

# 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 29, 2026**  
**PALM SUNDAY**



¶ **PALM SUNDAY:** Blessed palms are available at every Mass today. Feel free to take extra palms to bring home or to a shut-in. Remember to return your Easter Memorial Flower offering envelopes today, so your memorials may be included in the Easter bulletin. Envelopes for the Easter Novena of Masses are also available. The Novena will be said daily beginning Easter Sunday.

**Confessions** are heard before and during the morning Masses today. Sunday Classes are on a brief vacation and resume on Low Sunday. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ **MAUNDY THURSDAY:** Holy (Maundy) Thursday is *the day* of the year to hear Mass and receive Holy Communion. **Mass** begins at **9:00 AM**. Bring the whole family to experience the "Birthday of the Mass" with bells and clackers; the Blessing of the Holy Oils; the Pange Lingua as Our Lord leaves the church; the sorrowful Stripping of the Altars. A **potluck** luncheon follows the Mass. Please do come, and stay for the Maundy.

The **Maundy** is a rich Sacramental of the Church, performed on Holy Thursday, in honor of Our Lord Who washed the feet of His Apostles. This service is an ideal one for mothers with little ones, as it is short, and children can sit so as to see the ceremony. Come **Thursday at 1:00 PM**.

The **Blessed Sacrament** will be in the **side chapel** at the beautifully decorated Altar of Repose, or Sepulchre, for 24 hours, and should not go unvisited, or be left unattended. The **Men of the Guard of Honor** are asked to keep their hours for All Night Adoration to guarantee that Our Lord is not left unprotected during the hours of the night.



## ¶ THIS WEEK: TENEBRAE

Tenebrae, Latin for "darkness," is the chanting of the Divine Office of Matins and Lauds of the following day. The mood is somber, quiet and reflective; its dramatic features are the gradual extinction of a 15-branch candelabra in the sanctuary, as the Church contemplates the temporary triumph of the prince of darkness over the world, and a loud noise at its conclusion, suggesting the earthquake described in the Passion narratives. Tenebrae is at **6:30 PM** on **Wednesday, Thursday & Friday**.



Tenebrae is a popular service (but not good for very little ones, because **the silence is important**), especially for its dramatic ending when you finally get to make noise. Translations provided.

¶ **GOOD FRIDAY:** You may make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament all morning long. **Stations** begin at **11:25 AM**, followed at **noon** by the traditional Tre Ore ("three hours"), with the chanting of the Passion, solemn prayers, the unveiling and adoration of the Cross, and finally the mystic rites of the Mass of the Presanctified. A sermon and devotions take us to **3 PM**, when the relic of the True Cross is venerated. **Confessions** are heard starting at **3 PM**.

¶ **HOLY SATURDAY:** The **Easter Vigil** begins at **8:00 AM** on **Saturday** with the Blessing of the Fire and the Prophecies, with the **Mass** commencing closer to **10:30**. The **Blessing of Easter Baskets** takes place at the Communion rail after the Mass. (*Traditionally, baskets containing food for one's Easter feast are brought, though any food, drinks or sweets may be included.*) All are then invited to a luncheon, and there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. **Confessions** are heard at 4 PM.

## ¶ NEXT SUNDAY: EASTER

The Easter Sunrise Office of Matins & Lauds is at **5:45 AM**. No Sunday Classes. Please note, there will be **no 5:45 PM Mass on Easter Sunday**. Easter Vespers are at 6:00 PM. 📖 **Set Your Missal:** Easter, Sequence, Preface of Easter with special *Communicantes* and *Hanc Igitur*.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to John & Julie Brueggemann on the baptism of their daughter, Madeline Anne, on Sunday, March 22.



¶ **OFFICE CLOSED:** The office will be closed from Holy Thursday, April 2, through Easter Tuesday, April 7. It will reopen on Easter Wednesday, April 8.

