

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT NEWSLETTER

CANDLEMAS 2019 No. 192

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT BISHOP'S APOSTOLATE • 4900 RIALTO ROAD • WEST CHESTER, OHIO
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FROM BISHOP DOLAN

My dear Friends,

At first you would think it was Babel, this confusion of tongues, but it was all of the Holy Ghost that Friday morning, January 25, at the chapel of Most Holy Trinity Seminary in Brooksville, Florida. We were concluding the annual retreat (dedicated again this year to the Little Flower) and five priests had joined the students for the spiritual exercises. Four altars rang simultaneously with the words of the true Mass, as hosts of angels hovered about, bearing the powerful prayers to the throne of God. It was a glorious experience.

Should you ever be blessed to hear two holy Masses at once, adore Jesus Christ as He comes to each altar, offer Him in sacrifice to the Father, and most of all unite, even briefly, your intention with each Mass. Today such an experience is rare. God grant the day comes when many, indeed innumerable altars ring again with the sacred words of the Unbloody Sacrifice. Until then, do pray for priests and seminarians and vocations, and generously support them, as well as our seminary.

By the time you receive this newsletter, Candlemas, with its procession and pontifical Mass, will have closed another glorious Christmas season at St. Gertrude the Great. Advent passed quickly—it always does—but with the Blessed Virgin Immaculate, which means with recollection and prayer. The great vigil which sees us keep watch most of the night for Our Savior's birth was marked by Matins and carols and Midnight Mass. Many of you sent intentions for the Christmas Octave Novena. They were remembered each day with a high Mass. Where else would the "Christmas vacation" be daily solemnized with sung Mass and Vespers? Christmas continues at St. Gertrude the Great! Meanwhile our missionaries spread the wealth of Catholic devotion in Milwaukee, throughout frozen North Dakota, and down in Texas, too.

Newly consecrated (this month marks a year), Bishop Selway honored us with an Epiphany visit and sang pontifical Mass. Epiphany water and chalk and homes all were blessed. Soon it was time to resume the regular round of school season activities, but weather has had its say. In the old days zero temperatures were taken in stride, but no more... We are hoping for a full February, though. However, it seems the coldest mornings drew the most faithful for weekday Mass.

Father Cekada tweeted out recently an appeal for Mass stipends, as we support many priests throughout the world. You can be sure your Mass will be offered, and quickly, by devout priests, whom you are thus charitably assisting.



On February 2, Bishop Dolan blessed candles in observance of Candlemas. A pontifical Mass of the Purification immediately followed. After a soup brunch in the parish social hall, the Christmas decorations were put away, closing Christmas.

If you can't get to a good Mass, due to weather or distance, follow our daily webcasts. But here's a prayer which may be of assistance as well.

God bless you!

— **Most Rev. Daniel L. Dolan**

HEARTFELT DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOLY SACRIFICE

Most Holy Trinity, God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, almighty source of all things; my best Father, my merciful Redeemer, the Fountain of my sanctification and happiness, I, Thy most unworthy creature, venture to appear before Thee, to show Thee, my true God and Creator, all honor, adoration, and trustful submission; to thank Thee for the innumerable benefits which I have received from Thee; to praise Thee for Thy glory (for I am created for Thy praise); to implore Thy mercies, and to appease Thy justice, because I have so often and so grievously sinned against Thee. All this I cannot do in a worthier and more perfect manner than by hearing, with faith and devotion, holy Mass... But because I cannot this day be present bodily, I will, at least in spirit, place myself before the altar where Jesus Christ in an unbloody manner offers Himself, O heavenly Father, to Thee. With this glorious sacrifice I unite my present prayer; I fervently desire, united with the Son of God, in the strongest manner to praise, love, supplicate Thee, O heavenly Father, to repair all the wrong and shame that I have wrought, and completely to accomplish all that can be accomplished by the holy sacrifice of the Mass. To this end give me Thy divine grace, and grant that I may perform all this with sincere devotion. Amen.



(Top left and down) The Infant Jesus is carried into the church by Bishop Dolan prior to Midnight Mass. On the Feast of the Holy Innocents children were blessed and given special medal. (Top right and down) Bishop Selway vests prior to celebrating a pontifical Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany at St. Gertrude the Great Church. Within the Octave of the Epiphany Father Lehtoranta inscribed the initials of the Three Kings over classroom doors. Father Lehtoranta distributes candles to the faithful on Candlemas. Bishop Dolan blesses the throats of the servers following Mass on the Feast of St. Blaise.