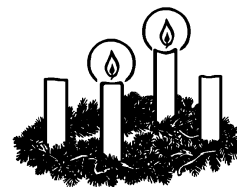


ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212
parishoffice@sgg.org • bpdolan@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 9, 2018 ADVENT II WITHIN THE OCTAVE



¶ ADVENT II



St. Nicholas will be visiting the children after all the morning Masses today. Reception of new members of the Rosary Confraternity follows the High Mass. Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ ALTER CHRISTUS



\$132.00 was received this month for Masses for the support of priests. God reward your generosity!

¶ 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 on Saturday at 7:30 AM.



¶ 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 Collects of St. Eusebius and Our Lady in Advent. Trinity Preface.

Lumen Christi

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

For the conversion of the hearts & souls of my children & grandchildren
(Katharine Dillon)



¶ ST. BENEDICT MEDALS

A visitor noted last week how many kinds of St Benedict medal we have in our gift shop. Yes indeed, for this medal is a powerful prayer and protection, a portable exorcism to carry about with you.



But be sure to have the medal properly blessed. A simple blessing is not sufficient. The medal should be both exorcised and blessed using a longer, proper form. Due to the length of this blessing, it is done privately, not at the Communion Rail. Drop off your St. Benedict medals in the office or the sacristy, and the bishop will take care of this, and you can pick up the medal the next time.

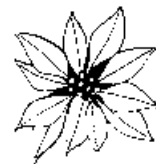
Collection Report

Sunday, December 2nd.....\$3,596.00
Second Collection.....\$1,008.00

¶ YOUR PRAYERS...

...are important and powerful. Remember Ralph Otis, in the hospital; Elaine Santos, now recovering at home, as is Bishop Pivarunas after his surgery. Our Rosary Chain intentions this week include Tom Kunkel, Barbara Bischel, †Lynn Schindler, and †Mary Alice Wade.

¶ 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 17th.

¶ 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.

¶ 2019 CALENDARS ARE IN!

The 2019 All Saints Roman Catholic Calendar is available now in the bookstore for \$12.95.

ADVENT IDEAS

Our Lady of Fatima asked that the daily Rosary be prayed for peace in the world. Consider for a moment whether you make excuses for not praying the Rosary daily. Can you commit to trying to pray it daily? The three young shepherd children prayed the Rosary faithfully. As well, during this Advent, prepare your heart for the upcoming Nativity of Our Lord Jesus as well as for His Second Coming.

Try to spend less time on media and television to pray the Rosary. In addition to the Rosary, schedule at least some time for prayer and spiritual reading each day. Pray about a sacrifice you can make to offer in reparation for sinners.

This might sound like a lot to accomplish, but with God's amazing grace and the beautiful example of the shepherd children, you can do it!

"Dear Jesus and Our Lady of Fatima, please help me to pray a fervent Rosary each day this Advent. Our Lady of Fatima, please pray for me."

At the Offertory

In remembrance of the Passion the priest makes the sign of the Cross on the corporal with the chalice which he then places upon it.

CHILDREN TO CHILDREN



Our children receive so much. What could they give? We're taking up a **Children's Collection** on the **Last Sunday of Advent**, that's what. This money will help the children of Fr. Nkamuke's many Nigerian Missions, bringing Father to them for Mass and Catechism, and relieving the poor, and the poorest of the poor in his flock. Help your children to save and give to save souls!

OLD FURNITURE NEEDED

A former seminarian and his father are moving into the area to be near the Mass. They're asking if any parishioners have furniture—beds, chairs, desks, tables, etc.—that they'd like to give away or sell at low prices. If you do, please phone or email the parish office.

THE ST. HILDEGARD RECIPE FOR QUENCHED WINE

Quenched Wine is helpful in the case of weak nerves, irritability, anger, sadness and sleeplessness.



Heat to boiling point one glass of a good red wine in a pan.

As soon as the bubbles begin to surface pour in 1/2 glass of cool water in a single fluid motion.

Remove from fire and drink, sipping it slowly while it is warm.

Please, drink everyday for a few weeks if you wish to see more lasting results. Otherwise, even for a few days it will be beneficial.

