

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 22, 2026

LENT I

ST. PETER'S CHAIR AT ANTIOCH

¶ LENT I

Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Short Stations are at 11:15 AM. Vespers & Benediction are at 4:45.

¶ EMBER DAYS

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this week are the **Lenten Ember Days**. All Catholics, age seven or older, must keep the abstinence, partial on Wednesday and Saturday; total on Friday. All those between the ages of 21 and 59 are obliged to follow the Church laws of fast anyway during Lent.

¶ WEEKDAY LENTEN SPECIALS

The older SGG School boys sing **Vespers** of the weekdays of Lent with the priests **every school day** following the 11:25 AM Mass (approx. **12:25 PM**). Join our boys for this brief but beautiful service! Also, at **3 PM** on **Wednesdays**, we offer the traditional Children's Stations of the Cross (adults welcome!) followed by distribution of Holy Communion.

Don't miss the second of our **Evenings of Recollection** this **Friday**, beginning with Mass at 5:45! You may still submit the names of the sick for the Sorrowful Mother Novena.

¶ MEN'S GROUP

The Knights of St. Martin meet on **Thursday**, with Mass at 5:30 PM.



LENTEN FRIDAY EVENING OF RECOLLECTION

5:45 PM Low Mass
6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Lenten Supper: *Cheesy potato casserole, Cuban black beans and rice*
7:30 PM Stations of the Cross, Meditation, Sorrowful Mother Novena, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction
8:30 PM (approx.) Holy Communion

¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Second Collection for our Oblates; Blessing of Religious Articles available after all Masses. The "Little Church" will be in the vestibule to receive your alms for priests. Catechism Classes will at 10:40 AM, **Short Sunday Stations at 11:15**

AM. Vespers with Benediction at 4:45.
📖 Set Your Missal: Lent II, second collect of Our Lady and all the Saints, third for the Church. Trinity Preface.

¶ FUNERAL FOR †ELAINE PERRY

The visitation for †Elaine Perry will take place at church at 9 AM on Friday. The Rosary follows at 11 AM, with the Funeral Mass and Absolution at 11:25. Her burial takes place on Saturday at 11 AM at Memorial Park Cemetery in Lima, Ohio.

Collection Report

Sunday, February 15th.....\$8,026.00

Lumen Christi

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

For Matt's conversion
(Margaret McSheehy)

¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Ladies' Lenten Retreat:** Saturday, March 14. Fliers in vestibule!
- **Altar Boys Day:** Saturday, March 21
- **Lenten Children's Day of Recollection:** Wednesday, March 25

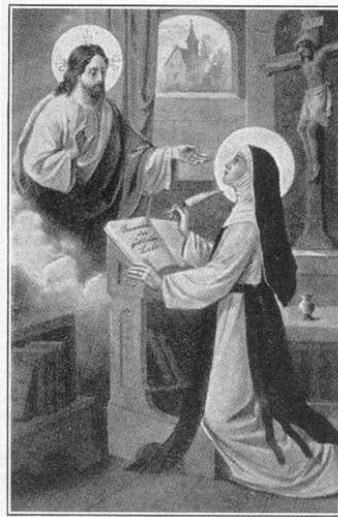
BECOMING WHAT WE ARE

The word “Lent” derives from a Germanic word meaning “spring-time.” As the earth comes to life again after its long winter sleep, so Christ bursts from the tomb radiating the promise of eternal life. He reveals what we are called to be. During Lent we clear the debris of our lives in order to allow the mercy of God to fall upon them. Christ hallows the dust of our humanity with His own Blood. What I am to be is presented in the wounded Body of the glorified Christ. Lent begins with ashes and ends with the fire, the Paschal fire of the Resurrection—the assurance of what we shall be.



A LENTEN SHELTER

God suggests to Noe the shelter against the flood by giving him the command to build the ark. The ark is a work of God. The design is His, the various accessories to make it fitter for the task are His. Nevertheless, it demands cooperation and work on the part of Noe. So too with virtue, and especially in the work necessary to conquer impurity and to safeguard chastity, there has to be absolutely, at all times, and in everything, the grace of God. But He, also, demands that there always be our generous cooperation. This ark of shelter is His Church that has the same dimensions of length, depth, and width that were sung by Paul apropos of the love of God. Because, after all, your real shelter is love, the love of loves that reveals to us the deceit of all false loves because it is far superior to them all and puts them all in the shade.



