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



November 8, 2026
Pentecost XXIV
Octave Day of All Saints
Holy Four Crowned Martyrs
Our Lady of Suffrage

¶ Pentecost XXIV

Today we begin our annual novena of the Twelve Sundays in Honor of Our Mother of Good Counsel. The **Fall Festival Craft Booths** are available in the social hall after the morning Masses. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.



¶ Veterans Day

The bittersweet tradition of Veterans' Day is dear to us here, as we pray for the Poor Souls of our wars, and remember the futility of war, "a punishment for sin," which we impose on ourselves. Come then on 11/11 at 11:00 AM for the Absolution, Sermon, and Mass of St. Martin, himself a veteran, and a patron of soldiers.

¶ Mothers' Meeting

The Catholic Mothers' Consortium meets on **Thursday**, with Mass at 5:00 PM.

Congratulations to Leo & Katelyn Arlinghaus on the baptism of their son, Augustine Paul, on Sunday, November 1.





O Son of God, Savior of Souls Who didst refresh the three children in the burning fiery furnace, pour down upon the souls that cry to Thee from the flames Thy heavenly dew. Thy Precious Blood alone can quench the flames of Purgatory; oh, let it now flow down upon these suffering souls, and do Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon them. *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory.*

¶ Next Sunday

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available at the Communion Rail. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM, and Vespers at 4:45 PM. Don't miss the **Martinmas Festivities** after the 5:45 PM Mass, at approximately 7 PM.

📖 ***Set Your Missal:*** Pentecost XXV, second collect of St. Albert the Great. Trinity Preface.

¶ Martinmas



Follow **St. Martin and his horse** in a lantern procession after the evening Mass **next Sunday**! Lanterns for the procession will be provided. Supper will follow the procession, and will include the traditional goose and *Martinshörnchen*, or "St. Martin's Croissants," which recall both the hooves of St. Martin's horse and the parting of his mantle. Don't miss this striking and unusual liturgical observance!

¶ November Upcoming

- **Monday, Nov. 16:** St. Gertrude's Day. Semi-Pontifical High Mass at 11:25 AM, followed by pizza.
- **Sunday, Nov. 22:** Solemnity of St. Gertrude the Great. Rosary Procession, 3 PM at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Rosary Confraternity Members are especially asked to attend, but everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and gain the indulgences for the Poor Souls.
- **Sunday, Nov. 29:** Advent begins
- **Monday, Nov. 30, Feast of St. Andrew:** Christmas Novena begins. 15 recitations of the "Hail and Blessed" prayer each day until Christmas.

SEVEN FOR SORROW, SEVEN FOR JOY

The Franciscan Order, like other religious orders, has feasts of its own. Among them, there are two outstanding feasts in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On the last day of May, there is one entitled "Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces," which adopts the opinion of most theologians that, just as we received the Savior from Mary, so we also receive all graces merited for us by the Savior through the hands of Mary. The other feasts is the "Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin," which occurs in the month of August. The Universal Church has a feast in honor of the Seven Sorrows, and approves the feast of the Seven Joys for the Franciscan Order. The special Rosary of this Order, consisting of seven decades, also commemorates the Seven Joys.

Why always seven? Certain numbers, such as 3, 4, 7, 12, are sometimes called sacred numbers because they occur most frequently in religion, pagan, Jewish, and Christian. Seven is the most popular of all, due perhaps to the seven days of creation. Seven would denote completeness. As the creation was completed in seven days, so we have the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, denoting the fullness of His gifts; the seven capital sins, which comprise all vice; the seven capital virtues, which are the source of all virtue; the Seven Sorrows, i.e. the fullness of sorrow; and the seven Joys, the fullness of joy. Originally the Church had the Mass in honor of the Sorrowful Mother; the title was changed in the Middle Ages to Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Mother. And the enumeration of the Sorrows are not always the same; some books give the betrayal of Judas as one of them. So also there is variation in computing the Joys. The Franciscan Rosary adds the Presentation of Jesus to the Magi, the finding of Jesus in the Temple, and the first appearance of Jesus to His Mother after the Resurrection, to the five Joyful mysteries of the ordinary Rosary, while the Assumption and Coronation of Mary are combined in one mystery in order to preserve the required number of seven.

Mary had the plenitude of sorrow and the plenitude of joy. That is what the number "seven" would indicate. Her sorrows were not confined to seven instances of her life, nor her joys. In her life, as in every human life, sorrow and joys overlapped and at times were felt simultaneously. She was sorrowful when she had reasons to be so, and joyful when she had reasons for that. We do well in honoring her holy sorrows and her holy joys. We shall find her sympathetic in whatever mood we are.



Abbe Fisher in his book " Cathedral in the Sun" tells the story of an Indian in one of the early California missions, who had a natural bent for carving and was employed by the missionaries to make a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Carefully, he studied the pictures of the Virgin, and then set proudly to work with the crude instruments at hand. When the statue was nearly completed he came one day, sad and dejected, to the monastery and related his great misfortune. The knife had slipped while he was putting the finishing touches to the face, and as a result one side of the countenance looked depressed. The Franciscan Padre, whom years of experience had taught how to meet reverses, promptly consoled the poor artist. "It is well so," he said, "for Mary is not only the joyful Virgin but also the sorrowful Mother. The mission cannot afford two statutes; so this one will serve both purposes. They who are downhearted can approach her on the sad side, and they who are happy on the other side."

