

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

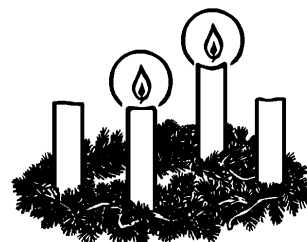
December 10, 2017

ADVENT II

WITHIN THE OCTAVE

ST. MELCHIADES, PM

OUR LADY OF LORETTO



¶ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Nicholas will be visiting the children after all the morning Masses today. Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

Welcome to our webcast faithful.

Be sure to use paypal to participate in the Offertory. God reward your generosity.



¶ ALTER CHRISTUS

\$181.00 was received this month for Masses for the support of priests. God reward your generosity!

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT III

Next Sunday is Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available at the Communion rail after all Masses. Sunday Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Our Christmas Bake Sale takes place after the morning Masses next Sunday. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

Set Your Missal: Advent III, with second and third collects of Our Lady in Advent and Against the Persecutors. Trinity Preface.

Collection Report

Sunday, December 3rd\$4,367.00
Second Collection.....\$969.00
Thank you for your generosity.

Lumen Christi

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

God's Holy Will
(Patrick Curry)



JOHN, IN PRISON, SENT TWO OF HIS DISCIPLES TO CHRIST.

Second Sunday of Advent: The light approaches; hope changes into the certitude of deliverance: We shall have our Liberator!

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Connie Kamphaus and two special intentions—health—for our faithful and all of our sick and shut in. Today is the Month's Mind for †Thelma Sieverding.

MARY

Not prostrate under grief increased,

But with uplifted hands,
Another sacrificing priest,
Beneath the cross she stands.

-B.E.T.

¶ 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 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 envelope no later than Monday, December 18th.

¶ 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.

¶ 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, followed by the *Alma*.



¶ 2018 CALENDARS ARE IN!

The 2018 All Saints Roman Catholic Calendar is available now in the bookstore for \$10.95.

THOSE WHO WOULD RECEIVE CHRIST

As Mary was, so is the Church today, Virgin and Handmaid; at the beginning of the year's liturgy, she waits for everything from the Lord's grace. Those who would receive Christ and bring Him forth must become like her; it is such a birth which they are expecting from the feast of His Incarnation: for "how shall Christ be born into the depths of our understanding if not within us, within our very souls" (St. Ambrose). It will happen to us when our souls are as Mary's was. *The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son...and His name shall be "God with us."*

Year by year we are to renew ourselves in judgment and penance, purge ourselves for a deeper gift of self, take on the virginity that can allow the birth of God within us. This is the content of the Christmas mystery: *The Lord is near to all who call upon His Name...* in the full certainty of expectation; all those, that is, who call upon His Name in truth: in humble acknowledgement of their own emptiness, and expect everything from God.

The Lord is near, He is really a God Who walks with us, in all of whom Christ has lived since baptism. But this life is delicate as well as strong; it can suffer from too close and incautious contact with the world and sin; now is the time for us to renew it; let it be born again. May the fact of our salvation have increase by the frequent use of this mystery.

- Sister Aemiliana Lohr, O.S.B.



Every day is a little life, and our whole life is but a day repeated.

- D.J. Scannell-O'Neill



¶ CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, Christmas Eve

7:30 AM: Low Mass

9:00 AM: High Mass

11:30 AM: Low Mass

Please note, no Catechism Class, and NO 5:45 PM Mass on Christmas Eve.

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

Christmas Day

9:00 AM: Low Mass with string quartet, Novena & Benediction

11:00 AM: Low Mass with Carols

5:45 PM: Vespers of Christmas Day

No evening Mass

¶ NEW YEARS DAY SCHEDULE

7:30 AM: Low Mass

9:00 PM: High Mass

11:30 AM: Low Mass

No evening Mass



THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Christ's triumph could not perfect
be

If Satan's sons on earth
Might find aught of impurity
In her who gave Him birth.

Thus was she by a word relieved
From our unhappy state,
And in her mother's womb conceived
Whole and immaculate.

- Thomas E. Burke, C.S.C.

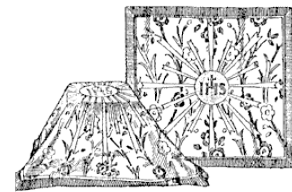


THE VESTMENTS OF THE MASS

In celebrating Holy Mass
The offering-priest doth wear
Vestments symbolic of our Lord:—
His Passion they declare.
The *Amice* shows Him blindfolded;
The *Alb*, as Herod's fool;
The *Cincture* and the *Maniple*
The cords that overrule
Free movement, like those Jesus
bound,
While jeering soldiers stood around.
The *Stole* reminds us of the Cross,
To Calvary borne by Him,
Who, in the Mass, is offered o'er,—
Our Priest fore'er and Victim.
The *Chasuble* shows the purple robe
Wherewith men clothed our Lord
In mockery of His Royalty,
As the Gospel doth record.