DEVOUT AFFECTIONS ON THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

It was revealed to St. Gertrude that reading and meditating on the Passion are far more useful and efficacious than all other spiritual exercises. As those who handle flour cannot avoid contracting some whiteness, so no one, however imperfect his devotion may be, can occupy his mind with the Passion of Our Lord, without receiving some benefit therefrom. And, however cold and lukewarm our devotion, Our Lord will look upon us with greater longsuffering and mercy if we never omit the memory of His Passion.

Prayer: O Jesus, Heavenly Physician, remember now the languor and the pain Thou didst endure when lifted upon the Cross, when all Thy bones were out of joint, so that no sorrow was like to Thy sorrow, because, from the sole of Thy foot to the top of Thy head, there was no soundness in Thee; when, notwithstanding, Thou didst put away the feeling of all Thine own griefs, and pray to Thy Father for Thine enemies, saying: **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** By this, Thy charity and Thy mercy, grant that the dignity and worth of Thy Passion may be the entire remission of all my sins. Amen.

ALL BECAUSE OF ME

All my sins my Jesus bore,
In His agony,
’Twas such a load He sweated
Blood—
All because of me.

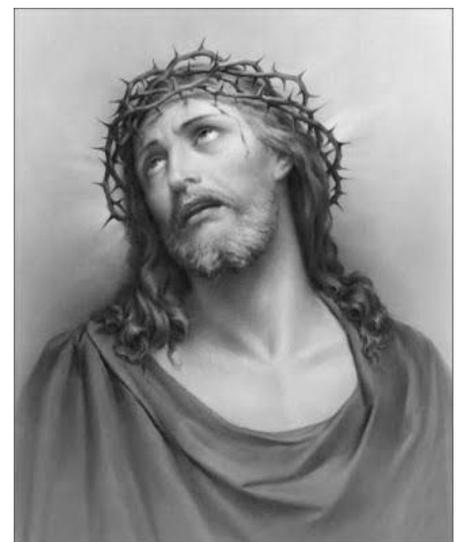
The soldiers, with their knotted
whips,
Beat Him mercilessly
And tore His Body into shreds—
All because of me.

A crown of thorns they placed on
Him
And spitting, scornfully,
They mocked at Him with parted
lips—
All because of me.

His cross was heavy, and He fell,
But rose again, slowly
In pain untold He stumbled on—
All because of me.

My Lord was nailed onto a cross
And raised for all to see,
And there He died a shameful
death—
All for love of me.

— Sr. Magdalen



¶ **LENTEN FRIDAYS**

Volunteer cooks needed for Lenten Friday night suppers! March 20 and 27 are available. Contact the office with your date and menu.

✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

Ours was a very action-packed week beginning with the clergy's celebration of **Fr. McKenna's** birthday and priestly anniversary, which were on February 8th and February 11th, respectively. It is not too often that all five of us are together in one place, so we all went out to dinner for the occasion. It was truly a nice evening. Then there was the Mardi Gras party with the school children last Tuesday after the Mass in honor of the Holy Face. Dr. Stanislawski, who is recovering nicely, ordered chicken from Raising Cane's for everyone. St. Gertrude's always knows how to throw a party! The family-like atmosphere here is truly uplifting.

The Sunday catechism classes seem to be going well. The children, I hear, ask a lot of good questions. That is a great sign since it means they are paying attention and are interested in the subject. One of the questions asked recently was, "Why is Our Lord called the Bridegroom?" That is a very deep question to which the answer is very mystical. The Scripture commentators say that He is the Bridegroom because He betrothed human nature, and so also the Church, in the Incarnation. He has united them to Himself by a perpetual bond of marriage. This marriage began by grace on earth and will be consummated in glory with His elect in heaven, where the eternal marriage feast of the Lamb will be celebrated. It is not an easy thing to explain in a note in the bulletin, but there you have it. Now we will see who actually reads the bulletin and if this answer was satisfactory.

The Ash Wednesday attendance was most excellent. The Fathers informed me that the early Mass attendance was comparable to the 7:30 Mass on Sundays. The evening Mass was also quite full. It was a very good start to Lent. Today we begin the first full week of this penitential season. As we follow Our Lord into the desert and witness His temptations we ought to remind ourselves again that this battle of forty days is against our passions as well as the demons of hell. It is a spiritual war. Learn how to fight against the devil from today's Gospel. Renew your Lenten resolutions. If you have already broken them, do not be discouraged—this is always what the devil wants—but resolve once more to keep them, and ask Our Savior for the determination and fortitude to persevere in them this week. Take it day by day, and not 40 days at a time. You can do it!