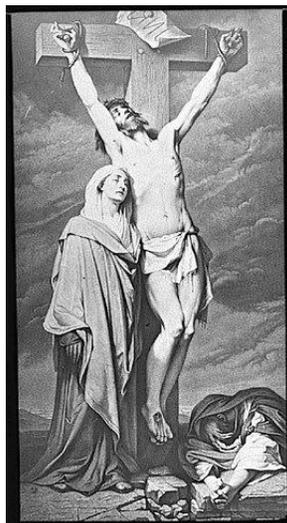


**HUMILITY TO GLORY**

The liturgy of Palm Sunday is an important step forward toward the final goal, the Passion and Resurrection. At first it would seem as if the storm clouds that had gathered over the head of the Savior were to be scattered. The day opens with a triumphal procession of which Christ is the center. "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. O King of Israel: Hosanna in the Highest!" It is the cry of a fickle people that cannot be trusted. Satan and his helpers are not idle. Already they are rehearsing the *Crucifige, crucifige*, which will soon rend the air. "Away, crucify Him"; this cry will continue to reverberate through the centuries against His mystical body, the Church. We know it, we hear it even in our own day. The disciple is not above the Master. Often enough this cry has been raised even by men who once had been among His followers. It is the weakness of unredeemed human nature that the Hosanna is so readily followed by the *Crucifige*. Christ, knowing beforehand that the same voices which were acclaiming Him King of Israel would but a few days later clamor for His death, suffered intense pangs of soul even during this apparently triumphal entry into His own city. Thus He merited for all future members of His mystical body the special grace of loyalty to their royal Head, that loyalty which countless souls throughout the ages have shown Him in the midst of bitter trials and persecutions.

As it was to be expected, the triumph of the Savior on Palm Sunday was of short duration. True

to the historical sequence of events, the liturgy again assumes the aspect of gloom and sadness. The real triumph that must be won in hard battle is still in preparation. The victory can be no other than "humiliation and death, even the death of the cross," as is proclaimed in the Epistle of the Mass. His faithful followers are to win the same victory by the imitation of their model "so that, imitating the example of His patience, we may become partners in His resurrection" (Collect). The Passion according to St. Matthew is a significant part of the day's liturgy. It serves as a resumé of the happenings of the "Great Week."



¶ **FIRST COMMUNION TESTING**

Testing and First Confessions for First Communicants take place on **Saturday, April 18**. The baptism certificates and registration forms must be submitted before the test, or your child **will not be tested** on the day. **Children in the school or who attend Sunday Catechism Class** must still be registered with the form. Please contact the office as soon as possible to receive the form.



**Please pray** for the repose of the soul of †Sister Claretia, who died this past week.

**THE HOLY WINDING SHEET**

What royal ceremonies, dearest Lord,  
Shall loving service bring,  
What costly silks and spices rare  
To wrap Thy form, O King?

Ah! Love makes answer, and we come  
With linen vestal wrought,  
And myrrh of grief all steeped in tears,  
And incense sorrow-bought.

And, swathing Thy most precious form,  
We kiss Thy sacred tomb,  
That is not darker than the shades  
Which fill our hearts with gloom.

But Hope low whispers: "This the shroud  
Of Him the crucified,  
Shall be the spotless Easter robe  
Of Him the glorified!"



**A HYMN FOR LENT**

As storm-tossed eagles upward strain,  
Their home on high and young to gain,  
So labors Christ upon the Rood,  
So toils and suffers for our good.

While nails are through His hands and feet,  
And mocking words His sorrows meet,  
His head divine, in mercy bowed,  
Looks down to bless the unfeeling crowd.

There's Blood upon His hands and eyes,  
And Blood o'er all His body lies,  
And Blood drips down upon the ground  
From every mute appealing wound.

The Woman standing by the Tree  
His blinded eyes can scarcely see;  
'Twas woman brought us pain and loss,  
And Woman well stands by the Cross.

O Jesus, save us by Thy Blood!  
Teach us to love and bless the Rood.  
And lead us, Mother, to thy Son  
When life is past and work is done.

