# 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 22, 2026

**Last Sunday after Pentecost**
**Solemnity of St. Gertrude**
**St. Cecilia, VM**

### ¶ St. Gertrude Sunday

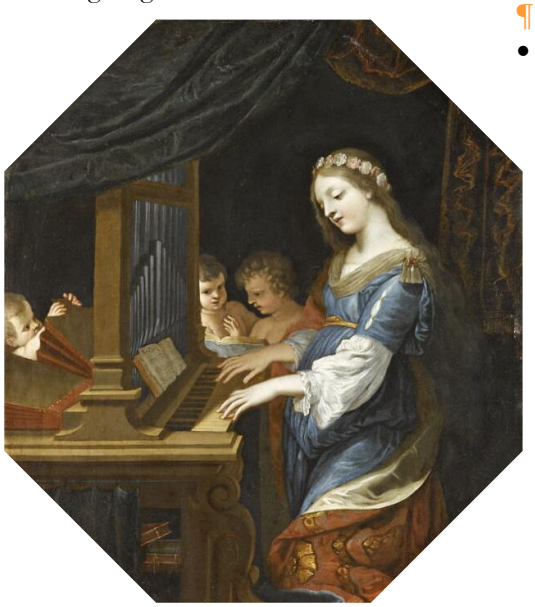
Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. There are **no Vespers** today, due to the **Rosary Procession** at Gate of Heaven Cemetery at **3:00 PM**. Come and gain indulgences for the Poor Souls!

### ¶ Thanksgiving




Join us for special holiday Masses, with prayers of thanksgiving, on **Thursday**, at 7, 8, (with music) and 9:15 AM. Holy Mass is the best way to give thanks! Let's joyfully and thankfully stress the religious character of this holiday. The abstinence is traditionally dispensed the Friday after Thanksgiving and meat may be eaten. Happy Thanksgiving!





### ¶ Look Ahead

- **Christmas Novena Begins:** Monday, November 30. 15 recitations of the "Hail and Blessed" prayer each day until Christmas.
  - **St. Nicholas visits the children:** Sunday, December 6, after the morning Masses.
  - **Immaculate Conception, holy day of obligation:** Tuesday, December 8. Masses at 7 & 9 AM, and 5:45 PM.
  - **Blessing of Beverages in honor of St. John:** Sunday, December 27.
  - **Holy Innocents Children's Blessing & Party:** Monday, December 28, 11:25 AM.

### ¶ Next Sunday: First Sunday of Advent

The **Lighting of the Advent Wreath** will take place at **7:25 AM**, and the **Advent Procession and Blessing of the Advent Wreath** will take place at **8:50 AM**. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Advent Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 ***Set Your Missal:*** Advent I, second collect of St. Saturninus, third of Our Lady in Advent. Trinity Preface.

### Blessing of the Advent Wreath



*(Recite on Saturday evening, Nov. 28, as you light the first candle on your Advent Wreath.)*

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord. R. Who made heaven and earth.

*Let us pray:* O God, by Whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

***Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent***

Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, O Lord, and come, so that we may escape through Thy protection and be saved by Thy help from the dangers that threaten us because of our sins. Who livest and reignest forever and ever. R. Amen.

**Collection Report**

Sunday, November 15th……$6,638.72
Thank you for your generosity.

## ✠ Sunday Meditation

### For a Visit or Thanksgiving After Communion

O Blessed Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I worship Thee, I love Thee, I thank Thee, and prostrate myself before Thee. O my God, accomplish in me that for which Thou didst come, remove from my heart all that displeases Thee, and place therein that which will render me agreeable in Thy sight.

Purify my body, sanctify my soul. Bestow on me the infinite merits of Thy life and of Thy Death, unite me to Thee, abide in me that I may live by Thee, in Thee and forever for Thee.

O my God, let me die rather than permit that I should not act for Thy greater glory.

Or fail in anything whatsoever Thou dost ask of me.

Or that I should do harm to any single soul. O my God, by the merits of Thy Divine Son, bless the Church, and save our beloved country. Have pity on poor sinners who need Thy help, and more especially on all those who will die today.

My Jesus, grant that all people who, till the end of time, will enter a sanctuary where Thou art present, may carry away the seed of their conversion and be saved.

My God, permit me to do a little good around me. Grant that I may make Thee known, for we cannot know Thee without loving Thee.

Holy Spirit, inspire me always how to speak, act and behave for the best, for the greater glory of God and for the greatest good to souls.

Grant that each day I may serve Thee even better, O my divine Savior, and that I may ever love Thee more and more. Amen.




