

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212 • www.sgg.org • www.SGGResources.org
Traditional Latin Mass: Sundays 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM



Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan, Pastor
Rev. Anthony Cekada, Rev. Charles McGuire,
Rev. Vili Lehtoranta, Rev. Stephen McKenna

December 8, 2013 The Immaculate Conception

Advent II



HAIL, FULL OF GRACE

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠The Legion of Decency pledge is renewed today, and we also continue our Immaculate Conception Novena. St. Nicholas plans to come and see the children after all morning Masses. Stay for a donut and coffee while the little ones visit with their saint. If you haven't already picked up your 2014 collection envelopes, they are waiting for you in the vestibule. If you don't see your name, let us know!

✠ALTER CHRISTUS

\$137.00 in alms was received this month for the support and sanctification of priests. Thank you!

"My most beautiful Lady, I rejoice in seeing you, by your purity and your beauty, so dear to God. I thank God for having preserved you from every stain."

– St. Alphonsus Liguori

✠NEXT SUNDAY

The blessing of expectant mothers is available after all Masses. St. Gertrude the Great School's annual *Christmas Cookie & Craft Sale* takes place in Helfta Hall. Vespers are at 4:45 PM, followed by Benediction.

Set Your Missal: Advent III, with commemoration of the Octave Day of the Immaculate Conception. Trinity Preface.



✠CHRISTMAS MASS NOVENA

Remember your loved ones in our Christmas Novena of Masses which begins Christmas Day – the perfect gift! Envelopes may be found in the pews. Fill them out and return them to the church office or the collection basket.

Wedding Banns

3rd time: Thomas G. Simpson and Karen MacDonald.

*Rescue us,
O holy and inviolate Virgin!*

✠CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

You may make a donation in memory of a loved one, to help defray the cost of the pointsettias and other flowers for Christmas. Please fill out the special flower offering envelope available in the pews, and return to an usher or drop off at the Gift Shop or church office. *To have your loved ones' names printed in the special Christmas memorial program, please turn in your envelope no later than Monday, December 16th.*

*It was fitting that the conception of the
Man who was the Son of God
should be by a Mother most pure.*

– St. Anselm

✠NURSING MOTHERS

The **Holy Innocents** classroom, last one on the right, is open and available for you to use during Mass. We are sorry for the inconvenience when you found it locked!

✠YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Barbara Steinmetz, who celebrated her feast day last week, Florence Scott and the Lynch family, H.O. Hinton, Kevin O'Donnell, Viola Ripperger, Angela Segrist and her son John, Richard and Elizabeth Smith, as well as for all of our sick and shut-in.

✠MASS INTENTIONS

Individual Mass intention envelopes, as well as Purgatorian Society enrollment forms, are available in the vestibule, and may be given in with the collection or at the church office.

✠TORCHBEARERS: BE PREPARED

All Torchbearers who have been serving since last year should by now know their responses. There will be a **test** on responses through the Confiteor, on December 22nd.



Servers: DECEMBER 9 - 15, 2013

FRI 12/13 5:45 PM LOW: Friday Night Servers

SAT 12/14 7:30 AM LOW: Simpsons
8:10 AM LOW: M. Briggs

SUN 12/15 7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: R. Vande Ryt, T. Simpson, Jr. **TH:** A. Richesson
ACS: P. Lawrence, S. Arlinghaus
TORCH: M. Simpson, C. Arlinghaus, J. Lacy, C. Richesson
11:30 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, N. Puglielli
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

Collection Report

Sunday, December 1st\$3,071.00
Second Collection\$1,168.00

Our Lady of Light

Treasured in the archives of the New Mexico Historical Society is a copy of an 18th-century book discovered in Mexico City; treasured, no doubt, for its historical worth. However to the true child and client of Mary it should be more valuable by far, since its pages contain the printed constitutions of a Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality which flourished in our country nearly three decades before the U.S. Constitution: the *Society of Our Lady of Light*, founded in the Villa of Santa Fe, Province of New Mexico, and approved by the Bishop of Durango. The Governor and Captain-General of the Province was the supreme Moderator of the Sodality. Printed in Mexico City, A. D. 1766, six years after their adoption, these statutes are dedicated to "the Heavenly Empress."

A preface states the purpose of the association: "To unite themselves under her protection and give her the most reverent cult." And so the writer "offers up this work to the Eternal Father through her most pure hands." The constitutions minutely set down the duties of officers and members, especially with regard to meetings, observance of Marian feasts, suffrages for departed members, and the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Of utmost interest is the section demanding that members must swear to defend the Immaculate Conception of Mary "*en el primer instante de su ser*," a phrase which Pius IX used in defining this dogma. Here, in present American territory, the Patroness of the future United States is being proclaimed all free from stain "*in the first moment of her existence*" years before the Declaration of Independence, and almost a century before the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was solemnly defined!

One can picture these doughty Spanish pioneers, from the Governor and General to the last husbandman and private soldier, from the dignified



Vicar-General to the footsore Padre from the Missions, all pledging themselves to uphold their Lady's all pure honor. I can see them communicating in a body on each of Mary's major feasts, as the rules require, or chanting together the *Salve Regina* at the close of a feast, all members holding lighted candles to the clear night, while western stars flicker back like multiplied reflections.

— Fray Angelico Chavez
The Ave Maria, December 1937

What a glorious heritage is ours in this land!



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 of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

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

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

His Lily foretold in Paradise's Garden:

"I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed.
She shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel."

Resplendent beauty, as roseate dawn dispels the shades of night on Mount Carmel's height,
"Morning Star, pray for us!"

Preserved in the wedlock of Anne and Joachim before birth, from the taint of original sin, most perfect reflector, His Image within.

"Mirror of Justice, pray for us!"

Exultant, rejoice! in this privileged grace, the honor, the hope of the whole human race.

"Cause of our Joy, pray for us!"

Appearing at Lourdes in eighteen apparitions, she came to Bernadette, her protégée, who petitioned the name of the beautiful lady from Heaven who asked that a Church be erected. Hear the Blessed Virgin Mary proclaim:

"Je suis La Conception Immaculée" ("I am the Immaculate Conception").
"Queen, conceived without original sin, pray for us!"

— Rose Margaret Coughlin



What is this great mystery about you, O Holy Mother and Virgin?...You are the royal throne, around which angels stand to see their Lord and Creator seated upon it. You are called the spiritual Eden...for in the former Eden the earthly Adam dwelt, but in you the Lord from heaven.

— St. John of Damascus

✠ THE BISHOP'S CORNER ✠



Blessed feast of the Immaculate Conception! This great holy day should be especially dear to us, who uphold the immaculate purity of Holy Mother Church, the new Eve pre-figured and represented by Our Lady, who never did nor could give anything evil to her children.

But Mary Immaculate is also patroness of our land. How far we have wandered from every conceivable righteousness, any last shreds of holy purity in life, public or private, in entertainment, in education, and in government. If *we* pray, however, we shall be kept safe as Catholics and Americans. We shall save our souls and others' too, even if terrible chastisements must come to *what passes* for the Church (and is not) and what, alas, has become our country.

Today we take the Legion of Decency pledge. Mean what you say. Live this way, uncompromisingly. Bring up your children innocent, free of the filth that clogs our airwaves. This is the real pollution people should worry about first.

Someone e-mailed me last week that the celebrated windbag Rush Limbaugh said that Bergoglio is teaching "pure Marxism." He's right there. Maybe more people are starting to realize the truth. Of course *no one* will say anything about Bergoglio's boldest heresy, already long taught by JP II and Ratzinger: that the Old Covenant was never abrogated, and that Jews can save themselves in their current religion (which bears very little resemblance to the revealed religion of Moses and the prophets, and is a modern pharisaical construct). Pray these days of Advent for the conversion of the Children of Israel.

Today I am in the land of Bergoglio, Argentina. I'll be interested to see what is happening there, seven years after my last visit. The people are very poor, and the Church is still given great respect. The Fathers there collect poor children and give catechism and provide summer camps for them, preparing them thus to receive their sacraments. Please pray for their perseverance.

Today there are a hundred First Communions and Confirmations scheduled at the St. Joseph's Church outside of Cordoba. Two Masses will be offered to accommodate everyone. It will be a busy morning this feast of the Immaculate Conception. I return Tuesday morning.

Last week's last days of Autumn were delightful, but probably Winter is with us now. Argentina has the

opposite seasons, so it is late Spring there. That should be a nice change.

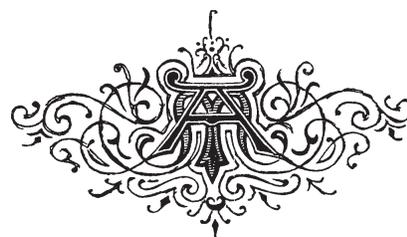
The Fathers are almost all traveling today. **Fr. Cekada** hurries off to the seminary this afternoon for the week. **Fr. McGuire** is in Louisiana, and **Fr. McKenna** is in the midst of another long Milwaukee mission visit. Please pray for good weather and safe trips for us as we go about our appointed rounds, St. Nicholas-like. Don't forget our latest priest, **Fr. Nkamuke**, who leaves this week for Nigeria, his first home and mission visit there since he first came to the seminary.

St. Nicholas is said to be visiting us today, weather permitting. Be sure to bring the little ones back to Helfta Hall. Next Sunday we have our Christmas Cookie and Craft Sale. Your participation will make it a success!

But please don't forget "the reason for the season." Let Advent prepare your heart for the Savior. Stay with Mary Immaculate these days. Make a good preparation for your Christmas confession.

May Mary Immaculate shield us under her virginal mantle.

– Bishop Dolan



Our Beloved Dead – December

Name	Date of Death
Jerome G. Gerrard	12-01-1989
Albert D. Kinnett	12-02-2003
Frank Alban, Jr.	12-03-1988
George Greene	12-04-1999
Rosemary Breitenstein	12-08-1999
Regina K. Budde	12-09-1992
Alice M. Corbin	12-12-1995
Floyd Rimer, Jr.	12-12-2002
George Wissing	12-12-2009
Henry Golembeski	12-15-1993
Ralph Patton	12-15-2009
Fred Hauserman	12-16-2010
Vanessa S. Thompson	12-17-2008
Marty Lierl	12-18-2012
Mary Genevieve Bell	12-19-2004
David T. Miller	12-19-2004
Mary I. Osborn	12-19-2002
Richard Weik	12-29-2010

✠ THE CALENDAR

All Sunday Masses, school day Masses, Friday evening and Saturday morning Masses are webcast at www.sgg.org

- MON 12/9/13 WITHIN THE OCTAVE**
RESUMED MASS OF ADVENT II
Immaculate Conception Novena III
11:20 AM High Mass Poor Souls in Purgatory (*The Wilkers*)
- TUE 12/10/13 WITHIN THE OCTAVE ST MELCHIADES, PM**
OUR LADY OF LORETTO
Immaculate Conception Novena IV
11:20 AM High Mass †Ben Kossenjans (*Rebecca & H.O. Hinton*)
5:00 PM Low Mass Anne Ferro, Special intention (*G. Keaveney*)
- WED 12/11/13 ST DAMASUS I, PM WITHIN THE OCTAVE**
Immaculate Conception Novena V
11:20 AM High Mass Poor Souls-gratitude-charity (*DJR*)
5:00 PM Low Mass Souls in Purgatory (*Samantha*)
6:30 PM Choir Practice
- THU 12/12/13 WITHIN THE OCTAVE**
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
Immaculate Conception Novena VI
8:00 AM Low Mass Cathy & Wayne Beil
11:20 AM High Mass Monica Lamping's intentions (*B. Simpson*)
5:00 PM Low Mass †Hannah Mae Keaveney-1st anniversary (*Gerry Keaveney*)
- FRI 12/13/13 ST LUCY, VM WITHIN THE OCTAVE**
Immaculate Conception Novena VII
8:00 AM Low Mass Poor Souls-gratitude-to follow grace (*DJR*)
10:55 AM Confessions
11:20 AM High Mass Poor Souls (*Patton family*)
5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary
5:45 PM Low Mass †Dad and †Mom - R.I.P. (*G. Keaveney*)
6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena & Benediction
- SAT 12/14/13 WITHIN THE OCTAVE**
Immaculate Conception Novena VIII
7:15 AM Confessions
7:30 AM Low Mass Intention of Sr. Renee Marie, CMRI (*Tom Simpson*)
8:10 AM Sermon, Low Mass †Mary Current (*Samantha*)
- SUN 12/15/13 ADVENT III – GAUDETE SUNDAY**
OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Closing of the Immaculate Conception Novena
7:05 AM Rosary
7:30 AM Low Mass Lisa & Paul McConnell & family's intentions (*Steve & Hayley Brueggemenn & family*)
9:00 AM High Mass St. Gertrude's office staff-thank you for the bulletin (*M. Sutton*)
10:40 AM Sunday Catechism Classes

CITY OF GOD

That Mary is the New Jerusalem is many times clearly stated in the revelations of Mary of Agreda. "The Evangelist says that he saw the holy city Jerusalem, for under this figure he speaks of Her...On account of the wonderful works which God accomplished in the city of Jerusalem, it was a most excellent symbol of Her. ...

"Whatever was transacted in Jerusalem, the city...is reproduced in the most pure Mary, the holy City of God, and with a greater and more marvelous excellence than in all the rest of heaven and earth Hence she is called the New Jerusalem...." (*Vol. I The Conception, pp. 201-202*)

This Apocalyptic prophecy is of tremendous importance to contemporary Catholics. It reveals to them that Mary is "the tabernacle of God with men"; that it is only in Mary that men can find Jesus; that it is only in Mary that they can be converted in these latter times. This is the basic thesis, not only of Mary of Agreda's **City of God**, but also of St. Louis De Montfort's priceless volume *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary*. In his prophecies regarding "these latter times," prophecies which we believe were directly inspired by the Holy Ghost and which may very well refer to this 20th Century, De Montfort writes: "This city which men shall find at the end of the world to convert themselves in, and to satisfy the hunger they have for justice, is the most Holy Virgin, who is called by the Holy Ghost the City of God."

– The Age of Mary, Jan.-Feb. 1958



Our Lady of Guadalupe, mystical Rose, make intercession for Holy Church, help all those who invoke thee in their necessities, and since thou art the ever Virgin Mary and Mother of the true God, obtain for us from thy most holy Son the grace of keeping our faith, sweet hope in the midst of the bitterness of life, burning charity and the precious gift of final perseverance. Amen.



– An indulgence of 500 days (*Raccolta No. 424*)

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11:05 AM Rosary

11:30 AM Low Mass †Ralph Patton-4th anniversary (*Patton family*)

4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction

5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great