—*Saevo dolorum turbine*

**Collection Report**

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.....\$5,765.00

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## ✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

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The Catholic Church's most important week of the year, liturgically speaking, has finally arrived. In it are represented the most important events to ever take place on the face of the earth: the death of Our Lord on the Cross, and His Resurrection from the dead. Christ died to redeem us from sin, but if He did not rise again on the third day then our Faith would be in vain and we would still be in our sin. That God should become man and die for us on the Cross is the greatest act of love, as we are told in Sacred Scripture, but that God raised Himself from the dead is the greatest miracle that has ever occurred—and this miracle alone confirms the truth of every word that He ever spoke, and each doctrine that He has given to us.

This year, in Jerusalem, the Palm Sunday procession will not take place due to the conflict taking place. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where the tomb of Christ is located, has been closed for weeks. Many will look at this as a bad thing. Actually, it is good in this sense: the false worship that has taken place there for years will not take place this year, at least publicly. The empty tomb is definitive proof of the truth of the Catholic Faith. It is an insult of the greatest magnitude for a false religion to offer false worship over the tomb. We know that God only permits evil in order to bring about some greater good. The suppression of false worship is truly a great good, for false worship causes greater spiritual harm than any war causes material harm. Let that sink in.

The true Holy Week ceremonies will go on here at St. Gertrude's and we hope to see you here. If you find yourself worrying about the state of the world and wondering what will happen as a result of the war, come to church and take part in as many ceremonies as you can. It will do you no good to sit at home watching FOX news, scrolling through Twitter feeds, or listening to the radio. That will only destroy your peace of heart and cause lost opportunities for merit. Turn it all off and let God take care of things. On your part, take care to worship God. There is a saying that holds true: "Take care to serve God and He will take care of you." That is just another way of saying what Our Lord told us in the Scriptures: "Seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Last week's Children's Day of Recollection fell on the feast of the Annunciation. It was good to see so many children in attendance, and I hope they profited from it. Aside from that, everything else seems to revolve around Holy Week preparation. **Fr. McKenna**

already left for St. Hugh's, where he will carry out the Sacred Triduum. **Fr. Simpson** did Palm Sunday morning here and then left for Dallas for evening ceremonies. He will be back tomorrow and will stay with us through the beautiful ceremonies of Holy Saturday.

Well, I know I'm forgetting plenty. As always, I'll fill you in on things as I remember them. In the meantime, direct your thoughts to the Passion of Our Lord, and come to church as often as possible this week. We are looking forward to seeing you, and all of our guests from out of town!

– **Bishop McGuire**



### ATTENTION, THOSE MAKING THE NINE FIRST FRIDAYS!

This year, the First Friday of April falls on Good Friday, the day on which *Holy Communion is not distributed*. This does **not**, however, break the Novena of the Nine First Fridays. Simply continue your novena next month.



### THE DONKEY

When fishes flew and  
forests walked  
And figs grew upon  
thorn,  
Some moment when  
the moon was blood  
Then surely I was  
born;

With monstrous head  
and sickening cry

And ears like errant wings,  
The devil's walking parody  
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,  
Of ancient crooked will;  
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,  
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;  
One far fierce hour and sweet:  
There was a shout about my ears,  
And palms before my feet.

–G.K. Chesterton

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## ✠ THE HOLY WEEK CALENDAR ✠

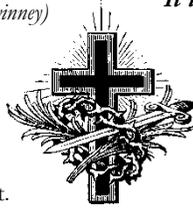
**MON 3/30/26 MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK**  
 8:00 AM **Low Mass** †Margaret Soli – 9 year Anniversary  
*(James Soli)*  
 11:25 AM **High Mass** Special Intention in honor of St.  
 Philomena & St. Jude *(Dominic & Florence Swinney)*  
 12:25 PM **Vespers**