Thus vested, to the Altar goes
The priest, another Christ,
To offer up the same sacrifice,
Whereat, in sacred tryst,
With our Redeemer we unite,
At Calvary's mount, in Mystic Rite.

- S.S.J.



COLORS OF THE VESTMENTS

The *Green*, the *Red*, the *Violet*,—
By each is story told
That giveth insight of the Mass;
'Tis same with *White* and *Gold*.
Black vestment breatheth Requiem
For dead of Christ's dear Fold.
Gaudete and *Laetare* days
Rose-colored vestments claim;
And *Blue*, when worn, shows privilege
Given to our Lady's name.

The *Amice*, *Alb* and *Cincture*
Are, usually, linen-white;
The *Maniple*, *Stole*, and *Chasuble*
In color of the rite,
The *Chalice-Veil*, and also *Burse*,
Must in same hue unite.

- S.S.J.

I'm writing this yesterday, during what is now referred to as a "snow event." We're hopeful the snow won't be too eventful. But Jack Frost stopped by on Thursday, nipping noses and nibbling on ears. The sun was out, however, for her who is brighter than light on Friday. The very prayerful High Mass was sung in warm sunlight. We met again at sunset for Vespers, and Rosary and Benediction and Mass. Immaculate Conception was a true holy day. It was good to see our friends who "came from Lebanon" as the hymn invites, as well as from Kentucky or maybe Norwood. They all came to keep the day holy and honor Mary Immaculate. Behold the bond which unites us. Wonderful to see so many at Mass. And after Mass, more wonder at our young adults who gathered to set up the outdoor Christmas lights. Thank you!

The December sun rose low on the horizon yesterday, during the Offering of the so quiet Rorate Mass. How golden it blazed on the altar and the angels, but briefly. Splendor fades quickly. Man can't bear too much of it. Still, a beautiful memory, and a heartfelt home to Our Queen.

A Typical First Saturday

Saturday week in the morning, the Liturgical Year at St. Gertrude the Great ended not with a bang but with a blaze—of glory. The All Night Adoration concluded in the bright December light of daybreak. Three Sacrifices of the Mass—three Masses, one Sacrifice of Christ—were offered simultaneously at Our Lady's altar, the Poor Souls altar and the High Mass at St. Joseph. Meanwhile the Blessed Sacrament was still exposed and adored at the main altar, the remaining exposition candles burned bright in the morning light, but there are no bells during solemn adoration, for all eyes are focused on the Monstrance. After Mass we finished our First Saturday Acts of Reparation and Consecration, and concluded the vigil of prayer with Benediction. A short sermon or First Saturday Meditation, requested by Our Lady, always concludes the service. A final, fourth Low Mass was offered at the high altar—in white vestments for the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Then a good group of Saturday volunteers helped us to put away and clean and get out the Advent array for the Sunday. Away went the flowers and the white. Out came the purple and the great green wreath, ready to be blessed and lighted. "Christmas is nigh!" Now we are already almost halfway in our brief Advent.

West Chester Nature Watch

Each December the owl comes, with its comforting

"who," and settles on our grounds. First Friday night I heard him rustling in the tall grass around the reservoir, disturbing the birds who had settled there for the night. I think birds and cats were confused a little by the return of warm weather last week. Some baby rabbits even appeared. No wonder Puccini has been bolting his breakfast and most eager to get out, a cat on a mission.

Early First Saturday morning the birds sang through the dawn, and a bunny scampered across the lawn. "It must have been like this," I thought to myself, "when Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego at Tepeyac." (We keep the Guadalupe feast on Tuesday.) Birdsong, however, was all I heard, and Our Lady was waiting inside, not out, at the altar.

When I go home up the hill at night I disturb the birds who nest in the bushes on either side of the walk. They must be the starlings who perform the airshow each afternoon. My night path is a gauntlet of rustles, and then all is still.

Fr. Cekada had a good week at the Seminary. He was MC at my consecration, and has copious notes and diagrams to help the seminarians organize **Fr. Selway's**. **Fr. Lehtoranta** was joined by the school children celebrating the centennial of Finnish Independence on St. Nicholas' Day. They sang two charming Finnish hymns. Father shared his Finnish blueberry pie with us.

Yesterday **Fr. McGuire** offered Mass again at **Holy Face Mission** in Effingham, south central Illinois. Its gratifying growth started with just one family, once old time traditionalists. More relatives have returned to the Mass of their youth, and word has spread to others. Odd little pockets of Faith are turning up here and there throughout the world.

Thy Kingdom come!

– Bishop Dolan



ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT

Christmas Bake Sale
Sunday, December 17, 2017

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN
HELFTA HALL!



ALL SUNDAY MASSES, SCHOOL DAY MASSES, FRIDAY EVENING AND
SATURDAY MORNING MASSES ARE WEBCAST AT
SGGRESOURCES.ORG.

MON 12/11/17	ST. DAMASUS I, PC WITHIN THE OCTAVE
8:00 AM	Low Mass For all who cook for us and for our devoted drivers (<i>The Fathers</i>)
11:25 AM	High Mass For the sanctification of priests (<i>Alter Christus Confraternity</i>)
TUE 12/12/17	WITHIN THE OCTAVE OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
8:00 AM	Low Mass Repose of the soul of †Wayne Deward Stinnett (<i>Anne Stinnett</i>)
11:25 AM	High Mass †Elizabeth Smith (<i>Richard</i>)
5:00 PM	Low Mass †Anthony Hable (<i>Kirby & Jean Bischel</i>)
WED 12/13/17	ST. LUCY, VM WITHIN THE OCTAVE
8:00 AM	Low Mass †Irene Ulanowski (<i>Colleen Eldracher</i>)
11:25 AM	High Mass The Lawrence Family (<i>Patrick & Cristin Lotarski</i>)
5:00 PM	Low Mass For John Thomas Miller & his family (<i>Alexander Krawczyk</i>)
THU 12/14/17	WITHIN THE OCTAVE
8:00 AM	Low Mass Ken Schroeffer Family (<i>T.M.S.</i>)
11:25 AM	High Mass †Mrs. Alice Zapp (<i>Loretta Mikesell</i>)
5:00 PM	Low Mass Andrea B. (<i>Arlinghaus Girls</i>)
FRI 12/15/17	OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
8:00 AM	Low Mass Special Intention (<i>Paul Puglielli</i>)
10:55 AM	Confessions
11:25 AM	High Mass †Ralph Patton (<i>Sharon</i>)
5:15 PM	Rosary & Confessions
5:45 PM	Low Mass Repose of the soul of †Thelma Sieverding (<i>Simpson kids</i>)
6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena & Benediction
SAT 12/16/17	ST. EUSEBIUS, BPM
7:10 AM	Confessions
7:30 AM	Rorate High Mass Holy Souls (<i>Barbara Kolenich</i>)
8:15 AM	Alma & Sermon
8:30 AM	(approx.) Low Mass Holy Souls (<i>JMBS</i>)
SUN 12/17/17	ADVENT III GAUDETE SUNDAY ST. LAZARUS, BPC
7:05 AM	Rosary
7:30 AM	Low Mass †Poor Souls (<i>James Soli</i>)
9:00 AM	High Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great Christmas Bake Sale in Helfta Hall
10:40 AM	Sunday Catechism Classes
11:05 AM	Rosary
11:30 AM	Low Mass Becky Uhlenbrock (<i>Shawhan</i>)
4:45 PM	Advent Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM	Low Mass Special Intention (<i>Sheppard family</i>)

YOUNG SERVERS GUIDE

Each week our young servers are learning (and older servers reviewing) one response of the Mass. Parents, please help.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON

P. *Emitte lucem tuam et veritatem tuam; ipsa me deduxerunt et adduxerunt in montem sanctum tuum, et in tabernacula tua.*

S. Et introibo ad altare Dei; ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem meam.

(Ett in-tro-ee'boe odd ahl-tah'ray day'ee | odd day'oom kwee lay-tee'fee-cot | you-ven-too'tem may'ahm.)

COLLECT OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Incline Thine ear to our prayers, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation: Who livest and reignest, God, forever and ever. Amen. (*Say this prayer Saturday evening, as you light two purple candles and one rose on your Advent wreath.*)

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 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

"In the midst of these torments, which usually terrify others, I am, by the grace of God, full of joy and gladness, because I am not alone—Christ is with me. Our Master bears the whole weight of the cross, leaving me only the tiniest, last bit."

- Priest & Saint Paul Le-Bao-Tinh, Martyr, 1843

S E R V E R S

SUN 12/17 7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: R. Vande Ryt, J. Lacy TH: M. Simpson ACS:
C. Arlinghaus, L. Arlinghaus TORCH: T. Lawrence, C. & J. Mourer, J. Stewart
11:30 AM LOW: P. & Nathan McClorey
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller