

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212
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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 11, 2016
ADVENT III ~ GAUDETE SUNDAY

ST. DAMASUS I, PC

WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



¶ GAUDETE SUNDAY

Today is Gaudete Sunday, within the Octave of the Immaculate Conception. Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM. The Legion of Decency Pledge is taken at all Masses.

¶ EMBER DAYS

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this week are the Church's Ember Days in Advent. All Catholics between the ages of 21 and 59, inclusive, are bound by the Church's laws of fast, and all who have attained their seventh year must keep the abstinence (meat only once at the principal meal on Wednesday and Saturday).

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT IV

Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available at the Communion rail.

Our Christmas Bake Sale is as well after Mass next Sunday.

Sunday Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 *Set Your Missal:* Advent IV, with commemorations of Our Lady in Advent and Against the Persecutors. Trinity Preface.

Collection Report

Sunday, December 4th.....\$3,898.00

Second Collection.....\$879.00

Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

Lumen Christi

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

Michael Tarulli
(Maureen Scanlon)



MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD

¶ ALTER CHRISTUS

Thank you for your generous almsgiving this month. \$387 was received for Masses for the support and sanctification of priests.

¶ CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Calling all decorators to help December 19-23. Please make sure to call the church office at 513.645.4212 to let us know if you are coming. We're counting on you!

¶ 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.

¶ RORATE MASSES

A special Advent observance features early morning Mass by candlelight as we await the coming of Christ the Light of the World. The Mass is simply sung in honor of Our Lady on Saturday at 8:15 AM, after the *Alma*.

¶ 2017 CALENDARS ARE IN!

The 2017 All Saints Roman Catholic Calendar is available now in the bookstore for \$10.00.

¶ CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

You may make a donation in memory of a loved one, to help defray the cost of the poinsettias for Christmas. Please fill out the special flower offering envelopes available in the pews, and return them to the ushers, bookstore, or office no later than Monday, December 19th, to have your loved ones' names printed in the special Christmas memorial program.

¶ OUR SICK

Please pray for Les Pomerville, Becky Mattingly, and John Seyfried, recovering from surgery.

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Sr. Maria Dolorosa of the Daughters of Mary died on December 7th. Sister and the Shawhan family were original members of St. Gertrude the Great in the 1980's. We send them our sympathy and prayers.

Please also pray for a special intention for Bridget Schneider & family.

IT WAS AGAINST THIS LIBERAL NAZISM and intolerance that the population voted on November 8th.

Liberalism, however, is by no means dead, and will rear its ugly head again before long. It has on its side overpowering forces: (1) the news media; (2) all public education, and especially higher education; (3) the film and television industry; (4) big businesses, (e.g., Starbucks, Google, Airbnb, Facebook, to mention only a few); (5) the general culture since the 1960's, including feminism, pornography, sodomy, permissiveness in raising children, subjectivism, fornication in the form of cohabitation, divorce and remarriage; (6) the globalist mentality, fired by global warming fanaticism.

Until there is a counter-revolution against all of this mental corruption of the 1960's, there is no hope for the long-term survival of decency, natural law, or freedom to practice the true faith.

-Bishop Sanborn, Nov. 2016



¶ CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

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

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
No evening Mass

¶ NEW YEARS DAY SCHEDULE

7:30 AM: Low Mass

9:00 PM: High Mass

11:30 AM: Low Mass

No evening Mass

SO WHO ARE YOU?

In the Advent Gospel readings we encounter the enigmatic figure of John the Baptist. There we learn less about who John is than about who he is not. A litany of negatives describes the Baptist: he is not the light, he is not the Christ, he is not Elijah or the Prophet. When John finally identifies himself, he gives not a name, but a verse from Isaiah: "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.'" Did John have a self-esteem problem? Far from it! In a striking way, John stands out in the Scriptures as a man who really knows his God-given mission. John is the "friend of the bridegroom" who heralds the bridegroom's coming. He is the "voice" who prepares the world for the Word. Achieving self-knowledge in our own lives requires embracing similar sorts of negatives: I am not in charge of what happens in my life, I am not the master of my situation, I am not the measure of all things. But when we clear out these fantastical (yes, fantastical!) illusions, we are liberating ourselves to be who God wants us to be. We are liberating God to work through us.

-Lisa Lickona

St. Gertrude, after St. Paul, was great on Liberty of Spirit. This is the path to true liberation.



OUR LADY'S EXPECTATION

As steal the first grey heralds of the morn

In ripples of light o'er the sea,
So rapturous thrills of a joy unborn
Must have come, O Mary, to thee!
Faint tremblings of waves whose
low refrain
Soft beat on the shores of thy vir-
ginal heart,
Where finite and Infinite both had
part.

