

# 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 18, 2016

ADVENT IV

*EXPECTATION OF OUR LADY*



## ¶ ADVENT IV

Today is the Last Sunday of Advent. The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available at the Communion rail after all Masses. (Please come to the rail immediately after Mass and kneel towards the middle so the priest can see you.) 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: CHRISTMAS DAY

Next Sunday is Christmas Day. The Procession and Blessing of the Crib begin at 11:00 PM on Christmas Eve, after the Matins and Carols. The Midnight Mass starts at approximately 11:15 PM.

Christmas Day Masses will be at 9:00 and 11:00 AM, with Vespers at 5:45 PM. There is no evening Mass. Sunday Classes are on break until January 8.

## ¶ OUR SICK

Beckie Mattingly is currently at Chesterwood Village, 8073 Tylersville Rd., West Chester, OH, 45069. She would appreciate cards or visitors. Connie Kamphaus is at Mercy Fairfield.

Please pray as well for Mary Rose Peter, Billy Gear and John Seyfried.



## ¶ 2017 COLLECTION ENVELOPES

There are still a few 2017 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 December 19-23. Please make sure to call the church office at 513.645.4212 to let us know if you are coming.

## ¶ 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. They must be submitted by no later than Friday, December 23, to be placed on the altar for the Christmas Octave Masses.

## ¶ 2017 CALENDARS ARE IN!

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

## ¶ CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Saturday 12/24/16 – 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

8:45 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.*

Sunday 12/25/16 - 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 AM: High Mass

11:30 AM: Low Mass

*No evening Mass*

## ¶ CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

*Tomorrow is the last day!* Turn in your Christmas Poinsettia Memorial envelopes to have your loved ones' names printed in the Christmas program and bulletin.

### Collection Report

Thursday, December 8 <sup>th</sup> .....	\$1,651.50
Sunday, December 11 <sup>th</sup> .....	\$4,052.65

Thank you for your generosity.

THE BIRTH OF THE VOICE  
CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT

There are some people whom God takes and sets apart.

There are others He leaves among the crowds, people He does not "withdraw from the world."

These are the people who have an ordinary job, an ordinary household, or an ordinary celibacy. People with ordinary sicknesses, and ordinary times of grieving. People with an ordinary house, and ordinary clothes. These are the people of ordinary life. The people we might meet on any street.

They love the door that opens onto the street, just as their brothers who are hidden from the world love the door that shuts behind them forever.

We, the ordinary people of the streets, believe with all our might that this street, this world, where God has placed us, is our place of holiness.

We believe that we lack nothing here that we need. If we needed something else, God would already have given it to us.

We do not need to find silence; we already have it. The day we lack silence is the day we have not learned how to keep it.

All the noises around us cause much less disturbance than we ourselves do.

The real noise is the echo things make within us. It is not necessarily talking that breaks silence. Silence is the place where the Word of God dwells; if we limit ourselves to repeating this word, then we can speak without ceasing to be silent.

Monasteries appear to be the place of praise and the place of the silence that praise requires.

In the street, crushed by the crowd, we make our souls into so many caves of silence wherein the Word of God can dwell and resound.

In those crowds marked by the

sins of hatred, lust, and drunkenness, we find a desert of silence, and we recollect ourselves here with great ease, so that God can ring out His Name: *Vox clamans in deserto.*

-Servant of God Madeleine Delbrel



CARDINALS ASK POPE TO  
"CLARIFY" HIS PRO-ADULTERY  
STRATEGY

It is to be recalled that these Novus Ordo cardinals are men who were raised before Vatican II, but who made their peace with Vatican II as seminarians, and led their whole lives as Novus Ordo priests and prelates. They accept the heresies of Vatican II. They are blind to the outrageous sacrilege contained in John Paul II's 1983 Code of Canon Law, which permits non-Catholics to receive Holy Communion. That a non-Catholic receive Holy Communion is a *far, far more grievous sacrilege* than that two divorced and remarried Catholics receive Holy Communion.

Consequently, there is nothing to hope for, I think, apart from some great grace from God, in this feeble objection that these Novus Ordo cardinals are making to Bergoglio's approval of sacrilege.

-Bishop Sanborn, Nov. 2016

*P.S. The vast majority of divorced and "remarried" Catholics who want one already have their annulment, anyway, or could very easily obtain one. This is simply about confusion and revolution. - Bishop Dolan*



## ADVENT

*Verbum supernum prodiens.*

O Thou, Who Thine own Father's breast

Forsaking, Word sublime,  
Didst come to aid a world distressed  
In Thy appointed time;  
Our hearts enlighten with Thy ray,  
And kindle with Thy love;  
That, dead to earthly things, we may  
Live but to things above.

So when before the judgment-seat  
The sinner hears his doom,  
And when a voice divinely sweet  
Shall call the righteous home;  
Safe from black and fiery flood  
That sweeps the dread abyss  
May we behold the face of God  
In everlasting bliss.  
To God the Father, with the Son  
And Spirit evermore,  
Be glory while the ages run,  
As in all time before.



## THE LOST GROAT

*M. Dupont, the holy man of Tours, to whose prayers so many had recourse from England, had a great devotion to St. Anthony of Padua; and prayed to him, not only for the recovery of material things lost or mislaid, which he did even on what would be called the most trivial occasions, but for an object much less common—the recovery of lost graces—graces, which had been allowed to pass unheeded, or, if received, had been wasted and forfeited by neglect. This practice he most earnestly recommended. "We can never know," he wrote, "how much a true sentiment of faith is capable of effecting, in the search for lost graces." This too, is a sure way of giving joy to the Sacred Heart.*

Mother Nature sent out her Christmas cards early this year, but they were picture perfect as they arrived last week: bright sun, made brighter by white snow hanging on Christmas trees and greenery. Even the night was doubly bright with the full moon. But I think God wants Mother Nature to wear white in honor of *His* Mother. It was still the Octave of Mary's Immaculate Conception. Pure. Pure bright blinding white is she, clothed with the sun, immaculate.

This is an important Sunday. We usually have an excellent attendance on Advent IV, although it has been light since Thanksgiving. But I think some folk come the Sunday *before* Christmas, as a kind of a bow before the Baby, because they'll be too busy for church come Christmas. But the Baby's not here yet, and we're just thinking about decorating. Come back for the Birthday!

I hope many of you will go back to Helfta Hall for the Bake Sale, and maybe the reception after Midnight Mass as well. As usual, bring something to share. Thanks for your participation in these parish events.

It's nice to bring guests, family or friends; to one of our beautiful Christmas Masses. Fill them in a bit beforehand on what we're about, dress code and reverence. Oh, and while everyone is welcome, your guest—especially children—should be told *not* to receive Holy Communion, unless they too are traditional Catholic, with the old faith and fasting and Confession. Ours is a different religion from the modern one. Be an apostle.

Since we have full confession availability during most Sunday Masses, there isn't so much of a crunch for Christmas anymore. Still, we will offer confessions Christmas Eve morning. Do remember there is a special schedule on Christmas, and consult your bulletin. Christmas Masses are Midnight (starts at 11:15 or so), 9:00 AM (the beloved string quartet Mass), and 11:00 AM. No evening Mass.

Good news on two good priests, fruit of **Fr. McKenna's** visit to Spokane. **Fr. Vaillancourt**, who had been "lost in the system," was found thanks to the perseverance of his sister. Father is back to being his old self, after a long, long illness. While he did lose part of a leg, he has been fitted with a prosthesis and is practicing using it. Fr. McKenna had a good visit with him, and brought him the Sacraments.

Meanwhile **Fr. Gerald Kasik**, so ill with cancer, is said by his doctors to be responding to treatment. He still needs a lot of prayer. Fr. Kasik took Fr. Vaillancourt's place in his illness, but himself was stricken this

Fall. A good priest is hard to find. Please keep these two good priests in your good prayers.

We're surely grateful for meals for priests. Last week we did very well. Sometimes, though, it's a question of meals or priestly work, and we'd much rather attend to the spiritual, but we are used to eating, alas! So, let's work together. If you are cooking, please use the Cucina Clerical website. For last-minute offerings, just let me know, or **Fr. Lehtoranta**, so the food doesn't get missed. Sometimes we forget to check the fridge. We should be good for Christmas, as we were indeed for Thanksgiving. But there can be some pretty spare days in between....

So the other night after an excellent supper of Aztec Soup, I inveigled **Fr. McGuire**, of all things, into making Crockpot Pot Roast. He likes it, and was familiar with the concept, and it really *is* easy to do. It was delicious! A great winter dinner. The only problem is that when he started, after having shopped for the ingredients, he discovered we had the crock but not the pot, the lining having been lost. The soul of patience, Father returned to Kroger and all was well. But, as you know better than I, it *does* take time. Good thing we're all saying our Morning Offering.

Let nothing be wasted these last days before Christmas. Many prayers, much patience, and some penance as well as longing will make His crib soft and cozy.

Blessed end to your Advent.

—Bishop Dolan

#### LET YOUR MODESTY BE KNOWN

For one soul saved by scolding and fault-finding, ten are saved by sweetness. For one soul saved by fear of hell, ten are saved by the thought of the love of God. A gentle voice and a pleasant face make religion beautiful to the miserable and the sinful, whereas gloomy looks and a harsh or condescending manner make religion seem a thing to be avoided. Do you wish to draw souls to God? Then let your souls reflect His love. Be gentle, be sweet, be patient. Practical people may sometimes condemn you, but only thus can you imitate our Blessed Mother.

They say modesty has almost the sense of cheerfulness in the Greek.



## CALENDAR

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

### MON 12/19/16 FERIAL DAY

- 8:00 AM** **Low Mass** For all who cook for us and for our devoted drivers (*The Fathers*)  
**11:20 AM** **High Mass** For all our intentions for our deceased & living (*DJR*)  
**Church decorating during the day**

### TUE 12/20/16 FERIAL DAY

- VIGIL OF ST. THOMAS**  
**8:00 AM** **Low Mass** †Grandparents (*Arlinghaus family*)  
**11:20 AM** **Requiem High Mass** Purgatorial Society  
**5:00 PM** **Low Mass** †David Butler (*Christopher Browne*) (rescheduled)

### WED 12/21/16 ST. THOMAS, AP

- 8:00 AM** **Low Mass** Thomas J. Simpson (*Your family*)  
**11:20 AM** **High Mass** †Ray Desborough (*M. Sutton*)  
**5:00 PM** **Low Mass** 7 children & their spouses (*Kirby & Jean Bischel*) (rescheduled)

### THU 12/22/16 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CABRINI

- 8:00 AM** **High Mass** Happy Birthday, Joseph (*C. Simpson family*)  
**5:00 PM** **Low Mass** Patricia Blears

### FRI 12/23/16 FERIAL DAY

- 8:00 AM** **Low Mass with Novenas** †John Metz (*Judy*) (from 12/18)  
**9:00 AM** **Low Mass with Novenas** Fr. McGuire (*The Ken Schroepfer Family*)  
**No evening services**

### SAT 12/24/16 VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS FAST & ABSTINENCE

- 7:00 AM** **The Office of Prime**  
**7:45 AM** **Confessions**  
**8:00 AM** **High Mass** Extended Morris-Niehaus Family, Living & Deceased (*S. & C. Niehaus*)  
**9:00 AM** **Low Mass** Sharon Patton (*Fr. Lehtoranta*)  
**2:00 PM** **First Vespers of Christmas**  
**8:45 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**  
A potluck supper follows *Midnight Mass*. Please bring a dish to share if you plan to come.

### SUN 12/25/16 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

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**  
**No 5:45 PM Mass today!**

### Christmas Ushers:

- Midnight Mass: Mike Briggs, Mark Lotarski  
First morning Mass: Joe Andreotta, Scott Pepiot  
Second morning Mass: Bob Uhlenbrock, Dennis Hille

## THE MERITS OF CHRIST APPLICATION TO THE VIRGIN MARY

Christ merited for His Church all the graces whereof she has need in order to form that society which He wills to be "holy and without blemish".

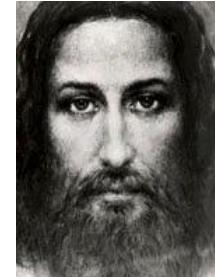
The value of these merits is indeed infinite; for He Who has merited for us is a God; therefore their value is without limit.

Chief and Head of the Church, Christ merited for her the grace that makes her beautiful and glorious. The zeal of the Apostles, the strength of the Martyrs, the constancy of Confessors, the purity of Virgins are nourished by the Blood of Jesus. All the favors, all the gifts that gladden souls, even to the unique privileges bestowed upon the Blessed Virgin Mary, were bought by His Precious Blood. And as the price paid is infinite, there is no grace for which we may not hope, beseeching it from our High Priest and Mediator.

So that in Jesus we have everything; nothing that we need for our sanctification is lacking to us. *Et copiosa apud eum redemptio*. His sacrifice offered for all has given Him the right of communicating to us all that He has merited.

-Dom Columba Marmion, *Christ in His Mysteries*, p. 257

O SWEETEST JESUS! Fervent with admiration, I praise Thy holy Lips, filled with heavenly wisdom and uttering words of grace for the remission of sin. Lest, however, Thy divine Lips might be forced to pronounce the sentence of condemnation on me on account of my own words, I beseech Thee, O Lord, place a seal upon my lips, so that they may never be opened to utter an uncharitable opinion or a sinful word; may I ever preserve Thy truth and Thy love in my heart and upon my tongue. Amen.



### Servers ~ Christmas 2016

- SAT 12/24** **8:00 AM HIGH: MC:** B. Lotarski **TH:** J. Simpson **ACs:** M. & D. Simpson  
**MATINS:** R. Vande Ryt, T. Simpson  
**MIDNIGHT MASS (ARRIVE AT 10:30 PM): MCs:** R. Vande Ryt, T. Simpson **TH:** B. Lotarski **ACs:** J. Simpson, P. Omlor **CROSS:** P. McClorey **MITRE:** C. Richesson **CROZIER:** A. D. Kinnett **BOOK:** Nicholas McClorey **CANDLE:** Nathan McClorey **TRAIN:** D. Simpson **GREMIALE:** M. Simpson **TORCH:** Jessy Stewart, T. Lawrence, P., D., A. McConnell, M. Simpson

- SUN 12/25** **9:00 AM LOW:** Brueggemann Bros.  
**BENEDICTION:** T.G. Simpson **TH:** S. Arlinghaus **TORCH:** L. & C. Arlinghaus  
**11:00 AM LOW:** Seminarian