

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212

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 7, 2014 ADVENT II ST. AMBROSE, BPCD



¶ TODAY

St. Nicholas plans to come and see the children after all morning Masses. Stay for a donut and coffee while the little ones visit their saint. Bishop Dolan meanwhile, after the 11:30 will be giving his traditional reading of Fr. Abram Ryan's classic poem, The Immaculate Conception. Fr. Ryan was the Poet Laureate of the Confederacy. If you haven't already picked up your 2015 collection envelopes, they are waiting for you in the vestibule. If you don't see your name, let us know!

Sunday classes are at 10:40 AM. First Vespers of the Immaculate Conception & Benediction at 4:45 PM. The Blessing of Religious Articles will be available after all Masses, and our second collection is for the support of our Seminary.



¶ SERIOUSLY, WE NEED SOME HELP!

We need a little crew of workers to help clean, set up and take down shrines, and otherwise prepare for Sunday. Otherwise, Katie and Darlene are left alone with too much work, too taxing for them. Help out for a couple of hours once a month? Perfect for retired married couples, singles, young people, older folk, too. Could be perfect for you! Give a hand? We need help the third and fifth Saturdays of the month, and before big feasts.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT III

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available after all Masses. St. Gertrude the Great School's annual **Christmas Bake Sale** takes place in Helfta Hall. Vespers are at 4:45 PM, followed by Benediction. Classes are at 10:40 AM.

Set Your Missal: Advent III, with commemoration of the Immaculate Conception. Trinity Preface.

¶ CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Calling all decorators to help **December 17-20**. Please call the church office to let us know if you are coming. We're counting on you!

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Monday is a Holy Day of Obligation. All are bound to hear Mass under pain of mortal sin. The special Workers' Mass is at 7:00 AM (no sermon!!!). The High Mass is at 9:00 AM, and the last Mass is at 5:45 PM. Vespers are recited at 4:30 PM, and the Blessed Sacrament Exposed at 5:00 PM, with Rosary and Benediction before Mass.



¶ PLEASE PRAY...

For Rossana Fiore, a very ill former member; Fr. Hecquard's brother Maxence (who visited us here) recovering from open heart surgery; Connie Kamphaus; and Les Pomerville.

¶ WELCOME, TRUE RESTORATION!

Those of you who have listened to internet radio broadcasts and commentary by Bp. Dolan, Bp. Sanborn, Fr. Cekada and our other clergy are familiar with True Restoration. We're pleased to welcome the organizers of True Restoration to St. Gertrude's for their annual meeting this weekend: Stephen Heiner, Jason Guardiano, Joshua Gunsher, Wendy Haight, James Schroepfer, Bill Seng, Justin Soeder and Nicholas Wansbutter.

¶ BIBLE STUDY

The class has now completed its study of Leviticus, and soon will begin a very interesting look into Numbers.

During this season of Advent and into the Christmas time however we will take a brief rest of the O.T.

The next study will engage the Nativity of the Baptist followed by of course the Christ.

All are welcomed, with special invitation to scoffers—who I know God loves very much. After all, if He did not, why did He make so many of them?



Collection Report

Sunday, November 30th.....\$3,102.00
Craft Sale.....\$376.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.



THE FORTY HOURS

One of the highlights of our year, the Forty Hours truly represents “a triumph for God” as Chesterton once said about the Eucharistic Congress. We are thankful this year that St. Hugh of Lincoln Church in Milwaukee observed its Silver Anniversary by initiating the Eucharistic devotion—another triumph for God!

The great purpose of Forty Hours is to glorify Christ the Son of God present in the Eucharist. The Catholic ritual does indeed appeal to the eye and ear. The sense appeal, however, is for the purpose of quickening religious emotion which finds expression in prayer and adoration.

The Devotion of the Forty Hours dates back for about four centuries, though the place and the author of its origin are questions which the learned have not settled. It was well known in Italy and commended by Paul III in 1539. It was not until the reign of Clement VIII, however, that the devotion was officially established in Rome, by a Bull dated November 25, 1592. It was a time, like the present, full of war and rumors of war; and the Pope in his letter of instruction asked the faithful to pray for deliverance from the evils that then threatened Europe. “Pray,” he says, “for the concord of Christian princes; pray for France; pray that the enemies of our faith, the dreaded Turks (the Mohammedans), who in the heat of their presumptuous fury threaten slavery and devastation of all Christendom, may be overthrown by the right hand of Almighty God.”

✠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 and concludes at the first dawning: **Thursday at 6:00 AM, Saturday at 7:30 AM.**



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 of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

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

SONNET X

Contemplatio de oratione beatae Gertrudis Virginis

Thou art the hue of colors, which the eye
Refracts upon the sight. Thou art the taste
Of all sweetness, the blue of every sky,
The charm of hearts by other hearts embraced,
The fragrance of odors, lightness of clouds,
Swiftness of wind, the savor of delight
The lifter of souls from their sullen shrouds,
The being of all that is, and my soul's light.
Lover most chaste, Companion of my joy,
Beautiful Youth, unchanging Flow'r of spring,
Brother whose kindness is without alloy,
Most tender Spouse, and King of every king,
All creatures I renounce, that one with Thee,
I mount love's height, and all is calm in me.

—Joseph Charles McKenzie

Albuquerque, St. Gertrude the Great, 2014

*Sonnet X is a contemplation and paraphrase of a prayer composed by
St. Gertrude the Great and is found in her Legatus Divinae Gratiae.*



MY SOUL...

My Soul, there is a country
Afar beyond the stars,
Where stands a winged sentry
All skillful in the wars;
There, above noise and danger
Sweet Peace sits, crown'd with smiles,
And One born in a manger
Commands the beauteous files.
He is thy gracious friend
And (O my Soul awake!)
Did in pure love descend,
To die here for thy sake.
If thou canst get but thither,
There grows the flow'r of peace,
The rose that cannot wither,
Thy fortress, and thy ease.
Leave then thy foolish ranges,
For none can thee secure,
But One, who never changes,
Thy God, thy life, thy cure.

—Henry Vaughan

THE CALENDAR

All Sunday Masses, school day Masses, Friday evening and Saturday morning
Masses are webcast at SGGResources.org.

- MON 12/08/14 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**
HOLY DAY
7:00 AM Special Workers' Mass †Special Intention (*Patsy McConnell & family*)
8:30 AM Confessions
9:00 AM High Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
4:30 PM Vespers
5:00 PM Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, Rosary
5:30 PM Benediction
5:45 PM Low Mass †William Harris (*Tom & Karen Simpson*)
- TUE 12/09/14 WITHIN THE OCTAVE**
11:20 AM High Mass Happy Birthday, Madison (*Sharon*)
5:00 PM Low Mass St. Anthony Thank You (*Aaron Kitchen*)
- WED 12/10/14 WITHIN THE OCTAVE**
ST. MELCHIADES, PM
OUR LADY OF LORETTO
8:00 AM Low Mass Oliver Ritchey (*Frances Mattingly*)
11:20 AM High Mass Poor Souls
5:00 PM Low Mass Ben Ritchey (*Frances Mattingly*)
6:30 PM Choir Practice
- THU 12/11/14 ST. DAMASUS I, PC**
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
6:00 AM Rorate Mass Thanksgiving, Prayers answered (*Samantha*)
11:20 AM High Mass The Children of Purgatory (*Kueblers*)
5:00 PM Low Mass Brian Clark & Payton (*Frances Mattingly*)
- FRI 12/12/14 WITHIN THE OCTAVE**
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
8:00 AM Low Mass Rose Wellman (*Tom & Karen Simpson*)
10:55 AM Confessions
11:20 AM High Mass Brian Clark & Payton (*Frances Mattingly*)
5:15 PM Confessions and Rosary
5:45 PM Low Mass Alexander Ritchey (*Frances Mattingly*)
6:30 PM Novena and Benediction
*Please note today is **NOT** a fast day—calendar typo (just abstinence as usual). Enjoy your enchiladas for La Fiesta!*
- SAT 12/13/14 ST. LUCY, VM**
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
7:10 AM Confessions
7:30 AM Rorate Mass Intentions of Janet Strauss (*Tom & Karen Simpson*)
8:10 AM Sermon, Requiem Low Mass For Archbishop Thuc (†30th Anniversary)
- SUN 12/14/14 ADVENT III**
GAUDETE SUNDAY
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
7:30 AM Low Mass Fr. Bede Nkamuke (*Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ritze*)
9:00 AM High Mass Thank you, Jason & Guy (*The Fathers*)
10:50 AM Catechism Classes
11:30 AM Low Mass †Denise Edmonson (*Donna Patton*)
4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

AN ADVENT MEDITATION



We say to our Lord in this first week of Advent, “Show me Your ways; teach me Your paths.” This doesn’t mean to point them out as to a tourist, who might say, “Isn’t that lovely?” but to show me Your ways that I may walk on them, and teach me Your paths that I may follow them. This is the itinerary for Advent. Don’t sit at the window and rock and wait for the Redeemer to come. Walk down these ways, and follow these paths. It is a time of action.

A homily of Saint Gregory the Great speaks of our Lord’s desire to find us prepared. This is a very poignant thought. We know our desire to bring Him forth, our desire to meet Him in the Parousia, our desire to be with Him for ever. He has desires, too. He desires our perfection. He desires to find us prepared. He will be very disappointed if we are not prepared. If we meet Him at Midnight Mass with our little works of darkness still around us as snugly as a shawl, then He will be disappointed, because He is desiring to find us ready; He is desiring to find those hearts emptied of our pet affections, our worldliness; He is desiring to find us stripped of our works of darkness; He is desiring to find us full of love and gentleness and eagerness to be His. So let us not disappoint Him; let us not meet Him with hearts full of our own little desires.

—Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C.

Servers

MON 12/08:

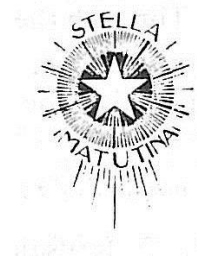
7:00 AM: T.G. Simpson
9:00 AM: School Servers
5:00 PM EXPOSITION: P. Omlor
5:30 PM BENEDICTION & LOW MASS: P. Omlor, G. Miller

SUN 12/14:

7:30 AM Low: Brueggemann Bros
9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: B. Lotarski, N. McClorey **TH:** A. Richesson **ACs:** Nathan McClorey, C. Richesson **TORCH:** T. Lawrence, C. Arlinghaus, P. McClorey, A. Soli
11:30 AM Low: A.D. Kinnett, P. Omlor
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
5:45 PM Low: G. Miller

ST. CLARE CORNER

Monday, Dec. 8 (Holy Day)
Confessions 5:20 PM
Mass 6:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 14
Confessions 3:50 PM
Mass 4:30 PM



FOR THOSE WHO MISS MASS OR HOLY COMMUNION AND NEVER MISS IT



In order that people might feel confidence that they can find God, and certainty that He will not desert them afterwards, He made Himself one of them and laid Himself in the arms of a Virgin, bound hand and foot in swaddling bands, so that He could not flee from those who came in quest of Him. O you celestial Bread, descended from the bosom of the Father, who remains on your altars throughout the world, inviting all to come and feast on you, and enjoy you! Who could refrain from seeking you, and receiving you into his bosom—you who do but ask that man should hunger for you, to bestow yourself on him?

What do you require of the soul, but only that it should sigh after you and, confessing its sins, should beg you to come and dwell within it? How miserable are those, who, when this Bread descends close to their very doors, prefer rather to die of hunger than to stoop to pick it up. O sloth, what evil do you work! What riches does not such blindness lose for souls! What treasures does not their slumber steal away from them! God has promised that *every one that asks, receives, and he that seeks finds, and to him that knocks, it shall be opened* (Mt 7:8).

What but our own negligence is to blame if we lose His mercies? Shall we cling to our infirmities, now that God comes to cure them? He stands at the door of our hearts, begging and imploring us—*Open to Me, my sister, my love!*

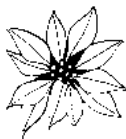
—St. John of Avila

John of Avila (†1569) was a Spanish priest, mystic, preacher, and scholar.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL

You may make a donation in memory of a loved one, to help defray the cost of the poinsettias and other flowers for Christmas. Please fill out the special flower offering envelope available in the pews, and return to an usher or drop 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 envelope no later than Monday, December 15th.



