

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVEMBER 26, 2006 - LAST SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST XXV

Today is the Fourth Sunday of the Month. **Confessions** will be heard before and during all Masses. The **Blessing of Expectant Mothers** follows all Masses. **Exposition, Rosary and Benediction** are at 5:00 PM this evening. Sombdy please attend!

✠ALTER CHRISTUS

Six Masses were donated for the sanctification and support of priests for the month of November. Thank you for your generosity.

FIRST FRIDAY

Friday is the First Friday of the month. The schedule is as follows:

- Confessions: 10:45 AM
- High Mass & Benediction at 11:30 AM
- Confessions & Rosary: 5:15 PM
- Low Mass & Exposition: 5:45 PM
with Sacred Heart Novena & Confessions
- ADORATION CONTINUES ALL NIGHT**
- Potluck Supper: 7:00 PM
- First Friday Holy Hour: 8:00 PM
- Holy Communion: 8:50 PM

The intention for the All Night Adoration is: In Honor of Mary Immaculate, for This Church, and the Whole Church.

FIRST SATURDAY

- Confessions: 7:00 AM
- Low Mass: 7:30 AM
- Rosary & First Saturday Devotions: 8:10 AM
- Benediction & Confessions: 8:45 AM
- High Mass & Confessions: 9:00 AM
- Confessions: 4:30 PM

Reparation Intention: In reparation for those who outrage Mary Immaculate in Her holy images.

✠NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the First Sunday of the Month and the *First Sunday of Advent*, the beginning of a new Liturgical year. The **Lighting of the Advent Wreath** is at 7:20 AM, and the **Advent Procession and Blessing of the Advent Wreath** will take place at 9:00 AM. Be sure to have an Advent Wreath for your home, and Advent resolutions for your heart.

The **Blessing of Religious Articles** is available following all Masses.

The **Second Collection** is for *Our*

Seminary and Mission Support.

St. Nicholas will be visiting our children after all the morning Masses in Helfta Hall.

The **Visitation Society** will be holding an organizational meeting at 11:00 AM in Helfta Hall.

The beautiful **Advent Vespers** are sung at 4:45 PM with **Benediction**.

Set your missal: December 3rd.

First Sunday in Advent with the commemorations of St. Francis Xavier, C, the BVM (Advent) and Against Persecutors of the Church. **PREF:** Trinity.



✠CALLING THE CRAFTY

If you're a "crafty" kind of person, perhaps you would like to help make a success out of our Sunday, December 17th, Christmas Craft Sale. You are welcome to drop off items at the church office, or call Connie Kamphaus 513-892-1469 for more information. Thank you so much for your help, time and creativity.

We are planning a Christmas Bake Sale for the same Sunday morning. Please mark your calendar, and plan on sharing some of your Christmas goodies with us to make this a great fundraising booster.



✠A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS

Next Sunday St. Nicholas will be visiting our children after all the Masses. Please bring your children to Helfta Hall for this traditional Advent event.

✠HELPERS

DECEMBER 03, 2006

7:30 AM John Wiesman, Kent Maki, Joe Andreotta, Tom Kamphaus
9:00 AM Jim Gebel, Richard Smith, Dale Wilker, Bernie Brueggemann
11:30 AM Bob Uhlenbrock, Kirby Bischel, Dennis Hille, John French
5:45 PM John Seyfried

✠SERVERS

NOVEMBER 27- DECEMBER 03, 2006

•TUE 11/28 5:45 LOW: Keaveney
•WED 11/29 6:30 LOW: C. & T. Simpson
•FRI 12/01 5:45 LOW & EXPO: Briggs, Bayer, Ritze, Keaveney
•SAT 12/02 7:30 AM LOW: C. & T. Simpson
9:00 AM HIGH: Keaveney and Briggs
•SUN 12/03 7:30 AM LOW: D. & S. Brueggemann
9:00 AM HIGH: MCs: R. VandeRyt, & J. Lotarski; AC: Cozzens Bros;
CROSS: R. Hill; TH: A. Lotarski; TORCH: B. Lotarski, G. Wnek, F. & N
Puglielli, A. Richesson; MITERS: T. Simpson; CROZIER: F. Puglielli
11:30 AM LOW: C. Ritze & A.D. Kinnett
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

Collection Report

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2006 \$4077.00

*Thank you for your generosity!
Remember St. Gertrude's in your will!*

✠ POETRY CORNER

TAKE YE HEED, WATCH AND PRAY

BY JONES VERY

Come suddenly, O Lord, or slowly come,
I wait Thy will, Thy servant ready is;
Thou hast prepared Thy follower a home,
The heaven in which Thou dwellest,
too, is his.