**TUE 3/31/26 TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**  
 7:00 AM **Low Mass** Happy Birthday Mom *(The  
 Brueggemann Family)*  
 8:00 AM **Low Mass** Special Intention in honor of St.  
 Philomena & St. Jude *(Dominic & Florence Swinney)*  
 11:25 AM **High Mass** Marcel Caggese – Happy 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
*(Dad & Mom)* (from 3/30)  
 12:25 PM **Vespers**

**WED 4/1/26 SPY WEDNESDAY • FIRST WEDNESDAY**  
 7:00 AM **Low Mass** For the sanctification of priests  
*(Alter Christus Confraternity)*  
 8:00 AM **Low Mass** Special Intention in honor of St.  
 Philomena & St. Jude *(Dominic & Florence Swinney)*  
 9:00 AM **High Mass** Happy Birthday Mom *(Anna  
 Brueggemann)*  
 followed by **Vespers**  
 6:30 PM **The Office of Tenebrae**

**THU 4/2/26 MAUNDY THURSDAY • FIRST THURSDAY**  
 9:00 AM **Pontifical High Mass** Special Intention in honor  
 of St. Philomena & St. Jude *(Dominic & Florence Swinney)*  
**Blessing of the Holy Oils, Procession to the Al-  
 tar of Repose, Vespers, Stripping of the Altar**  

*Adoration continues at the Sepulchre  
 until 12:00 PM on Good Friday*  
 12:00 PM **Potluck Luncheon**  
*(Please bring a meatless dish to share)*  
 1:00 PM **The Maundy (Washing of the Feet)**  
 6:30 PM **The Office of Tenebrae**



**FRI 4/3/26 GOOD FRIDAY**  
 11:25 AM **Stations of the Cross**  
 12:00 PM **Tre Ore**  
*It is a fine tradition to keep silent from Noon to 3:00 PM today*  
 12:15 PM **Mass of the Presanctified, Reading of the  
 Passion, Adoration of the Cross**  
 2:15 PM **Tre Ore Devotions and Sermon**  
 3:00 PM **Blessing with the Relic of the True Cross**  
 3:00 PM **Confessions**  
 3:15 PM **Vespers**  
 6:20 PM **Sacred Heart Novena**  
 6:30 PM **The Office of Tenebrae**  
 8:30 PM **Church Decorating for Holy Saturday**  
*Come when you can, leave when you must.*



**SAT 4/4/26 HOLY SATURDAY FAST TILL NOON**  
**FIRST SATURDAY**  
 8:00 AM **Easter Vigil: Blessing of Fire,  
 Prophecies, Blessing of the Font,  
 Baptisms, First Mass of Easter** For our  
 choir, servers, sacristans, & workers *(Bp. McGuire)*  
**Vespers, Blessing of Easter Food**  
*A complimentary Easter Luncheon follows Mass—all are invited*  
 4:00 PM **Confessions (till 5 PM)**

**SUN 4/5/26 EASTER SUNDAY**  
 5:45 AM **Easter Matins & Lauds**  
 7:05 AM **Rosary**  
 7:30 AM **Easter Sunrise Low Mass** My mother, †Mar-  
 tha Brueggemann, 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary *(Regina Gilliam)*  
 9:00 AM **Pontifical High Mass** Easter Novena I  
 11:30 AM **Low Mass** Happy Easter Uncle Ken & Aunt  
 Regina *(Anna & Cecilia Brueggemann)*  
**Benediction**  
 6:00 PM **Vespers**  
**No 5:45 PM Mass**



### All Night Adoration Holy Thursday Guard of Honor

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: David Swinney, Joseph Vines  
 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Tim Giese, Jim Phelan  
 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM: Collin Smith, Justin Soeder  
 10:00 PM - 11:00 PM: Anthony Caggese, Jim Stanislawski  
 11:00 PM - 12:00 AM: James Kolenich, Paul Puglielli  
 12:00 AM - 1:00 AM: Levi Giese, Alfonso Capetillo  
 1:00 AM - 2:00 AM: Dan Stanislawski  
 2:00 AM - 3:00 AM: Dan & Philip Brueggemann  
 3:00 AM - 4:00 AM: McConnell Brothers  
 4:00 AM-5:00 AM: Matthew Giese, Bruno Siqueira  
 5:00 AM - 6:00 AM: Joseph Simpson, Bill Herman  
 6:00 AM - 7:00 AM: John Riggs, Robert Rosendale

