

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ **DECEMBER 6, 2009 • ADVENT II •**
ST. NICHOLAS BPC •

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. The **Legion of Decency Pledge** will take place at all Masses.



The "Little Church" is in the vestibule today. **Alter Christus Confraternity** supports priests who might not otherwise receive help. Please be generous.

The **Blessing of Religious Articles** is available following all Masses.

The **Second Collection** is for *Our Seminary and Mission Support*.

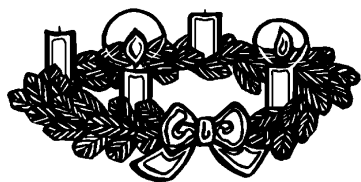
St. Nicholas will be visiting our children after all Masses today in Helfta Hall.

✠ THIS WEEK:

Monday we open the Immaculate Conception Novena in preparation for the feast day. May I ask all of you to make it for the needs of our Church? Remember the fast and abstinence in preparation for the great feast. Our young **Knights meet at church at 4:00 PM**. After the Holy Day, the Octave of Our Lady continues with daily Mass all week. Our Lady of Loretto, patroness of air travel, is honored on **Thursday**. Please support the **Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart**, with Benediction, after the **Friday 5:45 PM Mass**. Remember our dear Mexican priests and brethren, and America's Empress on **Saturday— Our Lady of Guadalupe**.

✠ PRAYERS PLEASE:

For Ralph Patton, recovering from surgery, and all of our sick and shut-in.



NOVENA PRAYER FOR ADVENT

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

(Traditionally said 15 times a day from St. Andrew's Day until Christmas.)



✠ VIGIL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The 7th of December is the *vigil* before the feast of the *Immaculate Conception* of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a **day of fast and complete abstinence**. Everyone over 21 and under 59 years of age is bound to observe the fast. Every Catholic over 7 years of age is bound to observe abstinence. On days of fast only one full meal is allowed. Eating between meals is not permitted. Beverages including milk and fruit juices may be taken. On days of complete abstinence, meat and soup or gravy made from meat are not permitted. Therefore, on the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception you are allowed only one full meatless meal.



✠ FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Tuesday of this week we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a *Holy Day of Obligation*. All are bound to assist at Mass under the pain of mortal sin. The Mass schedule for the Holy Day is as follows: **9:00 AM, and 5:45 PM**.

✠ NEXT SUNDAY

Gaudete Sunday: The Craft Sale is here! Bring cookies, and plan to do a little Christmas shopping. Catechism Classes are at 10:30 AM. Extra confessions will be heard during the 11:30 AM Mass.

Set your missal: Advent III, with the collect of St. Lucy and the Immaculate Conception, Preface of the Trinity.

Servers

DECEMBER 8, 12 AND 13, 2009

- TUE 12/8 9:00 AM Low: School servers, and anyone else who is able, please report to the sacristy by 8:45 AM
5:45 PM Low: Albert D. Kinnett, M. Briggs
- SAT 12/12 6:30 AM Low: J. Simpson, T. Simpson
8:00 AM Low: M. Briggs
- SUN 12/13 7:30 AM Low: A. & S. Brueggemann
9:00 AM High: MC: John Lotarski TH: R. Hill, B. Lotarski AC's ; N. McClorey, A. Richesson (Training)
TORCH: A. Wanke, J. Simpson, J. Lacy, S. Arlinghaus
11:30 AM Low: A. D. Kinnett
5:45 PM Low: A. Beaver

Ushers

DECEMBER 8, 2009

9:00 AM Lotarski, Volunteer 5:45 PM Seyfried, Uhlenbrock, Volunteer

DECEMBER 13, 2009

7:30 AM Kent Maki, Scott Pepiot, Volunteer, Volunteer
9:00 AM Mike Briggs, Mark Lotarski, Paul Puglielli, Steve Weigand
11:30 AM Bob Uhlenbrock, Dennis Hille, Kirby Bischel, Volunteer
5:45 PM John Seyfried

Collection Report

Sunday November 29\$4,009.00

*Thank you for your generosity!
Remember St. Gertrude's in your will!*

✠ POETRY CORNER

THE IMMACULATA

Indeed unmarred yet not unscathed
 when I arrived upon the earth,
 I, too, in fiery wounds am bathed,
 'tho' my rebirth occurred ere birth.

Awaiting what I knew not then
 you now are graced to wait with me:
 the dawning of the Lord's Day when
 whatever should not shall not be.

Through my conception all are born
 anew, for He who ranks ahead
 of me is Noon and I but morn;
 is living where all once were dead.

My Life began before my life
 and yet I gave Him His before
 my hand was taken as a wife,
 or aught but joy my spirit wore.

But not the ways of earth we trod
 in finding paths to Heaven from
 the world we see to unseen God,
 from hell's dark reign to Kingdom come.

By easy yokes and burdens light
 are rest and comfort given man;
 the wisest fools are granted sight
 of God's absurdly saving plan.

Thus I His glory now embrace
 for I accepted ev'ry loss
 (except what grows from sin's disgrace),
 and from the womb have borne the Cross.
Fr. Lawrence Smith

COURAGE

Press on! Though mists obscure
 The steep and rugged way,
 And dark'ning doubt besets—
 Soon dawns the brighter day.

Keep on! Though hours be long,
 And days deep-fraught with woe,
 Let patience do her perfect work,
 And vanquish every foe.

Hope on! Though all seems lost,
 And threat'ning storms beat high,
 Have faith! Be still and know
 That God is ever nigh.

Fight on! Though fear assails
 And panic grips the heart,
 The battle you will surely win
 If you play well your part.

—Grenville Kleiser

✠ THE CALENDAR

MON	12/7/09	ST AMBROSE, BPCD VIGIL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 11:20 AM Low Mass †Tom Palid (<i>M/M Joe Praschak</i>) 4:00 PM Knights of the Sacred Heart - at Church 5:00 PM Low Mass †Nadine Henry (<i>Kirby & Jean Bischel</i>)
TUE	12/8/09	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, HOLY DAY 8:30 AM Confessions 9:00 AM High Mass In honor of the B.V.M. (<i>Tom & Stella Simpson</i>) 5:15 PM Confessions 5:45 PM Low Mass In honor of the B.V.M. (<i>Tom & Stella Simpson</i>)
WED	12/9/09	WITHIN THE OCTAVE 11:20 AM High Mass †Nadine Henry (<i>M/M Joe Praschak</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass Poor Souls-Special Intention (<i>MAW</i>) 6:30 PM Choir Practice
THUR	12/10/09	WITHIN THE OCTAVE, ST. MELCHIADES, PM OUR LADY OF LORETTO 8:00 AM Low Mass †Ed and Jessie Hagerty (<i>M/M Joe Praschak</i>) 11:20 AM High Mass †Nadine Henry (<i>Marlene Burkart</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass Repose of Mr. Oliver Omh (<i>STRC-Nigeria</i>)
FRI	12/11/09	ST DAMASUS I, PC WITHIN THE OCTAVE 8:00 AM Low Mass †George and Alice Diehl (<i>M/M Joe Praschak</i>) 11:00 AM Confessions 11:20 AM Low Mass Poor Souls (<i>GPK</i>) 5:15 PM Confessions and Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass Poor Souls for Mattingly Family conversions 6:00 PM Novena and Benediction, Confessions
SAT	12/12/09	WITHIN THE OCTAVE OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE 7:15 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass In honor of St. Joseph (<i>Tom & Stella Simpson</i>) Confessions 8:00 AM Sermon and Low Mass †Teresa Childers (<i>Joanne & family</i>) Confessions
SUN	12/13/09	ADVENT III GAUDETE SUNDAY ST LUCY, VM WITHIN THE OCTAVE 7:30 AM Low Mass †Anthony Quinter (<i>M/M Victor Ritze</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass For the people of St. Gertrude 10:30 AM Catechism Classes 11:30 AM Low Mass †Nadine Henry (<i>The McClorey Family</i>) 5:45 PM Low Mass Poor Souls-Special Intention (<i>MAW</i>)

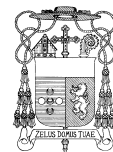
✠ CONGRATULATIONS & PRAYERS

To Thomas and Sherry Kamphaus on the Baptism of their son, Benjamin Wesley, December 5th.



✠ BISHOP'S CORNER

Already our short lived Advent is a week old. How have you done in preparing for the Holy Child Jesus, in making **yourself** a child for the sake of the Kingdom? Ask Mary, our Queen Immaculate, for her assistance this week.



Please pray the Immaculate Conception novena with us this week to defeat the devil, who wishes the destruction of our church, clergy, school and seminary. He will not win, for he is already vanquished, but we must pray. Please pray with us!

Fr. McGuire has joined our weekday staff, and he is welcome. Father will keep his eye on St. Hugh and St. Clare, but is helping us at church and school here on many weekdays. Please welcome Fr. McGuire. The school children are enjoying his classes.

Fr. Cekada has departed for his Florida teaching trip, working with a fine group of young men from throughout the world who are preparing for the holy priesthood. We are grateful for his rousing organ playing on Sundays, and his work directing our dedicated choir.

We are happy to welcome Ralph Patton into the Catholic Church, and do ask for prayers for him in his recovery from surgery, and for all of our sick.

Today I am visiting our little flock in Columbus. Please pray for them, too! Remember the fast and abstinence tomorrow, and the Holy Day on Tuesday, and next Sunday's "Christmas Craft and Cookie Sale."

Our collection has gone down of late, and some souls are giving – and working – heroically to help maintain things at our church. How could **you** help? Good question! I was hoping you would ask. If everyone gave **at least** \$20 per week (inflation adjustment) we would be able to hold our own. Also, if you miss a given Sunday, please mail in your offering. Thank you for your understanding, and devotion.

Caravaggio and Puccini took sick over Thanksgiving, and had to be shipped off to the Kitty Spa. (Jim Gebel, please note.) It did them a world of good, and now they're back on the mouse patrol. Maybe we can train them to go after rats.