Come in the morn, at noon, or midnight
deep,

Come, for Thy servant still doth
watch and pray

E'en when the world around is sunk in
sleep,

I wake, and long to see Thy glorious day.

I would not fix the time, the day, nor hour,
When Thou with all Thine angels
shalt appear;

When in Thy kingdom Thou shalt come
with power,

E'en now, perhaps, the promised day
is near!

For though, in slumber deep, the world
may lie,

And e'en Thy church forget Thy great
command;

Still year by year Thy coming draweth nigh,
And in its power Thy kingdom is at
hand.

Not in some future world alone 't will be,
Beyond the grave, beyond the bounds
of Time;

But on the earth Thy glory we shall see,
And share Thy triumph, peaceful,
pure, sublime.

Lord! help me that I faint not, weary grow,
Nor at Thy coming slumber too, and
sleep;

For Thou hast promised, and full well I know,
Thou wilt to us Thy word of promise
keep.



AT DEATH

Christ, unconquered King of glory!

Thou my wretched soul relieve

In that most extreme terror

When the body she must leave:

Let the accuser of the brethren

O'er me then no power receive!

—ST. PETER DAMIAN
(translated by J.M. Neale)

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D.)

✠ IN YOUR CHARITY...

A shut-in parishioner needs help with cleaning one day a month. If you can help please call 248-2850

✠ VISITATION SOCIETY

The Visitation Society is sponsoring a membership drive organizational meeting on Sunday, December 3rd at 11:00 AM in Helfta Hall. Bishop Dolan will be speaking at the meeting. Please bring contact information of people who need visiting. Contact Kathy Bayer at 779-0212 if you have questions.

✠ HOLY HELPER VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, December 2nd: Katie Bischak, the Wilker Family, Connie Kamphaus.

I would like to thank those who helped clean and prepare for the Feast of St. Gertrude, the anniversary of the dedication of our church, but most especially for the privilege of the visit of our newly ordained priest, Fr. Nicholas Desposito, and all the visiting clergy and seminarians. May God reward you for your long hours of cleaning and ironing, but most particularly to Jeanne Hille for the beautiful flower arrangements.

As we approach the beginning of Advent please keep in mind that church decorating for Christmas will be Saturday, December 16th. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces to help make our church the beautiful jewel it is when fully decked out in all her Christmas treasures.

✠ THANK YOU...

to Edna Harpen for her donation to help defray the cost of flowers used last Sunday for the feast day celebration. She made this offering for the safe return of her son Sgt. Rafael A. Harpen who is in Iraq. Please keep

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(recite next Saturday evening)

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.

Let us pray. 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.



NOVENA PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment, in which the Son of God was born of the Most Pure Virgin Mary, at midnight in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. At that hour, vouchsafe O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother. Amen.

(Traditionally said 15 times a day from St. Andrew's Day until Christmas.)

him and all the members of our parish family who are serving in the military in your prayers.



✠ ADVENT

Visit our Gift Shop to get ready for this season of getting ready. Advent Wreaths, as well as good spiritual reading are available. Be sure to prepare an Advent Wreath (three purple and one pink candle) for your family dining table or shrine. The first candle may be lit on Saturday evening or Sunday.

A MEDITATION TO PREPARE FOR ADVENT

Consider first, that the time of Advent, (so called from being set aside by the Church for worthily celebrating the Advent, that is the coming of Christ), is a penitential time (not a party time), and a time of devotion, in which we are every day called upon by the Church of God to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths; to enter into the like dispositions to those which St. John the Baptist required of the people when he was sent to preach to them conversion and penance, in order to prepare them for their Messias; that so we also, by turning away from our sins, by sorrow and repentance, and turning ourselves to the Lord our God with our whole heart, by love and affection, may dispose our souls to welcome our Savior whose birth we are about to celebrate; and to embrace in such a manner the mercy and grace which He brings with Him at His first coming, as to escape hereafter those dreadful judgements which His justice shall execute upon impenitent sinners at His second coming.

See then, my soul, that thou dedicate this holy time to suitable exercise of devotion and penance, that thou mayest answer the end of this institution and be induced by the wholesome fear of the dreadful judgements that are continually hanging over the heads of impenitent sinners, to make good use of this present time of mercy, lest hereafter there should be neither time nor mercy for them.

