 AM	Distribution of Ashes
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	Blessing & Distribution of Ashes, Solemn High Mass In honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (<i>C. Simpson family</i>)
	12:45 PM	Distribution of Ashes
	3:00 PM	Children's Stations of the Cross, followed by Distribution of Ashes & Holy Communion
	5:00 PM	Rosary & Confessions
	5:20 PM	Penitential Litany
	5:40 PM	Distribution of Ashes
	5:45 PM	Low Mass Leanne Giese – safe & fast labor/delivery (<i>Renee Fernandez</i>)
	6:45 PM	Final Distribution of Ashes
THU	2/19/26	FERIAL DAY
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Our children, Grandchildren, Godchildren (<i>The Wilker Family</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Mr. & Mrs. E. Angeski on their marriage (<i>Janet Korzekwinski</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass For our fallen-away children (<i>St. Monica's Club</i>)
		St. Monica's Club Meeting
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Our children (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Stafford</i>)
FRI	2/20/26	FERIAL DAY • THE CROWN OF THORNS
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Anniversary of ordination for Most Rev. Charles McGuire (<i>Payne family</i>)
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	High Mass Jean Burwinkel (<i>Doloris Ritzge</i>)
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:35 PM	Closing of the Infant of Prague Novena
	5:45 PM	Low Mass Zachary Childers (<i>Jane Childers</i>)
	6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena, Lenten Supper
	7:30 PM	Stations of the Cross, Sermon, Sorrowful Mother Novena IV, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction
	8:30 PM	(approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion
SAT	2/21/26	FERIAL DAY
	7:05 AM	Confessions

In ordinary visible situations, in order to reach places high up, you stretch yourself up to your full height. God, however, though He is the most sublimely high up of all things, is not reached by hoisting oneself up, but by humbling oneself. Which is why the prophet says, “*The Lord is near to those who have crushed their hearts*” (Ps. 34: 18); and again: “*The Lord is most high, and looks to the humble things, and the high things He knows from afar.*” (Ps. 138: 6).

So pride must never think that it can hide itself from God's eyes; God, you see, knows the high things. Nor again should it imagine that it is closely united to God by being high; after all, He knows the high things from afar. So any who refuse to humble themselves in repentance, should not think they can draw near to God. It's one thing, after all, to raise oneself up to God; another thing to raise oneself up against God. Those who throw themselves down before Him are raised up by Him; those who raise themselves up against Him are thrown down by Him. Solid magnitude, you see, is one thing, the emptiness of a blown-up balloon another. Those who are swollen up outwardly are inwardly wasting away. Those on the other hand who choose to be the lowest of the low in the house of God, rather than to dwell in the tents of sinners, are themselves chosen by God to dwell in His courts; and as they make no claims for themselves, He claims them for thrones of bliss. Which is why we sing in this psalm so delightfully and truly, “*Blessed is the man whose upholding is from Thee, Lord.*” – St. Augustine

Servers

FRI 2/20	5:45 PM LOW: J. & I. Smith BENEDICTION: MCS: D. Simpson, A. Constantino TH: M. Caggese TBS: I. Smith, B. Constantino
SAT 2/21	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemanns 8:15 AM HIGH: D. Simpson, F. Caggese, C. Lorenz
SUN 2/22	7:30 AM LOW: M. Schneider, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: D. Simpson, S. Richesson TH: D. Hudson ACS: J. Rabjohns, T. England TBS: N. Hudson, V. Horton, J. Smith, G. & C. Wright, F. Caggese 11:30 AM LOW: Kolenichs 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: D. Simpson ACS: I. & J. Smith CROSS: B. Constantino 5:45 PM LOW: Brueggemanns
	7:30 AM Low Mass Conversion of G. Beattie (<i>Horton Family</i>)
	8:05 AM Ave Regina, Sermon
	8:15 AM High Mass Thanksgiving in honor of Guardian Angel (<i>Karen Simpson</i>)
SUN 2/22/26	LENT I • ST. PETER'S CHAIR AT ANTIOCH
	7:05 AM Rosary
	7:30 AM Low Mass Isaac Brueggemann (<i>Tom Gardner</i>)
	9:00 AM High Mass Conversion of AEB (<i>Horton Family</i>)
	10:40 AM Catechism Classes
	11:15 AM Short Stations of the Cross
	11:30 AM Low Mass Billy & Mary Rose Young – Happy Anniversary (<i>Mom & Dad</i>)
	4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction
	5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

Ash Wednesday

“Gertrude’s heart was turned to God: the orators and poets of pagan Rome no longer charmed her ears and consumed her moments of leisure. She now devoted to the study of the Fathers of the Church and to meditation upon the Holy Scriptures, all the hours not allotted to prayer or the work of the Community. Very soon, mystical theology had no secrets from her; God taught her to penetrate the most hidden sense of the Inspired Books, and she was enabled to instruct the clergy themselves, who often had recourse to her for enlightenment.”

– *The Heart of St. Gertrude*

Reflection: The orators and poets of pagan Rome have been replaced with television, internet, and social media. Do these things charm my ears and consume my moments of leisure? If so, how much time each day do I dedicate to them?