The wine reduces its alcoholic content to less than 2% due to the boiling. Nevertheless, if this quantity of wine is too much for you, even a few daily tablespoonfuls will be beneficial.

THE FOUNTAIN

There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath the flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, as vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power,
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved,—to sin no more.

E'er since, by faith I saw the stream,
Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be,—till I die.

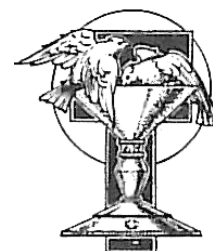
Then in a nobler, sweeter song,
I'll sing Thy power to save;
When this poor, lisping, faltering tongue
Lies silent in the grave.

Lord, I believe Thou hast prepared
(Unworthy though I be)
For me a blood-bought free reward,
A golden harp for me!

'Tis strung, and tuned, for endless years,
And formed by power divine,
To sound in God the Father's ears
No other name but thine.

— William Cowper

The Fountain of the foreseen Precious Blood preserved Mary Immaculate from all sin, even as it cleanses our own by the chalice of salvation.



We were all a little groggy still last week after the great anniversary celebration. But life at St. Gertrude never stops. It just pauses a moment to recalibrate. So while we recovered, we resumed thinking about Christmas planning, and prepared everything for yesterday's beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception. Soon, we will be asking for help (this is our way) for church decorating, inside and out. Somebody remember to do the lights and seal up the fountain! Oh, did you know that one of Our Lady's titles is the "Fons Signatus," the "Sealed Fountain?"

I'm still opening and enjoying my many congratulatory cards. It's so nice to hear from friends and faithful from all over. Again, I am so very touched and thankful. Now, on to the thank you notes... My favorite cards so far were the charming drawings from the French children in Quebec.

Fr. Cekada has been busy writing articles for the internet, some historical in nature, inspired by **Bishop Sanborn's** Anniversary sermon. Father also has posted both pictures and music from the celebration, a veritable feast to share with so many friends and interested internet followers.

Meanwhile, **Fr. McGuire** is away on a long mission trip which includes the seminary where he serves as a quarterly "extraordinary confessor" to the students. In the meantime **Fr. McKenna** has been with us, trying to visit our sick. But it's always a time-consuming struggle to get in touch with the ill and elderly, and be able to set up a time for a visit. You'd think that shut-ins would be more available! But it's a difficult process. In any case, here's a prayer intention: That we be able to contact our sick, and visit them for Holy Communion.

Bishop Pivarunas had a "heart event" last week, somewhat similar to Bishop Sanborn's illness of a year ago. The heart, it suffers strain surely for these big-hearted bishops of ours. Recommend them, heart and all, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

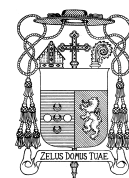
Today a nice group of mostly young people is due to be received into the Rosary Confraternity. Next Sunday remember the Christmas Bake Sale, and after that, the Children's Mission Collection on December 23rd. But in the midst of Advent busyness, carve out some calm, why don't you. Make that extra Mass. Come back for Vespers and Benediction this afternoon. This Saturday we will offer another beautiful candlelight Rorate Mass at 7:30.

Remember your family Rosary around your Advent Wreath, and slowly setting up the family Crib, with little sacrifices perhaps written on tiny slips of paper to serve as straw for the Holy Child. It's

Advent! Fast, give up, pray, slow down!

May Mary Immaculate prepare your heart and home for Jesus' coming!

— Bishop Dolan



PADRE PIO, BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX, & THE SHOULDER WOUND OF CHRIST

"At one time Padre Pio had confided to Brother Modestino Fucci, now the doorkeeper at Padre Pio's friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, that his greatest pains occurred when he changed his undershirt. Brother Modestino...thought that Padre Pio was referring to pains from the chest wound. Then, on February 4, 1971, Brother Modestino was assigned the task of taking an inventory of all the items in the deceased Padre's cell in the friary, and also his belongings in the archives. That day he discovered that one of Padre Pio's undershirts bore a circle of bloodstains in the area of the right shoulder." — *Frank Rega*

On that very evening, Brother Modestino asked Padre Pio in prayer to enlighten him about the meaning of the bloodstained undershirt. He asked Padre to give him a sign if he truly bore Christ's shoulder wound. Then he went to sleep, awakening at 1 a.m. with a terrible, excruciating pain in his shoulder, as if he had been sliced with a knife up to the shoulder bone. He felt that he would die from the pain if it continued, but it lasted only a short time. Then the room became filled with the aroma of a heavenly perfume of flowers—the sign of Padre Pio's spiritual presence—and he heard a voice saying, "This is what I had to suffer!"

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, after receiving the message from Christ regarding the pain He experienced in His shoulder, sought to foster devotion to the Shoulder Wound of Christ, and is said to have penned this prayer:

Prayer to the Shoulder Wound of Christ

Most loving Jesus, meek Lamb of God, I, a miserable sinner, salute and worship the most Sacred Wound of Thy Shoulder on which Thou didst bear Thy heavy Cross which so tore Thy flesh and laid bare Thy Bones as to inflict on Thee an anguish greater than any other wound of Thy Most Blessed Body. I adore Thee, O Jesus most sorrowful; I praise and glorify Thee, and give Thee thanks for this most sacred and painful Wound, beseeching Thee by that exceeding pain, and by the crushing burden of Thy heavy Cross to be merciful to me, a sinner, to forgive me all my mortal and venial sins, and to lead me on towards Heaven along the Way of Thy Cross. Amen.

(Imprimatur: +Thomas D. Beven, Bishop of Springfield.)

— Kathy Schiffer

CURATING THE DIVINE IMAGE

Remember when a designer's name and logo were discretely and neatly tucked away inside the shirt or pants we wore? Then it became fashionable to sport a little alligator or polo player right on our chest for all to see.

Juan Diego was a man more than five centuries ahead of his time! Or perhaps we should more directly and correctly credit Our Lady of Guadalupe for imprinting her image on Juan's *tilma*. Today we can purchase t-shirts bearing just what appeared on Juan's holy cloak, or even have it tattooed on our back or shoulder.

More telling, of course, is what image we are willing to have imprinted on our heart, the wellspring of our thoughts and words and deeds. Faith assures us that we are made in the image and likeness of our Creator. Our life's work is to curate the divine image in which we've been shaped and molded.

Others can easily see who crafted what we wear. So should they easily see, in our speech and deeds, the word and will of the Designer who called us into being, whose grace seeks to clothe our soul and style our life with the Gospel's truth.

In prayer today, let us look to see how clearly Our Lady of Guadalupe's beauty, purity, and graciousness mark our heart and design our life, letting the world see her Son's image on our heart and His blessing on our entire being.

— Rev. Austin Fleming



THY COMING

There was no harvest-time, O Queen!

In all the Advent years:
Men gathered not in gladness
What their hearts had sown in tears.

But with thy coming, Mother dear,
The earth ran oil and wine,—
Men knew the Bread of Angels,
And the grape of the Living Vine!



DO NOT FEAR FEAR

Many who are brave in the absence of an enemy, show little valor in his presence; and, on the other hand, many who tremble before the battle, are the boldest in the hour of danger: we should not be afraid of fear.

Walk always near to God, for the gentleness of His shadow is more salutary than the brightness of the sun.

— St. Francis de Sales

THE MESSENGER: JUAN DIEGO

Running away
Became
A way for you,
Messenger boy
With the news of a gospel lady,
Fragrancing a hill with color
Even in December

— Sr. Lou Ella Hickman, IWBS

FIVE TIPS FROM ST. AMBROSE TO BOOST YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

The 4th-century Doctor of the Church had a unique ability to pierce the heavenly veil.

Bishop of Milan during the 4th century, Ambrose led a devout life of prayer. He often spent the entire night praying and writing down his inspired thoughts.

His sanctity was well known and people would flock to hear his Sunday sermons, which he spoke from the heart. Ambrose had a supernatural ability to pierce the heavenly veil and offer profound insights into the spiritual life.

Here are five tips from this spiritual giant that will surely boost your prayer life and lift up your soul.

Let your door stand open to receive Him, unlock your soul to Him, offer Him a welcome in your mind, and then you will see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the joy of grace. Throw wide the gate of your heart, stand before the sun of the everlasting light.

*No one **heals** himself by **wounding** another.*

*If it is "daily bread," why do you take it once a year? ... **Take daily what is to profit you daily.** Live in such a way that you may deserve to receive it daily. He who does not deserve to receive it daily, does not deserve to receive it once a year.*

*When we find ourselves in some grave danger we must not lose courage but firmly trust in God, for where there is the **greatest danger**, there is also the **greatest help** from Him who wants to be called our "Help" in times of peace and in times of tribulation.*

*Let us take refuge from this world. You can do this in spirit, even if you are kept here in the body. You can **at the same time be here and present to the Lord.** Your soul must hold fast to Him, you must follow after Him in your thoughts, you must tread His ways by faith, not in outward show.*

St. Ambrose's feast this year fell on First Friday.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:
Redeemed in Advance

The Church teaches us to call the Virgin Mary “Mother.” Something genetic binds Christ’s members to his Mother. This union depends not on the material stuff of the universe. A web of grace stronger than a genome holds the Church together. Both Mother and children are redeemed by Christ. God’s grace, however, works differently in Mary than in us. Our Lady’s preservation from Original Sin happens before her Son dies on His cross. *Everything stands present to God in a single instant—past, present, and future.* Mary benefits from what lies in the future only by human reckoning. So one hymn proclaims: “The guilty stain of Adam’s fall/ Afflicts each member of his race,/ The sinless Son whom you would bear/ Redeemed you by His foreseen grace.”

Once the Precious Blood of Christ flows from His pierced side, God’s grace works according to a pattern established by Christ Himself. Baptism removes our share in Adam’s sin. This sacrament also consecrates us to follow the Savior.

Dear Jesus, Thou didst die to keep Thy Mother free of all sin, Original and Actual. Help me to find consolation and refuge in her Immaculate Heart, especially when I lack her love and purity.



ADVENT THOUGHTS

But, if the tenderness and the attractiveness of this mysterious coming make no impression on you, because your heart is too weighed down to be able to rise to confidence, and because having so long drunk sin like water, you know not what it is to long with love for the caresses of a Father whom you have slighted—then turn your thoughts to that other coming, which is full of terror, and is to follow the silent one of grace that is now offered. Think within yourselves, how this earth of ours will tremble at the approach of the dread Judge; how the heavens will flee from before His face, and fold up as a book (Apoc. vi. 14); how man will wince under His angry look; how the creature will wither away with fear, as the two-edged sword, which comes from the mouth of his Creator (Ibid. i. 16), pierces him; and how sinners will cry out, ‘Ye mountains, fall on us! ye rocks, cover us (St. Luke xxiii. 30.)!’ Those unhappy souls who would not know the time of their visitation (Ibid. xix. 44.), shall then vainly wish to hide themselves from the face of Jesus. They shut their hearts against this God-Man, who, in His excessive love for them, wept over them: therefore, on the day of judgment they will descend alive into those everlasting fires, whose flame devoureth the earth with her increase, and burneth the foundations of the mountains (Deut. Xxxii. 22.). The worm that never dieth (St. Mark ix. 43.), the useless eternal repentance, will gnaw them forever.

— Dom Gueranger
The Liturgical Year

Question 9. What is the best piece of extra-biblical proof(s) for the existence of Jesus/the Disciples/Apostles that exist?

Answer. The most well-known is that of Josephus, the Jewish general of the first century A.D., who speaks about Christ in his *Jewish War*. The Roman historian Tacitus also speaks about “Chrestus,” referring to Christ. However, their existence was never contested by anyone, even the most avid enemies of the Church. Furthermore, the authenticity of the gospels and their veracity is beyond question. The proof of this, however, would require some reading on your part.

— Bishop Sanborn

THE WAY

The Baptist’s eyes
are everywhere
shining
“Prepare the way!”
as honey drips
and reeds sway
in sun
in wind—
Come quick!
My own heart
pounds
and parts
like the Red Sea,
but blood is thick
and the Way is clear
and near—
Come quick!
Do not delay.

—Rita A. Simmons

ST. GERTRUDE THE
GREAT

Christmas Bake Sale
Sunday, December 16,
2018

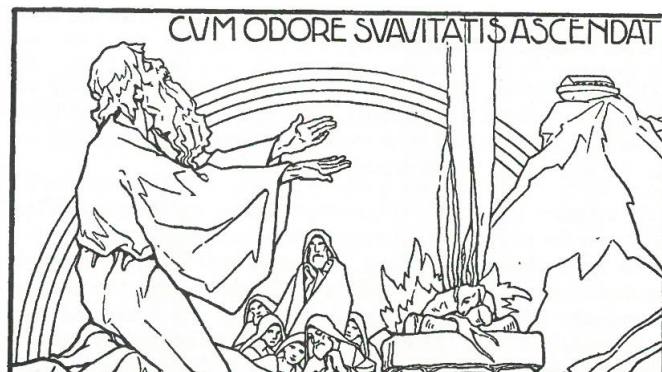
HOPE TO SEE YOU IN
HELFTA HALL!

✠ CALENDAR

✠ MY CREED

MON 12/10/18	WITHIN THE OCTAVE ST. MELCHIADES, PM <i>OUR LADY OF LORETTO</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass †Ruth Sieverding Kieffer (<i>Mike Sieverding</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Mary Rose Young (<i>Mr. & Mrs. William H. Young III</i>)
TUE 12/11/18	ST. DAMASUS I, PC WITHIN THE OCTAVE 8:00 AM Low Mass Karen Simpson – Happy Birthday (<i>C. Simpson family</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass For the sanctification of priests (<i>Alter Christus Confraternity</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass Our 7 children & their spouses (<i>Kirby & Jean Bischel</i>)
WED 12/12/18	WITHIN THE OCTAVE <i>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass Special Intention (<i>R. VandeRyt</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass †Elizabeth L. Smith – 3 rd Anniversary (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell & Family</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass †Karl Weissing (<i>Colleen Eldracher</i>)
THU 12/13/18	ST. LUCY, VM WITHIN THE OCTAVE 8:00 AM Low Mass Special Intention (<i>R. VandeRyt</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Thank you Marlys & Karla & Colleen & all who helped! (<i>Bishop Dolan</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass Nikolas D'Ettorre – Special Intention (<i>Sarah Burns</i>)
FRI 12/14/18	WITHIN THE OCTAVE 8:00 AM Low Mass Poor Souls (<i>Clare Lotarski</i>) 11:10 AM Confessions 11:25 AM High Mass Leo J. Grumblatt family (<i>Mary Beth Grumblatt</i>) 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass Happy Birthday, Joseph (<i>Theresa Simpson</i>) 6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT 12/15/18	OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 7:15 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Rorate High Mass The conversion of my family & friends (<i>Hunter Lumbatis</i>) 8:15 AM Alma & Sermon 8:30 AM Low Mass †Bishop Robert McKenna – 3 rd Anniversary December 16 (<i>Tom & Karen Simpson</i>)
SUN 12/16/18	ADVENT III GAUDETE SUNDAY ST. EUSEBIUS, BPM 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass Paul & Lisa McConnell & their children (<i>Fr. Lehtoranta</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass Scott & Jennifer Richesson & their children (<i>Fr. Lehtoranta</i>) 10:40 AM Sunday Classes 11:05 AM Rosary 11:30 AM Low Mass †Connie Kamphaus (<i>Dan & Karen Metz</i>) 4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

Et homo factus est. And He was made Man. The Word of God has not only taken the semblance of man, but He has truly become Man. In these sublime words, we behold the Divinity Itself, espousing the Humanity. A genuflection is here made, as a mark of honor paid to the Mystery of the Incarnation. – Dom Gueranger



Noah after the flood offers a sacrifice of thanks to God his deliverer, Who takes pleasure in its "sweet fragrance."

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 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.)

Servers

SUN 12/16 7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: R. VandeRyt, M. Simpson TH: J. Lacy ACs: N. McClorey, C. Arlinghaus TORCH: A. McClorey, D. Simpson, J. Stewart, T. England
11:30 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, J. Kolenich
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller