

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 17, 2026
SUNDAY WITHIN THE
OCTAVE OF THE ASCENSION
ST. PASCHAL BAYLON, C

¶ ASCENSION SUNDAY

Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available today. **FINAL** Catechism Classes of the season are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with May Devotions and Benediction are at **4:30 PM**.

¶ **PLEASE NOTE:** The usual 8 AM Mass will be at **8:30** on **Tuesday**. Parents, remember that this will be the school Mass for that day and plan accordingly.

¶ DAY OF RECOLLECTION

All **children** who are being Confirmed must attend an *obligatory Day of Recollection* on **Thursday, May 21st**. The day begins at **9:00 AM**. Please bring a lunch. Children should wear Sunday clothes and have a prayer book and rosary. The day concludes with May Devotions and Benediction at 2:45 PM.

¶ CATHOLIC MOTHERS

The Catholic Mothers' Consortium meets on **Thursday** in the evening.

¶ FRIDAY – PLEASE NOTE!

There will be **no evening Mass** or **devotions** on **Friday**, due to preparation for the Pentecost Vigil.

¶ LOOK AHEAD

Knights of St. Martin: May 28
First Communions: June 7
Girls' Camp: June 16-18
YAG 2026: July 10-12
Boys' Camp: July 28-30



Collection Report

Sunday, May 10th.....\$6,688.62
Alter Christus.....\$1,019.00
Thank you for your generosity.



¶ PENTECOST VIGIL

Saturday, May 23rd, the Vigil of Pentecost, is a day of *fast and partial abstinence*. You are invited to the beautiful Vigil of Pentecost Mass and **ceremonies of Confirmation**. The Vigil begins at 8:00 AM, the Mass closer to 9:30. After Mass, there will be the enrollment in the Brown Scapular for Confirmands, and individual photos. Those who assist at the Vigil and Mass may consider themselves as dispensed from the fast, but all may eat meat only once, at the principal meal.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: PENTECOST

Next Sunday is the great feast of Pentecost. Catechism Classes will be out for the summer. Vespers with May Devotions and Benediction will be at 4:30 PM. 📖 **Set Your Missal:** Pentecost. Preface of Pentecost. Proper Communicantes and Hanc Igitur.

¶ EASTER DUTY

Trinity Sunday, two weeks from today, is the last day on which to fulfill your **Easter Duty** of a worthy Holy Communion. **Those who neglect this duty are no longer Catholics in good standing and sin mortally.** Pray and offer sacrifices these next two weeks for all to make a good Confession and Communion.

Lumen Christi

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

Peace/Reconciliation of Scanlon Families
(Maureen Scanlon)

Wedding  **Banns**

Second Time:

David Wessel & Jane Lotarski

CONSOLED BY THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is called the Paraclete, the Consoler, because He gives souls in exile a happiness that is not incompatible with grief, but rather supposes it. Therefore, in the Mass of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is called “*Consolator optime*—Best Consoler.” ...

When Jesus Christ our Lord came into this world, when He consummated His work and transformed all existence, He did not eliminate pain.... He did something greater and finer. He enclosed it in joy and arranged it so that perfect joy would blossom from its depths. The joy that enfolded grief, that is the blossoming flower of suffering, is called “consolation,” the consolation poured into our heart by the Paraclete.

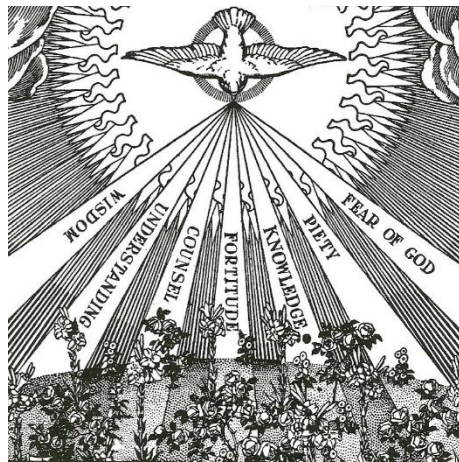
May we not say that the consolations of human life are as a reflection of the deep, ineffable happiness that Jesus carried within Him? In this regard we must marvel at the wondrous soul of Christ; therein, during His mortal life, pain and happiness existed together, bound by the golden ring of His unspeakable love.

The Christian life is a reflection of the life of Jesus. The heart of the Christian is the image of the divine Heart. It can contain, if it is faithful to Jesus, both deep pain and celestial consolations. Happiness enfolding pain—happiness that is born of pain—is the consolation that the Holy Spirit gives to souls.

And if the Holy Spirit is the Consoler, it is because He is infinite Love. Even in human life, if we consider attentively, we shall understand that the only thing that can console us is love. Knowledge is precious, but it does not console. Art delights us, but its object is not to console; the only thing that consoles is love. When our heart is torn to pieces, when great bitterness fills our

souls, nothing but a divine reality can assuage our pain—love: love knows how to bind divinely both pain and grief. Love alone possesses the heavenly secret of drawing forth happiness from profound sorrow and pain.

— *Servant of God Luis Maria Martinez Archbp. Marginez (d. 1956) was a spiritual author and the first official Primate of Mexico.*



ON PRAYER

The time may be delayed, the manner may be unexpected, but the answer is sure to come. Not a tear of sacred sorrow, not a breath of holy desire poured out to God will ever be lost, but in God’s own time and way will be wafted back again in clouds of mercy and fall in showers of blessings on you, and on those for whom you pray.



Kindness is perhaps the easiest way of doing good and the safest: —a friendly word, a hearty greeting, an unfeigned interest in the pursuits and successes of our companions. We must be able to forget ourselves before we can expect to have a place in the hearts of others.

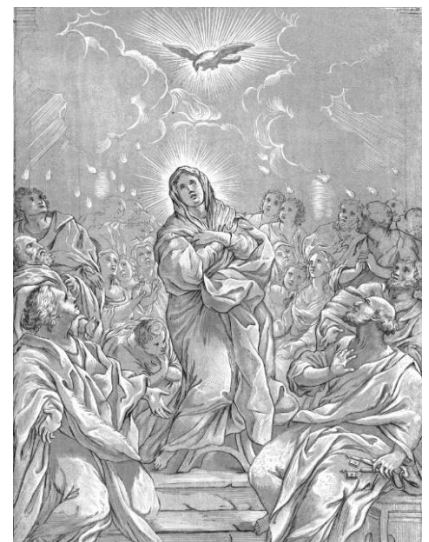
— *Jowett, The Ave Maria*

ASCENSION TWILIGHT IN THE CENACLE

*Day’s triumph mellows into eventide
And Prayer uplifts night’s candelabra-star.
His Own, remembering Him their grief beside,
His last absolving “Peace!” from height afar,
Try loneliness to find the perfect word
To tell the glorious vision, one by one:
“Fire-flame,” “Repose,” “The Living Water
heard”;
Yet every word has failed when speech is done.*

*But one who kept all things concerning Him
Within her Mother-heart transfixed with pain,
Reliving deeds divine since Bethlehem,
Sits gravely silent, having clearer ken
Of Love Arisen shorn of earthly clod,
Knowing no human word can image God.*

— *Sister Mary Claire*



HAIL MARY!

*Hail Mary, Maiden pure and Mother sweet,
The rarest pearls of God’s most precious grace
Thy soul adorn, a beauteous dwelling-place
In which He takes delight, a temple meet.
Thou art a mortal, yet with grace replete.
With rev’rence close to worship, on thy face
Angelic choirs gaze, and through the space
Of heaven’s courts lay homage at thy feet.*

*O Mary, lily Maid and Mother fair,
Thine erring ones who in their weakness tread
This vale of tears, a Mother’s loving care
In mercy grant; and when the summons dread
Will call us to account for word and deed,
O help us, Mother, in that hour of need!*

— *Jeanne Marie*

We are now on day three of the Pentecost Novena, our little retreat, as it were, before the great feast of the Holy Ghost. How is it coming along? Are you practicing the points that will help to dispose you to be docile to the Holy Ghost? Obedience to the Commandments and to the duties of your state in life; the frequent renewal of your resolution to do the Will of God; and praying to the Holy Ghost to enlighten and strengthen you to follow the Will of God in all things. This should be the focus and, along with the recitation of the daily novena prayers, will help to prepare your soul for Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Ghost.

