



ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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 23, 2018 ADVENT IV



¶ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today is the Fourth and last Sunday of Advent. The second collection today is the Children's Collection for Nigeria. There are no Sunday Classes. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ CHRISTMAS EVE

Tomorrow is the Vigil of Christmas, a day of *fast and complete abstinence*. High Mass is at 8:00 AM. The Divine Office is chanted at 7:00 AM (Prime), 1:00 PM (Vespers), and 8:30 PM (Matins). Carols begin at 10:30 PM, and the Procession and Blessing of the Crib at 11:00. **Midnight Mass is at 11:15 PM**, followed by the Office of Lauds. After the Midnight Mass, please join us in Helfta Hall for a potluck supper. Bring a dish to share if you plan to come.

¶ CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 AM: Low Mass with string quartet, Novena & Benediction
11:00 AM: Low Mass
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

Blessed Jesus, Who, being God incomprehensible, wast pleased, in love to us, to be wrapped up in swaddling-clothes and laid in a manger, praise and glory be to Thee forever.

Lumen Christi

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

Special Intentions
(Patrick Curry)



¶ FEASTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, December 26th – St. Stephen, Protomartyr: There will be a High Mass at 5:00 PM to honor St. Stephen.

Thursday, Dec. 27th – Feast of St. John: Join us for a High Mass at 9:00 AM and the Blessing of Wine and Beverages – “The Love of St. John.”

Friday, December 28th – Infant of Prague Novena: Our annual novena of Nine Fridays in honor of the Divine Infant opens this Friday evening at 5:35 PM. Come with confidence to honor our loving little King. The High Mass of the Holy Innocents is at 5:45 PM followed by Benediction. This is an important day for the prolife cause.

¶ 2019 CALENDARS ARE IN!

2019 Roman Catholic Calendars available now in the bookstore for \$12.95.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

There will be no Classes next Sunday. **Classes resume on January 13.** The Blessing of Children in honor of the Holy Innocents follows the High Mass, and then Bishop Dolan will be hosting a little party for the children. All the children of the parish are invited. Bring your little ones to eat a donut, hear a story and receive a gift.

Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Sunday Within the Octave of Christmas, with a commemoration of the Octave of Christmas. Preface of the Nativity.

“Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for Him at all, Christ comes uninvited.”

– Fr. M. Louis, OCSO

¶ YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Our Rosary Chain intentions this week include Fred Woods, John Hardiman, Natasha Radford, Phyllis Legal, Diane Rowbotham, and Henry de la Chanonie.

Blessed Jesus, true God and man, born in the form of a helpless infant, praise and glory be to Thee forever.

Collection Report

Sunday, December 16th\$3,697.00
Bake Sale.....\$759.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

THE GREATEST SORROW OF JESUS

Consider Jesus, who revealed to the Venerable Agatha of the Cross, that which afflicted Him more than any other sorrow was hardness of the hearts of humanity. This sorrow, was the bitter chalice that Jesus begged the Father to remove from Him, saying, "Let this chalice pass from Me." What chalice? The contempt with which His love is treated. Our Lord revealed to St. Catherine of Siena that this was the reason that He exclaimed from the cross, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

JESUS OFFERED HIMSELF FOR OUR SALVATION FROM THE BEGINNING



Consider that the divine Word knew that all the sacrifices of goats and bulls offered to the Father in times past had not been able to satisfy for the sins of human-kind but that it required a divine person to pay the price of redemption. "My Father," said Jesus, "all the victims previously offered to You have not paid the debt, nor could they have paid the debt, necessary to satisfy Your justice. You have given Me My humanity, in order that by shedding My Blood, I might please You and save humanity. Behold I come. Here I am. I am ready. I accept everything and I submit myself in everything, to Your will."

O my Jesus, I am weak, grant me strength against temptation. I am infirm, I hope that Your Precious Blood will be my medicine. I am a sinner but I hope that Your grace will make me a saint. I acknowledge that I have cooperated with my own ruin, but this day I promise always, to call upon You and in this way cooperate with Your grace. — *St. Alphonsus Liguori*

Our Beloved Dead ~ December

Name	Date of Death
Jerome G. Gerrard	12-01-1989
Albert D. Kinnett	12-02-2003
Frank Alban, Jr.	12-03-1988
George Greene	12-04-1999
Rosemary Breitenstein	12-08-1999
Regina K. Budde	12-09-1992
Alice M. Corbin	12-12-1995
Floyd Rimer, Jr.	12-12-2002
George Wissing	12-12-2009
Elizabeth L. Smith	12-12-2015
Archbishop Thuc	12-13-1984
Henry Golembeski	12-15-1993
Ralph Patton	12-15-2009
Bishop McKenna	12-16-2015
Fred Hauserman	12-16-2010
Vanessa S. Thompson	12-17-2008
Marty Lierl	12-18-2012
Mary Genevieve Bell	12-19-2004
David T. Miller	12-19-2004
Mary I. Osborn	12-19-2002
Katie Bischak	12-22-2017
Barbara Steinmetz	12-27-2016
Richard Weik	12-29-2010



A MASS PRAYER

Give us, O God, the grace daily to feel the advent of Our Lord upon our altars, as we expect Him to be born in our hearts at Christmas-time. Grant that we may also be prepared to meet Him, the Judge, at the end of time, and may find Him propitious; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. O God, Who didst leave with us, under the consecrated species, a memory of Thy sufferings, give us the grace that by our ardent faith we may adore Thee in this Holy Sacrament, and become worthy fruits of Thy holy Passion and death. Amen.

Blessed Jesus, Who, having the heavens for Thy throne, didst yet choose a poor stable for Thine abode. Praise and glory be to Thee forever.

A DECEMBER DAY

There was no color
Then came the light
A False Spring morning
Briefly bright.

Surprised by sun
Squeezed down by cloud
Mild weather favors us
But too much light is not allowed.

The sun returned for Evensong
Starlings sang and served in soaring
throng
Expertly moving through the sky
Which saw the sun shrink small and
die.

— *Bishop Dolan*

KNEELING AT THE WINDOW ON THE EVE OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

A moon as white as a mother's milk.
Soft snow that rivals bridal silk.
Bold starlight gleams across the plain.
I shield my eyes from beauty's pain.
Then, through my fingers' slatted
screen,
One glance, then two—and once
again

I force myself to face the night—
Its wondrous stillness brittle-bright.

From heaven's dazzling purity
Sweet mercy drops descend on me.
O Christ, my famished soul's desire,
Come! Baptize me with holy fire!

— *Ann Applegate*



Thanks be to God for the last sunny, sweet mild days of Autumn which cheered us this past week, and prepared us for cold rains and whatever Providence plans for us in the coming days. But I suspect the sun will come again, and it still looks to be a warm Winter in the short term.

Short or long, Winter began Friday evening as we were at Mass for St. Thomas. It was the shortest day of the year. Tomorrow's Vigil, Christmas Eve, is called "the day which knows no end," for before we go to bed it will be Christmas, and Christ will have been born in the solemn midnight hour. Come and watch and pray with us. Santa can take care of himself. Good children of the Child Jesus watch for *His* coming. You have the full schedule in the bulletin. Spare a prayer today for families who will be too busy "doing" multiple family parties to make it for the main event, in church.

Of course, the Christmas Dawn Mass with the String Quartet and Benediction has its own charm, and is very popular as well. Nobody comes to the 11:00 AM Low Mass anymore. We've given up on trying to sing carols, but it's a great Mass if you're looking for something quiet. There will probably be a number of private Masses around this time as well, each priest being privileged to offer three.

"Christmas," *after* Christ's Mass, during the week, is of course a holiday and family time, "downtime" as they say. But the great feasts continue, and the Holy Mass should not be abandoned. Try to make one or two during the Christmas Novena. Note the special times for Wednesday and Thursday. By Friday, we resume our regular weekend schedule. The Holy Innocents Children's blessing and party will follow the Sunday 9 o'clock Mass, as in recent years.

An alert Gertrudian, eyeing appreciatively the remnants of last Sunday's bake sale before Vespers (we always translate them to the Vestibule) exclaimed: It's not a bake sale but a work of art. Indeed. Thank you who worked so hard, and you who generously participated in its fruits. Ditto, as Rush would say for you who decorated the church for Christmas on Thursday. We had only our *two* faithful Home Education families (thank God for big families!) some school students for awhile and a straggler or so. But how lovely everything looks. And thanks to the Sisters for the original theme of the Christmas Crèche: Our devotions at St. Gertrude the Great. Let all the prayer and beauty soak in over the forty days of Christmastide.

Fr. Nkamuke reports a Baptism busy arrival in Nigeria, eight I think, and an attempted carjacking.

Father didn't see the gun, or else he would have given up the keys, he says. Oh, there was still plenty of evidence of violence from the recent community war at Boje, where little Mona-Lisa was awaiting the regenerative waters of Baptism. The soldiers did afford protection to travellers, but the steep mountainside almost did in Margarita, Father's automobile, which started rolling backwards on its own. Margarita is known for this, but a kind passerby knew that high speed up the rough road was the only way. Speed they did, and car and driver held on. Father's Good Samaritan was amply rewarded by a house blessing and rosaries, the latter being claimed by the whole village as well, exhausting Father's stock. His plantain supply, however, was replenished by his benefactor, much to Father's satisfaction. Do support our missionary today.

In Advent as in life, we work and watch and sometimes worry; inevitably grow weary, and wait. But *sometimes*, we think "wait!" it worked! What a wonder. How could this be? This is a precious moment. Usually we are too busy and distracted to look back and take stock, or too jaded by past problems to believe that yes the tree is up and glowing and beautiful, and that's that. But it is at these moments that we should dissolve in interior tears of joy and thanksgiving (as the old spiritual writers used to say), for mercies not earned and many days, not even counted. But let there never be a day when we do not give thanks, and count the blessings we receive.

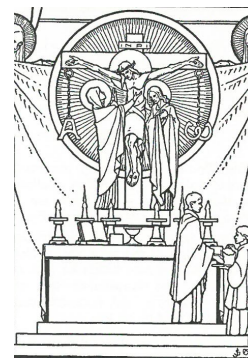
Blessed Christmas!

– Bishop Dolan

WASHING OF THE HANDS

This ceremony is symbolic of the cleanliness and purity of soul and body with which we should appear before God. At the beginning of Holy Mass we recited the Confiteor. This was to purify ourselves, to make our heart clean by sincere contrition. The washing of the fingers signifies our petition that Our Lord may wash us yet more from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins, according to the words of the psalm.

The washing of the hands which follows the offering of gifts is to impress upon us that the nearer we approach to the moment of Consecration, the nearer we approach to Christ and the greater need we have of recollection and prayer.



✠ CALENDAR

✠ MY CREED

MON	12/24/18	VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS	FAST & ABSTINENCE
	7:00 AM	The Office of Prime	
	7:24 AM	Confessions	
	8:00 AM	High Mass	Extended Morris-Niehaus Family (S. & C. Niehaus)
	1:00 PM	Vespers	
	8:30 PM	The Office of Matins	
	10:30 PM	Carols	
	11:00 PM	Procession & Blessing of Crib	
	11:15 PM	Midnight Mass	Novena I followed by Lauds Potluck Supper in Helfta Hall
TUE	12/25/18	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD	HOLY DAY
		CHRISTMAS DAY	
	9:00 AM	Low Mass with string quartet	For the People of St. Gertrude the Great
		Novena & Benediction	
	11:00 AM	Low Mass	For our friends, family, benefactors and dear dead
	5:45 PM	Vespers of Christmas Day	
		Private Mass:	For our parents – Merry Christmas! (The Kolenich Kids)
WED	12/26/18	ST. STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR	
	5:00 PM	High Mass	Novena II
THU	12/27/18	ST. JOHN, APEV	
	9:00 AM	High Mass	Novena III followed by the Blessing of Wine & Beverages, & “The Love of St. John” in Helfta Hall
FRI	12/28/18	THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MM	
	8:00 AM	Low Mass	Lucy Carr – conversion
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary	
	5:35 PM	Opening of the Infant of Prague	Novena
	5:45 PM	High Mass	Novena IV
	6:45 PM	Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction	
		Private Mass:	Our children & godchildren (Mr. & Mrs. Simpson)
SAT	12/29/18	ST. THOMAS À BECKET, BPM	
	7:15 AM	Confessions	
	7:30 AM	Low Mass	Leo J. Grumblatt family (Mary Beth Grumblatt)
	8:10 AM	Alma & Sermon	
	8:20 AM	High Mass	Novena V
SUN	12/30/18	SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS	
		BLESSING OF CHILDREN AFTER THE HIGH MASS	
	7:05 AM	Rosary	
	7:30 AM	Low Mass	James Soli – Merry Christmas (Your children)
	9:00 AM	High Mass	Novena VI
	10:40 AM	Children’s Party	
	11:05 AM	Rosary	
	11:30 AM	Low Mass	†Pat Patton (Rebecca Stump)
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction	
	5:45 PM	Low Mass	For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis, sub Pontio Pilato, passus et sepultus est.

Crucifixus. The Apostles’ Creed has the same expression; the Apostles were bent on saying that our Lord was crucified, not content with simply stating that He died; and this, because it was of high importance to signalize, to all, the Victory of the Cross over Satan. As we were ruined by the wood, so God willed that our salvation also should be wrought by the wood, as we elsewhere sing: *ipse lignum tunc notavit, damna ligni ut solveret.* Yes; it was fitting that the artifice of our enemy should be foiled by his own trick itself: *et mendelam ferret inde, hostis unde læserat*, and that the remedy should be drawn thence, whence the enemy had taken the poison. It is for this very reason, that the Apostles were careful to lay so much stress on the manner of Christ’s being put to death; and when first announcing the faith to pagans, they at once spoke of the Cross. St. Paul writing to the Corinthians, tells them that, when he first came amongst them, he had not judged it meet to preach unto them anything else but Jesus, and Jesus crucified: *Non enim judicavi me scire aliquid inter vos, nisi Jesu Christum et hunc crucifixum* (1 Cor. ii. 2). And previously, too, he had said to them: And we preach Christ Crucified: a scandal, indeed, to the Jews, and to the Gentiles foolishness: *Judeis quidem scandalum, Gentibus autem stultiam* (1. Cor. i. 23).

– Dom Gueranger

Servers

MON 12/24	MIDNIGHT MASS (ARRIVE AT 10:30 PM): MC1: R. Vande Ryt MC2: J. Lacy MC3: P. Omlor TH: B. Lotarski ACs: C. Richesson, M. Simpson CROSS: C. Arlinghaus MITRE: D. Simpson CROZIER: A. D. Kinnett BOOK: Peter McClorey BUGIA: Nathan McClorey TRAIN: S. Richesson GREMIALE: A. McClorey TORCH: T. Lawrence, C. Arlinghaus, J. & N. Kolenich, C. & J. Mourer,
TUE 12/25	9:00 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. BENEDICTION: MC: D. McConnell TH: A. McConnell TORCH: 2 Brueggemanns 11:00 AM LOW: Volunteer
WED 12/26	5:00 PM HIGH: J. Lacy, Simpsons, P. Omlor
THU 12/27	9:00 AM HIGH: P. Omlor, J. Lacy, Simpsons
FRI 12/28	5:45 PM HIGH: J. Lacy, P. Omlor, Simpsons
SUN 12/30	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: J. Lacy, P. Omlor TH: T. Lawrence ACs: P. McClorey, N. McClorey TORCH: T. England, J. Stewart, A. McClorey, B. Kamphaus 11:30 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, J. Kolenich 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller 5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

Aishers

CHRISTMAS DAY 12/25

MIDNIGHT (ARRIVE BY 10:30PM): M. Briggs, S. Weigand, M. Lotarski
9:00 AM: P. Arlinghaus, S. Pepiot, J. Andreotta
11:30 AM: J. Seyfried