

**✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**January 25, 2009 • EPIPHANY III •**

**CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL**

Today we conclude the Chair of Unity Octave at all Masses. We close as well the Twelve Sundays of Our Mother of Good Counsel, with a little procession after the High Mass.

**Confessions** are heard before and/or during all Masses. **Catechism classes** are at **10:40 a.m.** (please note the special time). Vespers and Benediction are at **4:45 p.m.**

**THIS WEEK**

**Monday January 26th, 11:25 a.m.** Solemn High Requiem Mass and Absolution, for †Fr.

Eldred Leslie.

Fr. McGuire will meet with the Knights of the Sacred Heart **at the church, rather than in the park, at 4:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday January 27th 11:25 a.m.** Solemn High Requiem Mass and Absolution, for †Fr. Gunther Richter.

These two priests did not have a proper funeral Mass. They gave so much to others, won't you come to assist at their funerals?

**Wednesday January 28th-** Our early Mass is back at **6:30 a.m.**

**Thursday January 29th 11:25 a.m.**

**FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES**

Thursday is the Feast of the Patronal Saint of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, St. Francis de Sales, whose meekness and gentle strength are the embodiment of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Please join us for two special Masses in honor of our Patron; At **11:25 a.m.** and at **5:00 p.m.** Vespers and Benediction are at **2:15 p.m.**

**Friday January 30th**

Our monthly Requiem for the Purgatorial Society is at 11:25 a.m. Novenas and Mass are in the evening, starting at 5:30 p.m..

**Augustine's Confessions, 10.27.38**

Wrongly thinking that beauty lay without,  
blindly I cast about.  
How late did I begin  
to realize your beauty lay within.  
To one bereft of sight  
you said *Let there be Light.*  
Thus to my deafened ear  
you called, you cried! hoping that I might hear.  
I thirsted, hungered, yearned.  
You touched me, and I burned.  
How late I came to you,  
to beauty ever ancient, ever new.  
How late I came to you.

-Timothy Murphy

**NEXT SUNDAY**

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month.

The **Blessing Of Religious Articles** takes place after all Masses. The **special second collection is for our Seminary.** First Vespers Purification and Benediction are at **1:15 p.m.**

Set your Missal: Epiphany IV, commemoration of St. Ignatius and St. Francis De Sales.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**February 2nd - Candlemas**  
Evening Mass followed by Winter Soup Supper.



**February 3rd - Feast of St. Blaise.**  
The **Blessing of Throats.**

**PRAYERS, PLEASE**

Please pray for our sick, especially Carol Mincey; special intentions for the Chris Ritze family; and for all of our faithful departed, especially Fr. Eldred Leslie.



**MALE BOARDERS WANTED**

\$100.00 Week

Includes all Utilities

Private Bedroom

Share House Appliances

15 minutes from St. Gertrude.

Contact Chris Ritze 513-476-0568

**Servers**

JANUARY 26-FEBRUARY 1, 2009

- MON 1/26 5:00 PM LOW: C. Ritze
- TUE 1/27 5:00 PM LOW: G. Keaveny, G. Wnek
- WED 1/28 5:00 PM LOW J. Bayer
- THU 1/29 5:00 PM LOW C. Ritze
- FRI 1/30 5:45 PM LOW: G. Keaveny, C. Ritze, J. Bayer, M. Ribar
- SAT 1/31 7:30 AM LOW: C. & T. Simpson
- 8:00 AM LOW: G. Keaveny, M. Briggs
- 7:30 AM LOW: D. & S. Brueggemann
- 9:00 AM HIGH: MC: A. Lotarski
- TH: S. Cozzens. ACS: R. Hill, C. Eilerman
- TORCH: P. Duff, J. Simpson, N. Puglielli, D. Wnek
- 11:30 AM LOW: G. Miller, M. Ribar
- 1:15 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller, J. Lotarski, A. Lotarski, B. Lotarski
- 5:45 PM LOW: M. Dirksen

**Ushers**

FEBRUARY 1, 2009

- 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 Uhlenbrock, Dennis Hille, Will Wiegand, Kirby Bischel
- 5:45 PM John Seyfried

**Collection Report**

Sunday January 18th .....\$3,084.00

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

**✠ POETRY CORNER**

ST. PAUL

When I was Saul, and sat among the cloaks,  
My eyes were stones, I saw no sight of Heaven,  
Open to take the spirit of the twisting Stephen.  
When I was Saul, and sat among the rocks,  
I locked my eyes, and made my brain my tomb,  
Sealed with what boulders rolled across my reason!

When I was Saul and walked upon the blazing desert  
My road was quiet as a trap.  
I feared what word would split high noon with light  
And lock my life, and try to drive me mad:  
And thus I saw the Voice that struck me dead.

Tie up my breath, and wind me in white sheets of anguish,  
And lay me in my three days' sepulchre  
Until I find my Easter in a vision.

Oh Christ! Give back my life, go, cross Damascus,  
Find out my Ananias in that other room:  
Command him, as you do, in this my dream;  
He knows my locks, and owns my ransom,  
Waits for Your word to take his keys and come.

-Thomas Merton

**"O GIFTS OF GIFTS"**

O gifts of gifts! O grace of faith!  
My God! how can it be  
That Thou, Who hast discerning love,  
Shouldst give that gift to me?

-Frederick W. Faber

## ✠ THE CALENDAR

- MON 1/26/09 ST. POLYCARP, BPM**  
**11:25 AM High Mass** *Solemn Requiem and Absolution for †Fr. Eldrid Leslie*  
**5:00 PM Low Mass** †*Fr. Roy Randolph-21st Anniversary (Tom Simpson)*
- TUES 1/27/09 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BPCD**  
**11:25 AM High Mass** *Solemn Requiem and Absolution for †Fr. Gunther Richter*  
**5:00 PM Low Mass** *For Our Godparents (The Wnek Children)*
- WED 1/28/09 ST. PETER NOLASCO, C**  
 St. Agnes (the Second Time)  
**6:30 AM Low Mass** *For My Parents (Patrick Omlor)*  
**11:25 AM High Mass** *Special Intention (Barb Steinmetz)*  
**5:00 PM Low Mass** †*Raymond & Edna Heckner (John C. Seyfried)*
- THUR 1/29/09 ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, BPCD**  
**11:25 AM High Mass** *Happy Birthday Nicole McGovern (Lotarski Family)*  
**2:15 PM Vespers of St. Francis De Sales and Benediction**  
**5:00 PM Low Mass** *In Honor of St. Francis De Sales for our Salesian Society priests and the Conversion of Cincinnati*  
**7:00 PM Compline**
- FRI 1/30/09 ST. MARTINA, VM**  
 WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
**11:00 AM Confessions**  
**11:25 AM Requiem High Mass** *Purgatorial Society*  
**5:10 PM Rosary**  
**5:15 PM Confessions**  
**5:30 PM Infant of Prague Novena VI**  
**5:45 PM Low Mass** *Fr. Saavedra for his quick return (The Andreotta & Swinney Families)*  
**Novena, Benediction, and Confessions**
- SAT 1/31/09 ST. JOHN BOSCO, C**  
 WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
**7:15 AM Confessions**  
**7:30 AM Low Mass** †*Dolores Maki (Kent Maki)*  
**8:00 AM Sermon, Low Mass** *For Mario Derksen (Kathleen Mary West)*
- SUN 2/1/09 EPIPHANY IV-ST. IGNATIUS, BPM**  
 WITHIN THE OCTAVE  
**7:30 AM Low Mass** *Robert Brueggemann (Bernie B.)*  
**9:00 AM High Mass** *For the People of St. Gertrude*  
**10:30 AM Catechism Classes**  
**11:25 AM Low Mass** †*Ciro Amico (F. Amico)*  
**1:15 PM First Vespers of the Purification and Benediction**  
**5:45 PM Low Mass** *Joseph Webster (Aubrey & Bobby Uhlenbrock, Godparents)*

### MASSSES IN THE MISSIONS

The following Masses were offered in the missions:

Bernie Brueggemann (Cecilia M. Omlor)

†Mary Miska (M.A. Wozny)

†Poor Souls in Purgatory (7) (Cecilia M. Omlor)

†Rosemary & Clifford Breitenstein (Connie Kamphaus)

In Honor of Mother of Perpetual Help & relief of the Holy Souls in Purgatory (9) (Patrick Omlor)



## ✠ BISHOP'S CORNER

Last Sunday we opened our week of prayers for conversions with an excellent talk from Dr. Drolesky, and redoubled our devotions. Monday through Wednesday were indeed relatively quiet, as predicted. Fr. Ramolla and I were in Michigan, visiting my mother.



The school children had their semester exams and continued the Chair of Unity Octave devotions each day. The world...well, you know what the world and Washington were up to. (As they used to say in "Dixie": "Look away...").

But, as predicted, things got much busier on Thursday, our day of Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary reparation for the sins of America-especially abortion. We prayed for her conversion. The devil was agitated, of course-no one likes to lose a paying customer, even though hell is hardly having a recession. Still "to add insult to injury," Gino set up the Calvary scene, majestically crowning our shrine grounds with Our Crucified King and His court. What a victory!

The day began with the tragic news of the murder of "our" African missionary, Fr. Eldred Leslie in South Africa. His skull was crushed and his neck stabbed, it seems, by one of his beggars who had previously stolen from Father, but had been forgiven. (Sound familiar?) Our three priests will celebrate a Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of his good, apostolic soul at the school Mass tomorrow. Pray for the happy repose of his soul.

The Pro-Life Votive Mass of the Holy Innocents was rather well attended, and it was nice to see some of our home schooled, by exception, in the pews. A few souls came, too, in the afternoon hours to keep Christ company for the conversion of America. The evening devotions and Mass drew only a handful despite the wonderful weather. It was the same last year, with very bad weather. Go figure. Still, it is comforting to see so many on some days (two to three rails full) at the school Mass.

There were as well on Thursday emails and phone calls to field for Fr. Leslie's death, as well as much desk work. The tension and sadness of the day were somewhat relieved by the tale of Frs. Greenwell and Jenkins and the valet parking. Father Greenwell was feeling well enough to go out for a bite of dinner at the Grande Finale in Glendale and gave the van keys to the "valet" in the parking lot. The only problem is that this restaurant has no valet parking, which they only realized when they went out for their car afterwards. Talk about a "grand finale" to a meal! A happy ending to the evening was provided by the police, and the Fathers got their van back.

Speaking of dinner, Fr. Cekada was out to eat with someone and had just ordered his club soda with lime when word came that the Patton's cousin, Carol Mincey, was at Good Samaritan and in need of last rites. The priestly life! He cancelled the club soda, excused himself, and headed down 75 to give Extreme Unction.

May January's last week be as sweet and sunny as its penultimate one. I hope the bitter cold is past. I invite you twice this week to church to pray for two zealous priests who gave themselves for souls, Fr. Leslie and Fr. Richter. On Thursday we honor Cincinnati's patron saint, and the model of Catholic Action, St. Francis De Sales.

I send a blessing home with you today, and Jesus, Mary and Joseph as well.

-Bishop Dolan

# FEAST OF THE PURIFICATION CANDLEMAS SOUP SUPPER

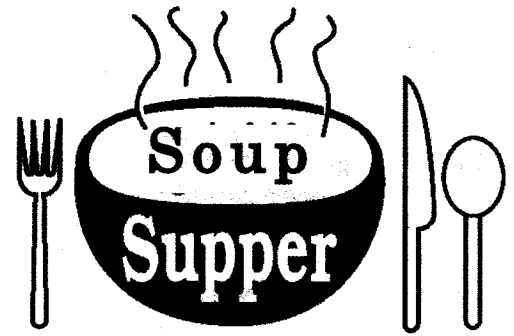
**When:** FEBRUARY 2ND

**Time:** IMMEDIATELY AFTER 5:30 PM MASS

**Where:** HELFTA HALL

**What:** SOUP OR DESSERT

**Who:** EVERYONE IN THE PARISH

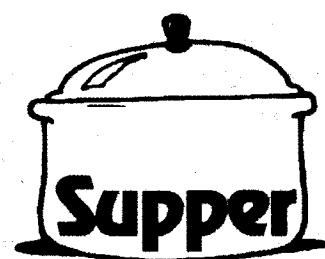


We are looking forward to tasting all the special soups on Feb. 2nd after the evening Mass!