It was nice to speak with **Bishop Nkamuke** again last week. There is much trouble in Nigeria: the persecutions continue, making it hard to travel; there is corruption; the economy has pretty much destroyed the middle class; people are truly suffering there. Yet, during this time of trial, the Faith is growing and they founded yet another mission. People from Angola, Congo, and Uganda have contacted them as well. Their seminary seems to be growing quite nicely. I was able to meet the major and minor seminarians and even one of his priests during our conference call. His Excellency is spending time at the seminary right now, and plans to station one priest at each of the busier mission chapels so as to avoid dangerous travel as much as possible. Through it all, they remain cheerful. May God bring peace to their land, and much spiritual fruit to their apostolate.

What a week it has been for us here at St. Gertrude's. The May Crowning and procession last Sunday, three Rogation Day processions, and a Fatima Rosary procession—all before the Holy Day on Thursday. That, together with the daily May Devotions, makes for a very prayerful time. Prayer is what keeps us going, so it is good to be “forced” into praying so much. It would be hard to imagine a life without prayer, wouldn't it?! Where would we be without conversation with God, which brings us so many necessary graces to avoid sin and to practice virtue, to bear the cross, and to persevere in our vocations and in the Faith? Well, the saints tell us where we would be in the ultimate picture, and it isn't good. Our fallen human nature with all of its evil tendencies requires prayer and the grace of God. May God grant us love of prayer, and let us persevere in the remaining days of the Pentecost Novena. You will see its fruits!

Fr. McKenna had his flight from Dallas canceled last week due to weather. He got back late on Monday night and was here for only a very short time, and is now in the northern missions for a while. **Fr. Lehtoranta** took

care of all the ceremonies this past week, and the majority of the preaching and May Devotions on the weekdays, which is an enormous help. He does a good job with all of these things, so it is a good thing that he enjoys it! This week he will also be assisting with the Confirmands' Day of Recollection. He does have a busy life, but reaps much spiritual fruit in what he does. **Fr. Simpson** is making huge progress on the floor of the sanctuary, the roofing project, arranging for the convento wall to get fixed, and getting the phone/internet lines installed properly. **Fr. Brueggemann** is keeping up with all the sick calls, teaching seminary classes, and the additional work that I give him. We have a few hard working, dedicated priests. Truly, I am thankful that God has given me such good priests to work with.

Thank you to the Sodality of Charity for mulching our flower beds last weekend! Everything looks very nice. One of our parishioners has volunteered to plant some rose bushes and other things around the convento. It seems the roses that we have are diseased and need to come out. I guess this disease is airborne and infects the other rose bushes in the proximity.

If May isn't busy enough, June is ramping up to be even more so. First Communions, Corpus Christi, the second Fatima procession, Girls' Camp, clergy retreat in Seattle (along with the conferral of Tonsure and two minor orders to some of our seminarians), the parish bonfire, a wedding, and then the usual. The ending of the school year means the beginning of a very active summer. I hope you will participate as much as possible.

May you remain under the protection of Our Lady and the guidance of the Holy Ghost now and always.

— **Bishop McGuire**

THE HUNDREDFOLD OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

It is not a good thing to load ourselves with many spiritual exercises; it is better to undertake a little, and go on with it; for if the devil can persuade us to omit an exercise once, he will easily get us to omit it the second time, and the third, until at last all our pious practices will melt away.

We must take care of little faults; for he who once begins to go back and to make light of such defects brings a sort of grossness over his conscience, and then goes wrong altogether....

When a person who has been living a spiritual life for a long time falls into a serious fault, there is no better way of raising him up again than by exhorting him to manifest his fall to any pious friend with whom he has a particular intimacy: and God will reconduct him to his first estate for the sake of his humility.... — *St. Philip Neri*

