

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 14, 2014

ADVENT III

WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



¶ TODAY

The blessing of expectant mothers is available after all Masses. Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers are at 4:45 PM, followed by Benediction.

Christmas Bake Sale
in Helfta Hall today!

**Don't forget to stop by and
pick up some cookies for
Christmas!**

*Please patronize this important fundraiser
for St. Gertrude's School.*

Lumen Christi

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

**Thanksgiving for the Real
Presence**
(A Friend)

¶ 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).



Congratulations to Robert and Lisa Brockman on the baptism of their daughter, Annabelle Ruth, on 11.23.14.

*We adore Thee, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here and in all Thy churches that are in the
whole world, and we bless Thee; because by
Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the
world.*

(An indulgence of 7 years)

¶ YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Please remember all of our Rosary Chain intentions, our shut in and sick especially Kim LeBlanc, who broke a leg; Lorraine Gates, who is ailing; Sue Becker Menefee; and Paige McClorey.

Yesterday we had the 30th anniversary of the death of Archbishop Pierre Martin Thuc, a great man of God who is buried in Springfield, Missouri. A Requiem Mass and Absolution was offered for him yesterday.

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

¶ CHRISTMAS DECORATING

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

¶ ALTER CHRISTUS

Thank you for your generous almsgiving this month. \$512 was received for Masses for the support and sanctification of priests.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT IV

No Sunday classes due to the Christmas break. Vespers are sung at 4:45 PM, followed by Benediction

Set Your Missal: Advent IV, with collects of Our Lady in Advent, and Against the Persecutors of the Church, Trinity Preface.

¶ 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: **Tuesday & Thursday at 6:00 AM; Saturday at 7:30 AM.**

Collection Report

Sunday, December 7th.....\$4,158.00
Second Collection.....\$1,134.00
Monday, December 8th.....\$1,682.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

O GOD OF SEEKING!

Teach me to seek You,
 and when I seek You, show Yourself to me;
 for I cannot seek You unless You teach me,
 or find You unless You show Yourself to me.
 Let me find You by desiring You,
 and desire You by seeking You.
 Let me find You by loving You,
 and love You when I find You.
 I do not seek to understand so that I can believe,
 but I believe so that I may understand.
 For this too I believe:
 Unless I believe, I shall not understand.

—*St. Anselm of Canterbury*
 (1033–1109)



HYMN FOR ADVENT

Lord, come away!
 Why dost Thou stay?
 Thy road is ready; and Thy paths made straight
 With longing expectations wait
 The consecration of Thy beauteous feet.
 Ride on triumphantly; behold we lay
 Our lusts and proud will in Thy way!

Hosanna! Welcome to our hearts! Lord, here
 Thou hast a temple too; and full as dear
 As that of Sion, and as full of sin:
 Nothing but thieves and robbers dwell therein:
 Enter, and chase them forth, and cleanse the floor:
 Crucify them, that they may never more
 Profane that holy place
 Where Thou hast chose to set Thy Face!
 And then if our stiff tongues shall be
 Mute in the praises of Thy deity,
 The stones out of the temple wall
 Shall cry aloud and call
 Hosanna! And Thy glorious footsteps greet!

—*Jeremy Taylor (1613–67)*



LATER LIFE : A DOUBLE SONNET OF SONNETS (XIX)

Here now is Winter. Winter, after all,
 Is not so drear as was my boding dream
 While Autumn gleamed its last watery gleam
 On sapless leafage too inert to fall.
 Still leaves and berries clothe my garden wall
 Where ivy thrives on scantiest sunny beam;
 Still here a bud and there a blossom seem
 Hopeful, and robin still is musical.
 Leaves, flowers and fruit and one delightful song
 Remain; these days are short, but now the nights
 Intense and long, hand out their utmost lights;
 Such starry nights are long, yet not too long;
 Frost nips the weak, while strengthening still the strong
 Against that day when Spring sets all to rights.

