

# 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



## January 11, 2015 THE HOLY FAMILY

SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE EPIPHANY  
ST. HYGINUS, PM

### ¶ EPIPHANY I

Happy Holy Family! Epiphany home blessing packets are available at the Three Kings Shrine in the vestibule. Be sure to take one. Make use of this beautiful sacramental in your home today. Sunday classes are at 10:40 AM.



### ¶ ALTER CHRISTUS

\$357 was received this month for the support and sanctification of priests. Thank you for your generous almsgiving!

### ¶ NEXT SUNDAY: EPIPHANY II

The blessing of expectant mothers will be available after all Masses. The Chair of Unity Octave begins. Sunday classes for adults and children are at 10:40 AM. Vespers at 4:45 PM.

**Set Your Missal:** Epiphany II with Collects of St. Peter's Chair at Rome and of St. Prisca. Trinity Preface.

*"Lord, You know that I love You."*  
—St. Peter

### ¶ CATHOLIC BOOKS & RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

A fine selection is available in the Gift Shop after the Masses on Sunday.

### Lumen Christi

*The Sanctuary Lamp will burn before the Blessed Sacrament during the next fortnight for the following intention:*

**Lindsey Keenan**  
(Dave Phillips)



HE WAS SUBJECT TO THEM

### ¶ UPCOMING

**Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Our pro-life day of prayer and reparation for the crime of abortion. Bring the children to their Holy Hour at 2:15 PM.

Mark your calendars and join us on **February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the Feast of the Purification, for the Candlemas Evening Mass followed by the Winter Soup Supper.

### ¶ PLEASE PRAY...

Remember in your prayers Fr. McKenna's grandmother, Stephen Heiner's father, Ken Gilliam's father, and John Segrist.

### ¶ THE PASCHAL SACRAMENTS: 2015

**Please note these important dates:**

• **First Confessions & Testing: Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.** (Baptismal certificate must be already presented, and registration form completed. *Contact the church office for the necessary form.*)

• **Children's Day of Recollection: Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.**

• **Confirmation: Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

• **First Communion: Corpus Christi Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Parents, please note: the Baptismal certificates of children not baptized at St. Gertrude the Great must be submitted to the church office by **Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**. If your child is not enrolled in the school or in Sunday catechism, *please let us know if you are planning on bringing him to be tested on April 18<sup>th</sup>*.

It is sometimes difficult to know if the children are ready, but if they know their basics, and are reverent at Mass, they probably are! Please speak with Bishop Dolan.

### Collection Report

Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.....\$2,703.00  
Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.....\$4,333.00  
Second Collection.....\$1,062.00  
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

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

- MON 01/12/15 WITHIN THE OCTAVE**  
ST. BENET BISCOP, AB  
**11:20 AM High Mass** Andrew – Happy Birthday (*Mom & Dad*)
- TUE 01/13/15 OCTAVE DAY OF THE EPIPHANY**  
**8:00 AM Low Mass** †Edla Rozen – Anniversary 1/4/04 (*Judy Metz*)  
**11:20 AM High Mass** All Our Servers – Thank You (*Mr. & Mrs. Victor Rütze*)  
**5:00 PM Low Mass** All Poor Souls in Purgatory (*Anonymous*)
- WED 01/14/15 ST. HILARY, BPCD**  
ST. FELIX, PRM  
**8:00 AM Low Mass** Bernadette Ritchey (*Frances Mattingly*)  
**11:20 AM High Mass** Fr. Saavedra (*ACC*)  
**5:00 PM Low Mass** All Our Deceased Relatives (*The Wilker family*)
- THU 01/15/15 ST. PAUL, FIRST HERMIT**  
ST. MAURUS, AB  
*OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR*  
**6:00 AM Low Mass** Papa & Mom – Happy Anniversary (*Samantha*)  
**11:20 AM High Mass** Warm winter & Poor Souls (*Frances Mattingly*)  
**5:00 PM Low Mass** Jesse Crail family (*Rob & Jane Brockman*)
- FRI 01/16/15 ST. MARCELLUS I, PM**  
**8:00 AM Low Mass** Julian Ritchey & Tjasa (*Frances Mattingly*)  
**10:55 AM Confessions**  
**11:20 AM High Mass** “Thank You” church workers (*Mr. & Mrs. Victor Rütze*)  
**5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary**  
**5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena IV**  
**5:45 PM Low Mass** Mrs. Joshua Gunsher (*Mr. Joshua Gunsher*)  
**6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena & Benediction**
- SAT 01/17/15 ST. ANTHONY, AB**  
*OUR LADY OF PONTMAIN*  
**7:10 AM Confessions**  
**7:30 AM Low Mass** For my Godparents & their intentions (*Theresa Simpson*)  
**8:10 AM Sermon, Low Mass** Our Deceased Ancestors (*Wilker family*)
- SUN 01/18/15 EPIPHANY II**  
ST. PETER’S CHAIR AT ROME  
ST. PRISCA, VM  
**Opening of the Chair of Unity Octave**  
**7:30 AM Low Mass** Merry Christmas, Mom & Dad (*The Brueggemann kids*)  
**9:00 AM High Mass** For the people of St. Gertrude the Great  
**10:40 AM Catechism Classes**  
**11:30 AM Low Mass** Dennis & Jeanne Hille – Merry Christmas (*Bobby & Aubrey Uhlenbrock*)  
**4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction**  
**5:45 PM Low Mass** †Fr. Martin Stepanich, O.F.M. (*Samantha*)