BEING VIGILANT WITH MARY



The salvation of the world began through Mary and through her it must be accomplished. Mary scarcely appeared in the first coming of Jesus Christ so that men, as yet insufficiently instructed and enlightened concerning the person of her Son, might not wander from the truth by becoming too strongly attached to her. This would apparently have happened if she had been known, on account of the wondrous charms with which the Almighty had endowed even her outward appearance. So true is this that St. Denis the Areopagite tells us in his writings that when he saw her he would have taken her for a goddess, because of her incomparable beauty, had not his well-grounded faith taught him otherwise. But in the second coming of Jesus Christ, Mary must be known and openly revealed by the Holy Spirit so that Jesus may be known, loved, and served through her. The reasons which moved the Holy Spirit to hide His spouse during her life and to reveal but very little of her since the first preaching of the Gospel exists no longer.

God wishes therefore to reveal Mary, His masterpiece, and make her more known in these latter times.

Because she kept herself hidden in this world and in her great humility considered herself lower than dust, having obtained from God, His Apostles, and evangelists the favor of not being made known.

Because as Mary is not only God's masterpiece of glory in heaven, but also His masterpiece of grace on earth, He wishes to be glorified and praised because of her by those living upon earth.

Since she is the dawn which precedes and discloses the Sun of Justice, Jesus Christ, she must be known and acknowledged so that Jesus may be known and acknowledged.

As she was the way by which Jesus first came to us, she will again be the way by which He will come to us the second time though not in the same manner.

Since she is the sure means, the direct and immaculate way to Jesus, and the perfect guide to Him, it is through her that souls who are to shine forth in sanctity must find Him. He who finds Mary finds life, that is, Jesus Christ.

—St. Louis Grignon de Montfort



December's days thus far have dawned dark and dreary, with at least one "ice event" daily to keep things interesting. The outdoor statue lights are now solar powered, so while natural they are also impractical, and leave the saints in the dark these long nights which follow dark days. At least they're up again, our Calvary figures. The last wind storm knocked them over.

Speaking of nature, our raccoons are not the most amenable of tenants. I'm sure we are glad they have found warm lodging this winter within our walls, but something makes me think they need an exorcist's touch. The worst of the screeching and thumping is reserved for the Consecration of my 5 PM Mass, and then for the chanting of the Magnificat at Vespers. Fr. Siordia always does say he finds the Magnificat a perfect exorcism. But just in case grace needs some help from nature, does anyone have a trap?

There was a sad but sweet scene last Tuesday morning as we confided Fr. Nkamuke and all of his suitcases and packages, loaded with books and altar articles, to the competent hands of Doby to be delivered to the airport, as he started his long journey home via New York and Abu Dhabi. The Fathers joined all of the students and teachers and sacristy ladies (who did so much to get Father and his vestments and sacred linens ready) to bid Fr. Nkamuke a truly fond farewell, and Godspeed with many prayers for the missionary life which lies ahead for this young priest pioneer of the faith in his native Nigeria.

Our solemn Advent Sunday services last week opened the way for Our Lord and a new Liturgical Year for us. In the meantime, we opened as well the craft and gift sale, which continues today. Friday's All Night Adoration was the perfect Advent observance it always is. I pray most of you will make tomorrow's Holy Day Mass one of your Advent sacrifices, one which will bring many blessings.

We are enjoying having almost a full house for our school this year, and seeing all of the students, both old and new, grow in "wisdom and age and grace" already this first semester. The High Masses are a joy to offer to God, with such beautiful music on offer to man as well. The little ones are really learning to sing now, and learning so many other things as well.

Doesn't Advent indeed pass quickly? The busier you are, the faster it goes. We are trying to provide Holy Mass every Sunday to a growing group of Catholics, including many children, in the Rochester MN area, as well as every three weeks to the other young and growing mission we serve in the frozen depths of North

Dakota's plains, where 0° temperatures are considered average or warm after it gets really cold. Fr. Cekada and his fine choir are practicing up a storm for Christmas, but he has hurried off to tropical Tampa for his seminary week.

How was your Thanksgiving? We had a great one here, with so many of you making your thanksgiving God's way, by the Holy Eucharist, assisting at Mass and Holy Communion. We were especially grateful to see Fr. Saavedra again after a long time. We all had breakfast together, and then a good long visit sitting at the table, as families will.

God bless your family, and your faithful generous and regular participation in our church family at St. Gertrude the Great. God bless our country too as we keep her patronal feast tomorrow.

Yours in Mary Immaculate,
Bishop Dolan

Our Beloved Dead – December

Name	Date of Death
Jerome G. Gerrard	12-01-1989
Albert D. Kinnett	12-02-2003
Frank Alban, Jr.	12-03-1988
George Greene	12-04-1999
Rosemary Breitenstein	12-08-1999
Regina K. Budde	12-09-1992
Alice M. Corbin	12-12-1995
Floyd Rimer, Jr.	12-12-2002
George Wissing	12-12-2009
Henry Golembeski	12-15-1993
Ralph Patton	12-15-2009
Fred Hauserman	12-16-2010
Vanessa S. Thompson	12-17-2008
Marty Lierl	12-18-2012
Mary Genevieve Bell	12-19-2004
David T. Miller	12-19-2004
Mary I. Osborn	12-19-2002
Richard Weik	12-29-2010

¶ 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.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE END TIMES

My soul is preoccupied with this, and anxious for what is to come, fearing that it may be shackled with enfeebling care for the body and weighed down with material possessions; fearing that if the ravaging trumpet sounds from the opened heavens, it may not be able to rise on light wings into the breezes to meet the King. It longs to fly to heaven amidst thousands of honored saints, who will with easy effort raise their feet weightlessly through the void, unencumbered by bonds of earth, to the stars aloft. They will journey on fleecy clouds, passing among the stars to worship the heavenly King amid the upper air, to unite their glorious columns with the Christ they adore.

This is the cause of my fear and toil, that the last day may not overtake me asleep in the pitch darkness of barren activity, prolonging my wasted days in empty occupations. What shall I do if Christ in flashing revelation from his heavenly citadel appears before me while I nod over languishing prayers? What if I am blinded by the sudden rays of the Lord's coming from the opened heavens and, stupefied by the shaft of light, I make for the grim refuge of the sightless darkness?

This is why I have decided by my proposed course to forestall disaster, so that doubt in the truth or love of this life (with the pleasure of possessions and the toil of responsibilities) should not confront me with such a death. I am resolved to end my worldly cares while life remains, to entrust my possessions to God against the age to come, and to await harsh death with an untroubled heart.

—*St. Paulinus of Nola (St. Paulinus of Nola, † 431, was a bishop and a friend of Sts. Martin of Tours, Ambrose, and Augustine.)*

SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS

Fr. Cekada on Twitter, Facebook

Yes, he finally broke down and started using social media, so you can now become his “follower” on the former and “friend” him on the latter. He uses them both to send out interesting links or short comments on current events. Subscribe today!

The Catholic Institute of Arts and Letters, a sede-vacantist organization, has just launched [Ars Pulchra Magazine](http://arspulchra.com), an online webzine. They are calling for submissions and comments. The link is <http://arspulchra.com>.

TODAY'S EPISTLE

Sports Can Teach Us Something: Hope.

Advent is the season of hope. Hope concerns the motion toward a good whose attainment is difficult but possible. In the natural order hope is involved in all spheres of human activity and is especially exemplified in the world of sport: baseball, golf, etc. In the spiritual order hope is directed toward a spiritual good—God himself. Natural hope for material things is often frustrated, but supernatural hope for spiritual and eternal good has the best possible guarantees of success: God's infinite power, his infinite mercy, and his promises to help! Paul's hope, the very foundation of his life, was boundless; it was based on God. He never stopped to wring his hands or to lament his lot. One can almost hear him saying that a quitter never really knows whether he would have won the contest or not.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

The first edition of Fr. Cekada's *Work of Human Hands* is sold out. We need backers to help print the second edition, so we decided to run a “crowd funder.”

Here's how it works: You back the project by pledging a certain amount of money (it can be large or small) towards the overall target goal needed to fund the 2nd edition, \$4500. Only when we reach that overall amount is your credit card charged for the amount you pledged.

There are also incentives offered to donors for the different levels of gifts, including a tote bag/coffee mug set featuring Mark Bischel's caricatures of Fr. Chuck and Fr. Retreaux, those two liturgical opposites Fr. Cekada used to illustrate various points in his *Work of Human Hands* video series on YouTube.

For info on the WHH crowd funder, including a short film, go to workofhumanhands.tilt.com.

¶ 2015 CALENDARS ARE IN!

Available now in the bookstore for \$10.00. Illustrated with beautiful drawings of the Holy Face Stations of the Cross.
