

# 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

EMERGENCY LINE: (513) 509-0424



TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Sundays  
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

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



PARISH OFFICE: (513) 645-4212 (9 AM-3 PM)  
parishoffice@sgg.org • bpmcguire@sgg.org  
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traditionalmass.org

**March 15, 2026**

**LENT IV – LAETARE**

**ST. CLEMENT MARY HOFBAUER, C**



## ¶ LAETARE SUNDAY

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available after all Masses. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM, **Short Sunday Stations at 11:15 AM**. Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

☞ Please note, the church office will be closed tomorrow, **Monday**.



## ¶ ST. PATRICK'S DAY

**Tuesday** is the feast of St. Patrick. The Lenten fast is traditionally dispensed on this day. Come to Mass to celebrate his feast: Low

Masses at 7 & 8 AM & 5 PM, and Solemn High Mass at 11:25 AM.



## ¶ ST. MONICA CLUB

The St. Monica Club meets on **Wednesday** after the 11:25 AM Mass.

## ¶ GREAT ST. JOSEPH

Join us **Thursday** for the great feast of St. Joseph! Low Masses are at 7 & 8 AM and 5:30 PM. Solemn High Mass is at 11:25 AM, followed by the Blessing of Hot Cross Buns. (Those who attend the High Mass may consider themselves dispensed from the Lenten fast.) Bring some food for the poor to "St. Joseph's Table" in the social hall. The **Knights of St. Martin** Men's Group meets in the evening, after the **5:30 PM** Mass.



*St. Joseph, pray for us!*

## ¶ EASTER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES

Envelopes are available in the **vestibule** for the Easter Novena of Masses and the Lily Memorials. Please fill them out and return them in the collection basket, bookstore, or the office by **Palm Sunday, March 29**.



## Lenten Friday Evening of Reflection

**5:45 PM** Low Mass

**6:30 PM** Sacred Heart Novena, Lenten Supper: *Cheese enchiladas & sides*

**7:30 PM** Stations, Sermon, Sorrowful Mother Novena, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction

**8:30 PM** (approx.) Holy Communion



## ¶ ALTAR BOY DAY

This coming **Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**, is **Altar Boy Day!** All altar boys are invited to attend. The day begins at 8:15 AM with Mass and concludes with Rosary at approximately 2:45 PM. Meals provided.



## ¶ NEXT SUNDAY: PASSION

Next Sunday we begin the solemn season of **Passiontide**. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM, and **final Short Stations** at 11:15. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Passion

Sunday, second collect of St. Isidore the Farmer. Preface of the Cross.

## ¶ HOLY THURSDAY POTLUCK

Just a reminder that the luncheon on Holy Thursday, April 2, is a **potluck**. Please bring a **meatless** dish to share if you plan to attend.

## Collection Report

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.....\$7,692.00

From the day the aged Simeon had predicted Christ's Passion, never a moment elapsed when that Passion was not present to the mind of St. Joseph.

The Scriptures showed it to him in figure, while Jesus spoke to him of it continually. For Jesus loved His father too much to deprive him of the grace of suffering the Passion with Him and of sharing beforehand in its merits.

From then on, Calvary was established in the heart of Joseph and there the cross was set up.

But could God not wait a while and let St. Joseph thrill with the happiness of carrying in his arms and pressing to his heart the Child Who was the delight of paradise? No, there were barely forty days of rejoicing, and then swiftly came Calvary and the Passion. Our Lord was eager to give His foster father the grace of the cross.

For thirty years St. Joseph continually saw Our Lord on the cross. Jesus and Mary were always talking about it. How St. Joseph must have wept as he listened to them! More enlightened by God than were the apostles, Joseph appreciated the blessings of the cross and understood the need of Jesus' suffering. The apostles would not hear of Our Lord's cross; St. Joseph, on the contrary, listened with sorrowful love as Jesus spoke of it...

