

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



August 16, 2026
ST. JOACHIM,
FATHER OF OUR LADY
PENTECOST XII • ST. ROCH, C

¶ ST. JOACHIM

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available after all Masses today. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the church office will only be open from **11 AM to 2 PM each day this week**. For emergencies only, call the emergency number listed at the top of the bulletin. Regular office hours resume on August 26th.

¶ THIS WEEK

This week we continue the Octave of the Assumption, which closes with the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on **Saturday**. Don't forget the Summer Novena on **Tuesday**! You may still submit your intentions.

¶ WOMEN'S GROUPS

The St. Monica Club meets on **Tuesday** with Mass at 11:25 AM. The Catholic Mothers' Consortium meets on **Thursday**, with Mass at 5 PM.

Collection Report

Sunday, August 9th.....\$7,423.62
Alter Christus.....\$475.00
Thank you for your generosity.
Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.



¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Pentecost XIII, second collect of St. Philip Benizi. Trinity Preface.

¶ MARIAN FEASTS

Envelopes are in the vestibule for the September Quadriduum in honor of Our Lady. Submit your intentions for these four great Marian feasts. The envelopes can be returned in the collection, bookstore, or office.

¶ OUR SICK

Please pray for Susan Ackley and Trace Gilbert.

¶ UPCOMING

- **Knights of St. Martin meeting:** Thursday, August 27.
- **Nativity of Our Lady:** Tuesday, September 8. Birthday party for Baby Mary after the 11:25 AM Mass!
- **Parish Picnic:** Sunday, September 20, Winton Woods Park.

Wedding  **Banns**

Third Time:

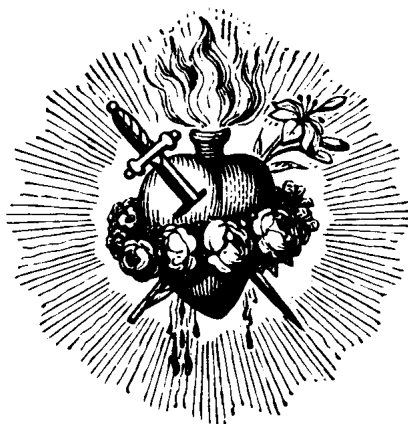
*Tyler Wooden &
Elisabeth Rabjohns*

ST. JOACHIM, FATHER OF OUR LADY

St. Joachim is the father of the Blessed Virgin and the grandfather of our divine Savior! "By their fruit you will know them. Only the good tree produces good fruit!" Joachim stands before us as an upright, honest, "just" man; legend eulogizes his kindness towards the poor. It is said he divided his yearly income into three parts, assigning one part to his own living expenses, a second to the temple, and the third to the poor (the reason why the phrase, "Lavishly he gives to the poor," is repeated three times in the Mass).

Nevertheless, he was not exempted from suffering; for a long time no child was granted him. Even the priests tried to forestall him from sacrificing in the temple. Because of his childless condition, they believed that God's curse had fallen upon him. While sorrowing over his plight, grace came to console him: "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart" (Ps.33), and an angel foretold the birth of Mary, the "child of grace."

"For nature did not dare to pre-
cede grace; rather nature would continue waiting until grace had brought forth its fruit" (*Breviary*).



THE IMMACULATE HEART

"To save Souls from Hell, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. I promise salvation to those who practice this devotion." These are the very words of God's Holy Mother at Fatima. Singular, significant, and timely, today, more than at any other time in the course of history! God grants graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary to whom He has confided the peace of the world.

The lurid flame of hatred that leaves the earth in ruin must be stayed by the pure flame of Divine Love...a fire kindled not by bomb and shell but by grace. There is no fuller vessel of the Love of God than the Heart of Mary! God's Love burning in the Heart of Mary is a fire. A soul exposed to the flames of the divine fire contained in the Heart of Mary will be transformed by this contact into Love Itself. To love Our Blessed Mother and to surrender ourselves to Her Heart, we will have at our disposal the very Heart of God. We must transplant the Heart of Mary into every heart that is filled with hatred of God and neighbor! The Mother of Fair Love will overcome hatred; the Maiden of the Lord will conquer pride: the Most Humble One will undo haughtiness; the Immaculata will overcome all moral corruption and disorder that exists.



THE ASSUMPTION

Oh Virgin fair, beyond compare,
How pure and sweet thou art;
No worldly spleen, has marred the
sheen,
That God put in your heart.

No stain of sin, without or in,
No evil e're held sway;
In earth's dark pale, and dreary vale,
Our only hopeful ray.

Ah yes, too pure, for earth's allure,
To share a mortal's doom;
Too chaste and white, oh heaven's
light,
To lie in earthly tomb.

Too heavenly, oh Queen, to be,
An inmate of the sod;
And oh! too near, to Him—too dear,
To be away from God.

And so He sped, when life had fled,
His escort angel host,
To guide you home, to heaven's dome,
And Him you loved the most.

—Dolores Felbelter



✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

Several people have commented that the weather over the last two weeks has been cloudy and stormy. The Ohio weather is sometimes very oppressive and gloomy. Still, we must look at the bright side of things and be thankful that we are not experiencing forest fires as so many of our fellow Catholics near Spokane. Some lost their homes to the fire and now have to start over, while many others had to evacuate temporarily. Say a prayer for them.

Despite the weather, I am happy to be back home in time for the Fatima Rosary Procession and the Feast of the Assumption. The August 13th procession almost did not happen because of a line of storms moving in. The clouds looked foreboding at the scheduled time of the procession and I wondered whether we should go. Our Lady did not appear to the three seers of Fatima on August 13th because the children had been kidnapped by an apostate Catholic and Freemason and put on trial for two days. She appeared to them on August 19th instead. I began thinking that maybe Our Lady wasn't going to allow the weather to hold out for the Rosary, so I joked that maybe we should move it to the 19th. Many of you were praying for good weather and so **Fr. McKenna** said that we should have confidence those prayers would be answered. So we went. Sprinkles came and were almost enough to shake one's confidence. But the storm began breaking up right over West Chester and we were allowed to continue with only a light sprinkle for the first half of the Rosary. As with so many things, we just have to pray with confidence. God hears us!

Our vacation period is still here. **Fr. Brueggemann** came back from his and now **Fr. Simpson** is away. Sister Ulrica gets back today, but Sisters Eulalia and Magdalen go away. Theresa is out of the office this week, but Miss Mikesell will be replacing her. Dr. Stanislawski was also away on vacation. Life here at St. Gertrude's is so intense that these vacations are important. We aren't angels, after all. Angels don't get tired, burned out, or sick. We do, though! And it is important to give our bodies and minds a little rest from time to time to better serve God the rest of the year.

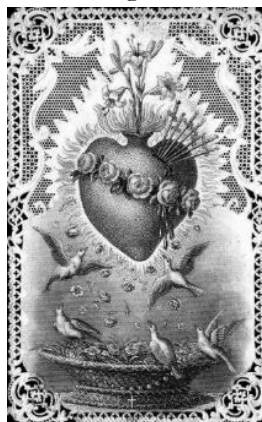
Fr. McKenna told of his run-ins with owls and skunks recently. They were quite entertaining stories—but I question the prudence of a standoff with a skunk!! Something like that only has two possible outcomes. It's a roll of the dice or a flip of a coin. Thankfully, it all worked out...but still!

As you can see, the roofs are being redone. One

of the ceilings in the convento gave way during a recent storm, so we are thankful that the roofers are here. They will be fixing the church roof as well. Soon enough, the corner of the school which was run into by a car earlier in the summer will be fixed up. However, the sanctuary floor will take some time. We are not sure yet how long it will take, but one man said it will take as long as three months to do. If he is correct, then we will not be able to start the project until next summer! All in God's time. He is in charge.

Fr. Hector Romero, who helps **Fr. Ercoli** with our seminary, as well as their two parishes, must return to Argentina to proceed with getting his Green Card, thanks to some new law that President Trump enacted. The process could take anywhere from one to three years. This, of course, leaves Fr. Ercoli in a difficult situation. He cannot run a seminary and two chapels and a school very well all by himself. He has done so much for us that we cannot leave him without help. So, Fr. McKenna will take Fr. Romero's place in Seattle for the time that he has to be gone. Honestly, it is a difficult decision, but it is for the greater good of the apostolate, and we are very happy to have the chance to help Fr. Ercoli. Besides, it makes the most sense to send Fr. McKenna since he is already on the road so much and can take care of the missions from Seattle. In fact, it might be a little easier to reach Dallas from there. You will still see Father around here from time to time when he visits us. This move should not affect St. Gertrude's too much. I will keep you posted regarding the time of his departure. Fr. Romero has to leave the country at the end of October.

This week will be another quiet one, but we do have many great feasts to celebrate during this Octave of the Assumption. There is also the St. Monica Club meeting on Tuesday and the CMC meeting on Thursday. Don't forget the Immaculate Heart on Saturday!



Stay close to Our Lady, pray her Rosary, imitate her virtues, and show your love for her. That is my advice for each and every one of you. She will comfort you in life. She will lead you to heaven. Devotion to Our Lady is one of the greatest graces that Our Lord gives to a soul. Cultivate it every day!

— **Bishop McGuire**

MON 8/17/26	ST. HYACINTH, C • OCTAVE OF ST. LAWRENCE
8:00 AM	Low Mass For all who cook for us and for our devoted drivers (<i>The Fathers</i>)
11:25 AM	Low Mass Erika McKnight – Happy Birthday (<i>Bishop McGuire</i>)
TUE 8/18/26	RESUMED MASS OF SUNDAY
	ST. AGAPITUS, M • ST. HELENA, EMPRESS SUMMER NOVENA AFTER ALL MASSES
8:00 AM	Low Mass Special Intention – in thanksgiving (<i>Jacinta Giese</i>)
11:25 AM	Low Mass For our fallen-away children (<i>St. Monica Club</i>) St. Monica Club Meeting
5:00 PM	Low Mass For our Bishops, Priests, Seminarians & Religious – Happy Easter (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell</i>)
WED 8/19/26	ST. JOHN EUDES, C • WITHIN THE OCTAVE
8:00 AM	Low Mass Veronica Garcia (<i>Father & Mother</i>)
11:25 AM	Low Mass Special Intention – St. Joseph (<i>Michelle Mikesell</i>)
5:10 PM	Low Mass My siblings & families (<i>Mary L.</i>)
THU 8/20/26	ST. BERNARD, ABCD WITHIN THE OCTAVE
7:00 AM	Low Mass Fr. Dardis (<i>Lisa McConnell</i>)
8:00 AM	Low Mass Special Intention (KR)
5:00 PM	Low Mass Intentions of the CMC Catholic Mothers' Consortium
FRI 8/21/26	ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL, W WITHIN THE OCTAVE
8:00 AM	Low Mass †Victor Ritze (<i>Ken & Regina Gilliam</i>)
11:00 AM	Confessions
11:25 AM	Low Mass Maddie Banazewski – Happy Birthday (<i>Ballesteros Girls</i>)
5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
5:45 PM	Low Mass Philomena Simpson – Happy Birthday! (<i>S. & J. Simpson</i>) Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT 8/22/26	IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SS. TIMOTHY & COMPANIONS, MM
7:05 AM	Confessions
7:30 AM	Low Mass Happy Easter & Thank you Bishop McGuire (<i>Judy</i>)
8:05 AM	Salve, Sermon
8:15 AM	High Mass Happy Birthday Dale Wilker! (<i>The Stafford Family</i>)
SUN 8/23/26	PENTECOST XIII • ST. PHILIP BENIZI, C
7:05 AM	Rosary
7:30 AM	Low Mass Nick Nett – Thank you! (<i>Patsy McConnell</i>)
9:00 AM	High Mass Carolee Rabjohn (KR)
11:05 AM	Rosary
11:30 AM	Low Mass Poor Souls – our relatives & friends (<i>Mr. & Mrs. William H. Young III</i>)
4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

ST. ROCH, CONFESSOR

St. Roch was born at Montpelier. He showed his great love for his neighbor, when a cruel pestilence ravaged the length and breadth of Italy; leaving his native country he undertook a journey through Italy, and passing through the towns and villages, devoted himself to the service of the sick, not hesitating to lay down his life for his brethren. Miraculous cures bore witness how pleasing to God was the zeal of the holy man. For by the sign of the Cross he saved many who were in danger of death through the plague, and restored them to perfect health. He returned to his own country, and, rich in virtues and merits, died a most holy death. He was honored by the veneration of the faithful immediately after his death. It is said their devotion was greatly increased at the Council of Constance, when, in order to avert the pestilence that threatened them, the image of St. Roch was, with the approbation of the bishops, carried solemnly through that town followed by the whole people. Thus devotion to him has spread in a wonderful way through the whole world and he has been piously declared the universal protector against contagious diseases. Having carefully considered all this, Pope Urban VIII allowed his feast to be celebrated with an ecclesiastical office in those places where there are churches dedicated to God under the invocation of St. Roch.



PRAYER: We beseech thee, O Lord, protect Thy people in Thy unceasing goodness; and through the merits of blessed Roch, preserve them from every contagion of soul and body. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

– Roman Breviary

Servers

FRI 8/21	5:45 PM Low: Capetillos BENEDICTION: MCS: T. & J. Capetillo TH: A. Capetillo TBS: I. & J. Smith
SAT 8/22	7:30 AM Low: Rabjohns 8:15 AM High: Brueggemanns, D. Simpson
SUN 8/23	7:30 AM Low: M. Schneider, Brueggemann 9:00 AM High: MCS: Seminarian, N. McClorey TH: T. England ACS: A. Constantino, J. Hudson TBS: D. & G. Wright, V. Horton, T. Stanislawski, Ma. & P. Caggese 11:30 AM Low: Kolenichs 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: F. Caggese ACS: I. Smith, B. Constantino CROSS: Ma. Caggese 5:45 PM Low: Brueggemanns