

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 28, 2008 HOLY INNOCENTS

The Blessing of Children follows all Masses. Bring your children to the communion rail to be blessed after Mass.

There is a party for all of the children with Bishop Dolan in Helfta Hall following the 9:00 High Mass.

Vespers of the Holy Innocents, with Benediction, is at 1:10 p.m.

THIS WEEK

On **Monday** we honor the "holy and blissful martyr", St. Thomas A. Becker with 5:00 PM High Mass.

Tuesday and Wednesday we again offer the **8:30 AM "start your day with Holy Mass"** program. **Wednesday**, New Year's Eve offers an additional **Mass at 11:25 am** as well as the traditional **New Year's Eve Holy Hour at 5:00 p.m.**, with indulgenced devotions, **Benediction** and **Holy Communion**.

Thursday the Holy Day, the Circumcision, has Mass at **9:00** and **11:00 a.m.**

First Friday crowns the week with its two Masses and All Night Adoration leading into **First Saturday**, with Mass at **6:30** and **8:00 am**, and Rosary and Benediction in between. Start your New Year with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary.

NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the First Sunday of the Month. The **Blessing of Religious Articles** is available after Mass. The **Special Second Collection** is for Our Seminar.

Set your missal:

The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, with commemoration of the Octave Day of the Holy Innocents, Preface of the Nativity. Early Vespers of the Holy Name with Benediction are at 1:10 p.m.

THANK YOU

Our craft and bake sale brought in 800.00 for our parish and school. Thank you to all who contributed.

Ushers

DECEMBER 28, 2008

7:30 AM Joe Andreotta, Kent Maki, Joe Bayer, Jim Kolenich
9:00 AM Dale Wilker, Jim Gebel, Richard Smith, Bernie Brueggemann
11:30 AM Bob Uhlbrock, Dennis Hille, Will Wiegand, Kirby Bischel
5:45 PM John Seyfried

Epiphany Appreciation Dinner

Please mark **Tuesday Evening January 6th** on your new calendar for 2009. Come to the evening Mass for Epiphany and stay for the annual Appreciation Dinner. I appreciate you all, so all are welcome, especially all of our helpers. The church provides a main course, and you are invited to bring a side dish or a dessert to share. See you there!

-Bishop Dolan



EXAMPLE THE BEST TEACHER

There was once a father whose life was far from being so edifying as it ought to have been. He had a large family, and although he himself had but little piety, his greatest desire was to see his children virtuous and good. So he one day asked a friend, whom he much esteemed for his wisdom and experience, what he would consider the best means of attaining this object. He answered him: "I know only of one; and that is, to set them a good example. Children often forget what is said to them, but for the most part they willingly do what they see their parents doing."



Consider how the angel-guardians of those little ones weep at seeing them in the state of sin, and how they call for vengeance from God against the sacrilegious tongues that have scandalized them.

-St. Alphonsus Liguori

Servers

DECEMBER 29 - JANUARY 4, 2009

*MON 12/29 5:00 PM LOW: C.Ritzi
*TUE 12/30 8:30 AM LOW: S. Cozzens
5:00 PM LOW: J. Bayer
*WED 12/31 8:30 AM LOW: S. Cozzens
11:25 AM LOW: Lotarski's
6:50 PM G. Keaveney, C.Ritzi
*THU 1/1 9:00 AM HIGH CHAPLAINS: J.&A. Lotarski
TH: S. Cozzens, AC's: R.Hill, B.Lotarski
TORCH: N.McClurey, J.Simpson, P.Duff, A.Richesson
11:00 AM LOW: G.Miller, C.Ritzi
*FRI 1/2 11:25 AM LOW: Lotarski's
5:45 PM LOW: G. Keaveney, C. Ritze, J. Bayer
*SAT 1/3 6:30 AM LOW: C. & T. Simpson
8:00 AM LOW: G. Keaveney, M. Briggs
7:30 AM LOW: D. & S. Brueggemann
*SUN 1/4 9:00 AM HIGH: MC J. Lotarski
TH: S.Cozzens. AC's: F.Puglielli, G.Wnek
TORCH: N.Puglielli, P. Duff, J.Simpson, D.Wnek
11:30 AM LOW: G.Miller, M.Ribar
1:10 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G.Miller
5:45 PM LOW: T.Kunkel, M.Dickson

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

✠ POETRY CORNER

HOLY INNOCENTS

Sleep, little Baby, sleep;
The holy Angels love thee,
And guard thy bed, and keep
A blessed watch above thee.
No spirit can come near
Nor evil beast to harm thee:
Sleep, Sweet, devoid of fear
Where nothing need alarm thee.

The Love which doth not sleep,
The eternal Arms surround thee:
The Shepherd of the sheep
In perfect love hath found thee.
Sleep through the holy night,
Christ-kept from snare and sorrow,
Until thou wake to light
And love and warmth to-morrow.

-Christine Rossetti

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

When Christ was born in Bethlehem,
Fair peace on earth to bring,
In lowly state of love He came
To be the children's King.

And round Him, then, a holy band
Of children blest was born,
Fair guardians of His throne to stand
Attendant night and morn.

