

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 21, 2014

ADVENT IV

RORATE SUNDAY



¶ CANITE TUBA

Envelopes for the Christmas Novena are in the vestibule. They must be returned by **Wednesday** to be on the altar for Christmas. Sunday Classes are on break until January 5th. Vespers and Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE *Wed. 12/24/14 – 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

9:00 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.

Thurs. 12/25/14 – Christmas Day

9:00 AM: Low Mass with String

Quartet, Benediction

11:00 AM: Low Mass with Carols

5:45 PM: Vespers of Christmas Day

Fri. 12/26/14 – St. Stephen's Day

Our annual Infant of Prague Novena begins at **5:40 PM**, followed by Holy

Mass and Benediction.

Sat. 12/27/14 – St. John's Day

High Mass at **7:30 AM**. The blessing of beverages to “drink the health of St. John” takes place at **8:15 AM**, followed by Holy Mass.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY

We honor the **Holy Innocents** this year on Sunday with the *Blessing of Children* after all Masses, and a **Children's Party** with presents and poetry after the High Mass. Vespers and Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

Set Your Missal: Holy Innocents (Dec. 28) with commemoration of the Nativity, and proper Communicantes. Preface of the Nativity.

Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.



Congratulations to the three
Confirmands who received the
sacrament of Confirmation on
12/12/14:

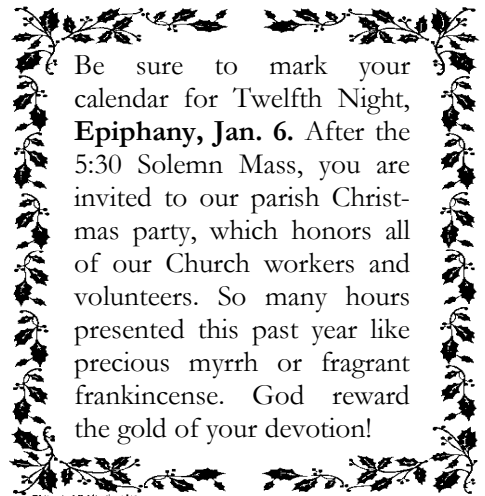
Tyler Augustine Drevenak

Daniel Augustine Kosak

Justin Anthony Soeder

¶ YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Please remember all of our Rosary Chain intentions, our shut-in and sick, especially Richard Smith and Lorraine Gates, both very ill.



¶ FR. NKAMUKE MAILING ADDRESS

For those interested, Fr. Nkamuke can now be reached at this address:

Fr. Nkamuke Okechukwu Bede
49 Wilmer Crescent
Olodi-Apapa
Lagos State
Nigeria
101010

Collection Report


Sunday, December 14th.....\$3,318.00
Bake Sale.....\$705.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

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


MON 12/22/14 ST. THOMAS, AP

8:00 AM **Low Mass** Special Intention (*Denis Vander Putten*)
 11:20 AM **High Mass** Justin Soeder (*Joshua Gunsher Family*)
 5:00 PM **Low Mass** †John & Virginia Reilly's parents (*Andrea Reilly*)

TUE 12/23/14 ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

6:00 AM **Rorate Mass** †Marcellus Cassidy (*Samantha*)
 8:00 AM **Low Mass** Charles R. Mattingly (*Frances Mattingly*)
 5:00 PM **Low Mass** All Our Priests (*Alter Christus Confraternity*)

WED 12/24/14 VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS *FAST & ABSTINENCE*

7:00 AM **The Office of Prime**
 7:45 AM **Confessions**
Private Mass
 8:00 AM **High Mass** Extended Morris-Niehaus Family, living & dead (*S. & C. Niehaus*)
 9:00 AM **Low Mass** In Honor & Thanksgiving to St. Joseph (*Dean & Carolyn McClorey*)
 2:00 PM **First Vespers of Christmas**
 9:00 PM **The Office of Matins**
 10:30 PM **Carols**
 11:00 PM **Procession, Blessing of Crib**
 11:15 PM **Midnight Mass** For the People of St. Gertrude the Great followed by **The Office of Lauds**
A potluck supper follows Midnight Mass. Please bring a dish to share if you plan to come.

THU 12/25/14 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD *HOLY DAY* CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 AM **Low Mass** Christmas Novena I with string quartet, **Benediction**
 11:00 AM **Low Mass** For all our friends, relations and benefactors with **carols**
 5:45 PM **Vespers of Christmas Day**
N.B. No 5:45 PM Mass today!

FRI 12/26/14 ST. STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR

5:10 PM **Confessions and Rosary**
 5:40 PM **Opening of Infant of Prague Novena**
High Mass Novena II
Sacred Heart Novena & Benediction
 2 **Private Masses** †Leona Wise & †Arnold Miller (*Judy Metz*); Jane Donadio – Birthday (*Rob & Jane Brockman*)

SAT 12/27/14 ST. JOHN, APEV

7:10 AM **Confessions**
 7:30 AM **High Mass** Novena III
 8:15 AM **Blessing of Wine & Beverages**
 8:30 PM **Low Mass** Tristan Vande Ryt (*Kueblers*)

SUN 12/28/14 THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MM

7:30 AM **Low Mass** Mr. & Mrs. T. G. Simpson – Anniversary (*Tom & Karen Simpson*)
 9:00 AM **High Mass** Novena IV
 11:30 AM **Low Mass** Robby Brockman & Family (*Rob & Jane*

Brockman)

4:45 PM **Vespers & Benediction**

5:45 PM **Low Mass** For the People of St. Gertrude the Great

AN ADVENT PRAYER

O Jesus, my Savior and Redeemer, Son of the living God, behold we kneel before Thee and offer Thee our reparation; we would make amends for all the blasphemies uttered against Thy holy Name, for all the injuries done to Thee in the Blessed Sacrament, for all the irreverence shown toward Thine Immaculate Virgin Mother, for all the calumnies and slanders spoken against Thy spouse, the holy Catholic and Roman Church. O Jesus, Who has said: "If you ask the Father anything in My Name, He will give it you," we pray and beseech Thee for all our brethren who are in danger of sin; shield them from every temptation to fall away from the true faith; save those who are even now standing on the brink of the abyss; to all of them give light and knowledge of the truth, courage and strength for the conflict with evil, perseverance in faith and active charity! For this do we pray, most merciful Jesus, in Thy Name, unto God the Father with Whom Thou livest and reignest in the unity of the Holy Ghost world without end. Amen.

An indulgence of 500 days once a day.



Servers

WED 12/24:

9:00 AM **Low Mass**: Simpson
MATINS: R. Vande Ryt
MIDNIGHT MASS (ARRIVE AT 10:30 PM): MCs: R. Vande Ryt, T. G. Simpson, T. Simpson **ACs**: J. Lacy, J. Simpson **TH**: A. Richesson
CRUCIFER: A. D. Kinnett **TRAIN**: C. Richesson **GREMIALE**: M. Simpson **MITRE**: B. Lotarski **CROZIER**: N. McClorey **TORCH**: T. Lawrence, A. Soli, N. & P. McClorey, M. Simpson, C. Richesson

THURS 12/25:

9:00 AM **Low Mass**: Brueggemann Bros
BENEDICTION: **TH**: P. Omlor **MC**: Mr. Abraham Chukwu **TORCH**: S. & L. Arlinghaus
 11:00 AM **Low Mass**: Seminarian

SUN 12/28:

7:30 AM **Low**: Brueggemann Bros
 9:00 AM **High**: **CHAPLAINS**: B. Lotarski, T. Simpson **TH**: J. Lacy **ACs**: S. & L. Arlinghaus **TORCH**: C. Richesson, T. Lawrence, A. Soli, M. Simpson
 11:30 AM **Low**: N. & N. McClorey
 4:45 PM **VESPERS & BENEDICTION**: G. Miller
 5:45 PM **Low**: G. Miller

Ushers - 12/24

MIDNIGHT: M. Lotarski, M. Briggs, *Volunteer*, D. Hille
 9:00 AM: J. Seyfried, S. Pepiot, K. Maki, P. Arlinghaus
 11:00 AM: S. Weigand, K. Bischel



ST. CLARE CORNER New Year's Day

Confessions: 9:20 AM

Mass & Benediction: 10:00 AM

Christmas fast approaches, and with it—if we will—the promise of light into the drab misery of our darkness. Sincere thanks to our helpers, great and small, who turned out in force last week, and began the transformation of our church into a richly decorated palace for our King. Many of you are helping still this weekend, or the last days before His birth. God reward you for what you do for Jesus, and for us. Many souls will draw comfort and inspiration this Christmas from the beauty of the church, as well as its heavenly music and ceremonies. If only some put it to profit, how happy we must be. If no one does, well, we do it for God, and how happy we are to be able to.

A good charitable Christmas devotion is to promote a true homecoming for those who have gone off, or wandered far. Already in Advent many have been coming, or coming back, “for Christmas”. Do you know someone who needs to “come to the crib” or coming once, become a regular? It’s free, but there is a price to pay for grace. God wants the present of our presence every Sunday, so that He may load his gifts upon us year round.

This is the very best of gifts. It’s ours just for showing up, and with it the regularity of Catholic life, starting each week with the Sacrifice of the Mass. If not, don’t they worry about their souls, about their children, about passing on the Faith, about living as Catholics, about the hour of their death? All of these problems are solved, and so much more given and received, by Sunday Mass. The exchange of gifts is not just for once a year. Every Mass is Christmas.

What can I do? Well, we need not nag, but to take a persevering charitable approach, humble and matter of fact. Pray. Ask for the return of the fallen away, for conversions among family and friends. Don’t get angry, but know that this patient work will be your crown in Heaven. Some hit and miss Catholics will need that little push, and much prayer and encouragement their whole lives long.

One “penance” you can do for everyone to make Sunday Mass (especially when there are little ones involved) is to make an extra Mass or two yourself during the week. This is a powerful, if neglected, weapon for all of our needs. We whine, we worry, we weep and worse, but we just don’t pray, especially not the most powerful of prayers. Try it this Christmastide, when all is so beautiful, and peaceful in Church.

The poem says that not even a mouse was stirring the night before Christmas. I hope it will be so. But the fortnight before Christmas a mouse in the house of the young fathers had stirred himself right into the fridge. How we are not sure, but there he was feasting away all night long like the priests of Dagon in Daniel. Well, we set a trap, and Gino, a true Dutchman, plugged with a pen the smallest of holes, and the dike is holding. Our tasty leftovers (thank you, Cucina cooks) are again safe.

But Christmas is the season of God’s creatures, isn’t it? Our new patron St. Francis, who put the creatures back into Christmas with the first crèche, would gently insist it is

so. The church wall raccoons have sublet, I fear, to even noisier beasts, and are bickering all during Mass and Vespers, roaming all through the house. Animals are territorial, aren’t they? Puccini spotted a feral cat the other day, a dead ringer for Caravaggio, who could have been their brother; about to encroach upon the property. The fearless felines went into full military mode. Puccini was dispatched to pursue into the tall grass, and Caravaggio, ever self-effacing, volunteered to watch the supply lines in the back, Fr. Cekada noted. It was amusing to see him, safely away from the fray, stalking the perimeters with all of his skill. So intent was he on sentry duty that he allowed me to pass without even bringing up the subject of his next meal, at which I wondered exceedingly. Do you know when your next supernatural feeding is scheduled for?

May the Light of the World shine bright in all eyes on Christmas reflecting the love of God made Man. May all eyes take it in, the old and jaded, the bloodshot and weary, the bright and watchful as well as the slothful. Come keep watch with us for Wednesday’s holy night, and Thursday’s coming of the Light.

God bless you and bring you back.

—Bishop Dolan

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

With the Accent on Christ

Christmas is the birth of Christ, the birth of Love. As a result, Christmas seems to cast a magic spell over us, enabling us to become simple shepherds instead of complex bundles of psychological problems. On Christmas we are once more as enchanted as children, watching excitement and reverence clasp hands in the quiet of a night of mystery.

At least, this is the effect Christmas will have on us if we have given ourselves the proper preparation for the feast of the Nativity. These Advent preparations are intended to direct us toward the high point of our Christmas celebration—that solemn, joyful moment when we receive the Blessed Infant into our hearts during the Sacrifice of the Mass. At this time, we not only have the privilege of “holding the Baby,” we even take Him home with us, there to be honored and feted.

Since our participation in the Holy Sacrifice is the high point of our Christmas celebration, let’s not spoil it with an overanxious anticipation of our Christmas festivities. The vigil of Christmas is our final opportunity to offer mortifications before we taste the delicious joys of Christmas, and the entire day should be observed in this spirit, in other words, parties and exchange of presents are simply out of place on Christmas eve. Besides conflicting with the observance of fast and abstinence, such parties rob us of the most appropriate time we have for our personal and intimate preparation for the coming of Christ.

STIGMATA OF ST. FRANCIS

My cross I took on me
As winds pick up a leaf,
Hoping to reach Your Calvary
And be at least the thief.

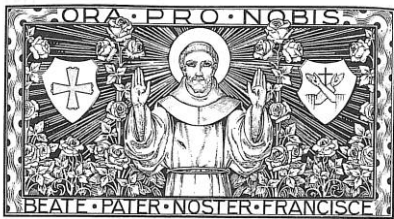
The yoke is sweet and light,
The burden light and sweet,
But oh! the time is gall and night
Before we both do meet.

Yet, must I follow still,
The while we seem to stop
Like two lone pines upon a hill
That never reach the top?

Dear Christ! at last I scan
La Verna's cliff-veiled side:
Complete the picture You began
And have me crucified.

—Fray Angélico Chávez

This poem may seem an odd choice for just before Christmas, but it follows on last Sunday's sermon, and reminds us that His—and our—crucifixion awaits.



Il Ricchio Poverello

St. Francis, it was writ of old,
Had money, also jewels bright;
A coin of silver, one of gold,
And diamonds animate with light.

He loved them so that he would sing
His sweetest canticles to them,
Saying that God had made no thing
So beautiful in coin or gem.

Thoughtfully wise and wisely sage,
Seeing himself about to die,
He left his sons a heritage
In the high vaults of the sky.

Through days and nights the ages run,
Through thefts of peace and spoils of wars:
His sons still have their golden sun,
Their silver moon and sparkling stars.

—Fray Angélico Chávez

Advent in Michigan

In time
The sons of men filled the earth
With their evil deeds.
And God beheld the desolate wastes
And soiled streets
The bitter brown of barren fields
And the sin of the world
Cut Him to the heart.

“I will blot from the earth
The memory of these things.
Behold, I will make all things new!”
So He gathered up clouds
From the four corners of the sky,
Billows pregnant with promise.
He gathered them in great, dark piles
On the horizon of hills
While the weathermen watched
Grandmothers gazed
Schoolchildren pressed their noses against the glass.

And God said,
“Let there be snow.”
First, small white flakes
Like lace, drifting.

Then—wind
Driving snow before it, a blizzard
Hiding hills from view
(And the tops of church steeples
And street lights, too).

For forty days
The land was covered in white,
The wretched lines of a wretched world
Blurred soft overnight—

Buried, forgotten
As God birthed grace upon the earth.

—Sarah Arthur (American, contemporary)



O holy and spotless Virgin, I know not how to proclaim your praises; for you have borne in your bosom Him Whom the heavens cannot contain.