Further, St. Joseph foresaw Mary's tears and misery. He would have desired to stay by her side, and he must have begged Jesus to be allowed to remain on earth that he might climb Calvary and sustain Mary. Poor St. Joseph! He had to submit to death and leave behind him Jesus and Mary; Jesus, to be crucified and abandoned by His people; Mary, to suffer alone, unassisted. How his love for them was crucified!...

Sympathize with the distress of St. Joseph, remember his thirty years on Calvary. Our Lord could do no more for St. Joseph than give him His love, but His crucified love, and He showered it upon him profusely.

— Bl. Peter Julian Eymard



**DAILY PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH  
FOR TRUE HUMILITY**

Dear and humble Saint, spouse of the Virgin Mother of God, foster father of the Word Incarnate, obtain for us, we ardently pray, the beautiful and sublime virtue of true humility. Make us candid, truthful, and sincere to ourselves as well as others, and frank to admit our own faults and imperfections, to acknowledge before God and men our nothingness and sinfulness, and to refer all good that we possess or do to God the Author of our being and the supporter of our weakness. Teach us to love what is simple and poor, to be willing to be unknown and despised for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord; help us to welcome humiliations with delight because they make us more like to Him who said, "Learn of Me, because I am meek and humble of heart, and you shall find rest to your souls." Model of humility, hidden Saint, whose exalted dignity as head of the Holy Family and protector of Jesus and Mary makes the meekness of your spirit all the more beautiful, obtain for us, also, this treasure which drew down upon you the love of the Holy Trinity. Make us meek and humble of heart, here on earth, that we may be glorious and triumphant in Heaven, with Jesus Christ, your foster Son, our Lord and God, Who reigns with the Father and the Holy Ghost, the King of Heaven and earth, world without end. Amen.

**A HUMBLE HEART**

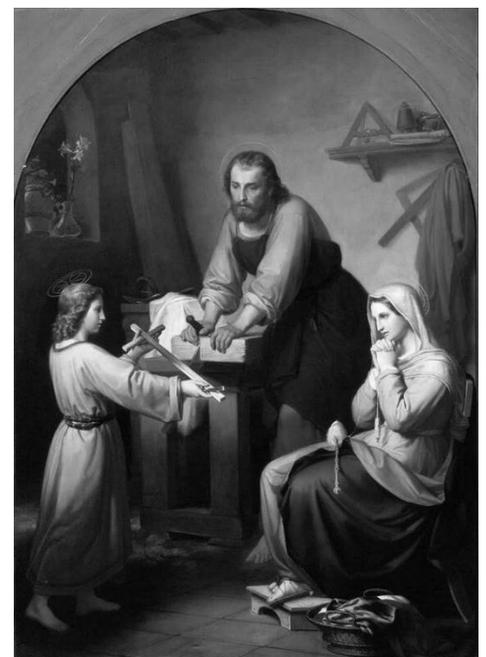
I would not ask Thee  
that my days  
Should flow quite  
smoothly on and on,  
Lest I should learn to  
love the world  
Too well, ere all my  
time was done.

I would not ask Thee  
that my work  
Should never bring me  
pain nor fear;  
Lest I should learn to  
work alone,  
And never wish Thy  
presence near.

I would not ask Thee  
that my friends  
Should always kind  
and constant be;  
Lest I should learn to lay my faith  
In them alone, and not in Thee.

But I would ask a humble heart,  
A changeless will to work and wake,  
A firm faith in Thy providence,  
The rest—'tis Thine to give or take.

— Alfred Norris



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## ✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

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The Sodality of Charity meeting two Saturdays ago seemed to go very well, and the girls all enjoyed themselves. One of the things they did was stuff plastic Easter Eggs for our Holy Saturday event. There is a story behind that! Our Holy Saturday cooks are having babies and will not be able to prepare the parish meal that day, which leaves us in a bit of a pinch, but having babies is certainly a legitimate reason to cancel. I still haven't asked anyone to help, but Theresa has some ideas. In the meantime, the Easter Egg hunt was cancelled for this year since the cooks were also involved in the hunt. I didn't want to cancel it, and **Fr. Lehtoranta** was also a little disappointed, as would have been the kids. Renee went ahead and had the Sodality stuff the plastic eggs, ready for either the Easter Egg hunt or table decorations, and then found girls to be in charge of the whole event. So now the Easter Egg hunt is back on for this year—thanks to Renee and the Sodality! We still need help with the meal, though! Any takers??