### The Gift of Christ's Wounds



Lord, I received from Thine overflowing liberality this remarkable gift: Each time during the day when I reflected on Thy adorable wounds, praying the five verses of Psalm 103, I always received some new favor. At verse one, "Bless the Lord, O my soul," I placed all the rust of my sins and sensuousness at the wounds of Thy blessed feet. At verse two, "Bless the Lord…and forget not all His benefits," I washed away all the stains of carnal and perishable pleasures in the sweet bath of Blood and water which Thou hast poured forth from Thy side for me. At verse three, "Who forgives all your iniquity," I rested my spirit in the wound of Thy left hand, just as a dove nests in the crevice of a rock. At verse four, "Who redeems your life from the pit," I took from Thy right hand all that I needed for my growth in virtue. And so magnificently adorned, I prayed verse five, "Who satisfies you with good as long as you live," that I might be purified from all defilement of sin and have the poverty of my wants supplied, so that I might become worthy of Thy presence and might merit the joy of Thy holy embraces. – *St. Gertrude the Great*



## ✠ The Poetry Corner

### Thanksgiving

Lord God of Hosts, we render thanks
For all Thy mercies sure;
Thy tender love environs us
and will through life endures.

Teach us to know Thy perfect will
And truly humble be;
May we in gladness praise Thy Name
Through all eternity.

Lord God of hosts, we offer thanks
And call upon Thy Name;
A psalm of praise to Thee we sing,
Thy wondrous love proclaim.

Thou art our refuge and our strength,
There is no other power;
If sudden danger threatens us,
We find in Thee a tower.

Lord God of hosts, we proffer praise,
Direct us on our way;
With grateful hearts we worship Thee
On this Thanksgiving Day.

*– Greenville Kleiser*




### For St. Cecilia's Day

Let the deep organ swell the lay
In honor of this festive day;
Let the harmonious choirs proclaim
Cecilia's ever-blessed name.

Rome gave the virgin martyr birth,
Whose holy name has filled the earth;
And from the early dawn of youth,
She fixed her heart on God and truth.

Then from the world's bewildering strife,
In peace she spent her holy life—
Teaching the organ to combine
With voice, to praise the Lord divine.

Cecilia, with a twofold crown
Adorned in heav'n, we pray look down
Upon thy fervent votaries here,
And hearken to their humble prayer.

## ✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE

Today is the Solemnity of St. Gertrude the Great. The High Mass is from the feast of St. Gertrude, while the Low Masses are of the Last Sunday after Pentecost. The rubrics allow this special High Mass for the benefit of those who could not attend Mass on her feast day. I hope you are still honoring our patroness during this octave which ends tomorrow.

The school children finally made it to St. Stephen's Cemetery to pray for **Bishop Dolan**, **Fr. Cekada**, and the Poor Souls in general. This afternoon, **Fr. Lehtoranta** and **Fr. Simpson** will lead the Rosary Procession at Gate of Heaven Cemetery where so many of our loved ones are buried. **Fr. Thielen** is buried there as well.

I will preface this paragraph by saying that my health is very good and I am not dying! But for a few years now the thought of funeral plans and where I would like to be buried have been on my mind. St. Margaret's Cemetery in Chillicothe, my hometown, is very beautiful, but now Gate of Heaven Cemetery seems like the best choice for the simple reason that so very many of our own dearly departed are buried there, and because so many of our living Faithful go there to pray the Rosary for the dead. The prayers are far more important than the beauty of the cemetery! So I hope the tradition of visiting Gate of Heaven continues long into the future…because I'm banking on your prayers. Have you thought about these things for yourself? It is so important, when planning your funeral and your Will, to think of the spiritual things. You might think these thoughts are depressing, morbid, or frightening, but dying is something we all must do before we see God. The thought of our own mortality and our own death should be occasionally on our mind—then when it comes it is no stranger, but a welcome friend which will not mean the end of life, but only a changing to a better one.

This week, let us focus on the little virtue of gratitude. After all, each one of us has received so many graces from God—far more than any of us realize. Reflect, not only on the natural blessings, but more especially on the spiritual ones, that you have received. Thank God by coming to Holy Mass an extra time this week—perhaps on Thanksgiving Day! Deo gratias et Mariae!




**– Bishop McGuire**

## ✠ QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q.** "Are expectant mothers able to receive a dispensation from the priest for the communion fast if they have difficulty going 3 hours without eating?"
**A.** No, expectant mothers are not able to receive such a dispensation. The Communion Fast is much stricter than the Lenten Fast, and so a much greater reason is needed to be dispensed from the Communion Fast than is needed in the case of the Lenten Fast. For example, a dying person may be dispensed from the Eucharistic Fast in order to receive Holy Viaticum; but someone who is receiving a devotional Holy Communion does not have a proportionately serious reason.

What can you do instead? It is much easier to keep the Eucharistic Fast in our day. One can have a milkshake, a smoothie, or a protein drink up to an hour before Holy Communion. It might not be what you are craving, but it should get you through that three hour fast.