Have you noticed the nice cushions at the communion rail? Some of the ladies volunteered their time and effort to fix them up so that it is a little easier on the arthritic knees of those who come to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. Thank you ladies! There is much more to be done in church. The heavy snows did a number on our roof and new leaks have been detected, particularly in our bookstore. We have to make quite a few repairs, and we do plan to get our roof fixed. **Fr. Simpson** is in the

process of getting that taken care of.

Be assured of my prayers for each and every one of you as you continue your Lenten journey with Our Lord. Don't forget our patroness, St. Gertrude! Pray often to her. She will obtain all that you need.



– **Bishop McGuire**

PRAYER OF ST. GERTRUDE

O Lord Jesus, delightful and majestic is Thy Countenance, where there radiates the beautiful aura of the divinity. Incline Thy adorable Face towards me that I may draw so close as not to be near but rather within Thee. When will I come to contemplate that coveted, desirable and adorable Face of my Jesus, whose beauty my soul has long thirsted to behold? When will I appear before Thy throne to look upon Thy delightful Face, whose divine splendor in itself fulfills the desire of the saints and brings forth praises of exultation from the heart and lips? Grant forthwith, that I may be hastily delivered from this land of exile, that I may behold Thy most gentle Countenance. How can eyes be satiated in beholding and ears in hearing of the glory of Thy Countenance! Without Thee, Heaven and earth and all things are like total bleakness. Thy adorable Face alone is my solace and the placidness of Spring. O Jesus, sprinkle my members with the blood that streams from the wounds of Thy glorious Head, crowned with thorns. The ineffable perfume of that blood and of those sufferings shall banish slothfulness and torpidity from the soul and adorn it anew, as it comes to pass in the Springtime when the frost of Winter is over. Amen.

¶ 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.

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.

✠ CALENDAR

MON	2/23/26	ST. PETER DAMIAN, BPCD 8:00 AM Low Mass Caitlin Kershisnik (<i>ENR</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Special intention deceased (<i>Joseph & Kathy Bayer</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers
TUE	2/24/26	ST. MATTHIAS, AP 7:00 AM Low Mass †Stella Simpson – 14 th Anniversary 2/14 (<i>C. Simpson family</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Genevieve Hopkins (<i>KR</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass †Ann Garrison (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 5:00 PM Low Mass Reparations for the offenses to the Blessed Virgin Mary (<i>Boyd family</i>)
WED	2/25/26	EMBER WEDNESDAY <i>FAST & PARTIAL ABSTINENCE</i> <i>ST. WALBURGA, V • BL. SEBASTIAN OF APARICIO, C</i> 7:00 AM Low Mass †Tom Peter – 15 th Anniversary 2/18 (<i>C. Simpson family</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Susan McNally – Thank you! (<i>Rebecca Hinton</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Special Intention – St. Joseph (<i>Michelle Mikesell</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 3:00 PM Children's Stations, Holy Communion 5:10 PM Low Mass †Nancy Seyfried – 1 st anniversary of death (<i>JCS</i>)
THU	2/26/26	FERIAL DAY <i>ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA, PENITENT</i> 7:00 AM Low Mass Special Intention (<i>Fr. Lehtoranta</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Holy Souls (<i>Kolenich family</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Special intention deceased (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ritze</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 5:30 PM Low Mass Conversion of relatives (<i>Ball Family</i>) Knights of St. Martin Meeting
FRI	2/27/26	EMBER FRIDAY • THE LANCE AND NAILS <i>ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL VIRGIN, C</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass †Rita Vinski (<i>Mary Egger & Lauren Caggese</i>) 9:00 AM Visitation for †Elaine Perry 11:00 AM Rosary 11:25 AM Requiem High Mass †Patricia Elaine Perry Absolution 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass Happy Baptism Day Ursula (<i>Your Godmother</i>) 6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Lenten Supper 7:30 PM Stations of the Cross, Sermon, Sorrowful Mother Novena V, Blessing of the Sick Benediction 8:30 PM (approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion
SAT	2/28/26	EMBER SATURDAY 7:05 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass Isaac Brueggemann (<i>Tom Gardner</i>) 8:05 AM Ave Regina, Sermon



THY WILL BE DONE

These words are a sweet refuge prepared for us by the good God in the midst of the arid and weary desert which we call life.

Thy will be done! Repeat these words when heartbroken by solitude and crushed by neglect, and they will be for you a consoling friend, a sustaining support, a loving heart which will remain always with you.

Thy will be done! Repeat these words, timid and anxious heart, uncertain of the path to follow, and knowing no longer of whom to seek counsel, and they will be to you a light which will guide you in the way to heaven.