It has been quite a week as far as travel and health for the clergy and religious. **Fr. Brueggemann** had to make a last-minute trip to Milwaukee before heading out to Seattle last Sunday. **Fr. McKenna** had some hectic travel and then came down with the cold that's been going around. Sister Eulalia's back went out. It's a good thing Fathers Lehtoranta and **Simpson** have been in good health.

Mr. Lotarski reminded me that Holy Week is only two weeks away. It seems like Lent goes so slowly and then BOOM, Holy Week is here! Make the best of what is left. It moves quickly from here. This week, in particular, should go fast with all of the celebrations. We have St. Patrick's Day on Tuesday and St. Joseph's Day with Hot Cross Buns on Thursday. The Annunciation and Children's Day of Recollection are next week. And then we will find ourselves preparing for Palm Sunday. I hope the donkey comes again this year!

The older students in our school have been joining the clergy for Vespers each day after the school Mass, giving up their lunch/recess period. They do a nice job, too! Some sing out more than others and some are still working on their Latin. I am proud of them though. We have also managed to have altar servers at all of the scheduled Masses. If you remember, about fifteen to twenty years ago we couldn't

*Rejoice*



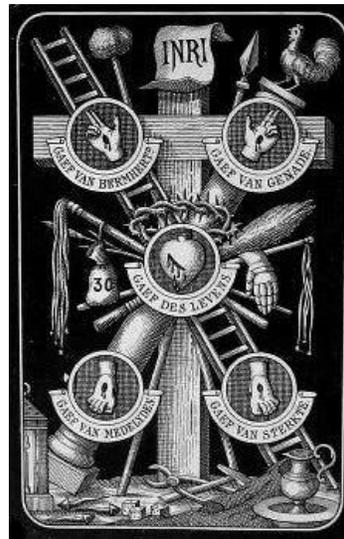
find regular servers. Now that we have grown so much and have so many home-school families we can once again have a server for all of our Masses. Thanks to everyone!



I hope you have a joyful Laetare Sunday. Rejoice a little. Joy is one of the Fruits of the Holy Ghost, with which every Catholic should be filled.

– Bishop McGuire

### MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR THE SHORTCOMINGS OF OTHERS



We meet people in the street and hear their laugh, and think everything is going well with them; did we but know, our sympathy would often be called forth, for they have many disabilities in their home, health or are perhaps in anxiety over loved ones.

Look at it in another way. How often we condemn a person for his hasty temper or sullenness; we seldom try to discover the cause of these failings.

If we had to suffer in a similar way as the one we condemn we should perhaps be much more disagreeable.

If we are to get the best from people we must take good care not to fasten them down to their faults. A little generosity in thought would help us in sound judgment. A man is usually better than his worst manner and action.

If we want to find fault we shall be able to do it without magnifying glasses; but think of the struggles some have.

Learn to make allowances for the old and young, the wise and illiterate, the wealthy and impoverished. Temper judgment with kindness; help instead of condemning. Many people never get out of the shadow. Penury pulls at their heartstrings and ill-health discolors their outlook.

So long as a man is trying, though he may fail, he is worth help and tolerance, for such a man is doing his best.

Be less critical of and more charitable to those who are fighting to conquer themselves. Many men emerge victorious after a prolonged struggle.

The noblest of men are molded out of their own faults.