—*Christina Rossetti (English, 1830-1894)*



Advent's Serious Sign

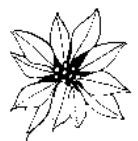
It is important to remember the deep, in some ways anguished seriousness of Advent, when the mendacious celebrations of our marketing culture so easily harmonize with our tendency to regard Christmas, consciously or otherwise, as a return to our own innocence and our own infancy...

But the Church, in preparing us for the birth of a “great prophet,” a Savior and a King of Peace, has more in mind than seasonal cheer. The Advent mystery focuses the light of faith upon the very meaning of life, of history, of man, of the world and of our own being. In Advent we celebrate the coming and indeed the *presence* of Christ in our world.

—*Fr. Louis, O.C.S.O.*

¶ 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 it 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.



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

MON 12/15/14 OCTAVE DAY

OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:00 AM **Low Mass** Current Family Special Intention
(Samantha)

11:20 AM **High Mass** †Ralph Patton – 5th Anniversary (Patton Family)

TUE 12/16/14 ST. EUSEBIUS, BPM

6:00 AM **Rorate Mass** Charles R. Mattingly (Frances Mattingly)

8:00 AM **Low Mass** Julian Ritchey & Tjasa (Frances Mattingly)

11:20 AM **Requiem High Mass** Purgatorian Society

5:00 PM **Low Mass** †Bertha & Joseph Voisinnet (The Wilkers)

WED 12/17/14 EMBER DAY

ST. LAZARUS, BPC

7:00 AM **Low Mass** Brian Clark & Peyton (Frances Mattingly)

8:00 AM **Low Mass** Nathan Clark (Frances Mattingly)

11:20 AM **High Mass** †Marcellus Cassidy (Samantha)

5:00 PM **Low Mass** †Marcellus Cassidy (Samantha)

THU 12/18/14 FERIAL DAY

EXPECTATION OF OUR LADY

6:00 AM **Rorate Mass** †Fr. Martin Stepanich, O.F.M.
(Samantha)

8:00 AM **Low Mass** †John & Aunt Annie (Judy Metz)

11:20 AM **High Mass** Brian Brockman & Family (Rob & Jane Brockman)

5:00 PM **Low Mass** Special Intention (cv) (Kueblers)

FRI 12/19/14 EMBER DAY

7:00 AM **Low Mass** Maria Ladd (Frances Mattingly)

8:00 AM **Low Mass** Poor Souls (Tom & Karen Simpson)

10:55 AM **Confessions**

11:20 AM **High Mass** John Brockman Family (Rob & Jane Brockman)

5:15 PM **Confessions and Rosary**

5:45 PM **Low Mass** For Theresa Simpson & her intentions
(The Omlor Family)

6:30 PM **Novena and Benediction**

SAT 12/20/14 EMBER DAY

VIGIL OF ST. THOMAS

7:10 AM **Confessions**

7:30 AM **Rorate Mass** Sister Mary Peter Julian (C. Simpson Family)

8:10 AM **Sermon, Ember Saturday Mass** For Mille Arlinghaus & her intentions (The Omlor Family)

SUN 12/21/14 ADVENT IV

7:30 AM **Low Mass** Happy Birthday, Richard (12/16) (Gloria)

9:00 AM **High Mass** For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

10:50 AM **Catechism Classes**

11:30 AM **Low Mass** Thirty-four Grandchildren (Kirby & Jean Bischel)

4:45 PM **Vespers & Benediction**

5:45 PM **Low Mass** †Hannah Mae Keaveney (The Wilker Family)



TRUE DAILY BREAD

St. Peter Chrysologus once preached about why Our Lord told us “not to be anxious about what we eat, not even to think about it,” and yet tells us to pray “Give us this day our daily bread.”

Is He telling us to ask for that about which He forbids us to think? What do we hold? The heavenly Father is encouraging us, as heavenly sons, to ask for heavenly bread. He said: “I am the bread that has come down from heaven.” He is the Bread sown in the Virgin, leavened in the flesh, molded in His Passion, baked in the furnace of the sepulchre, placed in the churches, and set upon the altars, which daily supplies heavenly food to the faithful.

Pray that we all pray this way!