And unto them this grace was giv'n
A Savior's name to own,
And die for Him Who out of Heav'n
Had found on earth a throne.

O blessed babes of Bethlehem,
Who died to save our King
Ye share the martyr's diadem,
And in their anthem sing!

Your lips, on earth that never spake,
Now sound th' eternal word;
And in the courts of love ye make
Your children's voices heard.

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal Child;
Make Thou our childhood Thine;
That we with Thee the meek and mild
May share the love divine.

-Laurence Housman

Collection Report

Sunday December 21st\$10,118.70
Second Collection\$1,635.00

✠ THE CALENDAR

MON	12/29/08	ST. THOMAS A BECKET, BPM 5:00 PM Low Mass <i>Novena V</i>
TUES	12/30/08	WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS 8:30 AM Low Mass <i>Novena VI</i> 5:00 PM Low Mass <i>John Michael Recovery & Blessings</i> <i>(Bishop Dolan)</i>
WED	12/31/08	ST. SYLVESTER I, PC NEW YEAR'S EVE 8:30 AM Low Mass <i>Joseph Minges (Matthew Hardin)</i> 11:25 AM Low Mass <i>Novena VII</i> 5:00 PM New Year's Eve Holy Hour Before the Blessed Sacrament Exposed 6:50 PM Benediction and Holy Communion
THUR	1/1/09	CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST-HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION NEW YEAR'S DAY-OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS 9:00 AM High Mass <i>Novena VIII</i> 11:00 AM Low Mass and Benediction <i>In Honor of the Precious Blood for God's Blessings this New Year</i>
FRI	1/2/09	OCTAVE DAY OF ST. STEPHEN FIRST FRIDAY 10:45 AM Confessions 11:25 AM Low Mass <i>Novena IX, Benediction</i> 5:10 PM Rosary 5:15 PM Confessions 5:30 PM Infant of Prague Novena II 5:45 PM Low Mass † <i>Albert Kinnett Birthday Remembrance</i> <i>(Margaret & Albert Daniel Kinnett)</i> Novena, First Friday Devotions, Confessions, All Night Adoration <i>Intention: In Reparation to the Sacred Heart for Blasphemies against the Holy Name, and to Consecrate the New year to Jesus through Mary.</i>
SAT	1/3/09	OCTAVE DAY OF ST. JOHN, APÉV ST. GENEVIEVE, V FIRST SATURDAY 6:30 AM Low Mass, 32 Grandchildren <i>(Kirby & Jean Bischel)</i> Confessions 7:10 AM First Saturday Rosary and Devotions 7:40 AM Benediction/Confessions 8:00 AM Low Mass, Confessions <i>In Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Kathleen West</i> <i>(Norman & Janice West)</i>
SUN	1/4/09	THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS 7:30 AM Low Mass <i>Our children and godchildren</i> <i>(Dan & Mary)</i> 9:00 AM High Mass <i>Bernie Brueggemann (Thomas Simpson)</i> 11:30 AM Low Mass <i>Andrew Prell (Mom)</i> 1:10 PM Early Vespers of the Holy Name and Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass <i>For the people of St. Gertrude</i>



✠ BISHOP'S CORNER

Things are humming along in our calm pre-Christmas rush as I write these lines to be read on Christmas Sunday, Childermas or Holy Innocents Day. If we are cooperating with the abundant graces of the Holy Childhood, a kind of innocence will radiate from the crib of Bethlehem into our own souls this Christmas, and there will be peace.



Turn out the lights, and pray before your family Christmas altar or crèche, with the lighted tree and glowing decorations. Pray the Rosary (try more than one!) each day this way. Come to extra Masses this week, and linger by the crib and the tabernacle.

Consider the year now ending, and your resolutions for the new civil year. Ask Our Lady to show you God's will. Pray to be delivered from pettiness and silly childish behavior and to learn again from the little Sacred Heart how to be childlike.

Let me thank all of you for your presence all year and your presents at Christmas, be they hours of work cheerfully given or the extra offering quietly made, or the thoughtful gifts so nicely presented. May God and St. Gertrude reward your generosity. May the Holy Child and His angels guard the innocence of our little ones and Our Lady show you the way.

I send a blessing home with you.

—Bishop Dolan



Many children are a blessing to the family. They provide the opportunity for the exercise of one of the strongest institutes of nature, family affection, the love of parents towards children, of children toward parents, of children toward each other.



— Thomas J. Gerrard.

O all you Holy Innocents, who gave your lives for the Child Jesus, obtain for us the grace to profess our faith not only with our tongue, but mostly by our lives and through our actions, so that like you we may give praise and glory to God.
All you Holy Innocents, pray for us!



O ETERNAL FATHER, I OFFER THEE THE INFINITE MERITS OF THY SON'S DIVINE CHILDHOOD. I BESEECH THEE, IN HIS NAME, TO OPEN THE GATES OF HEAVEN TO A COUNTLESS HOST OF LITTLE CHILDREN, WHO WILL FOREVER FOLLOW THIS DIVINE LAMB!