The Gospel says: "You will be distressed, but your distress wall be turned into joy." *(John, XVI, 20)* It is difficult to keep a proper balance between sorrows and joys. The middle course is widely proclaimed as the desirable course to adopt. Extremes should be avoided. In practice, however, there are few who maintain that middle way of virtue. We allow ourselves to be distressed by things which should not distress us and on the other hand we become boisterously joyful over childish trifles. Prophets who mean well, desiring to preserve us from one extreme give advice which plunges us into the other. A laughing hyena in human form is repulsive, so our prophets expound to us how serious life is and urge us not to laugh away the important hours. When they are thinking of sadness and sourness, they tell us to cheer up, not to leave all the laughing to the Guardian Angels, a good Christian is always smiling. And people, who are not particularly interested in religion and not yet Christians, also practice hard to keep the balance of poise. Hence we have the slap on the back, the Rotarian handshake, and the smile like melting lard; the embrace of one extreme to avoid the other.

The statue of our Californian Indian can teach us Christians equanimity. Like the Blessed Virgin, we wish to accept the sorrows and the joys of life with a peaceful mind; and, because we are erratic in our judgements, we go to her with our joys and with our sorrows. Edgar A. Poe, our own American poet, expressed the idea in these colorful lines:

In joy and woe—in good and ill—
Mother of God, be with me still!
When the hours flew brightly by,
And not a cloud obscured the sky,
My soul, lest it should truant be,
Thy grace did guide to thine and thee;
Now, when storms of Fate o'ercast
Darkly any Present and any Past,
Let my Future radiant shine
With sweet hopes of thee and thine!

✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

Last week's All Saints' Day party was one of the most highly attended I can remember, and the costumes were fantastic. The best part was listening to the children tell us about the saints. That is, of course, what it is all about, is it not?! Bishop Dolan was always careful to teach the children—and adults—about the glorious history of the saints, and he gave such edifying sermons on the subject. His knowledge of them was immense. I hope the young people at St. Gertrude's learn to appreciate and imitate the saints.

The Rosary Procession at St. Stephen's Cemetery was cancelled due to rainy weather. It would have been hard to keep all the kids dry and we didn't want to send them home soaking wet uniforms. So we will reschedule for another time—perhaps next week, if the school schedule permits.

The seminarians got the day off for the feast of St. Charles Borromeo, who is the patron of seminarians and the namesake of our seminary. Rumor has it that they all went to the park and that **Fr. McKenna** barbecued for them! The seminarians all seem to get along just fine and are doing well academically. I do not have any news about the seminary right now, but I will hopefully have some more to give you soon.

The rectory project is still moving along. Right now, we are working with the zoning department in West Chester and will then need to go through the county for other approvals. I do not anticipate that this will take too long, but one never knows. Say a prayer that things keep moving along so that the priests can live in common at the rectory as they ought; and so that the Sisters can move into the Convento and be near the church. This will make life easier for everyone.

This week, how about an extra Mass or an extra Rosary for the Poor Souls? They can use our help! How great it will be for them to finally get to heaven. Then again, how great it will be for us to have such great benefactors once they get to the throne of God where they will pray for us.

– Bishop McGuire

PARISH REGISTRATION

Parish Registration cards can be found in the vestibule, just inside the main doors in the rack on the wall. If you are new to the parish, or if your information has changed within the past couple of years, or if you have never filled out a registration card before (anyone 18 and up should be registered), please take one and fill it out. These may be returned in the collection, bookstore, or office.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SOULS

O Holy Souls, tormented in most cruel pains, as one truly devoted to you, I promise never to forget you, and continually to pray to the Most High for your release. I beseech you to respond to this offering which I make to you, and obtain for me from God, with Whom you are so powerful on behalf of the living, that I may be freed from all dangers of soul and body; I beg both for myself and for my relatives and all benefactors, friends and enemies, pardon for our sins, and the grace of perseverance in good, whereby we may save our souls. Set us free from all misfortunes, miseries, sicknesses, trials, and labors. Obtain for us peace of heart, assist us in all our actions; succor us promptly in all our spiritual and temporal needs; console and defend us in our dangers. Pray for a Supreme Pontiff, for the exaltation of Holy Church, for peace among all nations, for every Christian ruler, and for tranquility among peoples; and obtain that we may one day all rejoice together in Paradise. Amen.