Servers

SUN 12/21:

7:30 AM **Low:** Brueggemann Bros

9:00 AM **High:** CHAPLAINS: T. & J.

Simpson **TH:** S. Arlinghaus **ACs:** P.

Omlor, A. Soli **TORCH:** M. Simpson, C.

Richesson, T. Lawrence, J. Lacy

11:30 AM **Low:** A.D. Kinnett, N. Puglielli

4:45 PM **VESPERS & BENEDICTION:** G. Miller

5:45 PM **Low:** G. Miller

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.)*

ST. CLARE CORNER

Sunday, Dec. 21

Christmas Confessions: 3:50 PM

*Last chance for confessions before
Christmas!*

Mass: 4:30 PM

Christmas Day

Three Masses beginning at 10:00 AM.

Holy Communion distributed at first Mass only.

New Year's Day

Confessions: 9:20 AM

Mass: 10:00 AM



Christian joy is the true sign of one who loves God. Its basis is not in material things, but in the awareness that one is united to God, bears witness to him and thus glorifies him. A sad saint is a sorry saint (Francis de Sales); our faces are the mirror of our souls and our silent eyes reveal the secrets of our heart (Jerome). With great perception, Leon Bloy once wrote: "Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God."

INTROIT: As we enter this morning for the Sacrifice, Mother Church greets us at the very threshold with the glad news: "The Lord is near!" This is why she has laid aside her purple vestments of mourning and decked her altars again with flowers. Now she can tell us over and over again, as she does in both Introit and Epistle, "Joy to you in the Lord: . . . again I wish you joy!" Then, knowing how slow we are to lay aside our worldly worries, she enlarges her theme adding: "Nothing must make you anxious." We really can leave all our troubles in God's hands, for He directs everything to our ultimate good. Then we remind ourselves, in the psalm verse, of how much God has already done for us by the Redemption and all its effects on the world in which we live today: "What blessings, Lord, Thou hast granted to this land of Thine (by redeeming grace), restoring Israel from captivity," that is; we have been freed from our captivity, released from the bonds of sin.

GOSPEL: Now we stand on the Jordan's bank receiving the testimony of the King's last herald, the Baptist; who comes with a twofold message: (1) He is even now "in our midst," and (2) "Straighten out the way of the Lord." Of course, we know He is here now in each member of His Mystical Body. But is He not almost as unknown in our busy, industrialized world as when the Baptist pointed Him out to the crowds with which He mingled so inconspicuously beside the river? Then I also have something to do about His coming: I must *straighten* all the devious ways of little insincerities, *fill* up the ruts of my many omissions of duty, and *smooth* out the surface of the road by a solid and universal charity. All this we do in the Canon of the Mass, where our Sacrifice, "carried by the hands of an angel to the altar on high," opens up the way for God's return Gift, the Saviour, to enter the Bethlehem of souls. For the very Act of Sacrifice is our best preparation in *straightening* out the way for our sacrificial Guest to dwell permanently in our midst today.



ADVENT III

That other hindrance to surrender to God, the fearful prospect of abandoning ourselves to the pursuit of perfection even if we dared, can only be overcome by experiment; for those who live heroically through small things have already surrendered to God. Their perseverance is not, as it seems to us, a continual strain; on the contrary, it is the repeated relief of giving spontaneous expression to a love that is too great to be endured without it.

—C. Houselander



"I AM THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS:
MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD."

"I Have Come to Set the Earth on Fire"

Then right away our soul is transformed into a garden filled with fragrant blossoms of holy desire. And in the center of the garden is planted the tree of the most holy cross, the resting place of the spotless Lamb. He bathes and waters this glorious garden, irrigating it with His Blood; and He Himself bears the mature fruit of true solid virtues. If you want patience, He is the bedrock of meekness, since not a murmur of complaint was heard from the Lamb. He is the bedrock of deep humility, since God stooped down to humanity, and the Word stooped to the shameful death of the cross. If you want charity, He is that charity—and even more, for it was the power of love and charity that kept Him nailed fast to the cross. The cross and nails could never have held the God-Man, had not the power of charity held Him.

I'm not surprised that those who make of themselves a garden through self-knowledge are strong in the face of the whole world, for they are conformed and made life to have a foretaste of eternal life. They control the world by making light of it. The devils are afraid to get near a soul on fire with divine charity. So up... I don't want you sleeping any more in irresponsibility and sensual love. No, with a boundless blazing love get up and take a bath in Christ's Blood; hide in the wounds of Christ crucified.

—St. Catherine of Siena

I think Christmas has come early to our Church. Of course there is the fine weather, gifts of mild sweet sun interspersed with the symbolic Advent darkness of no sun at all, but good weather so far on Advent's Sundays. The St. Gertrude's night snowstorm seems far away now. But I'm wondering if there isn't more to it than that.

You see, the world, our world, is in full Christmas celebration all December long. What do you do at Christmas, if not, along with parties and gifts, go to Church, and even give God a little extra? This has been our experience here. Of course, we would like to see folk year round, but it *is* lovely to see old faces, and young ones suddenly all grown up, once again. Such a treat. They've come because it's Christmas. Never mind the purple and brown, or even today's rose which says, "We're not there yet, Christ is yet to be born! Come back for Christmas." I hope they do, but of course it *is* such a busy day, with the gifts and the children and the entertaining... And didn't we just go?

Well, the world does seem to understand something about the liturgical year. These four weeks of Advent *are* part of the greater Christmas season, but as Lent is of Easter, i.e. its preparation. To forgo the preparation would be like showing up at a Christmas party dirty and ill dressed, and empty handed, with no gift. It isn't done. We all need to prepare, and penance, the washing up part, is important as is getting and giving the gift, as well as to be properly dressed. In this case it is the Wedding Garment of Sanctifying Grace, as well as respectful, modest church dress.

Today we take an updated version of the old Legion of Decency promise. How needed is this. The blasphemy and filth and smut on standard prime time TV is shocking, to say nothing of the expensive Cable which some people don't seem to be able to do without, as well as the Internet, to which too many young and old have unsupervised access. But all of that takes place in the privacy of your home. Why would you export it to church?

I refer to immodest dress for Mass, innocent girls tarted up in short skirts which would be a pervert's dream, or done up in heels and jewelry and tight skirts which scream, "look at me!" rather than the altar. Have some mothers lost all sense of modesty? (Modesty conceals the body, even as it conceals the self, by not drawing undo attention.) Must girls be pushed into an adult world, shedding their innocence on the way? What ever happened to childhood, and modesty, to say nothing of good taste and respectful honor paid to God's house and day? Is this some sort of an obligatory rite of

passage for so many of our families? If it is, we don't want to see it, and neither does God. Leave it at home, and come dressed modestly, for goodness' sake. What would Our Lady say?

One hundred years ago Our Lady at Fatima predicted that "fashions would be introduced which will offend my Son very much." This starts very young, and is brazen enough to show itself in church. Some times it strikes one as just plain silly, and out of place and poor taste, but it soon leads to offending Mary's Son very much. But this is the season of His birth, and "for the children." Let us all look for our innocence again, and put it on and embrace it and make the Holy Child a gift of it for His birthday.

His birthday is indeed drawing nigh, and we hope you'll be able to help us decorate our church and grounds as beautifully as possible. General decorating is from Wednesday through Saturday. Call if you're going to come, but please do come. Could anybody set up outdoor lights on the building and the shrines? Many thanks.

It was a pleasure having the True Restoration staff with us last weekend. How important is their work today. Listen to the broadcasts, support this apostolate which truly exemplifies Catholic Action at its best. They are there all year long to help you understand and live your Catholic faith today, and resist the apostates of New Rome.

Fr. Nkamuke wrote and sent a picture for his first Sunday Mass in Nigeria and reports all is going well so far. Thank you again for the wonderful, and most generous, sendoff you gave him. Another mission priest, our Ukrainian Eastern Rite Fr. Valerii, returns to his war torn country this week. He tried to establish himself in Poland, but it seems he "came unto his own, and his own received him not." Now he returns, homeless, and that just before Christmas. His flat in Luhansk is in the very dangerous Russian Zone, and must be abandoned. I now need to come up with about \$800 to get this poor but true Catholic priest set up in an apartment in Lviv. There I hope he will be able to rescue his fellow Ukrainian Catholics from the clutches of the one world church. Meanwhile he is offering the True Mass, without any union with apostates. Although he is alone, he is surrounded with Angels. May God bless the apostolates of our mission priests.

(Continued on back page)

PRAYER FOR THOSE ABSENT FROM MASS AND SACRAMENTS

O Eternal Father, by the Heart of my Jesus, Who is the Way the Truth, and the Life, I dare approach Thee. By this Divine Heart I give Thee adoration for all who do not adore Thee; I love Thee for all who cherish Thee not. I acknowledge Thee to be my God, for all who, blind and deaf, out of contempt, refuse to acknowledge Thee. By this Divine Heart, I would give Thee the homage which all Thy creatures owe Thee. In spirit I go round in the world, searching all the souls redeemed by Thy Precious Blood. I embrace them all to present them to Thee by Him, and through Him I beseech Thee to fulfill their conversion. Can it be, Eternal Father, that Thou wilt allow them to remain ignorant of my Jesus? Wilt Thou suffer that they should not live for Him Who died for us all? Heavenly Father, Thou seest them lying all in death; give them life, by this Divine Heart. Amen.



TWO MINUTES DAILY TO GAIN THE WORLD FOR CHRIST

A world in sin has induced a war of hate. But God is only waiting for our Reparation to work the promised miracle. We promise absolute results!

In a contest of Love versus Hatred, love must necessarily win, for love is stronger than hatred. Even God cannot resist love!

If you become a spark, you will ignite another, and so on, until a mighty conflagration is encircling the world. Father Larkin suggests the spark, a fervent, "My God, I love You!" (100 times daily)

That is all. Simple? Yes, but just calculate the sparks ignited at the close of a month! A year! A world on fire with the love of Jesus Christ! Be a promoter.

"Jesus and Mary, I love you. Save souls!"

¶ 2015 CALENDARS ARE IN!

Available now in the bookstore for \$10.00. Illustrated with beautiful drawings of the Holy Face Stations of the Cross. We are almost sold out. To avoid disappointment, purchase yours today.



¶ 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.

THE BISHOP'S CORNER

(continued from third page)

Our latest domestic missionary is the priest from Boston, Fr. McKenna, who is doing a fine job, if a difficult one. We are trying to see if Mass just about every Sunday would be possible in Rochester, MN, with its young and growing congregation. Rochester is about equidistant from two of our other missions, St. Theresa in Grand Forks, ND, and St. Joseph in Milledge, Illinois. Six hours from both places, although the mission circuit is often connected with Milwaukee, another four and a half hours or so. A lot of driving. And there's Bismarck which has come up too. Do pray for our priests and their winter driving.

Well, God bless the shepherds, the sheep, the ox and the ass. And wherever you fit in, God bless you! Christmas is nigh!

—Bishop Dolan

P.S. And how you honored Our Lady for her Holy Day! We had *almost* a normal Sunday attendance for the Immaculate Conception. May Mary indeed keep you...close to Christ!

WE GET LETTERS...

Bishop Dolan,

I need to tell you I look forward to receiving the bulletin each week and I've cut out some of the prayers and recite them daily.

I read every word. So I feel like a member of your parish.

Thank you for your kindness to me.

Elaine C. Manuele

Elaine is a long time and honorary member of our parish.

PRAYER FOR THE POOR AND THOSE OUT OF WORK

Father of bounty, Who art in heaven, full of hope we come to Thee, under the protection of the Blessed Virgin our good Mother.

So many fathers can no longer find work, so many mothers no longer have anything with which to feed or clothe their children. We pray Thee, Lord, have pity on them and on all those who are in want.

Forgive them their sins, deliver them from sickness or sorrows, and give them what Thou knowest they need for soul and body. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.