**Q.** "Since I have braces, what should I do with the wax/rubber bands that I wear during Mass and Holy Communion? Do I burn them or otherwise destroy them? For this reason I desist from wearing all of the paraphernalia in my mouth at Mass."
**A.** There is no law either way. A person may wear the rubber bands or not, while receiving Holy Communion. Should one choose to wear them at that time, nothing special has to be done with the wax or rubber bands afterwards. They may be discarded as usual.

However, my opinion is that one should not wear the rubber bands for Holy Communion. If we take them off for our meals (let us call them our banquets), then all the more so should we remove them for the Banquet of banquets, Holy Communion. Again, this is my personal opinion, not one which is binding.

**Q.** "Where do bishops get their hair cut?"
**A.** Habacuc's Barbershop!

**Q.** "What does it mean to 'offer it up?'"
**A.** It means to offer something as a sacrifice. What is the best way to do this, you might ask? Since our works are worthless without the merits of Jesus, unite your sacrifice with Our Lord's sufferings and offer them to the Eternal Father for some good intention. For example, if you are hungry, offer your hunger in union with Jesus' fasting in the desert and offer it to God for the conversion of sinners. Or if you are thirsty, offer your thirst to God in union with Christ's thirst as He hung on the Cross. Many souls will be saved in this way…and you will gain many a merit by offering things up in this way.

## ✠ CALENDAR

**MON 11/23/26** **OCTAVE DAY OF ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT**
ST. CLEMENT, PM
ST. FELICITY, M
**8:00 AM** **Low Mass** Get well soon Mom *(Mathew & Lucia McConnell)*
**11:25 AM** **Low Mass** Holy Souls *(JCS)*

**TUE 11/24/26** **ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, CD**
ST. CHRYSOGONUS, M
**8:00 AM** **Low Mass** Holy Souls *(Levi Giese Family)*
**11:25 AM** **High Mass** Lucia & Claire – Happy Birthday! *(Sister Magdalen)*
**5:00 PM** **Low Mass** Holy Souls *(JCS)*

**WED 11/25/26** **ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, VM**
**7:00 AM** **Low Mass** †Gus Kurtz – Happy Birthday *(S. Kurtz)*
**8:00 AM** **Low Mass** The Scott Hudson Family *(David Brindle)*
**11:25 AM** **Low Mass** Holy Souls *(JCS)*

**THU 11/26/26** **THANKSGIVING DAY**
ST. SYLVESTER, AB
ST. PETER OF ALEXANDRIA, BPM
*ST. LEONARD OF PORT MAURICE, C*
**7:00 AM** **Low Mass** Thanksgiving for favors received *(Janet Korzekwinski)*
**8:00 AM** **Low Mass with hymns** In thanksgiving to St. Anthony *(Sister Magdalen)*
**9:15 AM** **Low Mass** Holy Souls *(JCS)*

**FRI 11/27/26** **FERIAL DAY**
*OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL*
**8:00 AM** **Low Mass** †Elaine Pawinski *(Annie Fischer)*
**5:15 PM** **Confessions & Rosary**
**5:45 PM** **Low Mass** Holy Souls *(JCS)*
**6:30 PM** **Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction**

**SAT 11/28/26** **VIGIL OF ST. ANDREW**
*ST. CATHERINE LABOURE*
**7:05 AM** **Confessions**
**7:30 AM** **Low Mass** Holy Souls *(JCS)*
**8:05 AM** **Salve, Sermon**
**8:15 AM** **High Mass** Special Intention *(The Stafford Family)*

**SUN 11/29/26** **ADVENT I**
ST. SATURNINUS, M
**7:05 AM** **Rosary**
**7:25 AM** **Lighting of Advent Wreath**
**7:30 AM** **Low Mass** Lisa McConnell *(Dominic McConnell)*
**8:50 AM** **Procession, Blessing of Advent Wreath, High Mass** Uilliam Downes
**10:40 AM** **Catechism Classes**
**11:05 AM** **Rosary**
**11:30 AM** **Low Mass** Holy Souls *(JCS)*
**4:45 PM** **Vespers & Benediction**
**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 11/27** **5:45 PM LOW:** T. Capetillo, M. Caggeso
**BENEDICTION: MCS:** T. Capetillo, M. Caggeso **TH:** J. Capetillo **TBS:** P. & Ma. Caggeso

**SAT 11/28** **7:30 AM LOW:** Rabjohns
**8:15 AM HIGH:** M. Simpson, I. Smith, E. Garcia

**SUN 11/29** **7:30 AM LOW:** M. Schneider, Brueggemann
**9:00 AM HIGH: MCS:** C. & S. Richesson **TH:** N. Kolenich **ACS:** M. Kolenich, J. Rabjohns **CROSS:** F. Caggeso **TBS:** Ma. Caggeso, T. Stanislowski, J. Kolenich, J. Smith, G. & C. Wright
**11:30 AM LOW:** Capetillos
**4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: MC:** I. Smith **TH:** F. Caggeso **ACS:** J. Smith, P. Caggeso
**5:45 PM LOW:** Brueggemanns