

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212
parishoffice@sgg.org • 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 13, 2015

ADVENT III

ST. LUCY, VM

WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



¶ GAUDETE SUNDAY

Today is Advent III or Gaudete Sunday, within the Octave of the Immaculate Conception, with the commemoration of St. Lucy, gracious saint of light and patroness of good eyesight. Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers are at 4:45 PM, followed by Benediction.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT IV

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available at the Communion rail after all Masses. Sunday Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Our annual Christmas Bake Sale will take place in Helfta Hall after the morning Masses. Vespers will be at 4:45 PM, followed by Benediction.

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

¶ 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).

¶ 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 on Saturday at 7:30 AM, and concludes at the first dawning with the *Alma*.

Thy will be done!
500 days' indulgence

Lumen Christi

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

Special Intention (SH)
(Anonymous)



MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD

¶ ALTER CHRISTUS

Thank you for your generous almsgiving this month. \$387 was received for Masses for the support and sanctification of priests.

¶ CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Calling all decorators to help December 21-23. Please call the church office at 513.645.4212 to let us know if you are coming. We're counting on you!

¶ OUR SICK

The usual winter run of colds and sore throats and more have passed through the parish and clergy, and at so busy a season. Our own Darlene Rentschler fell at church last Sunday and broke her hip, necessitating surgery on Dec. 8th. We pray for her quick recovery, and for all of our sick and shut ins, especially Fr. McGuire's nephew Roderick, who continues poorly, and Elizabeth Smith.

¶ CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS & MASS NOVENAS

Don't forget your Christmas envelopes! Please fill out the special offering envelopes available in the pews, and return them to an usher or drop them 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 Flower Offering envelopes no later than Monday, December 21.)

¶ 2016 CALENDARS ARE IN!

The 2016 All Saints Calendar is available now in the bookstore for \$10.00, illustrated with photographs of our liturgical year at St. Gertrude the Great.

"Amen, amen I say unto you, that he who heareth My word, and believeth Him Who sent Me, hath Life Everlasting, and cometh not into judgment, but is passed from death to life." (John V, 24)



PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Chris Browne's

mother, Mary Elaine Browne, who died this past week. Chris is a long time "long distance" parishioner who visits us occasionally from the Quad Cities, while serving as coordinator of St. Joseph's Mission in Illinois. Of late he has kindly undertaken to be our candle agent and even delivery man. We are in his debt for his kind offices, and extend to him our sincere sympathy.

Collection Report

Sunday, December 6th.....\$7,687.00
Second Collection.....\$1,167.00

Thank you for your generosity.

GENTLE UNDER THE YOKE



The Lord advised and instructed us to put ourselves under His yoke and His burden, and thus, through obedience and patience, to become His

docile creatures, for it is in these two virtues, obedience and patience, that docility to God is shown. Obedience carries out the things we are instructed to do; patience bears the things that God imposes upon us and which we must endure. Obedience is not [stubborn], and patience does not complain. Obedience stands by the commandments; patience remains steadfast in judgment. Obedience is a yoke which is no yoke, for it banishes servitude and restores freedom. Patience is a burden which is no burden, for rather than loading us down, it lightens us. Through patience, the things which the impatient find burdensome are lightened, for patience is like a spiritual cart in which we can carry all our burdens with greater ease.

All the plumes and feathers on a bird constitute a sort of burden, but yet they raise it up into the heavens, and in just the same way, patience enables us to rise above tribulation and not to be crushed beneath it. All who become gentle under the yoke and burden of Christ find that God is also gentle with them.

-Baldwin of Forde,
"Spiritual Tractate 9/2"

Baldwin of Forde († 1190) was a monk and abbot of Forde Abbey in Dorset. He went on to become bishop of Worcester, and later archbishop of Canterbury.

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

300 days' indulgence

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST LEAVES GOD TO SERVE GOD

St. John the Baptist abode in the desert for twenty-four years. God knows how his heart was touched with love for his Savior even from his birth, and how earnestly he desired to enjoy His presence; and yet, devoted to the simple will of God, he remained there discharging his duty, without once even seeing Him. And after he had baptized Him, he did not follow Him, but continued in his office. What can we say of all this, if not that his was a spirit detached from all things and from God Himself, to perform His will? "This example," said St. Francis de Sales, "overwhelms my soul with its grandeur."



