

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



May 3, 2026

**FINDING OF THE
HOLY CROSS • EASTER IV**

SS. ALEXANDER & COMPANIONS, MM

¶ THE HOLY CROSS

The second collection today is for our Oblates, and the "Little Church" is in the vestibule to receive alms for poor priests. The Blessing and Veneration of the Relic of the True Cross is available after all Masses today. (*The Blessing of Religious Articles will take place next Sunday.*) Blessed Palm Crosses are available. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

¶ THIS WEEK

The St. Monica Club meets on **Monday**, after the 11:25 AM Mass. On **First Wednesday**, the 8 AM Mass will be at **8:30**, due to the school field trip. **First Thursday** we have our 5 PM holy hour for priests, followed by the altar boys' pizza party. On **Saturday** the Sodality of Charity has their meeting.

¶ MOTHER'S DAY

Mass remembrance envelopes are available in the vestibule. To have your mother, living or deceased, remembered in a special way at Mass on Mother's Day, fill out an envelope and return to an usher or the bookstore, or drop it off at the church office.

¶ MAY DEVOTIONS

Honor our Blessed Mother by participating in this short but sweet service, every school day at **3:10 PM**. Check the calendar for weekend times.



¶ NEXT SUNDAY: MAY

CROWNING/MOTHER'S DAY
Next Sunday is Mother's Day. The **May Crowning Procession** will take place after the High Mass. First Communicants should wear their First Communion clothes and sit in the front of church, to lead the procession after Mass. The Blessing of Religious Articles will be available after the *low* Masses only. There will be no Sunday classes. Vespers, May Devotions and Benediction will be at 4:45 PM. **Set Your Missal:** Easter V, second collect of St. Antoninus, third of Ss. Gordian & Epimachus. Vidi Aquam, Preface of Easter.

¶ GIRLS' CAMP

June 14th is the last day to sign up for Girls' Camp. Sign your girls up today! (Sign-up sheet in vestibule.) If anyone is able to offer assistance with Girls' Camp transportation, please contact the parish office or talk to Sister Eulalia.

¶ PARKING LOT

Our parking lot is for parking cars, of course, but normally we prefer that vehicles not be left here overnight. However, if you do need to leave your car overnight, please be sure to obtain permission from **Bishop McGuire** or **Fr. McKenna** beforehand. Thank you for your consideration! — *Bishop McGuire*

Tumen Christi

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

Rest of the soul of †Maria Raimond Hinners
(Maureen Scanlon)

Collection Report

Sunday, April 26th.....\$7,136.00



MAY DEVOTIONS

What's the significance or history of the so-called May Devotions in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary?

May-poles, May queens, May-flowers, May-fairs, and May day—all these customs may be entirely secular in their origin and purpose. They may serve to express merely the praise of people for the fifth month of the year. Some people love to gather flowers in the spring, and they describe this pleasure by merely saying that they like “to go a-maying.”

Some people limit their views to earthly horizons. Spiritually minded people do not recognize such limitation, for they not only look around but they also look up. For them, earthly beauty is just a stepping stone to heavenly beauty. Thus, for almost two centuries, the popular religious May devotions have been practiced. The first instance of the holy practice is accredited to Father Latomia of the Roman College of the Society of Jesus. To counteract the infidelity and immorality of the times, he made a vow to devote the month of May to Mary. The Jesuit Fathers are known to have been particularly zealous in spreading this devotion, and other religious communities continue to endeavor to match this holy zeal. Today in most parish churches, this devotion is joyously practiced under the given title, “May Devotions.” Perhaps Cardinal Newman has stated it best:

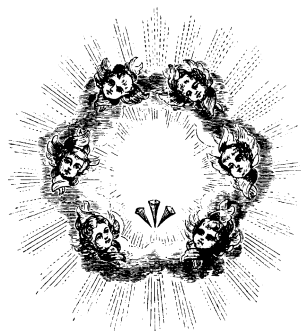
“O Mary, all months and all days are thine own,
In thee lasts their joyousness when they are gone;
And we give to thee, May, not because it is best,
But because it comes first, and is pledge of the rest.”



NAILS

Whenever the bright blue nails would drop
Down on the floor of his carpenter shop,
St. Joseph, prince of carpenter men,
Would stoop to gather them up again;
For he feared for two little sandals sweet,
And very easy to pierce they were
As they pattered over the lumber there
And rode on two little sacred feet.

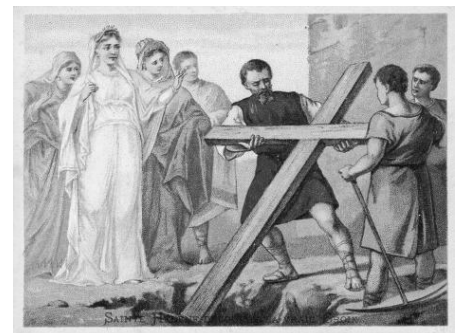
But alas, on a hill between earth and heaven
One day—two nails in a cross were driven,
And fastened it firm to the sacred feet
Where once rode two little sandals sweet;
And Christ and His Mother looked off in death
Afar—to the valley of Nazareth,
Where the carpenter's shop was spread with dust
And the little blue nails, all packed in rust,
Slept in a box on a window-sill;
And Joseph lay sleeping under the hill.



ABOVE THE HILLS OF TIME

Above the hills of time the Cross is gleaming,
Fair as the sun when night has turned to day;
And from it love's pure light is richly streaming,
To cleanse the heart and banish sin away.
To this dear Cross the eyes of men are turning
Today as in the ages lost to sight;
And for the love of Christ men's hearts are yearning
As shipwrecked seamen yearn for morning light.

The Cross, O Christ, Thy wondrous love revealing,
Awakes our hearts as with the light of morn,
And pardon o'er sinful spirits stealing
Tells us that we, in Thee, have been reborn.
Like echoes to sweet temple bells replying,
Our hearts, O Lord, make answer to Thy love;
And we will love Thee with a love undying,
Till we are gathered to Thy home above.
— Thomas Tiplady



¶ **TWO PROCESSIONS IN ONE DAY!**
Wednesday, May 13th, is a truly blessed day, offering *two* processions for your convenience. The **Lesser Litanies Procession** concludes our Rogation Days at 11 AM, in our beautiful church grounds. The first **Fatima Rosary Procession** for peace opens this beloved, and also powerful series of processions at **7:15 PM in West Chester**, leaving from the First Watch parking lot on Union Centre Blvd.

✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

Despite everything going on, it is always a struggle to find things to write about. Perhaps it is more accurate to say that, in my case, it is always a struggle to *remember* what there is to write about! I am always tempted to go back to how it used to be when Bishop Dolan called it the “Bishop’s Corner” for a reason. He used to write just a couple of very short paragraphs, only big enough to take one tiny corner of the bulletin. Eventually, it morphed into a whole page! He always had many edifying and interesting things to say. In my case, I often don’t know what I would do without pictures!

Fr. Simpson is making some real progress with the sanctuary floor. Some men came out this week to look at it and said they can fix it. There is some concern that shifting might be occurring—hopefully not—due to cracks on the back wall. They will let us know what they think and I will keep you posted. The big hole in the wall of the convento will be repaired soon. We have decided to repair the hole with stucco, which is much cheaper—and is really all that is necessary, we think.

The Sisters returned to their home Monday night to find that the heavy rains caused some flooding in their living room and basement. Repairs were made. Their oven had some problems last week and so they were cooking a lot of their meals in the social hall. It sure smelled good, but it couldn’t have been convenient for the Sisters. Well, the oven is fixed now, too.

This week, **Fr. Arnoldo Villegas** will visit us from his church in Tijuana, Mexico. I have always been impressed with his apostolate. He once ran a minor seminary, but had to give it up to focus more on his parish and missions. Now, he does a lot of work catechizing the young people. I think his is a very young and thriving parish, despite its location in Tijuana, which is very dangerous due to the drug trafficking that goes on there. Father doesn’t know much English, so he will bring a young man to translate for us. Do come and greet Father if you happen to see him!

As mentioned in the last bulletin, the school children are going on a field trip this week. The place is called Carillon Historical Park. It looks quite interesting based on what it says online. You can look it up if you’re interested. The children and teachers really do deserve an outing like this. I can remember getting antsy towards the end of a school year and appreciating any extra recess or field trip that came along. But now that I am older, I am rather sad to see the children leave for the summer.

This month is the month of anniversaries. Last

Sunday marked four years since the death of Bishop Dolan—the beginning of so many changes around our church. Friday was the third anniversary of **Bishop Nkamuke’s** episcopal consecration. His apostolate in Nigeria has grown exponentially and he now has as many priests as we have here. I wonder if anyone thought the missions would have ever grown as they have! Quite a change from the days when Bishop Nkamuke and co. were just converting from the Novus Ordo and had only Fr. Leslie to take care of them. Now they have a bishop, four priests, religious, and many Faithful! One week from tomorrow is the fourth anniversary of the ordinations of **Fathers Ojeka, Okerulu, Simpson, and Brueggemann**—the four horsemen of the Apocalypse, as Bishop Dolan used to jokingly call them. Two weeks from tomorrow is four years since my own episcopal consecration. As I recall, we also have quite a few May wedding anniversaries.

May is also Mary’s month. I hope you remembered to set up your May Altar at home. Decorate it with flowers and candles if you have them. The important thing, however, is to gather around Our Lady with love. Try to get the family together and offer some extra prayers in Our Lady’s honor each day of the month. The Rosary and Litany of Loretto, or the Memorare, or read some chapters from the Glories of Mary. Our Lady never lets herself be outdone in generosity. The more you honor her, the more she will shower her graces on you and your loved ones. What would we be without Our Lady?! It is through her hands, after all, that all graces pass. May she be a Mother to you, and may you be a good child to her. Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation!

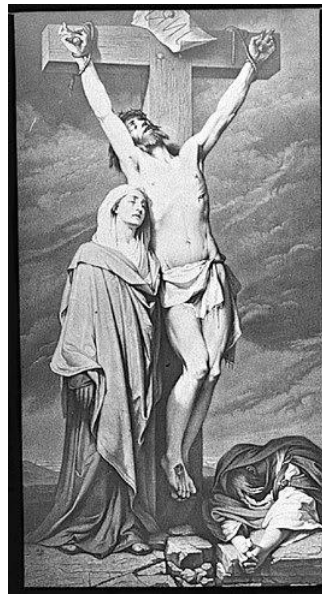
– **Bishop McGuire**



✠ CALENDAR

✠ THE HOLY CROSS

MON	5/4/26	ST. MONICA, W
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Brenda Gray (KR)
	11:25 AM	High Mass For our fallen-away children (St. Monica Club)
		St. Monica Club Meeting
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
TUE	5/5/26	ST. PIUS V, PC
	7:00 AM	Low Mass †Suzanne Clingman (Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Special Intention – CF (Sister Eulalia)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Poor Souls (Sister Magdalen)
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Elizabeth Gunsher Intentions (JCS)
WED	5/6/26	ST. JOHN BEFORE THE LATIN GATE
		FIRST WEDNESDAY – PRAY TO ST. JOSEPH
	7:00 AM	Low Mass †Patrick Kurtz – Happy Birthday (S. Kurtz)
☞	8:30 AM	Low Mass Repose of the soul of †Aunt Suzanne (Theresa Simpson)
	11:25 AM	Low Mass Janet Korzekwinski – 90 th birthday (Family)
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
	5:10 PM	Low Mass For the repose of the soul of †Helen Antonelli (Isabella Carrillo)
THU	5/7/26	FIRST THURSDAY – PRAY FOR PRIESTS
		ST. STANISLAUS, BPM
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Special Intention (The Undecorating Crew)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Special Intention Deceased (Cleo Speckert)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Conversion of relatives (Ball Family)
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
	5:00 PM	Holy Hour for Priests: Low Mass For the sanctification of priests (Alter Christus Confraternity)
		Altar Boys' Pizza Party
FRI	5/8/26	APPARITION OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
		OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Niko Kolenich (Your Godmother)
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	High Mass The Holy Souls (Arlinghaus Family)
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass Repose of the soul of †Sr. Claretia (C. Simpson family)
	6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	5/9/26	ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BPCD
	7:05 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Lorene Klima (Aimee Wnek)
	8:05 AM	Regina Coeli, May Devotions, Sermon
	8:30 AM	High Mass Special Intentions (Cora Arlinghaus)
		Sodality of Charity Meeting
SUN	5/10/26	EASTER V • MOTHER'S DAY • MAY CROWNING
		ST. ANTONINUS, BPCD
		SS. GORDIAN & EPIMACHUS, MM
	7:05 AM	Rosary



How do we best venerate the Cross of Christ?

By signing ourselves openly with the sign of the cross, and by never being ashamed to show it true veneration; by loving the Cross, that is, by patiently, cheerfully, and with pleasure bearing the afflictions God sends us, and according to the doctrine and example of Christ, by daily taking up our cross and following Him (Lk. 9:23).

Why is the Cross carried in public processions?

To show before the whole world that we are not ashamed of the Cross of Christ, but rather, like St. Paul, glory in it. But God forbid, that I should glory save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world (Gal. 6:14).

THE CHURCH'S SALUTATION TO THE HOLY CROSS

O glorious and venerable Cross! O most precious wood! O wonderful sign by which sin, the devil and hell were conquered, and the world redeemed by Jesus Christ! Great art thou above all trees of the cedars of the forest, for on thee hung the Life of the world! On thee Christ triumphed and by His death conquered death forever. Alleluia.

SERVERS

FRI 5/8	5:45 PM Low: B. & A. Constantino BENEDICTION: MC: D. Simpson TH: I. Smith TBS: B. & A. Constantino
SAT 5/9	7:30 AM Low: Rabjohns 8:30 AM High: D. Simpson, F. & M. Caggese
SUN 5/10	7:30 AM Low: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 9:00 AM High: MCs: D. Simpson, R. Richesson TH: J. Rabjohns ACs: J. Hudson, C. Lorenz TBS: T. Stanislawski, V. Siqueira, E. Garcia, V. Horton, Ma. Caggese, A. Constantino 11:30 AM Low: Kolenichs 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: F. Caggese ACs: I. & J. Smith CROSS: B. Constantino 5:45 PM Low: N. McClorey

7:30 AM	Low Mass Dan, Mary & Family's Intentions (Aunt Regina)
9:00 AM	High Mass All Mothers whose names are on our altar May Crowning Procession
11:05 AM	Rosary
11:30 AM	Low Mass Nick & Katie McClorey (Nathan McClorey)
4:45 PM	Vespers, May Devotions, Benediction
5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great