

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

CANDLEMAS 2018 No. 184

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT BISHOP'S APOSTOLATE • 4900 RIALTO ROAD • WEST CHESTER, OHIO 45069
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FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

Our Christmas comes to a close with Candlemas. The “Mass of the Candles” anticipates, with its themes of dark and light, the Holy Week Ceremonies, especially the Easter Vigil.

Christmas, although each feast and ceremony is religiously and solemnly observed, always seems to pass in a blur of beauty and brightness against Winter’s dark. The cold, cold weather posed a particular challenge for us, as did our fair share of coughs and cold and flu.

But how beautiful was the Midnight watch for our Savior’s birth, the old Matins and the carols new and old. The Mass of Dawn is delayed until Tierce and features a string quartet whose bright sound ushers in the blessed Christmas day. Benediction ends this Mass, and a quiet Vespers the feast of the Nativity itself.

My personal favorite of the feasts this year was our Epiphany of adoration. Solemn Mass was sung before the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. The minus zero weather did not chill our hearts, though. We poured them out in praise as piercing sunlight filled the sanctuary. The sacred ministers visited the Three Kings Shrine before leaving, and blessed the chalk and the gold, frankincense and myrrh. Finally, a fine breakfast warmed us for the day on this beautiful feast.

During the Octave, Father McKenna and the school boys gave the Epiphany blessing to church and school. Father McKenna and Father McGuire also assisted at the solemn Mass for Christmas Eve and Midnight, as well as the Divine Office. They both departed on their appointed rounds early Christmas morning, after a few hours of rest. Father Lehtoranta is always “the Christmas priest” for St. Hugh in Milwaukee, and enjoys the relative quiet of those



Every January Bishop Dolan visits Most Holy Trinity Seminary in Brooksville, Florida, to preach a week-long retreat to seminarians and priests. Pictured above is His Excellency making a point during the course of one of the spiritual conferences.

days.

Our “straw subdeacon” this year was a French seminarian, Mr. Henry de la Chanonie, kindly loaned to us by Bishop Sanborn to make the solemn services possible. Our goal is more than to preserve, in a parish setting, the treasures of traditional Catholicism in the Sacred Liturgy. We also aim to bring back the Faith to scattered Catholics everywhere, and to support priests who do the same, in our missionary apostolate. Thank you for being part of this work.

I am listing our current missions in this bulletin. Ten years ago Father McGuire founded one mission in Illinois, and another in North Dakota. How we have grown.

God bless you!

– Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan



Bishop Dolan prepares incense as he blesses the Nativity scene just prior to the celebration of the first Mass of Christmas - at midnight. Beautiful gleaming lights, like the stars in the sky above Bethlehem two thousand years ago, punctuated the darkened church.



(Above) Father Cekada chants the Moveable Feasts for 2018 following the singing of the Gospel at the solemn high Mass of Epiphany. (Below) Father McKenna, ably assisted by our young acolytes, inscribes the doorway of our school with blessed chalk during the Epiphany Octave.



Amid the joy of Christmas we were saddened by the death of our dear sacristan, Katie Bischak. Known as the "Christmas Lady" at her local library, it seemed fitting that Katie's pontifical requiem Mass was offered at St. Gertrude the Great during the Christmas Octave.



The Blessing of Children, in honor of the Holy Innocents, was given on the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas and was followed by a little party, a story in the parish social hall, and a gift for each child from His Excellency.

CHURCHES AND MISSIONS SERVED BY THE CLERGY OF ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT CHURCH

1. St. Hugh of Lincoln, Milwaukee WI
2. St. Clare, Chillicothe OH
3. St. Teresa of Avila, Grand Forks ND
4. Sacred Heart Chapel, Powers Lake ND
5. Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel, Opelousas LA
6. St. Joseph and the Child Jesus Mission, Chadwick WI
7. Holy Face Mission, Effingham IL
8. St. Joseph of Arimathea, Park Falls, WI
9. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel, El Paso, TX
10. Assisting at St. Anthony of Padua Chapel,