May Mary keep you all in Christ Jesus our Lord,

–Bishop Dolan

MARY IMMACULATE

*Sinless in body, yes, but more,
Sinless in mind and heart and soul,
Sinless in thought and deed she bore
All that was sinless, pure and whole.
Spirit and flesh immaculate—
Only with both could she conceive
A Child of God devoid of hate,
A Son to bring the world's reprieve.*

–Boris Randolph

MARY MEDITATIONS

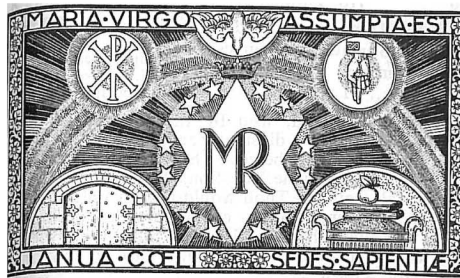
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Three Divine Persons imbue this sublime creature with all her privileges, her favors, and her graces, and with all of her holiness. The Eternal Father created her pure and immaculate and is well pleased in her for she is the worthy dwelling of his only Son. Through the generating of his Son in his bosom from all eternity, he forecasts the generation of his Son as Man in the pure womb of this Mother, and he clothed her from her conception in the radiant snowy garment of grace and of most perfect sanctity; she participates in his perfection. The Son who chose her for his Mother poured his wisdom into her that from the beginning, by infused knowledge, she knew her God. She loved and served him in the most perfect manner as he never until then had been loved and served on this earth. The Holy Spirit poured his love into her; she was the only creature worthy or capable of receiving this love in unlimited measure because no other had sufficient purity to come so near to God; and being near to him could know and love him ever more. She was the only creature capable of containing the stream of love which poured into her from on high. She alone was worthy to return to him from whom came that love. This very love prepared her for that "Fiat" which delivered the world from the tyranny of the infernal enemy and overshadowed her, the purest of doves, making her pregnant with the Son of God.

Oh my Mother, how ashamed I feel in your presence, weighted down as I am with faults! You are most pure and immaculate from the moment of your conception, indeed from the moment in eternity when you were conceived in the mind of God. Have pity on me! May one compassionate look of yours revive me, purify me, and lift me up to God; raising me from the filth of this world that I may go to him who created me, who regenerated me in Holy Baptism, giving me back my white stole of innocence that original sin had so

defiled. Dear Mother, make me love him! Pour into my heart that love that burned in yours for him. Even though I be clothed in misery, I revere the mystery of your Immaculate Conception, and I ardently wish that through it you may purify my heart so that I may love your God and my God. Cleanse my mind that it may reach up to him and contemplate him and adore him in spirit and in truth. Purify my body that I too may be a tabernacle for him and be less unworthy of possessing him when he deigns to come to me in Holy Communion. Amen.

—Padre Pio



CHRISTMAS MASS NOVENA

Remember your loved ones in our Christmas Novena of Masses which begin Christmas Day - the perfect gift! Envelopes may be found in the vestibule and the Gift Shop. Fill them out and return them to the Church Office or the collection basket

Our Beloved Dead December

Gerrard, Jerome G.	12-01-1989
Corbin, Alice M.	12-02-1995
Kinnett, Albert D.	12-02-2003
Alban, Frank Jr.	12-03-1988
Greene, George	12-04-1999
Breitenstein, Rosemary	12-08-1999
Budde, Regina K.	12-09-1992
Rimer, Floyd Jr.	12-12-2002
Golembeski, Henry	12-15-1993
Vanessa S. Thompson	12-17-2008
Bell, Mary Genevieve	12-19-2004
Miller, David T.	12-19-2004
Osborn, Mary I.	12-19-2002



POINSETTIA MEMORIAL

We are welcoming contributions to defray the cost of the Christmas flowers. If you wish to make your donation in memory of a loved one, please fill out the special Poinsettia Offering envelope available in the vestibule and pews. *To have your loved one included in the special Christmas memorial program, please turn in your envelope no later than December 21st.*

Clip and Save

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION NOVENA

Priest: O Immaculate Virgin Mary, conceived without sin! Remember, thou wert miraculously preserved from even the shadow of sin, because thou wert destined to become not only the Mother of God, but also the Mother, the Refuge, and the Advocate of man; penetrated, therefore, with the most lively confidence in thy never-failing intercession, we most humbly implore thee to look with favor upon the intentions of this novena, and to obtain for us the graces and the favors we request. [Here silently mention your requests]. Thou knowest, O Mary, how often our hearts are the sanctuaries of God, Who abhors iniquity. Obtain for us, then, that angelic purity which was thy favorite virtue, that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone, and that purity of intention which will consecrate every thought, word, and action to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a constant spirit of prayer and self-denial, that we may recover by penance that innocence which we have lost by sin, and at length attain safely to that blessed abode of the Saints, where nothing defiled can enter.

V. O Mary, conceived without sin.

R. Pray for us who have recourse to Thee.

Please pray this Novena with us daily from December 7 - 15, for our Church.

