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

Parish Office: (513) 645-4212 (9 AM-3 PM)
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Emergency Line: (513) 509-0424



Most Rev. Charles J. McGuire, *Pastor*
Rev. Stephen McKenna
Rev. Vili Lehtoranta
Rev. Thomas Simpson
Rev. Anthony Brueggemann

November 15, 2026
Pentecost XXV
St. Albert the Great, BpCD

¶ Pentecost XXV

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

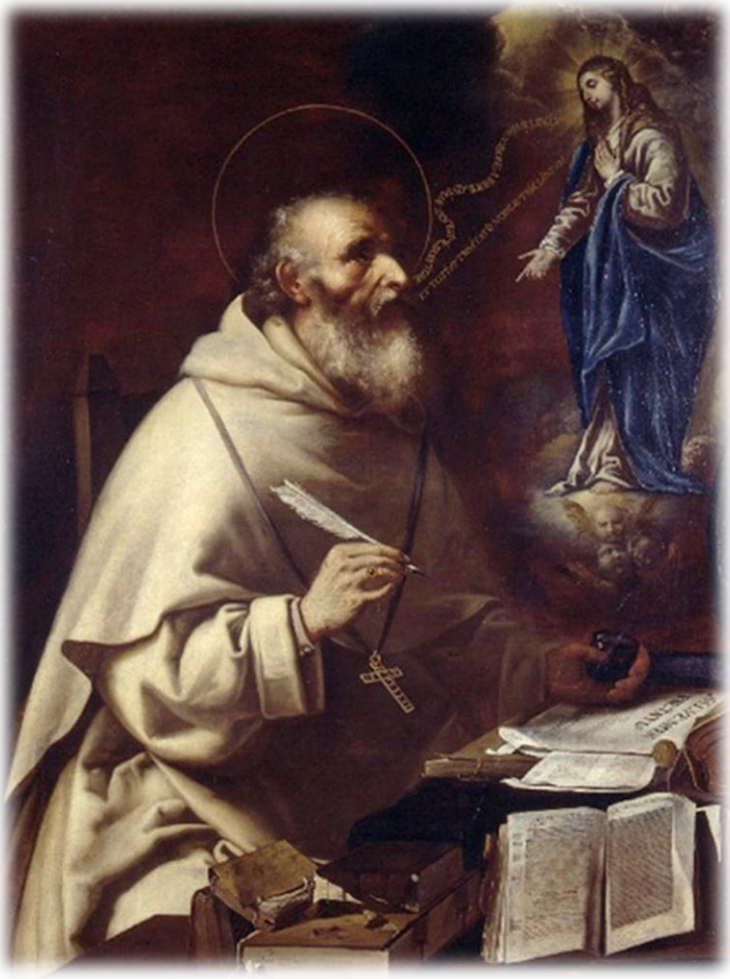
St. Gertrude's Day
Monday, November 16

Anniversary of the Dedication of Our Church

Ordination Anniversaries of Bishop McGuire & Fr. Lehtoranta

Come and Celebrate with Us!

High Mass at 11:25 AM, followed by a pizza lunch. All are invited! Vespers and Benediction to close.



¶ Men's Group

The Knights of St. Martin meet on **Thursday**, with Mass at 5:30 PM.

¶ Rosary Confraternity Field Trip

The Rosary Confraternity will be visiting Maria Stein after the High Mass on **Saturday**. Carpooling from church. (For Rosary Confraternity Members who have signed up for the trip.)

Lumen Christi

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

For my family
(Vincent Brueggemann)

Collection Report

Sunday, November 8th……$5,755.72
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

¶ Next Sunday

Next Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Gertrude the Great. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. There are **no Vespers** due to the **Rosary Procession** at Gate of Heaven Cemetery at 3 PM.

📖 ***Set Your Missal:*** Last Sunday After Pentecost, second collect of St. Gertrude the Great, third of St. Cecilia. Trinity Preface.

¶ All Saints Winners

Best Costume:
Enzo Garcia as St. Florian

Best Presentation:
Thomas Stanislowski as St. Servulus of Rome

Best Lines:
Lizzie & Clara Young as St. Germaine and her mother

Most Entertaining:
Silas Shultz as St. Bernard

¶ Question Box

You may have noticed the "Question Box" in the vestibule. Submit any question to have it answered. Bishop McGuire will respond in as timely a manner as possible. Perfect for those things you've always wondered about, but can never remember to ask. Questions and answers may be published **anonymously** in the bulletin for the edification of others.

Congratulations to Austin & Maryann Allen on the baptism of their daughter, Theodora Andrea, on Saturday, November 14.

