

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



March 22, 2026
PASSION SUNDAY
ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER, C
ST. CATHERINE OF GENOA, W



¶ PASSIONTIDE SUNDAY

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

Final Lenten Friday *Evening of Recollection*

5:45 PM Low Mass

6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Lenten

Supper: *Grilled cheese, tomato basil soup, honey lime fruit salad, spinach artichoke dip*

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

8:30 PM (approx.) Holy Communion

¶ ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LADY / DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Wednesday is the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady. Masses are at 7, 8 & 11:25 AM & 5 PM. This is the **Children's Lenten Day of Recollection** as well, beginning at 9 AM and closing with Stations at 2:45 PM. Children should wear their Mass clothes and bring a missal and rosary. Lunch is provided. **You must email the office or school** if your children will be attending, so enough food can be prepared. ***If you drop your children off on the day without having called in advance, you will be required to return and collect them immediately.***

Thank you for your cooperation.

¶ THE SEVEN SORROWS

Friday we have the last of our Lenten Evenings of Recollection, with the feast of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin. Come to 5:45 PM Mass and supper, or come later for Stations of the Cross and devotions at 7:30. Names may still be submitted for the Sorrowful Mother Novena.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: PALM

Palms will be blessed and distributed at **7:15 AM**, and again at the ancient and beautiful ceremony with procession, beginning in church at **8:50**. The beloved tradition of processing with a real, live donkey (or mule!) continues: Parents, bring your children to participate in the procession! Those attending the 7:30 AM Mass are welcome and encouraged to

stay awhile, and join in the procession too. Palms will be available at every Mass. Due to the procession, there will be no Sunday Classes. Vespers and Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Palm Sunday, reading of the Passion. Preface of the Cross.

¶ 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**.

“Where does one draw the line between mortal and venial with the sin of gossip?”

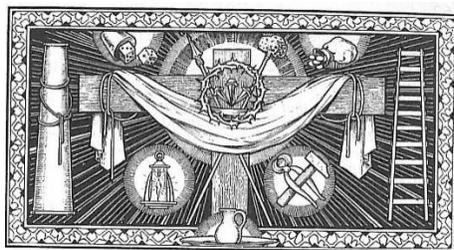
Gossip, the favorite indoor sport, covers a broad field: it may take the form of uncharitable speech; may even go further and become detraction; not infrequently, it ends in calumny.

Gossip is considered uncharitable speech when it is merely criticizing people for their actions, speech, manners, or talking about others’ minor faults and defects. This, the most frequent kind of gossip, is a venial sin.

By gossiping, we may understand detraction. “How often does it happen that a person, from criticizing the failings of others which are generally known, is gradually led to mention some hidden and grave sin which robs him of his reputation and honor!” We detract from a person’s character when we reveal a hidden fault. Generally speaking, people are not guilty of detraction when they discuss those faults or crimes of others which were made public—announced over the radio or printed in the newspapers; e.g., the remarriage of a divorced movie star. Or if one’s fault is generally known otherwise—usually all the people in the neighborhood know who the person is coming home drunk three and four nights of the week. People detract from another’s honor only when they reveal a secret fault or defect of another; e.g., to tell that a couple got married because they had to; to reveal an illegitimate birth. This type of gossip is a mortal sin.

Gossiping may imply or mean calumny. This is the worst form of gossiping for then we impute to or accuse a person of a crime which he did not commit; we damage his reputation by lying about him. This type of gossiping is a mortal sin.

— *The St. Anthony Messenger*



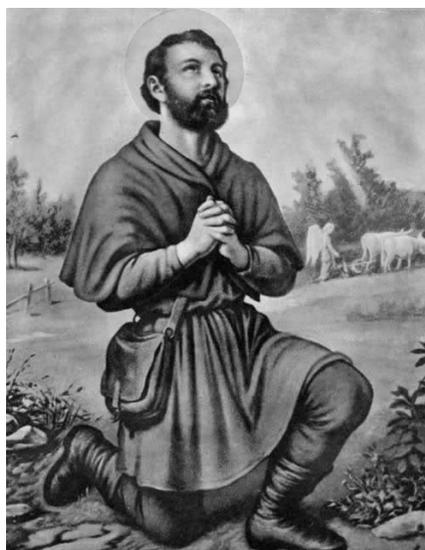
Flumen Christi

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

That my whole family love and serve the Lord with their whole hearts (*Lyda Azelton*)

Collection Report

Sunday, March 15th.....\$7,319.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.



ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER

St. Isidore was born at Madrid, Spain, in the latter half of the 12th century. For the greater part of his life he was employed as a laborer on a farm outside the city. Many marvelous happenings accompanied his lifelong work in the fields and continued long after his holy death. He was favored with celestial visions, and it is said the angels sometimes helped him in his work in the fields. St. Isidore was canonized in 1622.

THE ANGELUS

Hark! on the air what music soft!
Far over meadow—land and croft
The Vesper voices soar aloft;

And in their tones mysterious blent
The message by the Angel sent—
The Word, and its accomplishment.

The skies flood as with dawn begun;
From height to height what glories
run—
“A Virgin hath conceived a Son!”

The radiance deepens; clear and strong
From angel throng to angel throng
Wings flash celestial paths along,

And paeans unto paeans tell;
Earth’s myriad voices upward swell
Response: “Among us did He dwell.”

They move! Heaven’s golden doors
unclose;
I touch the threshold; nearer flows
The chant, more near the splendor
grows;

It sinks—it fades; o’er earth and skies
Afar the last echo dies—
“In glory from the grave to rise!”

— *Constantina E. Brooks*



Passion Sunday has arrived and now we are about to begin the busiest time of the year here at church. We often call it the Holy Week tunnel because once you enter, there is no turning back; there are no exits. Everything focuses on the ceremonies; our minds concentrate on the single most important event in the history of the world: the Redemption and the Resurrection. I pray that the world does not distract you with its nonsense.



Speaking of nonsense, Black Cat's injury turned out to have been pretty bad. He ended up going to the vet for another minor procedure—the second one this year. I guess he keeps getting into fights outside. Clearly, he won't be winning any top fighter awards anytime soon. We have to keep him inside for a while so his wound doesn't get infected, but he is recovering quite well and quickly.

Masses on St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day were both really well attended. We had so many people on St. Joseph's Day that we ran out of blessed Hot Cross Buns. Everyone loves the Hot Cross Buns! One boy, though, likes the raisins the most, and once they're all gone he has no use for the rest. Another child said how much she likes the cross! (Oh, if only we all learned to love the cross.) Okay, so she really meant that she liked the frosting. But one person said about the cross on the hot cross buns: it is sweet and light, just as the cross is. We would do well to remember that!

While **Fr. McKenna** and I were visiting with **Bishop Selway** (who was in town on a separate business trip), **Fr. Brueggemann** said Mass and gave a talk to the Knights of St. Martin. The subject of discussion: the New vs. the Old Holy Week. This is an important topic today since the '55 Holy Week was, as Msgr. Bugnini himself admitted, a bridge to the New Mass. This is why we follow the pre-'55 Holy Week here at SGG. For us, it isn't a matter of taste, it is a matter of principle.

Fr. Lehtoranta is at St. Hugh of Lincoln for the weekend. **Frs. Simpson** and **Brueggemann** took care of the Altar Boy Day yesterday and are helping me to run things today. Parents, don't forget that the Children's Day of Recollection is this Wednesday, the feast of the Annunciation. Friday is the feast of the Sorrowful Mother. This leads us into Palm Sunday and Holy Week. Are you ready?! It is a busy time, but one which is full of graces.

Let us pray for one another that we profit from this sacred season!

– **Bishop McGuire**

**** Men scheduled for the Maundy:** Albert D. Kinnett, John Seyfried, Joseph Bayer, Levi Giese, Timothy Giese, Joe Capetillo, Ben Capetillo, Tim Capetillo, Mike Hagle, Daniel Stanislawski, James Stanislawski, Dominic Caggese, Brendan Lotarski.

If you cannot participate, PLEASE contact the church office immediately to let us know! Otherwise, please plan to report to the Sacristy no later than 12:45 PM on Holy Thursday, April 2.