THE INDULGENCED ROSARY BLESSING

There are many prayer beads improperly called rosaries. There is but one real rosary, the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the origin of which is traditionally ascribed to St. Dominic. The blessing of and the imparting of the indulgence to this rosary is reserved to the Order of Preachers. In view of their privilege, however, Bishops may bless this rosary and, since canon 933 allows a given object to be enriched under various titles with different indulgences, Bishops may moreover apply to a single rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary the apostolic indulgences and the following reserved indulgences:

a. the Dominican Indulgence consisting of 100 days for recitation of each Our Father and Hail Mary;

b. the Crozier Indulgence consisting of 500 days for the recitation of each Our Father and Hail Mary;

c. the Brigittine Indulgence consisting of ten specific indulgences, the most familiar being 100 days for the recitation of each Our Father, Hail Mary and Apostles' Creed;

d. the indulgence of 40 years to be gained daily by members of the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary who carry on their person a blessed rosary.

✠ CALENDAR

MON 11/9/26 **DEDICATION OF ST. SAVIOR'S BASILICA**
ST. THEODORE, M
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Special Intention
11:25 AM **High Mass** Cure of cancer in Susan Ackley & Michael Houston *(Susan Ackley)*

TUE 11/10/26 **ST. ANDREW AVELLINO, C**
SS. TRYPHON & COMPANIONS, MM
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Cure of cancer in Susan Ackley & Michael Houston *(Susan Ackley)*
11:25 AM **High Mass** Poor Souls *(Mr. & Mrs. William Young III)*
5:00 PM **Low Mass** Special Intention

WED 11/11/26 **ST. MARTIN OF TOURS, BPC**
ST. MENNAS, M • VETERANS DAY
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Joseph McMahon
11:00 AM **Veterans Day Observance: Tolling of the Bell Absolution**
11:25 AM **High Mass** Jack Young – Happy Birthday! *(Grandma & Grandpa Young)*
5:10 PM **Low Mass** Cure of cancer in Susan Ackley & Michael Houston *(Susan Ackley)*

THU 11/12/26 **ST. MARTIN I, PM**
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Devin Virgil – Happy Birthday *(Lucia – Your Goddaughter)*
11:25 AM **Requiem High Mass** Purgatorial Society
5:00 PM **Low Mass** Cure of cancer in Susan Ackley & Michael Houston *(Susan Ackley)*
Catholic Mothers Consortium Meeting

FRI 11/13/26 **ST. DIDACUS, C** • ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA, C
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Cure of cancer in Susan Ackley & Michael Houston *(Susan Ackley)*
11:00 AM **Confessions**
11:25 AM **Low Mass** †Isabelle Brandenburg – 1st Anniversary *(Sister Eulalia)* (from 11/12)
5:15 PM **Confessions & Rosary**
5:45 PM **Low Mass** Joseph Prell – Happy Birthday *(Elizabeth)*
6:30 PM **Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction**

SAT 11/14/26 **ST. JOSAPHAT, BPM**
OUR LADY OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE
7:05 AM **Confessions**
7:30 AM **Low Mass** Special Intention
8:05 AM **Salve, Sermon**
8:15 AM **High Mass** Cure of cancer in Susan Ackley & Michael Houston *(Susan Ackley)*

SUN 11/15/26 **PENTECOST XXV** • ST. ALBERT THE GREAT, BPCD
7:05 AM **Rosary**
7:30 AM **Low Mass** †Kathy Verity *(Patsy McConnell)*
9:00 AM **High Mass** Cure of cancer in Susan Ackley & Michael Houston *(Susan Ackley)*
10:40 AM **Catechism Classes**
11:05 AM **Rosary**
11:30 AM **Low Mass** Poor Souls *(Mr. & Mrs. William Young III)*
4:45 PM **Vespers & Benediction**
5:45 PM **Low Mass** For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
7:00 PM **(approx.) Martinmas Procession & Supper**

✠ THE POETRY CORNER



EARTH, AT WORSHIP

A reverence is in the hills,
A silence on the land;
Along the banks of little rills
Half-hidden angels stand.



The burning leaves like incense rise
Upon the holy air;
The wind in supplication sighs,
Each tree recites a prayer.

This is the annual matins time
When nature bends her knee,
As to October's vesper chime,
Earth thumbs her rosary.



– Virginia M. Evans

This is a classic Catholic poem. The author uses the imagery of the liturgy (prayer, incense, vesper chime and the rosary) to describe nature these days. The good God made them both! –Bishop Dolan, 2009



Collection Report

Sunday, November 1st……$7,201.00
Second Collection……..$3,485.00
All Saints Day……$3,051.62
Alter Christus……...$593.00

Servers

FRI 11/13 **5:45 PM LOW:** A. Constantino, Ma. Caggeso
BENEDICTION: MCS: F. Caggeso, B. Constantino **TH:** A. Constantino **TBS:** Ma. Caggeso, V. Siqueira

SAT 11/14 **7:30 AM LOW:** Rabjohns
8:15 AM HIGH: M. Simpson, I. & J. Smith

SUN 11/15 **7:30 AM LOW:** M. Schneider, Brueggemann
9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: C. Richesson, A. McClorey **TH:** S. Richesson **ACS:** J. Rabjohns, J. Hudson **TBS:** E. Garcia, B. Constantino, T. Stanislowski, Ma. Caggeso, I. Smith, N. Hudson
11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: I. Smith, **ACS:** A. Constanino, J. Smith **CROSS:** B. Constantino
5:45 PM LOW: C. Lorenz