– *The Echo*

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<b>MON</b>	<b>3/16/26</b>	<b>FERIAL DAY</b> 8:00 AM <b>Low Mass</b> Special Intention ( <i>Cecilia Brueggemann</i> ) 11:25 AM <b>High Mass</b> In thanksgiving ( <i>C. Simpson family</i> ) 12:25 PM <b>Vespers</b>
<b>TUE</b>	<b>3/17/26</b>	<b>ST. PATRICK, BPC</b> <i>FAST DISPENSED!</i> <i>ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA, C</i> 7:00 AM <b>Low Mass</b> Augie Kurtz – A Blessing ( <i>S. Kurtz</i> ) 8:00 AM <b>Low Mass</b> Special Intention ( <i>Cleo Speckert</i> ) 11:25 AM <b>Solemn High Mass</b> Brian J. McMahon 5:00 PM <b>Low Mass</b> In thanksgiving for prayers answered ( <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Joseph Prell</i> )
<b>WED</b>	<b>3/18/26</b>	<b>ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BPCD</b> 7:00 AM <b>Low Mass</b> Andrew Hockel ( <i>Horton Family</i> ) 8:00 AM <b>Low Mass</b> Happy Birthday, Judy! ( <i>Your Church Family</i> ) 11:25 AM <b>High Mass</b> For our fallen-away children ( <i>St. Monica's Club</i> ) <b>St. Monica's Club Meeting</b> 12:25 PM <b>Vespers</b> 3:00 PM <b>Children's Stations, Holy Communion</b> 5:10 PM <b>Low Mass</b> Terri Young – Happy Birthday! ( <i>Bill Young</i> )
<b>THU</b>	<b>3/19/26</b>	<b>ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF OUR LADY</b> 7:00 AM <b>Low Mass</b> Special Intention ( <i>Cleo Speckert</i> ) 8:00 AM <b>Low Mass</b> St. Joseph – Special Intentions ( <i>TRCS</i> ) 11:25 AM <b>Solemn High Mass</b> Joseph D. McMahon <b>Blessing of Hot Cross Buns</b> 5:30 PM <b>Low Mass</b> In honor of St. Joseph ( <i>Michelle Mikesell</i> ) <b>Knights of St. Martin Meeting</b>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>3/20/26</b>	<b>FERIAL DAY • Ss. PHOTINA &amp; COMPANIONS, MM</b> <i>THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD</i> 8:00 AM <b>Low Mass</b> Our parents & God/grandparents ( <i>Arlinghaus Family</i> ) 11:00 AM <b>Confessions</b> 11:25 AM <b>High Mass</b> †Vic Ritze ( <i>Patsy McConnell</i> ) 12:25 PM <b>Vespers</b> 5:15 PM <b>Confessions &amp; Rosary</b> 5:45 PM <b>Low Mass</b> John, Julie & family ( <i>Cecilia Brueggemann</i> ) (from 3/22) 6:30 PM <b>Sacred Heart Novena, Lenten Supper</b> 7:30 PM <b>Stations of the Cross, Sermon, Sorrowful Mother Novena VIII, Blessing of the Sick Benediction</b> 8:30 PM (approx.) <b>Distribution of Holy Communion</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>3/21/26</b>	<b>ST. BENEDICT, AB • ALTAR BOY DAY</b> 7:05 AM <b>Confessions</b> 7:30 AM <b>Low Mass</b> Fr. Ronald Ringrose ( <i>KR</i> ) 8:05 AM <b>Ave Regina, Sermon</b> 8:15 AM <b>High Mass</b> †Richard VanderRyt ( <i>The Servers</i> ) <b>Altar Boy Day</b>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>3/22/26</b>	<b>PASSION SUNDAY • ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER, C</b> <i>ST. CATHERINE OF GENOVA, W</i> 7:05 AM <b>Rosary</b> 7:30 AM <b>Low Mass</b> My parents ( <i>Cecilia Brueggemann</i> )