Resolution for the Day: Not to use the internet unnecessarily. Instead, I will spend some of the time so saved in spiritual reading and prayer.

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

“The Saint’s confidence in God was indeed an eminent characteristic of her sanctity, and one which obtained for her immense favors. How could the Heart of Jesus refuse anything to one who trusted Him so entirely?” Our Lord once said to another who lacked

confidence: “Why do you not act like Gertrude, My chosen virgin, who is so firmly established on My Providence, that there is nothing which she does not hope for from the plenitude of My grace; therefore I will never refuse her anything, whatever she may ask Me.” – *The Spirit of St. Gertrude*

Prayer: O God of my heart, my only hope and refuge, I, the poorest of Thy creatures and infinitely unworthy of the least good at Thy Hands, do yet so confidently hope in Thy tender kindness, that I have no manner of doubt that as Thou knowest how to succour and aid me, so Thou both canst and wilt be with me in all things... Vouchsafe, O eternal Father, to increase in me this hope and trust which I give into Thy merciful keeping, until I see Thee in Thy unfading eternity, and hope be lost in fruition. Amen.

– *Prayers of St. Gertrude &c.*

Resolution for the Day: I will do as the words of today’s Gradual suggest and “cast my care upon the Lord.” I will not be worried or anxious about anything, but will instead turn to confident prayer at those times when I am tempted to worry.

Friday after Ash Wednesday



The Crown of Thorns

“As Gertrude was praying one day, the Blessed Virgin was shown to her under the figure of a dazzling white lily, before the Holy Trini-

ty... The Blessed Virgin now said to Gertrude: ‘If any one salute me devoutly as the white Lily of the Trinity, the brilliant Rose of Paradise, I will do for him what I can through the omnipotence of the Father, the wisdom of the Son communicated to me for the salvation of man, and the superabundant mercy which, flowing from the benignity of the Holy Ghost, fills my heart; **and at the hour the soul which shall have thus saluted me, quits the body, I will appear to it in the splendor of such beauty, as will be to it a foretaste of the joys of Paradise.**’” – *The Heart of St. Gertrude*

Prayer: Hail, white lily of the ever-peaceful and glorious Trinity! Hail effulgent rose, the delight of heaven, of whom the King of heaven was born, and by whose milk He was nourished! Do thou feed our souls by the effusions of Thy Divine Influence.

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

“When thou shalt be tempted by pride, remember My humility. It always prevented Me from lifting Myself up, ever so little, in My thoughts, words, or actions. Instead, I always showed in all my works an example of the most perfect humility.

“When inclined to impatience, remember My patience. I kept it always in poverty, hunger and thirst, in my wanderings and in the midst of injuries and insults, and above all, in death.

“In temptations to anger, in the same way remember My meekness; with those

who hated peace, I was peaceful and meek, to such a degree, that I obtained from My Father the forgiveness of My executioners.”
– Our Lord to St. Mechtilde

Practice: To have recourse to the Sacred Heart in all temptations, saying with confidence, “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

First Sunday of Lent

During the Epistle at Mass (for the 1st Sunday of Lent), St. Gertrude thought of the virtues mentioned therein. “Teach me,” she said to Our Lord, “which of these virtues will please Thee best.” Our Lord responded that it is a good will that pleases Him. “Study about all things to have this good will, for you will gain more by it than by any other virtue, and it will obtain for you the perfection of all virtue. For whoever has a perfect will to praise Me...or to love Me, thank Me, suffer with Me, or practice in the most perfect manner all kinds of virtue, will certainly be rewarded by My Divine liberality...”

– *The Life and Revelations of St. Gertrude*

Resolution: To offer to God all the virtues and good works of the saints in heaven, the just on earth, and the souls in Purgatory, in order to make up for my shortcomings. To desire with good will to practice the virtues of the saints.



FAST & ABSTINENCE

RULES OF FAST: The laws of fast apply to persons between the ages of 21 and 59. On a fast day one may eat one full meal and two light meatless meals, which together would not equal the main meal. Meat may be taken at the principal meal, except on days of complete abstinence. Liquids such as water, milk, and fruit juices may be taken between meals.

RULES OF ABSTINENCE: The laws of abstinence apply to everyone seven years of age and over. On a day of complete abstinence no meat, meat gravy or soup made from meat may be taken. On a day of partial abstinence meat may be taken once.

TRADITIONAL DAYS OF FAST: All the weekdays of Lent (Monday through Saturday) up until noon on Holy Saturday; Ember Days; the Vigils of Pentecost, the Immaculate Conception, and Christmas.

TRADITIONAL DAYS OF COMPLETE ABSTINENCE: Every Friday of the year; Ash Wednesday; Holy Saturday (until noon); the Vigils of the Immaculate Conception and Christmas.

TRADITIONAL DAYS OF PARTIAL ABSTINENCE: Ember Wednesdays and Saturdays, and the Vigil of Pentecost.

*St. Gertrude the Great Church
4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, OH 45069*

Lent with St. Gertrude the Great



Daily Thoughts and Prayers Lent 2026

“One is ever assured of finding Me when seeking Me either in the Sacrament of the Altar, or in the soul and heart of My beloved spouse Gertrude.”

– Our Lord to souls connected with
Gertrude by a holy friendship