☞ *If you cannot make your hour, please contact the church office immediately: (513) 645-4212.*

☞ *If you have finished your hour but no one has arrived to relieve you, please call Fr. Brueggemann (513-378-2705) or Fr. Simpson (513-378-2870) to substitute.*

Holy Thursday—April 2, 2026—1:00 PM

### THE MANDATUM

**ALBERT D. KINNETT, JOHN SEYFRIED, JOSEPH BAYER,  
 LEVI GIESE, TIM GIESE, JOE CAPETILLO, BEN CAPETILLO,  
 TIM CAPETILLO, DAN STANISLOWSKI, JIM STANISLOWSKI,  
 DOMINIC CAGGESO, BRENDAN LOTARSKI, SETH KLAIBER.**

*The above listed men should arrive no later than 12:45 PM and report to the sacristy to prepare and receive instructions.*

**Servers:** SEE SACRISTY BULLETIN BOARD FOR SERVING SCHEDULES

SUN 4/5 7:30 AM **Low:** M. Schneider, Brueggemanns  
 11:30 AM **Low & Benediction:** Kolenichs

### Easter Sunday Ashers

7:30 AM: Scott Pepiot, Paul McConnell, Alexander McConnell, John Brueggemann  
 9:00 AM: Paul Arlinghaus, Conrad Arlinghaus, Philip Brueggemann, Vincent Brueggemann  
 11:30 AM: Bob Uhlenbrock, Paul Puglielli

## Monday in Holy Week

**Thought:** To desire death is one of the fruits of the love of God. When a soul is burning with the fire of divine love she wishes to see and possess her Well-Beloved. To attain to this we must pass through “the horrors of the agony and death, but love is stronger than death.” So the Saints repeat the groanings of St. Paul: “I desire to be dissolved and to be with Christ.” This desire is also that of the friends of the Sacred Heart. When shall it be given us to go to sleep on the Lord’s breast? The decree is unalterable: we must first die. Well, then, I will die and see my adored Lord, and from henceforth I shall be entirely His.

This desire was very ardent in Gertrude, which her secretary tells us was the fruit of her great confidence in our Lord; nevertheless, in conformity with the divine will, she was equally ready either to live or to die; by death she hoped for eternal blessedness, and by a longer life she hoped to give greater glory to God. -*The Love of the Sacred Heart*

**Prayer:** Recite the fifth Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary for the grace of Final Perseverance. If you are so inclined, pray another decade for the Final Perseverance of your loved ones.

## Tuesday in Holy Week

**Thought:** Not content with devoutly contemplating our Lord’s Passion, Gertrude wished to make Him some return, and one Good Friday received from Him the following instruction, in answer to her request that

He would teach her how she might in some way repay Him for all He had suffered for her: “Not to shrink from pain or trouble when it is a question of rescuing another from sin, makes up to Me for My death for man’s salvation; and returning a meek answer to reproaches or unkindness, is as pleasing to Me as the act of those who took My Body down from the cross.”

-*St. Gertrude the Great*

**Practice:** Form your own resolution based on what you just read. Put it into practice today.

## Spyn Wednesday

**Thought:** Before the following Maundy Thursday Gertrude had urged many others to beg our Lord, through the mystery of His abasement in washing the feet of His Apostles, to purify their hearts and affections as a preparation for receiving Him in Holy Communion. As she was kneeling at prayer it was made known to her that her faults and those of all who had acted according to her advice were completely effaced.

**Prayer:** Sacred Heart of Jesus, in preparation for tomorrow’s Holy Communion, I beseech Thee, through Your abasement in washing the feet of Thine Apostles, to purify my heart and affections so that I might become a worthy dwelling place for Thee.

## Holy Thursday

**Thought:** After her Communion, as she recollected herself interiorly, our Lord ap-

peared to her under the form of a pelican, as it is usually represented, piercing its heart with its beak. Marveling at this, she said: “My Lord, what wouldst Thou teach me by this vision?” “I wish,” replied our Lord, “that you would consider the excess of love which obliges Me to present you with such a gift; for after having thus given Myself, I would rather remain dead in the tomb, so to speak, than deprive a soul who loves Me of the fruit of my liberality. Consider, also, that even as the blood which comes from the heart of the pelican gives life to its little ones, so also the soul whom I nourish with the Divine Food which I present to it, receives a life which will never end.”

**Prayer which Our Lord taught St. Gertrude:** Behold, O Lord, I, a vile sinner, poor and guilty and unworthy, come unto Thee, the overflowing abyss of compassion, that I may be washed from every stain and filled with every grace.

## Good Friday

**Thought:** Another practice taught to Gertrude by our Lord was to turn frequently towards a crucifix, and in spirit to hear Christ speaking from it thus: “Behold how, for your love, I have been fastened to the cross, despised, naked, torn; My Body covered with wounds; My bones dislocated. Yet My Heart is so eager for your love that, were it necessary for your salvation, I would suffer again for you alone all that I bore for the sins of the whole world.”

The saint also tells us that no one can even look at a crucifix without a particular

grace arranged by God's Providence, nor can anyone gaze on Christ crucified without receiving thereby some spiritual benefit. In like manner, no one, however feeble his devotion, fails to be regarded favorably by our Lord, so long as he makes an effort to keep in mind the memory of His Sacred Passion.

*-St. Gertrude the Great*

**Practice:** Look prayerfully upon the crucifix. Graces are there for the taking. "Lord Jesus Crucified, have mercy on us!"

### Holy Saturday

**Thought:** "Suppose," our Lord said to Gertrude, "that a king is by his justice obliged to keep some of his greatest friends in prison, though he is longing to set them free. Full of this desire, and yet seeing that of themselves they can do nothing, this king would accept with joy from any of his courtiers what was necessary to pay their debt and give them their liberty. In the same way I receive all that is offered Me for the deliverance of the souls in purgatory which I have redeemed by the shedding of My precious Blood and by My death. I thus have an opportunity to deliver them from their sufferings and to conduct them to the joys prepared for them from all eternity."

**Prayer:** O most compassionate Jesus, have mercy on the souls detained in purgatory, for whose redemption Thou didst take upon Thee our nature and endure a bitter death. Mercifully hear their groanings, look with pity on the tears which they now shed before Thee, and by virtue of Thy Passion release

them from the pains due unto their sins. O most pitiful Jesus, let Thy precious Blood reach down into purgatory, and refresh and revive the captive souls which suffer there. Stretch forth unto them Thy strong right hand, and bring them forth into the place of refreshment, light, and peace. Amen.

*-Prayers of St. Gertrude &c.*

### Easter Sunday

**Thought:** Our Lord said in the Gospel that there was more joy in heaven over the conversion of one sinner than over the perseverance of ninety-nine just. By this He wished to manifest the goodness of His Sacred Heart towards sinners and the great joy He feels when we leave sin to return to Him. But who will describe to us the delight of His divine Heart when some privileged soul leaves the earth and enters heaven? "Then," says St. Gertrude, "the Heart of Jesus pours itself over the whole earth and His graces fall like sweet dew, so that no just request rises to heaven without being granted."

*-The Love of the Sacred Heart*

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, after having made Thy Sacred Heart our treasure here on earth, it will also be our eternal happiness in heaven. We earnestly beg that it may be our paradise. Mayest Thou say to us those words spoken to a soul devoted to Thee: "Search through heaven, and if thou dost find anything thou desirest in any Saint, take it from My divine Heart."



## 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