CHRISTIAN JOY

There are some who have said that joy is a more shallow thing than sorrow. Surely this is not a just view to take of God's creation, even since the fall. Truly joy is undermost, and sorrow uppermost; but from this very cause joy is the deeper of the two. The heart of the spiritual world, where its central fires are, is deepest joy. The world of sorrow rests upon it, as on its secure foundation. As under every stone there is moisture, so under every sorrow there is joy; and when we come to understand life rightly, we see that sorrow is after all but the minister of joy. We dig into the bosom of sorrow to find the gold and precious stones of joy. Sorrow is a condition of time, but joy is the condition of eternity. All sorrow lies in exile from God; all joy lies in union with Him. In heaven joy will cast out sorrow, whereas there is not a lot on earth from which sorrow has been able altogether to banish joy. Joy clings to us as creatures of God. It adheres to us wherever we go. Its fragrance is palpable about us. Its sunshine lights upon us, and gives us some sort of attractiveness above that which



is our own. Joy hangs about everything which God has had to do with. There is only one place where there is no joy, and that dark region is under a special law of its own, and is darkness because it would not be light. There is an inevitable joyousness about all that belongs to God.

– Fr. Faber

Servers

<b>FRI 3/20</b>	<b>5:45 PM LOW:</b> B. & A. Constantino <b>STATIONS:</b> M. Simpson, D. & N. Hudson, C. Lorenz
<b>SAT 3/21</b>	<b>7:30 AM LOW:</b> Brueggemanns <b>8:15 AM HIGH:</b> C. Richesson, I. Smith, M. Caggese
<b>SUN 3/22</b>	<b>7:30 AM LOW:</b> M. Schneider, Brueggemann <b>9:00 AM HIGH:</b> MCs: C. Richesson, M. Simpson TH: S. Richesson ACs: C. Lorenz, J. Rabjohns TBS: J. & I. Smith, G. & C. Wright, T. Stanislawski, A. Constantino <b>11:30 AM LOW:</b> Kolenichs <b>4:45 PM VESPERS &amp; BENEDICTION:</b> TH: I. Smith ACs: I. Smith, B. Constantino CROSS: D. Simpson <b>5:45 PM LOW:</b> N. McClorey

<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>High Mass</b> Renee Fernandez – safe & fast delivery ( <i>Matt &amp; Leanne Giese</i> )
<b>10:40 AM</b>	<b>Catechism Classes</b>
<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>Final Short Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> Joseph D. Murphy – Happy Birthday ( <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Joseph Prell</i> )
<b>4:45 PM</b>	<b>Vespers &amp; Benediction</b>
<b>5:45 PM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

## Monday in Lent IV

**Reading:** “It would be a mistake to suppose that Gertrude’s soul was always flooded with sensible consolations during her hours of prayer. We have abundant evidence to the contrary. One day as she was reciting her office without much attention, she saw beside her the devil, who, mocking her, took up the verse of the psalm she was saying, cut short each word in it, and then exclaimed, “Truly, your Creator made a good choice in selecting you to receive the gift of speech! You can talk fluently enough when you speak to others, but when you address yourself to Him, you are in such a hurry that even in a single psalm you have omitted so many letters, so many syllables and so many words!”” – Taken from *St. Gertrude the Great*

**Practice:** Before praying, pray! Peacefully place yourself in the presence of God and ask the Holy Ghost to assist you; beg your Guardian Angel to pray with you and to place your prayers at the throne of God. Should distractions come to you in the course of your prayer, calmly redirect your attention. It is simple!

## Tuesday in Lent IV

**Reading:** “From being a grammarian, Gertrude became a theologian. She began to revolve in her mind, without ever being tired, all the pages of the holy books she could procure; she filled her heart with the most useful and sweetest sentences of Holy Scripture, and so always had words of edification

on her lips. In this way she satisfied all those who came to consult her, and confounded error by the testimony of Holy Scripture, which she quoted so aptly as to leave nothing to reply. Neither could she, in those days, be satisfied with the marvelous sweetness and delight which she found in contemplation and in the study of the Sacred Scriptures. This occupation was like honey in her mouth, a ravishing melody in her ears, and a spiritual jubilation in her heart.”