Thy will be done! Repeat these words with every breath, with every pulsation of your heart, with every movement of your lips. God will always understand them as you intend them. Sometimes as a prayer, as an act of resignation, as an act of faith in time of trouble, as an act of hope in time of fear—always as an act of love!

Thy will be done! Yes, then, my God, Thy will be done! Thy will be done! I say it from the depths of my soul; and into the abyss of these supreme words I cast myself, my body, my soul, my whole being, and all that I love here below! Thy will be done!

Servers

FRI 2/27	5:45 PM LOW: Capetillos STATIONS: T. Lawrence, F. Caggese, J. Smith, V. Siqueira
SAT 2/28	7:30 AM LOW: Rabjohns 8:15 AM HIGH: D. Simpson, Brueggemann
SUN 3/1	7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: M. Simpson, N. Kolenich TH: M. Caggese ACS: J. Hudson, M. Kolenich TBS: J. Kolenich, V. Siqueira, E. Garcia, J. Stewart, Ma. Caggese, A. Constantino 11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: F. Caggese ACS: I. Smith, P. Caggese CROSS: D. Simpson 5:45 PM LOW: C. Lorenz

8:15 AM High Mass †Suzanne Clingman (*The Richesson Family*)
11:00 AM Burial of †Elaine Perry at Memorial Park Cemetery, Lima, Ohio

SUN	3/1/26	LENT II • ST. DAVID, BPCD 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass †Elaine Perry – repose of soul (<i>Nathalie Andreotta</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass Consolation of Chris Clingman & Simpson Family 10:40 AM Catechism Classes 11:15 AM Short Stations of the Cross 11:30 AM Low Mass Repose of the soul of †Elizabeth Grabasky (<i>Janet Korzekwinski</i>) 4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
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Monday in Lent I

“I will feed My sheep and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord God. I will seek that which was lost, and that which was driven away I will bring again; and I will bind up that which was broken; and I will strengthen that which was weak; and that which was fat and strong I will preserve.” (Today’s Epistle)

Reading: As St. Gertrude prayed for another person, the Lord Jesus appeared to her, showing her, under the figure of His natural Body the mystical Body of His Church. He appeared to have the right side of His Body magnificently clothed with a royal and Divine habit, but the left was uncovered, and seemed all over ulcers. The Saint was instructed by this, that...there are those who, while they willingly do service to virtuous persons for the love of God, reprehend the faults of the wicked and imperfect with such severity that they increase these wounds instead of healing them.... There are also some who despise those who appear less perfect, and condemn their actions in their own minds too rigorously; and these act as if they adorned the right side of My head with pearls and precious stones, and at the same time, struck the other side violently and without mercy when I desire to lay it down to rest.

Thought: When I am obliged to make a correction of a child, spouse, or friend, I will do so for the love of God and the betterment of that person’s soul, rather than from impatience and my dislike for that person. The purpose of correction is not to indulge my pride or impatience, but to bring God’s straying sheep back to the fold.

Resolution: Prayers for the conversion of sinners and the perseverance of the just.



Tuesday in Lent I

Devotion to the Angels

Reading: “While the Sisters chanted the Response *Vocavit angelus* (“The angel of the Lord called Abraham”), she knew that the choirs of Angels, whose assistance is so powerful, surround the elect to defend them.”

Thought: God has given me an angel from heaven who will guard and protect me day and night. This angel is at my side to pray for me and to pray with me. He is at my side at this very moment and will not leave it until he has conducted my soul to its eternal resting place. Then, may it be that we will sing together the eternal praises of God.

Prayer: O most holy angel of God, appointed by Him to be my guardian, I give thee thanks for all the benefits which thou hast ever bestowed on me in body and in soul. I praise and glorify thee that thou dost condescend to assist me, all miserable and worthless as I am, with such patient fidelity, and to defend me against all the assaults of my enemies. Blessed be the hour in which thou wast assigned me for my guardian, my defender, and my patron. Blessed be all thy love to me, and all thy care for me, wherewith thou dost unwearingly further my salvation. In acknowledgment and return of all thy loving ministries to me from my youth up, I offer thee the infinitely precious and noble Heart of Jesus, full and overflowing with all blessedness: beseeching thee to forgive me for having so often striven against thy holy inspirations, and saddened thee, my nearest, dearest friend; and firmly purposing to obey thee henceforward, and most faithfully to serve my God. Amen.