This tends to be the highlight of Winter Dinners at St. Gertrude the Great as the skilled culinary talents of our parish members and illustrious Bishop Dolan really shine.

Bring your recipes to share, won't you? (perhaps on "3x5" cards.) There will be blank tent signs provided to label the Name of the Soup and the Identity of the Preparer. If you don't have a favorite soup, bring a delicious dessert. The church will supply the bread and wine, and other beverages.

This is always so much fun and very relaxing. So bring your favorite soup/stew, your appetite and recipes February 2nd!



ABBA MIUS



A soldier asked Abba Mius if God accepted repentance. After the old man had taught him many things he said, "Tell me, my dear, if your cloak is torn, do you throw it away?" He replied, "No, I mend it and use it again." The old man said to him, "If you are so careful about your cloak, will not God be equally careful about His creature?"

CONVERSION

But gracious God, how well dost Thou provide  
 For erring judgements an unerring guide!  
 Thy throne is darkness in the abyss of light,  
 A blaze of glory that forbids the sight.  
 O teach me to believe Thee thus concealed,  
 And search no farther than Thy self revealed;  
 But her alone for my director take,  
 Whom Thou hast promised never to forsake!  
 My thoughtless youth was winged with vain desires;  
 My manhood, long misled by wandering fires,  
 Followed false lights; and when their glimpse was gone,  
 My pride struck out new sparkles of her own.  
 Such was I, such by nature still I am;  
 Be Thine the glory and be mine the shame!

-John Dryden



*He who busies himself with the sins of others, or judges his brother on suspicion, has not yet even begun to repent or to examine himself so as to discover his own sins...*

-St. Maximos the Confessor

MARK THE EGYPTIAN

It was said of Abba Mark the Egyptian that he lived for thirty years without going out of his cell. The priest used to take Holy Communion to him. But the devil, seeing the remarkable endurance of this man, decided to tempt him, by making him blame the priest. He brought it about that a demoniac went to the old man, under the pretext of asking for prayers. Before anything was said, the possessed man cried out to the old man, "Your priest smells of sin, do not let him come near you any more." But Mark, filled with the spirit of God, said to him, "My son, everyone rids himself of impurity, but you bring it. It is written: "Judge not for that you be not judged." (Matt. 7.1) However, even if he is a sinner, the Lord will save him, for it is written: "Pray for one another that you may be healed." (James 5.16) When he had said this and when he had prayed, he drove the devil out of the man and sent him away healed. When the priest came, according to his custom, the old man received him with joy. Seeing the absence of malice in the old man, the good God showed him a marvel. When the priest prepared himself to stand before the holy table, this is what the old man related, "I saw the angel of the Lord descend from Heaven and place his hand on the priest's head and he became like a pillar of fire. I was filled with wonder at this sight, and I heard a voice saying to me, "Man, why are you astonished at this? In truth, if an earthly king does not allow his nobles to stand in his presence in soiled garments, but only arrayed in glory, how much more will the divine power purify the servants of the holy mysteries who stand before the Heavenly glory?" And the noble athlete of Christ, Mark the Egyptian, became great and was judged worthy of this grace because he had not judged the priest.



SINS AGAINST THE HOLY GHOST

- Presumption of God's mercy
- Despair
- Impugning the known truth
- Envy at another's spiritual good
- Obstinacy in sin
- Final impenitence

SINS CRYING TO HEAVEN FOR VENGEANCE

- Wilful murder
- The sin of Sodom
- Oppression of the poor
- Defrauding laborers of their wages



NINE WAYS TO BE ACCESSORY TO ANOTHER'S SIN

- By silence
- By consent
- By counsel
- By partaking
- By command
- By provocation
- By concealment
- By praise or flattery
- By defense of the ill done

THE EVANGELICAL COUNSELS

- Voluntary Poverty
- Chastity
- Obedience



FOUR LAST THINGS TO BE REMEMBERED

- Death
- Judgement
- Hell
- Heaven

# ✠ SUNDAY AFTERNOON SPIRITUAL READING

## THE UNCONCEIVED

(Better titled-*The Unborn-Think of the Tragedy of Abortion*)

-Bishop Dolan

And what of them who could have had existence?

The souls whom God would have flashed into bright being

Had you and I been willing to enflesh them?

What of the unconceived,  
The never-to-be-born?

They will not know the smell of morning bread

Or the warm kiss of wine in the throat;  
Their ears will not be stormed with violins

Nor their eyes thrall'd with tall buildings

Top-blossoming with spiky silver

In a charged mist of sun and late October fog.

Their fingers will not tingle

To old worn leather books, heavy with magic.

They will not know the leap and play of intellect

Nor the whirlpool of prayer

Snatching both soul and sense, deep sweeping them to drown

In new delight.

But they are armored in unconsciousness, and need

No pity.

Meanwhile, we

Whose sterile hearts confound the fertile flesh

Stand idly by, and watch these gifts

Grow lean and futile in our plaintive hands.

-Virginia Earle

## DAY BY DAY

Boys and girls have lots of pleasures-  
every day;

Drink life's joys in fullest measure-  
every day;

For their lightsome hearts are dancing,

Just like mettled ponies prancing,

And their world looks more entrancing-  
every day.

Youth at trouble snaps its fingers-every day;

Merriment with young folk lingers-  
every day;

For they all consider sadness

But another name for madness,

So they give themselves to gladness-every  
day.

Older people have their trials-every day;

Meet with crosses and denials-every day;

But the youthful never borrow

Grief or pain or lasting sorrow:

They foresee a bright to-morrow-every day.

Yet, if life's to be all beauty-every day;

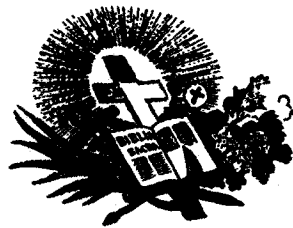
Youth must still be true to duty-every day;

Working just as well as playing,

Home and school rules e'er obeying,

And at morn and even praying-every day.

-Neale Mann



## THE WILL OF GOD

I worship Thee, sweet will of God!

And all Thy ways adore;

And every day I live, I long

To love Thee more and more.

When obstacles and trials seem

Like prison-walls to be,

I do the little I can do,

And leave the rest to Thee.

-Frederick W. Faber

## VOCATION

The subject of vocation to either the religious or the sacerdotal life is one whose importance in the present age is rather minimized than exaggerated. Were parents, teachers, preachers, and confessors utterly faithful in the accomplishment of their duties toward adolescents, were the matter of vocation adequately presented to youthful minds and hearts, were nascent vocations as carefully nurtured as are the sprouting buds in a conservatory, it is quite probable that convents, monasteries, and seminaries would annually receive treble the number of candidates that now present themselves for admission. And fully treble the number is needed, if the Church in this country is to cultivate successfully the immense field that opens before her; if she is to perform her allotted task in the spheres of missionary work, education, and charitable activities of any and every description.

-The Ave Maria



## ACT OF FAITH

GREAT GOD,

whatever through Thy Church

Thou teachest to be true,

I firmly do believe it all,

And will confess it too.

Thou never canst deceived be,

Thou never canst deceive,

For Thou art Truth itself, and Thou

Dost tell me to believe.

-Anonymous

## AFTER ST. AUGUSTINE

Sunshine let it be or frost,

Storm or calm, as Thou shalt choose;

Though Thine every gift were lost,

Thee Thyself we could not lose.

-Mary Coleridge