✠ SUNDAY MEDITATION

TRUE MERCY

St. Martin, after leaving the army and staying some time with St. Hilary (who made him an exorcist), thought he ought to visit his own province and parents still pagan. While crossing the Alps he fell amongst brigands; one was about to split his head with an axe, but was restrained by another. Then Martin was bound and left with one brigand to guard and search him. He began by asking Martin who he was.

"I am a Christian."

"Aren't you afraid?"

"I never felt more confident in the Lord's mercy. *You* are the one to be pitied, not I, since you practice the trade of a robber and so make yourself *unfit for the mercy of Christ."*

The brigand was listening. Martin proceeded to expound God's word to him, and he believed. He showed Martin the way back to the road, and said farewell, asking his prayers. Henceforth the man led a blameless life, and later told the story to Sulpicius Severus, who tells it to us.

St. Martin in due course reached his home, converted his mother, but not his father, got into much trouble with the local Arians, and at last rejoined St. Hilary at Poitiers.





JUST ONE SCALE

We find fault with our neighbor very readily for small matters, while we pass over great things in ourselves. We strive to sell at an inflated price and buy with discounts. We are eager to deal out strict justice to others, but just as eager to obtain indulgence for ourselves. We expect a good interpretation to be put on all we say, but we are sensitive and critical of our neighbor's words…. We complain freely of our neighbors, but we do not like them to make any complaints about us. Whatever we do for them appears very great in our sight, but what they do for us counts as nothing. In a word, we have a very gentle, liberal, and courteous heart towards ourselves, and one which is hard, rigorous, and severe towards our neighbor. We have two scales, one weighted to measure our own goods to the best advantage, and the other to weigh our neighbors' to the worst. Even Holy Scripture tells us that "those who tell lies to one another speak with deceiving lips and a double heart" (Ps. 12:3).

Be just and fair in all you do. Always put yourself in your neighbor's place, and put him into yours, and then you will judge fairly. Sell as you would buy, and buy as you would sell, and the buying and selling will both be honest. The acts of injustice I mentioned above seem small because they do not demand restitution, and we have, after all, only taken that which we can demand using the strict letter of the law; but, nevertheless, they greatly need to be corrected, since, while on the one hand they are mere cheating tricks, on the other, they offend against fairness and charity. No one ever loses by being generous, noble hearted, and courteous.

– St. Francis de Sales

✠ THE POETRY CORNER

OVER AN OLD JESUIT CEMETERY

While others find this place
Deserted, it will be
Ever pulsing with life
For me.

For over simple stones
On this wind-caressed height
A host of vibrant men
Stand bright.

Their eyes and words more near
Than any I now know
In all the crowded town
Below.

I see the living here
Though spirits may have fled
And moving numbly there—
The dead.

– John Masterson



We pray to Thee, O Lord, Who art the Supreme Truth, and all truth is from Thee. We beseech Thee, O Lord, Who art the highest Wisdom, and all the wise depend on Thee for their wisdom. Thou are the supreme Joy, and all who are joyous, owe it to Thee. Thou art the Light of minds, and all receive their understanding from Thee. We love, we love Thee above all! We seek Thee, we follow Thee and we are ready to serve Thee. We desire to dwell under Thy Power for Thou art the King of all! Amen.

– St. Albert the Great

✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE



Many things are in the works at the different chapels and missions. **Fr. McKenna** just purchased a new church building for St. Hugh of Lincoln, our Milwaukee chapel. The neighborhood where they were located for all these years has gotten much worse with drugs, and overall decline. It really has become quite unsafe. The new property has a bigger church which will fit our growing congregation, a separate house for rectory use, a parking lot (which we did not have before), and a nice yard. It is in a quiet neighborhood. It is not a very nice building on the outside, but it is definitely a step up overall. We almost could not afford it and were about to give up the idea of buying it, but God provided a generous benefactor who made the purchase possible. Now the work of remodeling begins!

Bishop Nkamuke and his priests are working on building schools for the children in Nigeria. Many generous benefactors have stepped up to help them. A parishioner came up with the brilliant idea for the children at our school and the schools in Nigeria: a pen pal program! Many of our school families (and homeschool families) are involved. Letters have already been written and are being sent to the children all the way in Africa. I love the idea and think it will be a very edifying and educational experience for all the children involved.

Our own rectory addition project, however, is being slightly delayed. Of all the projects going on in the missions this is the simplest. All we are trying to do is add on to the existing building. Yet politics and approvals make the process very complicated. At present, we are working with the Board of Zoning Appeals and are being required to attend a hearing on January 11 at the Township Hall. Public notices are being sent to anyone living within 200 feet of the property and anyone can attend the hearing, meaning someone could oppose our request for zoning permission. However, the man we are speaking with on the matter doesn't think there will be any problems getting the approval and seems to be in favor of our project. The St. Gertrude Novena begins today. If you do not mind, please pray for this intention.