Thank you, Bishop McGuire

PALM SUNDAY: MARCH 29

7:15 AM Blessing and distribution of Palms, Low Mass

8:50 AM Blessing of Palms, Procession, High Mass

The beautiful Procession and High Mass of Palm Sunday is magnificent, and well worth the extra time. Bring the children! They have the privilege of walking together and leading the Procession.

*N.B. The Procession commences about 9:30 AM, proceeding through the cloister and around the grounds, finishing with a brief but ancient ceremony at the church doors before re-entering the church. **Please do not start your engine or drive your car in the parking lot during this time.** Thank you for your cooperation.*

11:30 AM Low Mass

4:45 PM Vespers and Benediction

5:45 PM Low Mass

SPY WEDNESDAY: APRIL 1

DAY OF FAST

6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae

MAUNDY (HOLY) THURSDAY: APRIL 2

DAY OF FAST

9:00 AM Pontifical High Mass, Blessing of Holy Oils, Procession to the Altar of Repose, Vespers, Stripping of the Altar

This is the Mass to attend! The birthday of the Blessed Sacrament and the Mass.

Please bring your little children to walk in the procession after Mass.

A Potluck Luncheon follows Mass.

Adoration continues at the Sepulchre until noon on Friday.

1:00 PM The Maundy (Washing of the Feet) **

6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae

All Night Adoration

GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 3

FAST & ABSTINENCE

Adoration at the Sepulchre continues till 12:00 noon

11:25 AM Stations of the Cross

12:00 PM Tre Ore

12:15 PM Mass of the Presanctified, Adoration of the Cross

2:15 PM Tre Ore Devotions and Sermon

3:00 PM Blessing with the Relic of the True Cross, Vespers

3:00 PM Confessions

6:25 PM Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart

6:30 PM The Office of Tenebrae

8:30 PM Church decorating for Holy Saturday

Come when you can; leave when you must.

HOLY SATURDAY: APRIL 4

FAST & ABSTINENCE ENDS AT NOON

8:00 AM EASTER VIGIL: Blessing of the Fire, Prophecies, Blessing of the Font, First Mass of Easter, Vespers, Blessing of Easter Food

A complimentary Easter Luncheon follows – all are invited.

An Easter Egg Hunt will be held for the children.

4:00 PM Confessions

EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 5

5:45 AM Solemn Matins and Lauds

7:30 AM Easter Sunrise Low Mass

9:00 AM Solemn High Mass

11:30 AM Low Mass with Benediction

6:00 PM Vespers

(No 5:45 PM Mass on Easter Sunday)

<p>Holy Week Confession Schedule</p> <p>Good Friday: 3:00 to 4:00 PM</p> <p>Holy Saturday: 4:00 to 5:00 PM</p>

MON	3/23/26	FERIAL DAY 8:00 AM Low Mass Will Gregory (<i>Your godmother</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Happy Birthday Flynn (<i>Mom & Dad</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers
TUE	3/24/26	ST. GABRIEL, ARCHANGEL 7:00 AM Low Mass Special intention deceased (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ritze</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass †Emile Barre (<i>Karen Simpson</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass †Kyle McGuire (<i>Bishop McGuire</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 5:00 PM Low Mass †Carol Hesselbrock & Special Intention (<i>Donna Jones</i>)
WED	3/25/26	ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN CHILDREN'S LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION 7:00 AM Low Mass Jacob Joseph Kitchen (<i>Marge Kitchen</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Special Intention in honor of St. Philomena & St. Jude (<i>Dominic & Florence Swinney</i>) 9:00 AM Opening of Day of Recollection 11:25 AM High Mass Special Intention (<i>Bob & Becky Uhlenbrock</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 2:45 PM Stations, Benediction, Holy Communion 5:10 PM Low Mass Our parents & God/grandparents (<i>Arlinghaus Family</i>)
THU	3/26/26	FERIAL DAY 7:00 AM Low Mass Paul McConnell – Thank you (<i>Jacinta McConnell</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Repose of the soul of †Tedd Childers (<i>Janet Korzekwinski</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Special Intention in honor of St. Philomena & St. Jude (<i>Dominic & Florence Swinney</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 5:00 PM Low Mass †Mary Rose Peter – 9 th Anniversary (<i>C. Simpson family</i>)
FRI	3/27/26	SEVEN SORROWS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN ST. JOHN DAMASCENE, CD 8:00 AM Low Mass Special Intention in honor of St. Philomena & St. Jude (<i>Dominic & Florence Swinney</i>) 11:00 AM Confessions 11:25 AM High Mass My †Grandparents (<i>Anna Brueggemann</i>) 12:25 PM Vespers 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass Albert Daniel Kinnett – Thank you (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell</i>) 6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Lenten Supper 7:30 PM Stations of the Cross, Sermon, Closing of the Sorrowful Mother Novena, Blessing of the Sick, Benediction 8:30 PM (approx.) Distribution of Holy Communion
SAT	3/28/26	ST. JOHN CAPISTRAN, C 7:05 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass Special Intention in honor of St. Philomena & St. Jude (<i>Dominic & Florence Swinney</i>) 8:05 AM Ave Regina, Sermon 8:15 AM High Mass Isaac Brueggemann (<i>Tom Gardner</i>)

A COMMUNION MEDITATION

My Lord! Who am I to receive Thy very own Body and Blood?
I have been proud; Thou hast been humble.
I have been faithless; Thou hast been faithful.
I have refused to serve Thee; Thou hast never ceased serving me.
I have grieved Thee; Thou hast consoled me.
I have made Thee sick; Thou hast healed me.
I have angered Thee; Thou hast blessed me.
I have abandoned Thee; Thou hast loved me to the end.
I have rejected Thee; Thou hast welcomed me.
I have betrayed Thee; Thou hast remained loyal to me.
I have condemned Thee; Thou hast shown mercy to me.
I have denied Thee; Thou hast upheld me.
I have smitten Thee; Thou hast caressed me.
I have defiled Thee; Thou hast cleansed me.
I have struck Thee; Thou hast kissed me.
I have made Thee fall; Thou hast raised me up.
I have spat upon Thee; Thou hast breathed life into me.
I have crowned Thee with thorns; Thou hast promised me a crown of Eternal Life.
I have pierced Thy Heart with a lance; Thou hast let streams of mercy flow from It.
I have starved Thee for my love; Thou hast fed me with Thy Body and Blood.
I have killed Thee; Thou hast promised Life Everlasting.
I have buried Thee; Thou hast raised me from the dead.



Servers

FRI 3/27	5:45 PM LOW: Capetillos STATIONS: J. & I. Smith, F. Caggese, D. Simpson
SAT 3/28	7:30 AM LOW: Rabjohns 8:15 AM HIGH: D. Simpson, B. & A. Constantino
SUN 3/29	7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 8:50 AM PROCESSION & HIGH: POSTED IN SACRISTY 11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: D. Simpson ACs: I. Smith, A. Constantino CROSS: B. Constantino 5:45 PM LOW: P. McClorey

SERVERS: For the Palm Sunday and Holy Week schedules, please consult the list posted in the Servers' Sacristy. If you are unable to serve for any of the times for which you are scheduled, and you have not found a suitable substitute, you *MUST* contact Bishop McGuire or Michael Simpson far enough in advance so they are able to find a replacement.

SUN	3/29/26	PALM SUNDAY 7:05 AM Rosary 7:15 AM Blessing of Palms 7:30 AM Low Mass My Godparents (<i>Cecilia Brueggemann</i>) 8:50 AM Blessing of Palms, Procession, Solemn High Mass Isaac Brueggemann (<i>Tom Gardner</i>) 11:30 AM Low Mass Special Intention in honor of St. Philomena & St. Jude (<i>Dominic & Florence Swinney</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 Passion Week

Reading: As in important affairs, so in matters of small moment, she put no trust in herself but in God alone. Thus, one day as she was seated at work, having dropped some little object such as a bodkin or a needle into the straw at her feet, she exclaimed, “Dear Lord, Thou knowest that all my efforts could not find so tiny an instrument in the straw. Do Thou, therefore, find it for me.” Her companions heard her, and were astonished when, plunging her hand without looking into the layers of straw, she at once found what she had lost.

Practice: Recite an act of confidence in Divine Providence. God always provides.

Tuesday in Passion Week

Reading: While the *Ave Maria* was chanted at Matins, St. Gertrude beheld three streams, which flowed with a gentle impetuosity from the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost into the heart of the Blessed Virgin, and flowed back again from her heart with the same impetuosity to its original source. The Saint understood by this that the Blessed Virgin is the most powerful after the Father, most wise after the Son, and most benign after the Holy Ghost. She knew also, when anyone recited the *Ave Maria* with devotion, that these three streams sweetly encompassed the Blessed Virgin, and then returned to their source in the Heart of Jesus Christ, and from them little streams of joy and salvation flow forth on the Saints and Angels, and especial-

ly on those who recite the Angelic Salutation with devotion, which renews in them all the benefits which they acquire by the Incarnation of the Son of God.

Practice: Recite three Hail Marys in honor of St. Gabriel the Archangel, who recited the very first Hail Mary. Say the Hail Mary frequently today. How this prayer pierces heaven and wins many a grace for us!



Wednesday in Passion Week

Reading: When the community began to recite the *Miserere*, Our Lord placed each word in the hand of His Virgin Mother under the form of pearls of different colors. She saw that the Blessed Virgin had a quantity of sweet perfumes, which she mixed with the pearls—that is, with the prayers of the religious—which her Son had presented to her.

The Saint understood that these perfumes signified the crosses which the religious had suffered on the preceding day, without having given any occasion for them; and when she marveled why these crosses were represented as perfumes, Our Lord told

her: “As a delicate person is more pleased with perfumes than with any other present, so do I delight in the hearts of those who suffer their trials with humility, patience and thanksgiving, abandoning themselves entirely to My paternal goodness, which converts both prosperity and adversity to their good.”

Practice: Resolve to bear all trials today with the greatest humility, patience, and gratitude. “Lord, I deserve to suffer these things, for I have sinned.”

Thursday in Passion Week

Reading: “Let us banish then from our hearts,” writes the saint, “all self-will, and let us offer ourselves to God freely and utterly, to accomplish His Will in all things: for in all things He seeks nothing but our spiritual advancement. If we do this, we shall never trouble, even for a single moment, the sweet and tender Child who makes His dwelling in the inmost depths of our souls.”

Practice: In matters of indifference, let others have their way. Graciously and humbly give way to others in matters that are not sinful. In this way you will preserve peace of heart.

Friday in Passion Week

The Seven Sorrows of Our Lady

Reading: Each year, on St. John’s feast, Gertrude beheld him in glory, and she was often permitted to hold with him familiar

converse. As she was one day earnestly recommending to the Apostle the needs of several persons, he said: "I am like my Divine Master in this, that I love those who love me."

Practice: Recite an Our Father in honor of St. John. St. John always encouraged his disciples to love one another. Perform three acts of charity for someone today. "Charity covereth a multitude of sins."



Saturday in Passion Week

Reading: Everything belonging to the monastery she looked upon as God's property and she was wont to pity heathens because they could not share anything in common with our Lord. Allowing herself only what

was strictly necessary, she kept her heart detached even from such things, and all with great joyousness of spirit, though God allowed her at times to feel her own imperfection and weakness, thereby to lead her to greater heights of sanctity.

Practice: Offer up three acts of mortification for the Poor Souls.

Palm Sunday

Reflection: As the words of the Passion, *Emisit spiritum* [He yielded up the ghost], were read, St. Gertrude prostrated on the ground, saying: "Behold me, O Lord, prostrate on the earth in honor of Thy precious Death, beseeching Thee, by the excessive love which caused Thee to die, Who art the life of all, that Thou wouldst destroy in me all that displeases Thee." Our Lord replied: "Cast from you all the vices which you desire should die in you, and draw into you, by the virtue of My Spirit, those perfections of Mine which you desire to possess; and be assured that your sins will be pardoned, and that you shall feel the salutary effects of what you have thus drawn from Me into yourself; and each time that you endeavor to combat the vices which you have cast out, or to obtain the virtues with which I have inspired you, you will gain the double advantage—of obtaining the victory, and of feeling the fruit of My Passion."

Practice: Read the Passion with devotion. Recall to mind that Our Lord suffered all for love of you and to redeem you.

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