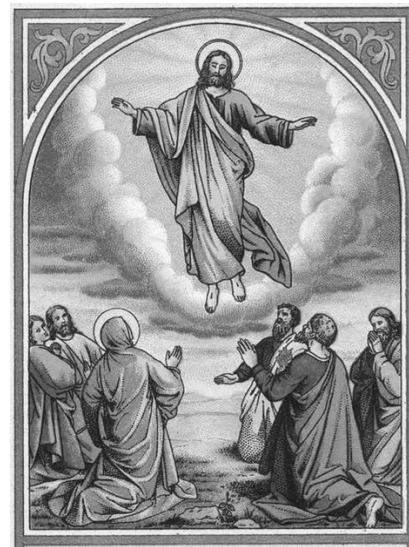
✠ CALENDAR

MON	5/18/26	ST. VENANTIUS, M • WITHIN THE OCTAVE PENTECOST NOVENA IV
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Happy Anniversary, Your Excellency
	11:25 AM	High Mass Bishop McGuire – Happy Anniversary! <i>(The Oblates)</i>
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
TUE	5/19/26	ST. PETER CELESTINE, PC ST. PRUDENTIANA, VM • WITHIN THE OCTAVE PENTECOST NOVENA V
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Happy Birthday Momaw <i>(Your grandchildren)</i>
	8:30 AM	Low Mass My family <i>(Cecilia Brueggemann)</i>
	11:25 AM	Low Mass Happy Birthday, Andrew Kiernan, Love Mom & Dad <i>(Phyllis & Kevin Kiernan)</i>
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Happy Birthday Debbie Wilker <i>(The Stafford family)</i>
WED	5/20/26	ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA, C WITHIN THE OCTAVE • PENTECOST NOVENA VI
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Zac Doyle <i>(Long Family)</i>
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Andrea England <i>(KR)</i>
	11:25 AM	High Mass Special Intention – St. Joseph <i>(Michelle Mikesell)</i>
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
	5:10 PM	Low Mass Repose of the soul of †Jim Condit <i>(C. Simpson family)</i>
THU	5/21/26	OCTAVE DAY OF THE ASCENSION PENTECOST NOVENA VII
	7:00 AM	Low Mass My Godparents, Joe & Martha Schappacher <i>(Maria McConnell)</i>
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Alfred P. Martin, 15 th Anniversary <i>(Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski)</i>
	9:00 AM	Confirmands' Day of Recollection Begins
	11:25 AM	High Mass Poor Souls <i>(Mr. & Mrs. William H. Young III)</i>
	2:45 PM	May Devotions, Benediction
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Intentions of the CMC Catholic Mothers' Consortium Meeting
FRI	5/22/26	FERIAL DAY • ST. RITA OF CASCIA, W PENTECOST NOVENA VIII
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Happy 44 th Anniversary to us! <i>(Mr. & Mrs. William H. Young III)</i>
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	High Mass Purgatorial Society Benediction, Sacred Heart Novena, Pentecost Novena
	3:10 PM	May Devotions
	Please note:	No Evening Services
SAT	5/23/26	VIGIL OF PENTECOST • PENTECOST NOVENA IX FAST & PARTIAL ABSTINENCE
	7:30 AM	Confessions
	7:40 AM	May Devotions, Closing of Pentecost Novena
	8:00 AM	Pentecost Vigil: Prophecies, Blessing of the Font
	9:30 AM	(approx.) Pontifical Mass Our Confirmands <i>(Bishop McGuire)</i> followed by Confirmations

THE MOUNT OF THE ASCENSION

It was not without design, says a pious writer, that Our Lord chose Mount Olivet as the place whence He should ascend into Heaven. This was the mountain where He had spent so much time in prayer, where He had endured many a spiritual conflict, where He had begun His Passion, and where He had yielded Himself in complete submission to the will of God.

If you, O Christian! hope one day also to ascend into Heaven, forget not that your ascension can take place only from the Mount of Olives; that is to say, at the close of a life in which you have prayed much, struggled much, suffered much, resisted much, and abandoned yourself unreservedly to the will of God.



Masses sent to the Missions:

Mark Fischer – Happy Birthday 5/12 *(Mom & Pop)*
Samuel Kustra – Happy Birthday 5/28 *(Grandma & Grandpa Young)*

Servers

SAT 5/23	8:00 AM PENTECOST VIGIL: Posted in Sacristy
SUN 5/24	7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann
	9:00 AM PONT.: Posted in Sacristy
	11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos
	4:30 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: D. Simpson ACS: I. Smith, B. Constantino CROSS: J. Smith
	5:45 PM LOW: Brueggemanns
SUN 5/24/26	PENTECOST SUNDAY
	7:05 AM Rosary
	7:30 AM Low Mass Happy Birthday Mom <i>(Cecilia Brueggemann)</i> (from 4/3)
	9:00 AM Pontifical High Mass Chad & Christina Horton – 12 th Wedding Anniversary <i>(Gemma Horton)</i>
	11:30 AM Low Mass Scott & Mary Field, 46 th Wedding Anniversary <i>(Scott Field)</i>
	4:30 PM Vespers, May Devotions, Benediction
	5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great