Tomorrow is our patroness St. Gertrude the Great's feast day! We will have a special High Mass at 11:25 followed by a pizza party, then Vespers and Benediction. I hope you can come. St. Gertrude has won many graces for us over the years and it is only right that we return her thanks. The feast day also marks **Fr. Lehtoranta's** 15th anniversary of ordination and my 21st. Time marches on! I remember when **Bishop Dolan**, **Fr. Cekada**, and **Bishop Sanborn** were all celebrating their 25th anniversaries. Now we are fast approaching that number. Come help us celebrate St. Gertrude's Day!

On that note, I wish you many spiritual blessings during the octave of our patroness. Let us all pray for one another.

– Bishop McGuire

✠ MARTINMAS

St. Martin of Tours was a native of Pannonia, which is approximately modern-day Hungary. He served in the Roman cavalry in Gaul, and it was there that he did his most famous act of sanctity. One day, while still a catechumen, he met an ill-clothed beggar, and he cut his cloak in two and gave one half to the beggar. Sulpicius Severus, who wrote the *Life of St. Martin* and met the saint personally, wrote that some around St. Martin laughed when they saw him in half of his cloak, though some were silent with shame that they had not done something similar to help the poor man. That night, St. Martin had a vision of Jesus clad in the half of his cloak he had given to the beggar, and, upon waking, St. Martin discovered his cloak restored to wholeness. Later in life, St. Martin was chosen to be bishop of Tours, and he hid in a pen of geese in an attempt to escape his appointment. However, the geese made such a cackling that he was discovered.

St. Martin's Day, or Martinmas, marks a day of feasting which precedes the penitential season before Christmas. The season of penance was known as St. Martin's Lent and coincides with Advent. The degree of fasting has varied over years and regions. Martinmas takes place at the end of the harvest, when animals are butchered and when much beer and wine is ready. Pastries in the shape of a croissant are made especially in Germany and Poland signifying the hooves of St. Martin's horse as well as the half of his cloak, as the shape of the croissant is the half of a pretzel. The Polish version has its origin when a baker saw St. Martin on his horse which lost a golden horseshoe. The baker was inspired to bake the croissants and give them to the poor. Interestingly, the authentic recipe is a Polish state secret. Czechia has a pastry roll in the shape of a horseshoe, as well. In Malta, children are given a red and white checkered bag (St. Martin's bag) which contains nuts, fruit, and a unique sweet bun.

Goose is traditionally served commemorating the geese that betrayed St. Martin's hiding place, and bonfires are lit. Children carry lanterns and sing songs, for which they are rewarded with candy or sweet breads in some places. Lanterns used to be made by hollowing out gourds or turnips and are the inspiration for the jack-o-lantern. The tradition especially of children carrying lanterns may have originated from children who saw St. Martin give the beggar half his cloak and ran back to the town with their lanterns to tell the townspeople. Taking place as the nights approach swifter each day, the lanterns also represent the light that holiness brings to the darkness.

St. Martin's Day is popular across Europe, and the lit procession behind a man dressed as St. Martin on horseback is especially prominent in Germany. In some places in Europe, the man on the horse would give nuts and sweets to children. Also, in one city of Belgium, children would hang stockings full of hay on Martinmas Eve and awake to find gifts in them (in thanks for feeding St. Martin's horse).

St. Martin's Day festivities are less common in America and are more of a local matter if any, though there have been lantern processions in St. Paul, Minnesota. If St. Martin processions happen in America, they are usually in German culture societies.

Martinmas contains the celebration of bounty held by Thanksgiving and the lights and sweets notable in Halloween, but, most of all, it leads those who bear the light of the Faith to the season of Advent, as St. Martin on his horse leads those who bear the light of lanterns. – *Levi Giese*

✠ CALENDAR

MON 11/16/26 ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT
7:00 AM **Low Mass** Cure of cancer in Susan Ackley & Michael Houston *(Susan Ackley)*
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Agnes Garcia – Happy Birthday *(Mother & Father)*
11:25 AM **High Mass** Happy Anniversary Fr. Lehtoranta *(The Fathers)*
Pizza Party
1:45 PM **Vespers & Benediction**

TUE 11/17/26 ST. GREGORY THAUMATURGUS, BPC
ST. HUGH OF LINCOLN, BPC
BL. PHILIPPINE DUSCHENE, V
7:00 AM **Low Mass** For all who cook for us and for our devoted drivers *(The Fathers)*
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Cure of cancer in Susan Ackley & Michael Houston *(Susan Ackley)*
11:25 AM **High Mass** For our fallen-away children *(St. Monica Club)*
St. Monica Club Meeting
5:00 PM **Low Mass** Intentions of the CMC

