

# ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212  
parishoffice@sgg.org • 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 20, 2015  
ADVENT IV



## ¶ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today is the Last Sunday of Advent. The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available at the Communion rail after all Masses. Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM. Our annual Christmas Bake Sale will take place in Helfta Hall after the morning Masses. Stop by and get some last-minute Christmas gifts!



Vespers are at 4:45 PM, followed by Benediction.

## ¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ST. JOHN, APEV

St. John's Day: bring a beverage or wine to be blessed in honor of St. John after the High Mass, and plan to "drink the health of St. John" with us in Helfta Hall. Catechism classes are recessed until January 10<sup>th</sup>. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 Set Your Missal: St. John, with commemoration of the Nativity of Our Lord. Nativity Preface.



PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of †Elizabeth Smith, who died

on December 12, 2015. Her Requiem Mass was on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at St. Gertrude the Great.

## ¶ 2016 COLLECTION ENVELOPES

There are still a few 2016 Collection Envelopes in the vestibule. If you haven't yet gotten yours, please pick it up today. If you didn't see your name, let us know and we will get an envelope made out for you.



## ¶ CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Calling all decorators to help this week, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Please call the church office at 513.645.4212 to let us know if you are coming. We're counting on you!

## ¶ CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS & MASS NOVENAS

Don't forget your Christmas envelopes! Please fill out the special offering envelopes available in the pews, and return them to an usher or drop them 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 Flower Offering envelopes no later than Monday, December 21.)*

ORGAN AVAILABLE: One of our parishioners has a Conn organ he would like to give away. If you're interested, please contact Nick Nett at (513) 847-1339.

Thanks,  
Fr. C.

*Lord, increase our faith.*  
500 days' indulgence

## ¶ CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE

Thurs. 12/24/15 – Christmas Eve  
The Vigil of the Nativity is a day of fast and total abstinence for all Catholics between 21 and 59 years of age.

7:00 AM: The Office of Prime

7:45 AM: Confessions

8:00 AM: High Mass

9:00 AM: Low Mass

2:00 PM: First Vespers of Christmas

9:00 PM: The Office of Matins

10:30 PM: Carols

11:00 PM: Procession, Blessing of the Crib

11:15 PM: Midnight Mass followed by the Office of Lauds

*A Potluck Supper follows Midnight Mass. If you plan to come, please bring a dish to share.*

Fri. 12/25/15 - Christmas Day

9:00 AM: Low Mass with string quartet, Novena & Benediction

11:00 AM: Low Mass with Carols

5:45 PM: Vespers of Christmas Day

## ¶ NEW YEAR'S DAY SCHEDULE

January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Feast of the Circumcision, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times are at 7:30, 9:00, and 11:30 AM. *No evening Mass* for New Year's Day.

## ¶ 2016 CALENDARS ARE IN!

The 2016 All Saints Calendar is available now in the bookstore for \$10.00, illustrated with photographs of our liturgical year at St. Gertrude the Great.

## Collection Report

Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.....\$1,434.00  
Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.....\$5,672.00

TIME IS ON MY SIDE

I marvel at the saints who remain calm in the face of pain and persecution, placid in every difficulty. I, for my part, have a temper that flares up all the time. Even at night, my anger wakes me up. I lie in my bed fretting and pouting about something that happened the day before. If my daughter comes to the bedroom door, as often she does, I answer her whisper with a growl of complaint. If my husband stirs, as often he does, I make a nasty crack. There is no saint here, Jesus.

I am frustrated by my weakness. When I read Isaiah's prophecy, I want it to come true in my soul: the filling of valleys, the leveling of the mountains. I want perfect perseverance and unending patience. I want to travel the straight and smooth path of virtue, full of confident joy!

Advent gives me hope. In Advent I await God's mercy. And when His mercy comes it is a baby. *God* was a baby! He knows that I am one, too. He knows that I need to grow up, to become mature in my faith. His grace is already at work in me. Time is on my side. Oh, little Child of mercy, have mercy on me, Your little child!

-Lisa Lickona

A PENITENTIAL PRAYER OF  
SAINT BERNARD

Come, Lord Jesus; good Jesus, come now, and with Thy strong arm expel once more the enemy we have foolishly admitted. We have not kept the vows we made in baptism; we have sinned against Thee, Lord, binding ourselves anew to Satan and his works, willingly taking upon ourselves his evil yoke, submitting to the vilest slavery. But if Thou wilt free us even now, then shall we be free indeed.



*The maiden mother of God has appeared, she who has been heralded from the beginning of the world by the voices of the prophets, she whom the wise patriarchs and a multitude of saints foretold, and with them all the flower of womanhood, Sara, Rebecca, Rachel, Anna, and famous Miriam the sister of Moses. The ends of the earth share their joy, and all creation joins in praising the God Who will soon be born in the flesh, to bestow on the world the gift of His great mercy.*



NOVENA PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Hail and blessed be the hour and the 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 petitions through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

XXXVII: ADVENTUS IV  
TERRENA CUNCTA JUBLIENT

Sing out, all things of earth, rejoice!  
Ye starry regions thunder with our chant!  
Let earth and sky in one concurring voice  
With Mary's nuptial song all ears enchant!

For now the Virgin, heavy with God's  
Word,  
Becomes the very Gate of Paradise,  
Who giveth God Himself unto the world:  
Of our redemption heaven's precious  
Price.

May Mary's womb, the golden treasure  
chest  
Where gently sleeps the King that John  
foretold,  
Be praised forever and forever blessed,  
That by its Fruit is crushed the snake of  
old.

Whilst I behold midwinter's silent tree,  
And meditate, O Crucified, on Thee.  
*-Joseph McKenzie*  
*Festum Sancti Damasi Papae et Confessoris*  
*Anno MMXV*

IN A CHRISTLESS LAND

Christmas is only a memory now,  
We who once loved it must pillage  
The past for the Advent wreath and  
the star,  
The crèche in the square of the vil-  
lage.

No chimes will ring through ribbons  
of snow,  
Nor kings ride by in gold sable.  
No angel will rest a wing on the  
door  
Of the poorest kind of a stable.

Tears in our eyes will be stars to-  
night  
To welcome the poor little Stranger,  
Our love, the shelter of roof and  
wall,  
Our hearts, the curve of the manger.

*-Anne Tanzie*  
*(Pray for those places in the Middle East where we have let the Christians be driven out, and worse. God forgive us and help them!)*



*Almighty, everlasting God, Who by the advent of Thy only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, hast shone with a new light, grant that we, who are enabled by the Virgin's motherhood to call Him our fellowman, may also be found worthy to share in the kingdom of His grace. Amen.*

This year we are one day shy of the longest possible Advent, but doesn't it still seem too short? If only this longest Advent ever would bud forth and bloom with longing, holy longing for Jesus to come and save us, to come by Mary and with good St. Joseph! Then all would be well. Ready or not, the Holy Family say each year, here we come! Come into the muck and mess of a *stable*. Think of it. Don't feel too bad.



Come Lord Jesus, come! In this understanding, Advent is a good time to die, isn't it? Oh, it *does* run counter to our culture, our understanding of what is "Christmasy," but this is how we go to God, even as Bethlehem is how He came to us.

†Elizabeth Smith had a beautiful and most Catholic death, befitting a wonderful woman and mother and Catholic, once very active in our church, taking care of the gift shop. The Smiths moved here from Tennessee, and Beth Prell remembers as a teenager making the drive for Mass once a month, coming all that distance before they moved here. Sarah French and her husband came back for the funeral, and remarked how welcoming the Smiths were to them as new converts with questions. We were happy to welcome back to St. Gertrude as well some of the family for the sad but happy occasion which is a funeral.

It was comforting to have the full traditional funeral again as people used to: Wake the night before with Rosary, High Mass, burial with priest and servers. Afterwards three good ladies of the parish hosted a luncheon, which was warm and restorative. Would it be wrong to say after such a funeral: "A good time was had by all"?

A long, lingering leukemia took †Bishop Robert McKenna this past Ember Wednesday. After many years selflessly and simply serving souls in Connecticut, His Excellency moved back to his native Michigan with his beloved Dominican Nuns. Bishop Sanborn with some of his priests provided a very solemn and proper pontifical funeral yesterday for the bishop who consecrated him.

Before his consecration, then Fr. McKenna was co-founder with Fr. Fenton of the Orthodox Roman Catholic Movement, and travelled around the country bringing the true Mass, including here to the tristate, and to Our Lady of the Rosary in Louisiana. His religious name was Fidelis, which well summarizes this *faithful* Catholic priest and bishop, faithful to the Faith he loved and for which he sacrificed himself so generously. Many souls are in his debt. Pray for him.

Today our friend Fr. Roberto Mardones celebrates his Silver Ordination Anniversary. A Chilean by birth, he was ordained by Bishop Carmona in Mexico, where he still serves souls especially in Ciudad Juarez, as well as at his American chapel in El Paso, Texas. Father has had

a difficult year with illness, but now seems stronger and more animated than ever. Pray for him, too.

Lorraine Gates, now 96, is doing rather well, Fr. McGuire reports. She put on eight pounds in the last couple of months! Angela Segrist is back at home with a daughter. Jane Donadio is quite happy at her new home, happy especially for the company. As of this writing, Darlene was making arrangements for a place to stay for her next stage of recovery and rehabilitation. We promise prayers for all of these dear ladies, and all of the sick, remembering them especially for Christmas.

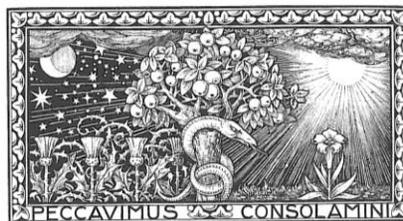
Remember the fast and abstinence for Christmas Eve, the "last minute" confessions today and Thursday. Come pray with us for some or all of the Holy Night. Welcome the Light of the World with us as we sing and pray for Midnight Mass. The Friday morning Mass with the string quartet and Benediction is a lovely tradition, worth getting up for. I always do!

Don't worry if something remains undone this week. Wait, and watch and *want* most of all not things or some imaginary perfection but the Little One Who is born in Bethlehem's stall. That's all.

Blessed Christmas!

-Bishop Dolan

CATECHISM CORNER



God, Who had no beginning, created all things from nothing. Angels and men He created for His glory. Some of the angels sinned a

short time after their creation.

The first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, from whom all mankind are descended, sinned also. God shewed Himself merciful to them by promising to send them a Saviour, Who would deliver them from their sad condition and save them. Nevertheless this promise was not accomplished for many ages after their fall. During this interval, God raised up holy Patriarchs and Prophets, to instruct them, and to confirm their belief in His promises.

*Already, Lord, Thou art near at hand; draw us ever nearer to Thee. Suffer us not to busy ourselves with trifles, but enable us to await, with souls unscathed, the day of Thy coming.*

Ushers ~ Christmas  
2015

MIDNIGHT: Mike Briggs, Mark Lotarksi  
9:00 AM: Paul Arlinghaus, Joe Andreotta, Scott Pepiot, John Seyfried  
11:00 AM: Bob Uhlenbrock, Dennis Hille

# ✠ CALENDAR

All Sunday Masses, school day Masses, Friday evening and Saturday morning Masses are webcast at [SGGresources.org](http://SGGresources.org).

MON	12/21/15	ST. THOMAS, AP
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Darlene
	11:20 AM	High Mass Thank You St. Joseph for answered prayers (Mrs. Laura Lynn Rios)
		Church decorating during the day
TUE	12/22/15	ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI
	8:00 AM	Low Mass For Darlene ( <i>The Fathers</i> )
	9:00 AM	High Mass For Sr. Cabrini, and all past friends, foes, and fallen away ( <i>Bishop Dolan</i> )
		Church decorating during the day
WED	12/23/15	FERIAL DAY
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Mary E. Browne ( <i>Priests &amp; Friends here</i> )
	9:00 AM	High Mass For Mary and Pauline ( <i>P. Omlor</i> )
		Church decorating during the day
THU	12/24/15	VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS <i>FAST &amp; ABSTINENCE</i>
	7:00 AM	The Office of Prime
	7:45 AM	Confessions
	8:00 AM	High Mass Extended Morris-Niehaus Family – living and deceased ( <i>S. &amp; C. Niehaus</i> )
	9:00 AM	Low Mass In honor of our Infant Savior for †Mom ( <i>A.M. Omlor</i> )
	2:00 PM	First Vespers of Christmas
	9:00 PM	The Office of Matins
	10:30 PM	Carols
	11:00 PM	Procession, Blessing of Crib
	11:15 PM	Midnight Mass Novena I The Office of Lauds
		<i>A potluck supper follows Midnight Mass. Please bring a dish to share if you plan to come.</i>
FRI	12/25/15	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD <i>HOLY DAY</i> CHRISTMAS DAY
	9:00 AM	Low Mass with string quartet For the people of St. Gertrude the Great Novena & Benediction
	11:00 AM	Low Mass with carols For all our friends, family, and benefactors
	5:45 PM	Vespers of Christmas Day <i>No 5:45 PM Mass today!</i>
SAT	12/26/15	ST. STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR
		<i>Please note: no 7:30 AM Mass today!</i>
	8:20 AM	High Mass Novena II
	9:30 AM	( <i>approx.</i> ) Low Mass †Bishop McKenna ( <i>Bishop Dolan</i> )
SUN	12/27/15	ST. JOHN, APEV
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Addie, Madison, Emma, Alex Wilker ( <i>Dad &amp; Mom</i> )
	9:00 AM	High Mass Novena III St. John Blessing of Beverages
	11:30 AM	Low Mass Diane Puglielli ( <i>Paul &amp; Karen</i> )
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

## CHILDREN'S CORNER



### REAL LOVE

On Christmas morning when we look at the Little Infant Jesus lying in the manger, we can understand the meaning of the word Love. What made Jesus leave His heavenly home and come upon earth? It is love, of course. No wonder Christmas is a day of love and peace and happiness.

The song of the angels, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth Peace to Men of Good Will," fills our hearts with a blessing of peace and love for our fellow man.

During Advent, which means Coming, we have been thinking of Mary and Joseph in their humble, clean little home at Nazareth. Mary knows that the promise made by the Angel Gabriel that she was to be the Mother of God will soon take place, and she and Joseph are happy. We travel with them to Bethlehem, telling Mary how anxious we are to help her. We are grieved that Joseph cannot find a place for Mary to stay, and we offer her our hearts.

Christmas, and the little Infant Jesus is here for us to welcome and to love. Mary will let us hold Him for a little while. We need only to ask her.

On Christmas Day, or any day, for that matter, when you are at Holy Mass, the Baby Jesus is coming down from heaven again. After the consecration of the Mass He is there on the altar before you just as really and truly as He was in the manger at Bethlehem. His little arms are outstretched, waiting for you to receive Him.

Think of the many children who have never heard of this loving Friend, this Little Babe. Missionaries everywhere are finding people hungry for knowledge of a God Who came upon earth to redeem them. There is much that we can do for Jesus. Love Him and tell Him how grateful you are for the gift of Faith. Each day get a little closer to Him and His loving Mother Mary. Ask Mary to let you share in the joys of her little Boy.



## Servers ~ Christmas 2015

THU 12/24	<b>8:00 AM HIGH:</b> Simpsons & Brendan Lotarski <b>MATINS:</b> R. Vande Ryt <b>MIDNIGHT MASS (ARRIVE AT 10:30 PM):</b> <b>MCs:</b> R. Vande Ryt, T. Simpson <b>TH:</b> B. Lotarski <b>ACs:</b> A. Richesson, N. McClorey <b>CROSS:</b> P. McClorey <b>MITRE:</b> C. Richesson <b>CROZIER:</b> A. D. Kinnett <b>BOOK:</b> J. Simpson <b>CANDLE:</b> M. Simpson <b>TRAIN:</b> D. Simpson <b>TORCH:</b> P. & N. McClorey, T. Lawrence, D. & M. Simpson, J. Simpson
FRI 12/25	<b>9:00 AM LOW:</b> Brueggemann Bros. <b>BENEDICTION:</b> T.G. Simpson, S. & L. Arlinghaus, C. Arlinghaus
SUN 12/27	<b>7:30 AM LOW:</b> Brueggemann Bros. <b>9:00 AM HIGH:</b> <b>CHAPLAINS:</b> B. Lotarski, A. Richesson <b>TH:</b> J. Simpson <b>ACs:</b> S. & L. Arlinghaus <b>TORCH:</b> T. Lawrence, C. Arlinghaus, C. Richesson, M. Simpson <b>11:30 AM LOW:</b> N. & N. McClorey <b>4:45 PM VESPERS:</b> G. Miller <b>5:45 PM LOW:</b> G. Miller