– *The Love of the Sacred Heart*

**Practice:** Ten minutes of spiritual reading. Apply what you read to your life.

## Wednesday in Lent IV

**Reading:** Once, on the Feast of the Annunciation, St. Gertrude had a vision during which the Heavenly Mother revealed to her the glory of her spouse, St. Joseph, in order to awaken in the Saint a greater love for him and to encourage her to have confidence in his intercession. Of this vision St. Gertrude wrote:

“I saw Heaven opened and St. Joseph sitting upon a magnificent throne. I felt myself wonderfully affected when, each time his name was mentioned, all the Saints made a profound inclination toward him, showing by the serenity and sweetness of their looks that they rejoiced with him on account of his exalted dignity.” – *Favorite Prayers to St. Joseph*

**Prayer:** O St. Joseph, virgin father of Jesus and most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pray every day for us to the same Jesus, the Son of God, that being defended by

the power of His grace and striving dutifully in life, we may be crowned by Him at the hour of death. Amen.



## Thursday in Lent IV

**Reading:** Gertrude’s love of God was eminently practical, leaving its impress on her daily life. One feast of St. Matthew, after offering the chalice during the Elevation in thanksgiving for all God’s favors to her, she reflected that her offering would be of little value if she did not prepare herself to endure all kinds of sufferings for Christ. So, ready to renounce her spiritual favors for God’s sake, she offered herself to endure all that might promote His glory. Often, after this, she would interrupt her private hours of prayer to go and help her Sisters in their various needs, or to give advice and consolation to those who sought her from outside.

**Practice:** Your love of God is measured by the love you have for your neighbor. Today, perform three acts of charity for those around you.

## Friday in Lent IV

### *The Most Precious Blood*

**Reading:** “Mental depression was a trial to which St. Gertrude was often subject, and up

and down her life there occur references to her weakness and low spirits, or to the consolation she sought in heavenly things. Sometimes the depression was merely the effect of physical weakness and then she would exclaim: 'What will become of me, Lord, and what dost Thou intend to do with me?' And Jesus would comfort her even as a mother comforts her little ones."

– Taken from *St. Gertrude the Great*

**Practice:** When depressed, saddened, or troubled in any way today, pray the first Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary while meditating on the mental anguish of Our Lord in His Agony. He alone was able to say, "My soul is sorrowful unto death." Someone does understand.

## Saturday in Lent IV

**Reading:** St. Gertrude's soul, so anxious to please our Lord, would have wished never to commit the smallest sin, or, at least, to be able to be cleansed at once from the stains inevitable to our human nature. "Teach me, my good Master," she said, "how I may be purified from the stains I may contract." Our Lord replied: "Do not let them remain in thee; as soon as thou dost perceive a fault say with a fervent heart, 'Have mercy on me, O God,' or this prayer: 'O Lord Jesus, my only salvation, grant me by Thy holy death the forgiveness of all my sins.'"

– *The Love of the Sacred Heart*

**Practice:** Memorize and recite one of the above prayers whenever you commit a fault today.

## Passion Sunday

**Reflection:** During the Mass...as the words of the Gospel "*Thou hast a devil*" were read, she was grieved in her inmost soul for the contempt offered to Our Lord; and as she could not endure to hear these words, she exclaimed in the depth of her heart, in the sweetest and most loving manner: "Hail, vivifying Gem of Divine nobility! Hail, most loving Jesus! Unfading flower of human dignity! Thou art my Sovereign and only Good." And this benign Lord, to reward these testimonies of affection, inclined tenderly toward her, and whispered to her: "I am thy Creator, Redeemer and Lover. I left My beatitude to redeem thee by a bitter death." Then all the Saints, being rapt in admiration of the marvelous friendship which He manifested to her, praised God for it with the greatest joy.

**Practice:** Our Lord then said to her: "Whoever salutes Me, as you have done, in reparation for the blasphemies and outrages which are poured forth on Me throughout the world, when he is tempted at the hour of his death and accused by the demon, will be consoled by Me with the same words with which I have consoled you, and I will testify the same affection toward him; and if the Saints were thus amazed at the words I whispered into your ear, how astonished and amazed will be the enemies of his soul when they shall see him so marvelously consoled by My goodness!" – *The Life and Revelations of St. Gertrude the Great*



## 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*