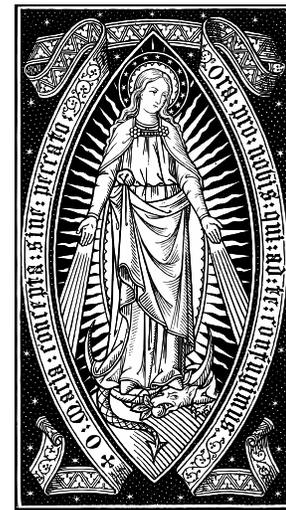
Of the Word was that wordless mel-
ody,

And His Heart was the heart of the
ecstasy

That whispered of Peace to be born
of pain,

When over Judea the glad refrain
Should be sung by angels Christmas
morn,

In heavenly harmony—Christ is
born!



Why is a cross carried before the corpse? *By this is indicated that the deceased during life professed Christ, and died believing in Him and hoping for resurrection from Him.*

Why are Psalms and other sacred canticles sung? *This is done to remind us of the teaching of St. Paul (1 Thess. 4:12), not to be excessively sorrowful for the loss of the deceased, like the heathens who have no hope for eternal life. We also signify, thereby, that we congratulate the dead for the peace which they now enjoy.*

The snowflakes fell quietly, unexpectedly on the Holy Day evening, a pure white coda of the beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception. A little taste of Winter for us which will perhaps yet yield again to Autumn.

We had a beautiful feast day, and an excellent attendance for another quiet Worker's Mass, which draws its share of busy retirees, as well as another splendid High Mass. The sun came out for the Introit. Our Lady is clothed with the sun: This is how Fray Chavez phrases it:

Clothed With the Sun
Woman supremely blest
In woman's prime desire
To be most richly dressed:
Incomparable attire,
Blinding, iridescent
In robe of cloth-of-sun,
With Pleiad-plaited coronet,
And slipped with the crescent!
Gown sun-spun,
Crown star-set,
And the moon
For her shoon!
Woman supremely fit
To be so clothed, the one
Found truest, best, immaculate.

The evening Mass grows worryingly lighter, even for a Holy Day. First Friday in December was a sad affair. No new souls to make their Nine, very low attendance all day long, and many men missed their Guard of Honor. Some never called. They just did not come. But those who *did* found Our Lord in state, "awaiting, calling and welcoming" those who visited Him. Could *you* help?

Today is already our rejoicing Sunday, Gaudete. Christmas soon will be here. Keep the Ember Day generously. Come, Lord Jesus! Refresh us, renew us, *focus us* this Advent, prepare us for Thy coming.

The Novus Ordo church continues to disintegrate before our eyes. Bergoglio is intent on destroying the marriage bond, or what is left of it after almost fifty years of phony annulments. Consider the contrast: Mary Immaculate, who knows no sin, and the false pope, who winks at any sin at all, and hurls abuse at those who hesitate to go along with his brave new church.

But what a sin against Faith, and of scandal, for so many Catholics willingly to worship under his photo, and worse, with the lie of his name inserted in the most sacred spot of the Mass. Who will stand up for the Faith, and confess it? Who will walk out, rather than betray it?

The cats themselves reproach our cowardice, our slackness in the Divine Service. The intrepid Puccini, fresh from having his stitches removed by the vet (an admirable cat, he did not chew them out himself) was out in the cold and snow Friday morning, driving off the invading Persian, and protecting us from the foe.

Fr. Cekada has a checkup tomorrow, and continues daily to progress. He was up and out walking as well, but has not yet driven off any invading cats. **Fr. McKenna** was up at 4:00 AM on Friday for a long flight to Spokane, in the face of an expected snowstorm. There he will be checking on two sick priests, and visiting the faithful of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, who keep their patronal feast tomorrow. We send them our prayers and good wishes. May Our Lady keep especially her priest sons in her care.

I confide you all to the Immaculate One, and pray her to go home with you today, and stay, and bring you back soon!

—Bishop Dolan

GOD IN THE DETAILS

When the Aztecs first saw the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe they were struck by its beauty. The blue-green color on Our Lady's mantle was immediately attractive, since this color would usually fade easily but remains ever bright on this image. The sunburst surrounding the image spoke of its grandeur and mysterious importance. The beautiful and tender face of Our Lady would have been inviting in a warm and personal way. If the Aztecs got up very close to the image, they would see an extremely small cross on the collar of Our Lady's garment. This small cross told them that the God that this beautiful lady worshipped and invited all to know was the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Without noticing this small cross the image would merely be a beautiful curiosity. Instead, the small, easily unnoticed cross changed the lives of millions of Aztecs who were no longer enslaved to fearsome false gods; they had discovered that God is a Father. Let us pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe that in this season of Advent we may not be enslaved by the gods of consumerism and to our own ideas about the way we think things should be. Let us ask that the gift and tradition of Advent and Christmas will bring us close enough to see Jesus, Whose love and presence continues to free us.