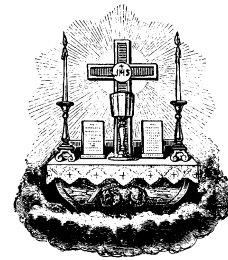
NOVENA PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Hail and blessed be the hour and the 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 petitions 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.)

XXXIV
ERUNT SIGNA IN SOLE

Let silence look in terror on the sun,
And mutely scream in pointing to the sky,
As direful signs across the heavens run
And grown men faint to hear the oceans cry.
Woe's wrathful waves shall break upon the shore,
Annulling nature's laws as mountains quake,
And earth herself shall be with earth at war
And jolted powers oscillate and shake.
Tis then the Son of Man, upon a cloud,
Omnipotent, in majesty and might,
Shall come upon the humble and the proud
Whose hearts shall cease before His awful sight.
Yet these, like buds that on spring's boughs appear,
Portend but Love's sweet kingdom drawing near.



-Joseph McKenzie
Dominica I Adventus
Anno MMXV

MY CREATOR

Gazing upon heavenly skies,
A visioned Paradise I see;
Beyond my patterned path lies—
My Creator—God Almighty.

Realizing that someday I might
Among chosen peoples be—
Beholding One Majestic Sight—
My Creator—God Almighty.

I close my tired eyes once more,
Always keep me, Your child, near Thee;
Your Holy Name I praise; adore;
My Creator—God Almighty.

-Helen Marie Askin

Rejoice with us today as we break out the old rose vestments for joy at coming Christmas. Our redemption is at hand. Speaking of hands we could use one for the altar at this so busy time, since we are down one sacristan. Ironing, decorating, even *just a little* cleaning could all be such a help. Give to Him Who gives to us all.



How is your Advent coming? This year's is about as long as possible, so long for Jesus through Mary to come and save you. Although Advent is a time of penance, there are so many beautiful feasts you wouldn't think so. Many of you came for the Holy Day, some at considerable sacrifice. It was another fine, sunny day for Mary Immaculate. The early workers' Mass was popular. The High Mass was beautifully sung and served by our young people, and the day ended with Vespers (barely! Sore throats), Rosary and Benediction, making a lovely Holy Hour Vigil for the last Mass. (The city was *not* surplised in white for the feast.)

Fr. McKenna departed for Spokane in time for yesterday's feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the northern missions, and Fr. McGuire returns from Milwaukee today. Fr. Lehtoranta had a terrible time with flights for last Sunday's visit to Louisiana, and only made it back on Monday afternoon. It was quite the weekend with illness and travel and Darlene's emergency. Still, everything was functioning very well for Tuesday's Holy Day.

I wish I could say the same for Brendan's traps. The wily raccoons have outsmarted him again. The score is Raccoons II, 18 I. Different parishioners have given helpful hints of a variety of foods such as would draw a raccoon, but the trap remains empty, and the church is filling up with our cute but destructive guests. 18 (soon to turn 19 on the 18th) says he found their entranceway this summer, but it was never closed off. Winter Games at St. Gertrude the Great.

God bless you for a most unwinty Advent. Plug the holes of your soul, and seek out some sunny silence to prepare a place of honor for the Infant King. Remember three days worth of fasting this week for the Advent Ember Days and one final Rorate Mass for Saturday.

Come Lord Jesus!

-Bishop Dolan

COLLECT OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stir up Thy power and come, we pray Thee, O Lord, and with great might succor us; that our deliverance, which our sins impede, may be hastened by the help of Thy grace and the forgiveness of Thy mercy. Who livest and reignest forever and ever, Amen. (*Say this prayer Saturday evening, as you light all four candles on your Advent wreath.*)



OUR LADY OF AMERICA

My Americans, what fortune is yours! *Ipsa prior dilexit nos.* Mary? Our Guadalupana? She loved us before we should love her; she came to seek us out when we were least willing; she lovingly entreated us when we still did not think about it. We did not choose her, no. She honored a poor Indian when she met him as a Mother; these words could be applied to her great condescension *Motherlike she will meet him, like a young bride she will embrace him* (Sir 15.2).



Here I can do no less than to put on Mary's lips...the beautiful words that on another occasion her beloved Son proffered: *Non vos me elegistis, sed ego elegi vos* (Jn 12:16). I, of my own volition, lovingly chose you.

Most happy inhabitants of Mexico, you are without doubt the peoples that Mary requested from God; the ones who were assigned to her as her own inheritance, taking possession of these provinces, which must be called *the ends of the earth*....

You are the ones (what a blessing!) to whom she appears openly when you did not invoke her, and to whom she extended her beneficial hands and her cloak, even when you did not believe, when you lacked faith, when you opposed her with contradictions and obstacles: *Then Isaiah speaks boldly and says, I was found [by] those who were not seeking me; I revealed myself to those who were not asking for me* (Rom. 10:20).

(*From a homily preached by Fr. Antonio Lopez Murto in 1792*)

CATECHISM CORNER

To love God above all things, is to love Him above every creature, more than ourselves, and to be willing to die rather than to offend Him.

The primary and most absolute duty of man is to love God above all things. The strongest proof of our loving God above all things, is to observe His Commandments, and to do His will in all things.

To love our neighbor as ourselves, consists in wishing him, and procuring for him, the same advantages we desire for ourselves. All men, even our enemies, are our



neighbors.

✠ CALENDAR

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

MON	12/14/15	WITHIN THE OCTAVE 8:00 AM Low Mass For relief of all Faithful Departed (<i>Patrick Omlor</i>) 11:20 AM High Mass Kenneth Gilliam's Special Intention (<i>Susan & Gaylord Barnett</i>)
TUE	12/15/15	OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 8:00 AM Low Mass †Fr. Martin Stepanich (<i>Samantha</i>) 11:20 AM High Mass †Ralph Patton—6 th Anniversary (<i>Patton Family</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass Janine Schneider (<i>Ken & Colleen Schroepfer</i>)
WED	12/16/15	EMBER WEDNESDAY FAST & PARTIAL ABSTINENCE ST. EUSEBIUS, BPM 8:00 AM Low Mass Nicki Brueggemann Deters (<i>Joe & Martha Schappacher family</i>) 11:20 AM High Mass For all my friends (<i>Patrick A. Omlor</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass †Joseph Voisinot (<i>The Wilker Family</i>)
THU	12/17/15	FERIAL DAY OPENING OF THE CHRISTMAS NOVENA ST. LAZARUS, BPC 8:00 AM Low Mass Rev. Fr. Charles McGuire—10th Anniversary of Ordination (<i>Andrew Hoxie</i>) 11:20 AM High Mass For Mary & Pauline (<i>Patrick Omlor</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass Mrs. Audrey O'Connor (<i>Ken & Colleen Schroepfer</i>)
FRI	12/18/15	EMBER FRIDAY FAST EXPECTATION OF OUR LADY 8:00 AM Low Mass Our Lady of Perpetual Help for my Dad (<i>Kathleen Mary West</i>) 11:20 AM High Mass †Janette Farley (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Maki</i>) 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass In honor of Our Lady's Maternity—conversions & return to sacraments—Faith family (<i>Mrs. Richard Faith</i>) 6:30 PM Novenas & Benediction
SAT	12/19/15	EMBER SATURDAY FAST VIGIL OF ST. THOMAS 7:10 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Rorate Mass Tom Simpson (<i>C. Simpson Family</i>) 8:20 AM Sermon & Ember Day Mass My family (<i>John Brueggemann</i>)
SUN	12/20/15	ADVENT IV 7:30 AM Low Mass Happy Mother's Day Mom (<i>The Brueggemann Kids</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great 10:40 AM Sunday Classes 11:30 AM Low Mass All those who prayed for my dad (<i>Howard Delawder</i>) (<i>Debbie Wilker</i>) 4:45 PM Advent Vespers & Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass Special Intentions (<i>Mrs. R. Faith</i>)

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT



HOPE TO SEE YOU IN
HELFTA HALL!

CHILDREN'S CORNER

MARY IMMACULATE



In the lonely grotto at Massabielle in the little village high in the Pyrenees mountains in southern France, the beautiful lady who appeared to Bernadette, the little peasant girl, said, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

On December 8, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. At the beginning of his Gospel, St. Luke tells us that God sent the angel Gabriel to a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to the humble home of a beautiful maiden whose name was Mary. He greeted her:

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women." Mary was full of grace and free from the original stain which the rest of mankind inherited from our first parents. She alone came adorned with sanctifying grace. That is why we call her Mary Immaculate.

Servers

SUN 12/20	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: T. & J. Simpson TH: S. Arlinghaus ACs: L. Arlinghaus, B. Lotarski TORCH: 1. T. Lawrence, 2. C. Arlinghaus, 3. C. Richesson, 4. M. Simpson 11:30 AM LOW: Nicholas & Peter McClorey 4:45 PM VESPERS: G. Miller 5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller
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