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY**

O God of goodness and mercy, to Thy fatherly protections we commend our family, our household and all that belongs to us. We commit all to Thy love and keeping; do Thou fill this house with Thy blessings even as Thou didst fill the holy House of Nazareth with Thy presence.

Keep far from us, above all things else, the taint of sin, and do Thou alone reign in our midst by Thy law, by Thy most holy love and by the exercise of every Christian virtue. Let each one of us obey Thee, love Thee and set himself to imitate in his own life Thine example, that of Mary, Thy Mother and our Mother most loving, and that of Thy blameless guardian, St. Joseph.

Preserve us and our house from all evils and misfortunes, but grant that we may be ever resigned to Thy divine will even in the sorrows which it shall please Thee to send us. Finally give unto all of us the grace to live in perfect harmony and in the fullness of love toward our neighbor. Grant that every one of us may deserve by a holy life the comfort of Thy holy Sacraments at the hour of death. O Jesus, bless us and protect us.

O Mary, Mother of grace and of mercy, defend us against the wicked spirit, reconcile us with Thy Son, commit us to His keeping, that so we may be made worthy of His promises.

St. Joseph, foster-father of our Savior, guardian of His holy Mother, head of the Holy Family, intercede for us, bless us and defend our homes at all times.

St. Michael, defend us against all the wicked cunning of hell.

St. Gabriel, make us to understand the holy will of God.

St. Raphael, keep us free from all sickness and from every danger to our lives.

Our holy Guardian Angels, keep our feet safely on the path of salvation both day and night.

Our holy Patrons, pray for us before the throne of God.

Yea, bless this house, O God the Father, Who hast created us; O God the Son, Who hast suffered for us on the holy Cross, and Thou, O Holy Spirit, Who hast sanctified us in holy Baptism. May the one God in three divine Persons preserve our bodies, purify our minds, direct our hearts and bring us all to everlasting life.

Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son, glory be to the Holy Ghost! Amen.

*An indulgence of 500 days once a day.*

**Servers**

- SUN 01/18:**  
**7:30 AM LOW:** Brueggemann Bros  
**9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS:** T. & J. Simpson **TH:** A. Richesson **ACs:** P. Omlor, A. Soli **TORCH:** C. Arlinghaus, T. Lawrence, J. Murray, J. Lacy  
**11:30 AM LOW:** N. & N. McClorey  
**4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION:** G. Miller  
**5:45 PM LOW:** G. Miller

Last Tuesday I was worrying about the Epiphany. Oh, not our Epiphany, thank you. Nature graced us with a white Christmas for our Little Christmas, and even the freezing temperatures and below for the first days of its Octave didn't bother us, although we would prefer our annual zero weather at its traditional time, around January 22, the Chair of Unity Octave and the Pro-Life prayer day. Two zero weather spells now two years in a row! Here our Epiphany was picture perfect, with a splendid beautifully sung Pontifical Mass, expertly served. The candlelight party featured delicious fried chicken and other savories, a wonderful range of music, and just enough guests to fill the hall. It's what I would call a great success. It is so nice an affair, this Solemn Mass and party, so pleasant an evening, so modest in its time allotment, (barely three hours in toto) that I always wonder why more don't come. But thanks to those who did, those who prepared and tidied up, and thanks to those who help us here, but were not with us to be properly thanked. The Mass was offered for you all, with my thanks! That should cover everybody.

Worrying about the Epiphany? It is one of the greatest feasts of the year, eight days of pure adoration, and yet often forgotten (perhaps because it rarely falls on a Sunday) overshadowed by Christmas although technically it is greater. I thank God that we are able to celebrate Epiphany so solemnly and to spread its knowledge by means of the Epiphany Blessings. It is the great feast of "Oh come let us adore Him," of faith and of gifts.

Life slows down in a way when it is so cold. You feel it in church. At home, the cats are confused and hungry, and half hibernate, half get bored, like children cooped up too long in the winter. We priests are busy as ever of course, with priestly work and travels. Today I am in Albuquerque for Confirmations and a pastoral visit to St. Gertrude the Less, and hoping for a bit of warmth as well. Fr. McKenna left us early after the feast, to visit his dying grandmother in Boston, and then continue on to his northern missions. Fr. McGuire is in Milwaukee today, returning after Fr. Lehtoranta's long Christmas stay. Father is back to his regular school year routine of teaching and assisting at St. Gertrude. The "Christmas priest," they call him in Milwaukee. This is his favorite time of the year.

The Fathers are grateful to Chip McClorey who found two reasonably priced older Crown Vics to replace their *very* used cars, and on their last legs. Fr. McKenna had a cold trip in one of them to Chillicothe on New Years, as the heater died recently. Speaking of heat, of course this is the season of high heating bills, and we are grateful to you for your regular and generous Sunday support. At least the gas prices have come

down, so there is some good news about, and just in time for our lifelong resolution not to miss Sunday Mass. Now, if only the imperious Duke would deign to lower the heating tax he extracts from the peasants, we'd be in business.

Speaking of heating, we had a real break the other day in the person of a former parishioner who's in the business, and whose advice saved us from a costly and seemingly unnecessary replacement of equipment. We're at the mercy of the experts, and thus it is a mercy to have the advice of someone who knows the ways and pitfalls of the business. God reward him for his kindness.

All winter, (well, up until the current freeze) we've had a cardinal (a bird, not the big scarlet ones who are for the birds) in the office garden who would see his reflection in the patio door, and fly into it repeatedly, day after day. Presumably after his head started to hurt, he would give up, only to resume on the morrow. Poor bird, but he at least has an excuse for being a birdbrain. What of Novus Ordo Cardinals or conservatives? When will they realize they are hitting their head against a wall? After 50 years of Vatican II, Bergoglio means to make it stick, an entirely new religion.

I heard last week from some Catholics in the Philippines, who realize Bergoglio is no pope and the New Mass and priesthood are not valid either. There is *one* good sedevacantist priest in all that huge country. Please keep them in your prayers, and all of the Catholics in the world, especially those who are beginning to wake up, and give up hitting their head against a wall.

The Restoration Radio season will be revving up soon and Fr. Cekada and I have recorded a Clerical Conversations show on the perennially interesting subject of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, with gambling thrown in as well. It's one of those "pay to view" deals however. You may have to subscribe to get it. Still, this is a good way to support the Faith this Epiphany, and to strengthen your own.

God bless your family on Holy Family Sunday. Remember to do the Epiphany Home Blessing as a Sunday activity today. Shore up your good Sunday resolutions by changing your Sunday environment, the way it looks at your house come Sunday. Have a prominent family altar. Pray together there on Saturday night. Have a Sunday morning schedule and program for the whole family, one which is pro church, and leads naturally to going there for Mass. Pray about it, and for all of your family needs.

We are glad to have you part of our Church family. I pray that our church is a blessing to your family. Jesus Mary and Joseph bless you and keep you!

**Bishop Dolan**

---

## THE SANDWICH GENERATION

*My son, take care of your father. (Sirach 3:12)*

Have you heard of the “sandwich generation?” It doesn’t have to do with food; it’s the situation many adults find themselves in, sandwiched between children and aging parents who need their care. In fact, a 2013 study found that in the United States, one in seven middle-aged adults provide financial support to their parents and their children, and almost three times that amount provide emotional support.

So how does God make us holy in the midst of these pressures? Don’t forget, our relationship with God, though personal, is meant to be lived out in community and not just individually. And the first and most important community is the family! It’s precisely through the ups and downs of family life that God forms His character in us. It’s a give-and-take; sometimes it’s our turn to give, and other times to receive.

If you’re on the receiving end, let people care for you! Chances are you’ve given much to your family over the years. Remember: as you receive, you are also giving a gift. You are giving them the chance to show their gratitude and to grow in becoming more like Christ. Taking care of your needs could be a pivotal experience in their relationship with God. It’s also a great way for you to grow in detachment and humility!

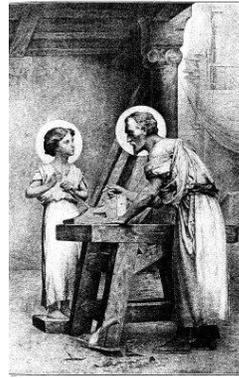
If you’re being called to give more, try to see in each needy family member the Christ Child Himself. How would you love Him? What would you give to Him? Believe that in loving and serving your family, you are loving and serving Jesus—and that He will bless you deeply for it.

On this feast day, God wants us to know that we can all become holy families. Through His grace, your family can become more of a living reflection of His love and life. Your actions in caring for each other and receiving that care will actually enfold His love in the world.

*“Father, pour out your grace and make every family a living icon of your love.”*



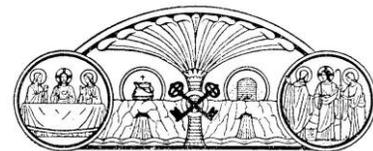
## HOW TO PASS ON THE FAITH TO OUR SONS



If we want our boys to be Christians, we have to equip men... In times past these things happened naturally...but they don’t anymore. By neglecting this reality we are literally predisposing our sons to be atheists, apostates, and heretics. The focus should not be on the boys themselves, but on the men who are constantly pulled out into the secular world, somewhat innocently, by their careers and so on.

We need to call them back and remind them of who they are as fathers, of the power they have as men. The great thing about men is that if you place a challenge like that before them, if you can remind them that this is a battle they have to fight, and if you equip them with the tools they need, they’ll be up for the challenge to “reconcile the heart of father to son, heart of son to father; else the whole earth should forfeit to my [God’s] vengeance.” (Malachi 4:5, Knox). Men in our parishes should be focused on fathering; else they become worse than an unbeliever (I Tim. 5:8). And immediately after that they should care for the fatherless; else they may be living something other than the truth of our religion: “If he is to offer service pure and unblemished in the sight of God, Who is our Father, he must take care of orphans and widows in their need” (James 1:27, Knox). Could the need be greater?

*—Reflections on an interesting book,  
“Faith of the Fatherless” by Paul Vitz.*



### CATECHISM CORNER: READ AFTER MASS

I believe that our first parents, Adam and Eve, lost their original state of union with God, together with other marvelous gifts of grace and nature because of pride and disobedience; that they became subject to concupiscence and death, and that, through original sin, we have inherited the effects of their sin.

TEMPLE

With His kind mother, who partakes thy woe,  
Joseph, turn back; see where your child doth sit,  
Blowing, yea blowing out those sparks of wit,  
Which Himself on the doctors did bestow.  
The Word but lately could not speak, and lo!  
It suddenly speaks wonders; whence comes it,  
That all which was, and all which should be writ,  
A shallow seeming child should deeply know?  
His Godhead was not soul to His manhood,  
Nor had time mellow'd Him to this ripeness;  
But as for one which hath a long task, 'tis good,  
With the sun to begin His business,  
He in His age's morning thus began,  
By miracles exceeding power of man.

—John Donne (English, 1572-1631)



MAÑANA (TOMORROW)

Lord, what am I, that, with unceasing care,  
Thou didst seek after me, that Thou didst wait,  
Wet with unhealthy dews, before my gate,  
And pass the gloomy nights of winter there?  
Oh, strange delusion, that I did not greet  
Thy blest approach! and oh, to Heaven how lost,  
If my ingratitude's unkindly frost  
Has chilled the bleeding wounds upon Thy feet!  
How oft my Guardian Angel gently cried,  
“Soul, from thy casement look, and thou shalt see  
How He persists to knock and wait for thee!”  
And oh! how often to that voice of sorrow,  
“To-morrow we will open,” I replied,  
And when the morrow came I answered still,  
“Tomorrow.”

—Lope de Vega (Spanish, 1562-1635)



It wasn't that long ago  
That He'd spoken these stars  
Into being  
And this woman's life  
Was just a thought in His mind.  
He'd smiled down on her birth  
And entered her name in His pages  
Perhaps with an asterisk  
Denoting His plans too sacred to be spoken.  
But pondered in His heart.  
Now, newborn, in wide-eyed wonder  
He gazes up at His creation.  
His hand that hurled the world  
Holds tight His Mother's finger.  
Holy light  
Spills across her face  
And she weeps  
Silent wondering tears  
To know she holds the One  
Who has so long held her.

—Joan Rae Mills  
(American, contemporary)



PRAYER TO OUR LADY  
OF REPARATION

Immaculate Virgin, the refuge of sinners, thou who, to repair the outrages committed against God, and the evil inflicted on man by sin, didst resign thyself to the death of thy divine Son, be ever propitious to us, and carry on thy work of zeal and love for us in heaven, where thou reignest so gloriously. We wish to be thy children, do thou show thyself a Mother to us; obtain from the divine restorer, Jesus, that by applying to our souls the fruits of His passion and death He may free us from the bonds of our iniquities. May He be our light in the darkness, our strength in weakness, our help in danger, so that after He has consoled us by His grace and love in time, He may permit us to see, possess, and love Him in eternity. Amen.

200 days, once a day. —Pius X, Aug. 24, 1904.

Our Sisters honor Our Lady under this title.

## ORIGIN OF THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written.

It is a good deal more than just a repetitious melody with pretty phrases and a list of strange gifts.

Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law—private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "catechism songs" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith—a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in \*writing\* indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head—or hanged, drawn and quartered, a rather peculiar and ghastly punishment I'm not aware was ever practiced anywhere else.

The song's gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "true love" mentioned in the song doesn't refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following:

- **Two Turtle Doves** = the Old and New Testaments
- **Three French Hens** = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- **Four Calling Birds** = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- **Five Golden Rings** = the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- **Six Geese A-laying** = the six days of creation
- **Seven Swans A-swimming** = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
- **Eight Maids A-milking** = the eight beatitudes
- **Nine Ladies Dancing** = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- **Ten Lords A-leaping** = the ten commandments
- **Eleven Pipers Piping** = the eleven faithful apostles
- **Twelve Drummers Drumming** = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

—Fr. Hal Stockert, 12/17/95

## Daily Prayer to the Infant Jesus

O Divine Infant Jesus, Thou didst choose for the time of Thy birth a moment when the world was at peace. In the quiet of the night the angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among men of good will." O Jesus, Prince of Peace, inspire now all men, especially the heads of nations, to work for a just and lasting peace. By Thy Good Spirit establish the world in the ways of peace that in spirit coming again Thou mayest find us at peace with one another and so at peace with Thee.

O Divine Infant Jesus, behold us prostrate at Thy Sacred Feet. In the days of old many rejected Thee; but we invite Thee to come to us and in our hearts to live forever. With Thy Immaculate Mother, Saint Joseph, and all the Angels and Saints we adore Thee. That we may the better do so, grant us the virtues of Thy Holy Infancy, obedience, simplicity and great goodness. For myself, in my present need, grant me also the graces I here name: (Mention your requests.)

Eternal Father, I am not worthy to be heard before Thee, but for Thy Beloved Son's sake I beseech Thee grant my petitions. I offer Thee the sufferings which from the beginning the Infant Jesus knew; the cold He endured in the cave at Bethlehem; His little tears and His gentle cries. I renew before Thee the memory of the blood He shed and the death He suffered—all this that the world may know again a true and lasting peace.

O Immaculate Mary, Mother of the Infant Savior and my Mother, it has ever been in thy power to crush all heresies, and to remove from the world many and great evils. Once again, we beseech thee, act in the splendor of thy strength and take from the world the false doctrines that trouble its peace, so that soon nothing will remain to divide men among themselves or to separate them from Jesus Christ, the source of all unity, all blessing, and all peace.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be four times for the twelve years of Christ's Childhood.)

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA MEMORIALS



PATRICK HENRY OMLOR  
ANONYMOUS

