

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

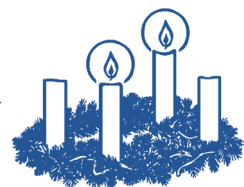
4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212

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 8, 2019 THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ADVENT II



¶ THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Today is the feast of our country's patroness, the Immaculate Conception, and a Holy day of Obligation. **St. Nicholas** will be visiting the children after all the morning Masses.

Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ ALTER CHRISTUS



\$88.00 was received this month for Masses for the support of priests. God reward your generosity!

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: – ADVENT III

GAUDETE SUNDAY OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available at the Communion rail after all Masses. Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM. Our **Christmas Bake Sale** takes place after the morning Masses. Come back to Helfta Hall and sample some Christmas goodies! Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Advent III, Commemoration of the Octave of Immaculate Conception, Preface of the Trinity.

Collection Report

Sunday, December 1st.....\$4,481.00

Second Collection.....\$1,176.00

Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

¶ CONGRATULATIONS

We send our prayerful good wishes to our two new Catholics, who were received into the Church on Nov. 29, and Confirmed on St. Andrew's Day: Kyle Joseph McGuire of Chillicothe, Ohio, and Aleksi Joseph Kojonen, of Perttula, Finland.

¶ YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE

Please pray for Joan Fey, Richard Brueggemann, Joe Hinton, Joe McMahon and Elaine Manuele, who died Nov. 27.

¶ THANK YOU CRAFTSMEN!

The craft sale brought in \$638.00 for the church. The sisters sold \$333.00 of their craft items. Thank you for your support.

¶ CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Could you please set aside a few hours to help us decorate our church for Christmas? Saturday, Dec. 21, starting after Mass until ?

You were not nearer to the Blessed Virgin, dear Jesus, during the nine months that she carried You, than You are to me, when You rest on my tongue in Holy Communion. How blessed I am!

—Charles of Jesus de Foucauld

¶ 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 16th.

¶ 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

This quiet, beautiful Mass by candlelight is sung at Our Lady's altar in honor of the Incarnation. The Mass begins in the dark, but concludes in sunlight: the coming of the light of the world: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

O Mary, who didst enter the world free from stain, do thou obtain for me from God, that I may pass out of it free from sin.

—Indulgence: 100 days, once a day.

Briefly, therefore, the Catholic teaching concerning the Mother of God is this: Say of her holiness and sanctity, what you will, you can never do her full justice. But mention not sin in the same breath with that holy name. Her immaculate purity dates from the very first moment of her existence – in this she is the new Eve. If the whole Church taught and believed this doctrine from Apostolic times, then the whole Church taught and believed the mystery of the Immaculate Conception. If the Holy Ghost is ever with the Church, then this doctrine is true. Because it could be only by revelation, then it is revealed. Being a revealed truth, the Church had only to put upon it the stamp of her approbation. This she has done officially, thereby making it an article of Faith, binding on the conscience of all the faithful.

We therefore believe that Mary is the sole exception to the universal law of inherited sin. She alone of all creatures escaped the curse of the Fall. By virtue of her future dignity she was exempt from the stain that sullies all flesh, and knew not the forfeiture of that right which we all labor under until purified by the saving waters of Baptism. This privilege is called her Immaculate Conception.

Mary is not only our Queen and our Model, she is also our Mother – and a “Mother most pure.” She is ever solicitous for our welfare ever ready to help us in our wants. If we would be pure and holy, we must place our confidence in her who is the Mother of Purity. Behold how she extends her arms to receive her exiled children in this valley of tears! When temptation assails and disaster threatens, she will surely give us a refuge in her most Immaculate Heart, for she is “our life, our sweetness and our hope.” Indeed, if we would be pure and holy, we may rest securely on the bosom of Mary, for Christ Himself tells us: “Blessed are the clean of heart for they shall see God”

O my God! Mighty and merciful Father, Creator of all things of the world! Without the possibility of doubt, I firmly believe in you, my God and Lord, since you are my entire good. I believe that I shall be saved through the infinite merits of the sufferings and death of your Son Jesus Christ, my Lord, even though my sins from the time of my childhood, and those which I have committed up to this present hour, are very great, for your mercy is greater than the malice of my sins. You, Lord created me... and you have given me a body and soul and all that I have. And you, my God, have made me to your likeness...

O Christians, let us give praise and thanks to God, three and one, for having revealed to us the true Faith and law of his Son Jesus Christ. O Lady Saint Mary, Hope of Christians, Queen of Angels and of all the saints who are in heaven! I commend myself to you, my Lady, and to all the saints, now and for the hour of my death, so that you may protect me from the world, the flesh, and the devil, my enemies, who are eager to draw my soul down into hell. O Lord Saint Michael, protect me from the devil in the hour of my death, when I shall be about to render an account to God of my past life.

Weigh, Lord, my sins with the merits of the Passion and Death of my Lord Jesus Christ and not with my few deserts. I shall thus be free from the power of my enemy and shall go to enjoy an eternal and everlasting bliss.

—Saint Francis Xavier

In thy Conception, O Virgin Mary, thou wast immaculate; pray for us to the Father, whose Son Jesus Christ conceived of the Holy Ghost thou didst bring forth.

Indulgence: 100 days, each time.

My Mother, preserve me this day from mortal sin. Hail Mary thrice.

Indulgence: 200 days, once a day, morning and evening.

TO MARY IMMACULATE

By Marian Nesbitt

Mother Immaculate! when doubts arise, Haunting the peaceful garden of the soul; When faith grows dim, and dread beyond control. Weighs down my spirit, turn, oh, turn, thine eyes of mercy on me!

Lift thy stainless hands in Intercession; God will surely hear, For sinless, thou dost draw us sinners near – Thine is the heart that always understands.

Thine, too, the sympathy, the tender love, That never, never fails us day by day, However long, however dark the way, However far my thoughts from things above.

And thou dost know the secret depths of care, The hidden sorrow and the sense of loss, The hourly struggle to take up the cross, When absence seems a grief too hard to bear.

And life's fair road looks grey and dreary cold, Because some steps that trod beside my own Now wander elsewhere, apart, alone, While I stand waiting for the joys of old.

Mother Immaculate! the hopes and fears And needs of those beloved I bring to thee, Begging thy blessing both on mine and me, And Christ's dear love to guide us through the years.

Sings Father Faber:

It is this thought today that lifts
My happy heart to Heaven
That for our sakes thy choicest gifts
To Thee, dear Queen, were given.
I think of Thee and what thou art,
Thy majesty, Thy state;
And I keep singing in my heart,
Immaculate, Immaculate!

Our second week of Advent belongs all to Mary Immaculate. The holy day and the Sunday merge in blazing glory. We can never honor her enough, nor trust too much in this loving Mother. Place your Advent preparations under her protection, and stay close to her. Continue the Novena at home. Did you know that Our Lady told St Catherine Laboure already in 1830 that religious of St Vincent De Paul must beware of bad reading, wasting time, and useless visiting? Now the so called "social media" invite, press us to do this first thing in the morning, and late into the night. Oh, they can serve a good purpose of course, sometimes even alerting shepherds that sheep or lambs are wandering. But for most people, it's an easy addition to the three evils lamented by Our Lady. Advent resolutions, anyone?

Speaking of Advent, did you remember to cut a Barbara Branch on Wednesday? It seems there is a Barbara Bread as well, and we enjoyed a beautiful loaf of it, slightly sweet, and tasting of anise.

On First Thursday, we honored the priest St Sabas the Sanctified, and prayed for our priests. The first of our Rorate Masses was sung. If there's some rare winter sun about, the transformation from dead dark to splendid sunshine during the forty minute Mass is stunning in its simple symbolism. The Incarnation, the coming of Christ the Light of the World. The rest of the day was mild and sunny, a nice break from the December dark.

Speaking of light, we'll need some help to get our lights up, both inside and out, as well as the decorations which make our church a real palace for the Little King each Christmas. Can you spare some time Saturday morning the 21st?

Robins were passing through the other afternoon, their dark gold breastplates sparkling in the sun. The starlings are still claiming the good seats on the power lines for the end of day. Puccini is looking chic in his double white fur coat. I wonder if this portends a cold winter, er, "climate change?"

Earlier this week the cat was licking its wound from some nocturnal enemy encounter, but it's grown over now. Cats cure their ills by sleeping, but in their discretion, you'd hardly notice. They sleep a lot anyway. But if under the weather they fast until better. My old friend the owl has arrived for December as is traditional, but is so far keeping silent. He's the wise one.



St Nicholas is visiting this morning. This is so joyful a season, especially for children, and children at heart. But strive to regain some of the innocence so easily lost, and you'll have a real gift come Christmas.

I send a blessing home with you, and a prayer for those we see no more, or barely, rarely. Mary keep you.

- Bishop Dolan

Advent Prayer for Conversions and Return of Fallen Away.

To thee, O Queen of Prophets, forseen by them, Mother of God and of His people, to thee we have recourse in our necessities, confident that as thou thyself art the fulfillment of prophecy, so thou wilt desire the fulfillment of thy own words, bringing, out of all generations, N_____, to call thee blessed. Say to all the erring for whom we beseech thee, and especially to N_____, "Thy light has come." Say but one word to thy Son, and the glory of the Lord shall rise upon them, and the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and so they, wondering at the star, will follow into the house of bread, where, finding thy Child with thee, they will eat of the true bread and live forever, Possessing joy and gladness, while sorrow and sadness will disappear. O thou who art omnipotent in prayer, at whose request thy Son worked his first miracle, beg Him to say: "I the Lord will do this suddenly in its time," and grant to those for whom we pray, that they may draw water with joy at the fountains of the Saviour. May it be granted to us all to be united with thee, O Mother, in singing thy Magnificat to Him.

(Indulgence of 100 Days, once a day. Leo XIII, January 24, 1901)

✠ CALENDAR

MON	12/9/19	RESUMED MASS OF SUNDAY
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Steven Kustra – happy birthday (M/M Wm. H. Young III)
	11:25 AM	High Mass For all who cook for us and for our devoted drivers (<i>The Fathers</i>)
TUE	12/10/19	WITHIN THE OCTAVE ST. MELCHIADES, PM <i>OUR LADY OF LORETTO</i>
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Rorate Mass
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Happy Birthday Mia (M/M Wm. Olyer)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Mrs. Janice Curran (St. Gertrude the Great School)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Joseph McMahon (Eva Nellenbach)
WED	12/11/19	ST. DAMASUS I, PM WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	7:00 AM	Low Mass All Priests, Seminarians and Religious Sisters –
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Infant Kitchen (Marge Kitchen)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Thank you Colleen Eldracher & Evan Fisher (Mrs. Terri Young)
	5:10 PM	Low Mass St. Anthony & Holy Souls (Arlinghaus)
THU	12/12/19	WITHIN THE OCTAVE <i>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</i>
	7:00 AM	Low Mass Rorate Mass †Elizabeth L. Smith (M/M Joseph Prell Family)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Fr. Joseph Appelkanz (Mary Christensen)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Viola Ripperger (Jeff Tomassoni)
FRI	12/13/19	ST. LUCY, VM WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Mr. Stephen Brueggemann & family (Dan & Mary & family)
	11:05 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	High Mass †Holy Souls (Antonio Bucheli)
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass In honor of St. Lucy for Augustine Bayer (The Omlor Family)
	6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	12/14/19	WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	7:15 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	High Mass Rorate Mass Special Intention (Simpson Family)
	8:15 AM	Salve Regina & Sermon
	8:25 AM	Low Mass In honor of St. Felix of Valois for the for the Poor Souls (A.M. Omlor)
SUN	12/15/19	ADVENT III GAUDETE SUNDAY OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
	7:05 AM	Rosary
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Marcos A. Gonzalez Birthday my father (Nathalie Andreotta)
	9:00 AM	High Mass Pro Populo
	11:05 AM	Rosary
	11:30 AM	Low Mass †Ralph Patton 10 th Anniversary (Patton & Moore Family)
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass In honor of St. Anthony of Padua for Anthony (A.M. Omlor)

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, and frequently throughout the week.*)



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 12/15 7:30 AM Low: Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM High: CHAPLAINS: M. Simpson, C. Richesson
TH: T. Lawrence ACs; D. Simpson, S. Richesson
TORCH: J. Stewart, C. Arlinghaus, T. & D. England
11:30 AM Low: A. & Na. McClorey
4:45 VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
5:45 PM Low: G. Miller

You cannot be silent when stung by pain. I would not have you silent, I wish you to give thanks. It is this which will repel the devil and bring you help from Almighty God.

– St. John Chrysostom.

IMMACULATE MARY

If you stand in need of mercy, it is found in full measure in the heart of the Virgin; if you reverence the truth, give thanks to the Virgin, since from the ground of her virgin flesh the truth which you worship has arisen. No less give thanks to the Virgin if you follow after peace, since from her is born for you the peace which passes all understanding. If you pursue justice, see that you are not ungrateful to the Virgin, for at the opening of her womb justice looked forth from heaven.