WED 11/18/26 DEDICATION OF BASILICAS OF SS. PETER & PAUL
7:00 AM **Low Mass** †Eleanor Kent *(Ballesteros Family)*
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Holy Souls rest in peace *(James Kolenich)*
11:25 AM **High Mass** Holy Souls *(JCS)*
5:10 PM **Low Mass** Thou Knowest, O Lord *(Arlinghaus Family)*

THU 11/19/26 ST. ELIZABETH, W • ST. PONTIANUS, PM
7:00 AM **Low Mass** †Celedina Cisneros *(Ballesteros Family)*
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Happy Birthday Godmother *(Anna Brueggemann)*
11:25 AM **High Mass** Sr. Eulalia – Happy Birthday *(Sr. Ulrica & Sr. Magdalen)*
5:30 PM **Low Mass** Joseph Young – Happy Birthday! *(Mom & Pop)*
Knights of St. Martin Meeting

FRI 11/20/26 ST. FELIX OF VALOIS, C
8:00 AM **Low Mass** †Robert Brockman rest in peace *(James Kolenich)*
11:00 AM **Confessions**
11:25 AM **Low Mass** †Judith Parlett – Anniversary of Death *(Sr. U)*
5:15 PM **Confessions & Rosary**
5:45 PM **Low Mass** †Judy Parlett – anniversary of death *(Sister Eulalia)*
6:30 PM **Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction**

SAT 11/21/26 THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LADY
7:05 AM **Confessions**
7:30 AM **Low Mass** †Cheryl Vidourek *(David Jones)*
8:05 AM **Salve, Sermon**
8:15 AM **High Mass** Our children & grandchildren *(S & C. Hudson)*
Rosary Confraternity Field Trip

SUN 11/22/26 LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ST. CECILIA, VM
7:05 AM **Rosary**
7:30 AM **Low Mass** For our children & grandchildren *(S. & C. Hudson)*
9:00 AM **High Mass** Isidore Simpson – Happy birthday! *(S. & J. Simpson)*
10:40 AM **Catechism Classes**
11:05 AM **Rosary**
11:30 AM **Low Mass** Lucia Garcia – Happy Birthday *(Mother & Father)*
3:00 PM **Rosary Procession, Gate of Heaven Cemetery**
NO VESPERS
5:45 PM **Low Mass** For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

✠ GENERAL INFORMATION

¶ **BLESSING OF RELIGIOUS ARTICLES:** First Sunday of the month at the Communion Rail.

¶ **BLESSING OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS:** Third Sunday of the month. Blessing may be received as many times as you like during each pregnancy.

¶ **PRAYER CHAIN:** To request prayers for your special intentions or needs, or to be added to the recipient list, please contact the office.

¶ **BAPTISMS:** Saturday morning by appointment. At least one parent as well as the sponsor (only one sponsor is required) must be practicing Roman Catholics who do not belong to the Novus Ordo Religion. Novus Ordo and non-practicing Catholics may not serve as sponsors. The Church will provide a sponsor in case of necessity. The Churching of New Mothers follows the baptismal ceremony. Please make arrangements through the church office.

¶ **CONFIRMATION:** Confirmation is solemnly administered during the Vigil of Pentecost each year, and privately as requested. According to canon law, children should, if possible, be confirmed before First Holy Communion.

¶ **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Children should make their First Holy Communion when they have reached the age of reason (usually between the ages of five and eight) and know the rudiments of the Faith (the First Communion Catechism.) First Holy Communion is administered each year on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

¶ **MATRIMONY:** If you are contemplating marriage, please make an appointment to speak with a priest *before* setting a date.

Servers

FRI 11/20 **5:45 PM LOW:** I. Smith, E. Garcia
BENEDICTION: MCS: A. Constantino, J. Smith **TH:** I. Smith
TBS: E. Garcia, S. Smith

SAT 11/21 **7:30 AM LOW:** Brueggemanns
8:15 AM HIGH: F. Caggeso, Ma. Caggeso, I. Smith

SUN 11/22 **7:30 AM LOW:** M. McConnell, Brueggemann
9:00 AM HIGH: MC: T. Lawrence **TH:** F. Caggeso **ACS:** A. Constantino, L. Rabjohns **TBS:** V. Siqueira, B. Constanino, J. Smith, V. Horton, J. Hudson, S. Smith
11:30 AM LOW: Kolenichs
5:45 PM LOW: P. McClorey