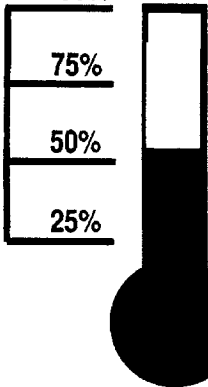
Ah! sinners, if this day you hear the voice of the Lord, either sweetly inviting you with the allurements of His mercy, or terrifying you with the threats of His judgements, see you harden not your hearts. For now is your time. Sleep on no longer, unless you come to sleep in death, as it happened to them of old, who refusing to harken to God's voice, provoked Him so far, that He swore to them in His wrath, that they should never enter into His rest. O remember that the day of the Lord and His judgements shall come as a snare upon all them that will not watch, *Luke xxi, 35.*

Conclude to enter now into the true spirit of this holy time—which is a penitential spirit—and to prepare the way of the Lord, by putting away all thy sins, and purifying thy soul for Him; thus shalt thou welcome Him at His coming, and shalt be welcome to Him.

—BISHOP CHALLONER

OUR GOAL

100%



NOVEMBER RECTORY FUND FIGURES

November Monthly goal	\$5000.00
Received to date	\$2885.00
Percent of goal received	57.7%
Possible contributors	200
Contributors to date	66
Percent contributing	33.0%

Your support is needed and appreciated!

✠ THE CALENDAR

✠ BISHOP'S CORNER



MON	11/27/06	FERIAL DAY - OL OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL 11:30 AM High Mass <i>For Mario Derksen (Michael DiSalvo)</i> 4:15-6:00 PM Knights of the Sacred Heart (St Gertrude Facility) St. Angela Merici Girls' Group (St Gertrude Facility)
TUES	11/28/06	FERIAL DAY - ST CATHERINE LABOURÉ 11:30 AM High Mass <i>Happy Birthday, Paulina (The Fathers)</i> 5:45 PM Low Mass <i>Michelle Sterling - Birthday 10/11 (Bree Keaveney)</i>
WED	11/29/06	VIGIL OF ST ANDREW, AP - ST SATURNINUS, M 6:30 AM Low Mass <i>Bernadette Brueggemann (Dan, Mary & Family)</i> 11:30 AM High Mass <i>For the Intentions of Mrs. Gaye & To Recover As Soon As Possible (Patrick Lotarski)</i> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
THUR	11/30/06	ST ANDREW, AP 9:00 AM Low Mass <i>†Margaret Sandmeyer (Jim & Barb Kolenich)</i>
FRI	12/01/06	FERIAL DAY - FIRST FRIDAY 10:45 AM Confessions 11:30 AM High Mass & Benediction <i>All Soldiers Killed in Iraq (C. Bloemker)</i> 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass, Exposition, Sacred Heart Novena, Confessions <i>†Betty Richter (B. & R. Brueggemann)</i> ADORATION CONTINUES ALL NIGHT 7:00 PM Potluck Supper 8:00 PM First Friday Holy Hour 8:50 PM Distribution of Holy Communion
SAT	12/02/06	ST BIBIANA, VM - FIRST SATURDAY 7:00 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass <i>Richard Smith - Birthday Remembrance (Beth, Joe & the Kids)</i> 8:10 AM Rosary & First Saturday Devotions 8:45 AM Benediction, Confessions 9:00 AM High Mass, Confessions <i>†Albert Kinnett - 3rd Anniversary (Margaret & Albert Daniel Kinnett)</i> 4:30 PM Confessions
SUN	12/03/06	ADVENT I - ST FRANCIS XAVIER, C THE VISIT OF ST. NICHOLAS AFTER ALL MORNING MASSES 7:20 AM Lighting of the Advent Wreath 7:30 AM Low Mass <i>Special Intention (MIM Victor Ritze)</i> 9:00 AM Advent Sunday Procession & High Mass <i>†Dr. Coomaraswamy (The Duff Family)</i> 11:00 AM Visitation Society Meeting 11:30 AM Low Mass <i>Andrew Prell (Mom & Dad)</i> 4:45 PM Advent Vespers & Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass <i>For the People of St. Gertrude's</i>

This Thanksgiving Sunday certainly finds us with our hearts filled with gratitude to Almighty God, His Blessed Mother, and St. Gertrude the Great. For 26 years we have been able to worship God in a proper church edifice, when so many others have been denied this. Our church continues to see Ordinations and First Masses, as well as the whole round of Holy Masses, Feasts, Offices, Sacraments, and Devotions that go to make up the proper Liturgical Year. Our enemies fall away, never doing us any lasting harm, but actually much good. Our friends, *around the world*, are multiplied and we continue to do us and each other so very much good. Truly, then, Deo Gratias et Mariae!

But I must in a particular way mention last weekend's wonderful memories: so many priests and holy Masses (the "once in a lifetime" scene at the 7:30 Mass – 3 Masses offered at the same time), Solemn Mass of St. Gertrude, the First Blessings, the charming reception. I must add to this, with further gratitude, the many logistical questions connected with receiving so many guests, the meals and lodging and set-up and preparations all so well provided for. So many of you, as at Easter, helped in so many ways. I am proud and grateful for you all.

The work of training new priests is the work of preparing priests to take care of *your* children. As with a family, it is on-going. Support our seminary—its building fund and monthly expenses—as well as our own at your local church. Your generosity lays the foundation for the future, for firm faith and the salvation of souls.

I am doing my part a bit more this year by teaching a course of Pastoral Theology—the practical side of running a parish—four weeks during the 2006–2007 term. Thus I depart this afternoon, and return on Thursday, St. Andrew's Day, which is Fr. Saavedra's Second Anniversary of Ordination. We are very grateful to Father for His devoted teaching this year, and his working with our youth.

Let us thank God together for so many graces this year, and humbly and confidently anticipate His future mercies.

Yours in the Sacred Heart,

—Bishop Dolan

✠ THE HOUR OF DEATH

The instruction which follows was given by Mary, the Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to the Venerable Mary of Agreda. This particular portion of instruction is so vitally important it should be read over and over again and thoroughly digested. It is taken from The Mystical City of God.

...that thou mayest help those who are in danger of death, thou shouldst give to others the same counsels that I have now given thee. Exhort them to lead a careful life in order to secure a happy death. Moreover, say some prayers for this intention every day of thy life, fervently asking the Almighty to disperse the deceits of the devils, to destroy the snares prepared against those who are in the throes of death, and that His right hand confound all the demons. Know that I have directed my prayers to that end for mortals and in this I wish thee to imitate me. That thou mayest help them so much the more, I wish thee to order and command the demons to depart from the sick and stop their persecutions; and thou canst very efficaciously use this power, even when thou art absent from the sick, for thou art to command them in the name of the Lord, and thou art to compel them to obey thee for His greater honor and glory.

PRAYER FOR THE DYING

Most merciful Jesus, lover of souls! I pray Thee, by the agony of Thy most Sacred Heart, and by the sorrows of Thy Immaculate Mother, wash in Thy Blood the sinners of the whole world, who are now in their agony, and are to die this day. Amen. Heart of Jesus, once in agony, have mercy on the dying. (*An Indulgence of 100 Days*)

✠ A SHORT TOUR THROUGH PURGATORY: SEVEN DAYS ACCOMPANIED BY THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

THURSDAY

What do you regret, holy souls in purgatory, about the earth that you have left?

"I regret the scandals I've caused... If only I had just my own sins to regret! If only the consequences of my scandals were stopped with my death! If only I could, from here, hold back from the slippery slopes of the abyss so many poor souls, still on earth, who are following my sad examples and my corrupting doctrine! But no; because of me, they will continue to do wrong for a long time. I am being held to account for my part in causing all these sins."

Spiritual bouquet: "To each according to his works."

Prayer: O Lord, God Almighty, by the adorable Body and the most Precious Blood of Jesus who, on the eve of His Passion, gave Himself as a perpetual sacrifice, I implore Thee to deliver the souls in purgatory, especially those most devoted to this mystery of infinite love. May they finally praise Thee forever through the merits of Thy divine Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

O my Jesus, mercy and forgiveness! (*Our Father, Hail Mary, Miserere*)

FRIDAY

What do you regret, holy souls in purgatory, about the earth that you have left?

"I regret the penance not done... How easy it would have been then when still in the world! How harsh it is today in purgatory! Here the slightest pain is much more intense than the greatest agony on earth. I should have then accepted with resignation all trials and suffering, denied myself a few pleasures and given alms through charitable works."

"O you who are suffering in this valley of tears, rejoice that the slightest sorrow, suffered with a Christian attitude to satisfy God's justice and offered to the Sacred Heart in a spirit of reparation, can shorten, or better still, completely eliminate a long and a painful purgatory."

Spiritual bouquet: "Accomplish, then, worthy fruits of penance."

Prayer: O Lord, God Almighty, by the most Precious Blood which Jesus, Thy divine Son, shed on the Tree of the Cross, especially by the wounds of His sacred hands and feet, I implore Thee to deliver the souls in purgatory, particularly those that I am most drawn to pray for, so that it will not be my fault if Thou

dost not invite them into paradise immediately to praise Thee forever. Amen.

O Jesus, sweet and humble Heart, make my heart like Thine! (*Our Father, Hail Mary, Miserere*)

SATURDAY

What do you regret, holy souls in purgatory, about the earth that you have left?

"I regret the little amount of charity that I had on earth for the souls in purgatory... I could have been so useful to them during my life! Prayers, penances, alms, charitable works, communions, holy Masses, devotion to the Sacred Heart; all means that were available to me to console these poor souls, hostages in this place of fire, gloom and suffering. If I had thus acted, I would have benefitted from powerful graces to avoid sin, and in this way, I would have avoided a long and painful period of purification."

"Ah! If I could now return to earth, how many holy Masses I would attend! How many I would have celebrated for these forgotten souls! What prayers I would offer to heaven for their intention! Alas! I can no longer do so — but you can!"

Spiritual bouquet: "In all justice, we deserve to suffer."

Prayer: O Lord, God Almighty, by the most precious Blood flowing from the Heart of Jesus, and by His Mother, a silent witness to this drama of salvation, I implore Thee to deliver the souls in purgatory and in particular, those who were most devoted to this great Queen, so that they may be admitted into Thy glory as soon as possible and praise Thee through her forever and ever. Amen. O Mary, who entered this world Immaculate, obtain for me from God the grace to leave it without sin. (*Our Father, Hail Mary, Miserere*)



GOD'S TIME AND THE WORLD'S TIME

BY REV. FR. EMMANUEL, OSB

(Benedictine monk and Pastor of the parish of Mesnil Saint-Loup—considered one of the greatest spiritual writers of the 18th century.)

"Tempus meum nondum advenit; tempus autem vestrum semper paratum est." (JOHN 7, 6). "My time is not yet come; but your time is always ready."

There is the time of God and the time of the world: the time of God has its own measure, its own rule and its own law, in God Himself; the time of the world has its measure in man. Consequently, to the degree that there is a difference between

God and man, there is a difference between the time of God and the time of man.

God's time is never in a hurry; man's time seems to be always hurrying: the reason is that God has an eternity for Himself, while man seems to have but a little of the present.

And so God is patient, man is impatient. God is patient because He is eternal, says St. Augustine; man is impatient because he is of a day, of an instant.

This is easily perceived in the realm of prayer, even of the holiest and most humble prayer. Man asks, and would like to be answered at the first word. It would be very difficult for us to pray with fervor for a grace that we knew would not be granted for a quarter of a century. Man's time has always come.

That is not the way it is with God's time: it comes at the hour of God, and God's hour is measured by the clock of eternity. Often, therefore, God seems not to answer prayers; nevertheless he hears them, and listens with a love in proportion to His grace that excited them in our souls; and having excited, heard and received them, He puts them on reserve, so to speak, until His time has come.

Very rare, too rare, are the souls who know how to pray without demanding to be answered on the spot. The best prayers are those made according to God's will and abandoned to the will of God, to bear fruit when God's time will have come. The creature's impatience shows itself too before the judgment and the judgments of God.

Men weak in faith would like sin to be punished straightway: God's delaying in judging becomes a sort of scandal for some, and all too often a difficulty for others. Here too, man would like to impose his time upon God, give Him the hour, and nearly teach Him His ways.

But the ways of God are far from the ways of men, and nobody is admitted to the council of His eternal providence. God knows, and we do not know; while we judge, God judges too, and our judgment is hardly in agreement with His.

Will God submit to our wisdom? Will He come to man's school to learn how to govern heaven and earth? No: God laughs at our vanity, has compassion on our haste, and teaches us to submit to Him in everything. "Commit thy way to the Lord and trust in Him, and He will do it." (*Psalm 36, 5*).

Taken from a series of articles entitled: "THE SAYINGS OF OUR LORD" from the Bulletin of Notre Dame de la Saints-Esperance, Dec. 1886.