– *Prayers of St. Gertrude &c.*

Ember Wednesday

Fast & Partial Abstinence

“Behold Thy mother and Thy brethren stand without, seeking Thee.” (Today’s Gospel)

Reading: “When Jesus first began to favor Gertrude with special revelations, He once said to her: ‘I give thee My own Mother as thy protectress. I confide thee to her care.’ In an hour of trial, Gertrude, terrified, called upon Jesus to help her. He replied: ‘I have given thee My own most merciful Mother for thine, and it is through her I will dispense My graces to thee. Have recourse to her in all thy necessities and thou wilt surely find strength and consolation.’” – *St. Gertrude the Great, Herald of Divine Love*

Prayer: I praise and greet thee, O Virgin surpassingly sweet, in that intimate union wherewith thou art united to God above all creatures. And in amends for all the negligences I have committed in thy service, I offer thee, O tender Mother, the most glorious and adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, with all that true and faithful filial love He showed thee in such perfection on earth, and will forever show thee in heaven. Amen. – *Prayers of St. Gertrude &c.*

Thursday in Lent I

“The bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world.” (Communion verse)

Reading: “...Our Savior revealed to St. Gertrude, in these touching words, the love of His Divine Heart in the Holy Eucharist: ‘My delights are to be with the children of men. To satisfy My love I have instituted this Sacrament. I have obliged Myself to remain therein even to the end of the world, and I wish It to be frequently received. Should anyone deter a soul, not in the state of mortal sin, from Communion, he would impede the delight of My Heart. I have done My utmost to manifest the tenderness of My Heart in the Blessed Eucharist. When, impelled by the vehemence of My love, I enter a soul by Communion, I fill it with graces, and all

the inhabitants of heaven and earth, and all the souls in purgatory experience at the same moment some new effect of My bounty.”

Resolution: Assist at Mass one extra time this week and go to Holy Communion. Bring the whole family, if possible. This will cause great delight to Our Lord.

Ember Friday

The Lance and Nails

Fast & Complete Abstinence

“We are the sick man of the Gospel, with our sins, our vices and evil desires.”

Reading: “On another occasion, as the Saint grieved in her heart that she could not form as ardent desires for the glory of God as she wished to do, she was taught by God that He is perfectly satisfied with our desires when we are not able to do more.... When the heart forms a desire, or wishes to have a desire, God takes the same pleasure in abiding therein as men do in dwelling where flowers are budding forth in the spring-time.” – *The Spirit of St. Gertrude*

Practice: When I am not able to do that little extra something pleasing to God (e.g., attend the extra Mass due to work or the duties of my state in life), I will not be downcast or impatient. I will reflect that I can offer my good desires in union with the good works of the saints and will rest content in the trust that God will reward my good desires.

Prayer: O all ye Saints of God, I salute and venerate you all in the sweetest Heart of Jesus your Lord, and through it render thanks to God for all the good which has ever flowed forth from it for your salvation; beseeching you all in general, and each one of you in particular, to deign to offer unto God for me, a miserable sinner, all those virtues and perfections which render you most especially well-pleasing to God. Amen. – *Prayers of St. Gertrude &c.*

Ember Saturday: *Fast & Partial Abstinence*

Reading: St. Gertrude entertained a deep compassion for the souls in purgatory. At Holy Communion she besought our loving Savior with tender, fervent petitions, to be merciful to these dear sufferers. Once, before Communion, as she reflected with heartfelt pity on the sufferings of the holy souls, it seemed to her that she descended with Our Lord into the depths of purgatory. There she heard Jesus say: “At Holy Communion I will permit thee to draw forth all to whom the fragrance of thy prayers penetrates.” After Holy Communion Our Lord often delivered more souls than she dared to ask for.

Thought: Ember Saturday is customarily a day on which priests are ordained. Today, remember deceased clerics, priests, bishops, and even popes in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Second Sunday of Lent

“Remember, O Lord, Thy bowels of compassion, and Thy mercies that are from the beginning of the world.” (Introit)

Reading: Believing that she was to make satisfaction for all mankind, and impelled by the Holy Ghost, Gertrude “said the Pater Noster five times, in honor of the Five Wounds of Our Lord, in satisfaction for all the sins which men had committed by the five senses; and three times for the sins committed by the three powers of the soul...; and for all omissions or commissions: offering this prayer with the same intention, and for the same end, as Our Lord had formed it in His sweetest Heart....”

Practice: Reparation! Five Our Fathers in honor of the Five Wounds, in satisfaction for the sins of men committed by the five senses; three more Our Fathers for the sins committed by the three powers of the soul, and for all sins of omission and commission.

Lent with St. Gertrude the Great



Daily Thoughts and Prayers Lent 2026

Daily short morning offering for Lent:
“Lord, I offer Thee my actions through Thy only Son, in the power of the Holy Ghost, for Thy eternal glory.” – *St. Gertrude*