CALENDAR

Sunday, school day, Friday night and Saturday morning Masses are webcast at sgg.org.

- MON 12/12/16 WITHIN THE OCTAVE**
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
8:00 AM Low Mass 7 children & their spouses (*Kirby & Jean Bischel*)
11:20 AM High Mass †Elizabeth L. Smith – 1st Anniversary (*Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell & family*)
- TUE 12/13/16 ST. LUCY, VM**
 WITHIN THE OCTAVE
8:00 AM Low Mass †Philomena Peter – 25th Anniversary (*C. Simpson family*)
11:20 AM High Mass †Blanche Ciarkowski (*Kirby & Jean Bischel*)
5:00 PM Low Mass Special intention – deceased (*Mr. & Mrs. David Marko*)
- WED 12/14/16 EMBER WEDNESDAY FAST**
 WITHIN THE OCTAVE
8:00 AM Low Mass For my children, grand & great grandchildren (*Frances Mattingly*)
11:20 AM High Mass †Wm. R. Smith 1st Anniversary 12/5 (*Richard Smith*) (from 12/5)
5:00 PM Low Mass †Sr. Maria Dolorosa (*Bishop Dolan*)
- THU 12/15/16 OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**
8:00 AM Low Mass For Poor Souls – their help for Fr. Cekada (*K. & J. Bischel*)
11:20 AM High Mass †Ralph Patton – 7th Anniversary (*Patton Family*)
5:00 PM Low Mass Rev. Anthony Cekada (*Deborah Ellis*)
- FRI 12/16/16 EMBER FRIDAY FAST**
 ST. EUSEBIUS, BPM
8:00 AM Low Mass Special Intention (*John Ucci*)
10:55 AM Confessions
11:20 AM High Mass Rev. Fr. Vili Lehtoranta (blessings on priesthood) (*Ken & Colleen Schroepfer*)
4:45 PM Rosary & Confessions
5:45 PM Low Mass 34 Grandchildren (*Kirby & Jean Bischel*)
6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena & Benediction
- SAT 12/17/16 EMBER SATURDAY FAST**
 ST. LAZARUS, BPC
7:10 AM Confessions
7:30 AM Low Mass Our children & Godchildren (*Mike & Lexi Briggs*)
8:15 AM Alma & Sermon
8:30 AM Rorate Mass †Esther Simpson–49th Anniversary Oct 24 (*Tom & Karen Simpson*)
- SUN 12/18/16 ADVENT IV**
 EXPECTATION OF OUR LADY
7:05 AM Rosary
7:30 AM Low Mass †John Madaffari (*Patsy McConnell*)
9:00 AM High Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
10:40 AM Catechism Classes
11:05 AM Rosary
11:30 AM Low Mass Joseph M. Prell – Happy Birthday (*Beth*)
4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM Low Mass †Fr. Martin Stepanich, O.F.M., S.T.D. (*Samantha*)

COLLECT OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 Stir up Thy power and come, we pray Thee, O Lord, and with great might succor us; that our deliverance, which our sins impede, may be hastened by the help of Thy grace and the forgiveness of Thy mercy. Who livest and reignest forever and ever, Amen. (*Say this prayer Saturday evening, as you light all four candles on your Advent wreath.*)

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath is a custom that started hundreds of years ago and is a wonderful way to worship God at home.

The circle reminds us of the eternity of God since it has no beginning and no end.

The light of the flame represents Christ, the Light of the World.

Evergreen leaves signify everlasting life.



The purple candles symbolize prayer, penance and prep-

The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday called "Gaudete Sunday," a Sunday to rejoice since we are so close to Christmas.

Each candle represents 1,000 years of waiting for the Messiah and one week of Advent.

O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation. Savior of all peoples, come and dwell among us.



SERVERS

- SUN 12/18
7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: R. Vande Ryt, P. Omlor TH: M. Simpson (B. Lotarski) ACS: T. Lawrence, C. Richesson TORCH: D. Simpson, L. Arlinghaus, D. Holbrook, C. Arlinghaus
11:30 AM LOW: Peter & Nathan McClorey
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller