



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 6, 2020
ADVENT II
ST. NICHOLAS, BPC



¶ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Nicholas will be visiting the children in the vestibule today. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. The second collection for the support of our seminary will be taken up during the Offertory, and the Blessing of Religious Articles given after Mass. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

MEN AND BOYS IN OUR CHURCH WEAR A JACKET AND TIE. IF YOU CAN WEAR A MASK FOR MAN, YOU CAN WEAR A TIE FOR GOD!

¶ THIS WEEK

Monday we open the Immaculate Conception Novena in preparation for the feast day. May I ask all of you to make it for the needs of our Church and Country? Remember the **fast and abstinence** in preparation for the great feast. After the Holy Day, the Octave of Our Lady continues with daily Mass all week. Our Lady of Loretto, patroness of air travel, is honored on **Thursday**. Please support the Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart, with Benediction, after the **Friday** 5:45 PM Mass. Remember our dear Mexican priests and brethren, and America's Empress on **Saturday**—Our Lady of Guadalupe. The girls' Sodality of Charity will be meeting after the 8:35 AM Mass.

¶ CHRISTMAS DECORATING

We will be decorating the interior of the church for Christmas on **Friday, December 18th**. Many hands make light work...and will make Christmas lights work! If you are able, please come and help anytime after the 8:00 AM High Mass until 5:15. **Outdoor decorating** will take place on **Saturday, December 12th**.



St. Nicholas

¶ THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Tuesday we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. All are bound to assist at Mass under the pain of mortal sin. The Mass schedule for the Holy Day is as follows: 7:00 & 9:00 AM, and 5:45 PM. Exposition and Rosary are at 5:00 PM, and Benediction at 5:30.


¶ RORATE MASSES

Rorate Masses this week are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:00 AM, and Saturday at 7:30 AM. Don't miss these beautiful candlelit Masses.



PLEASE DO NOT CRASH THE KNEELERS AT COMMUNION TIME. IF YOU MUST PUT ONE UP, BEND DOWN AND DO IT QUIETLY.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT III

Next Sunday is Gaudete Sunday. The **Christmas Bake Sale** will take place in Helfta Hall after the morning Masses. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.  **Set Your Missal:** Advent III, second collect of St. Lucy. Trinity Preface.

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Jane Fitzgibbon, who is in the hospital, and for the repose of the soul of †Harry Karian.

HINTS FOR CHURCH BABIES...

From a parent with many children:

- *Teach children just to sit quietly at home sometimes, especially at the Rosary.*
- *Talk up going to church with the little ones, "but they have to be good."*
- *Sit in the back with fussy ones, and **take them out as soon as they cry.** Bring them back in when they're quiet. They will want to return to church, and will soon follow the routine. Routine is everything.*

TOTAL CONFIDENCE

We, two priests, a lay brother, and Diogo Pereira as ambassador, are going to China to ask for the Portuguese who are in prison there, and also to obtain a treaty of peace and friendship between your highness and the king of China. And we, priests of the Society of the Name of Jesus, servants of your highness are going [to make] great demands on God's behalf, first upon the king, and then upon all his realm, that they...only worship the Creator of heaven and of earth, Who created them, and Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, Who redeemed them. It seems to be a great audacity to go to a foreign land and to such a powerful king in order to reprehend him and to speak the truth, which are two very dangerous things in our time....

One thing alone, however, gives us great courage—God our Lord knows the intentions which He in His mercy has wished to place in us, and together with this, the great hope and confidence which He in His goodness has wished that we should have in Him.... Since all created things depend upon God and only do as much as God permits them and no more, there is nothing to fear except offending the Creator and incurring the chastisements which He permits to be inflicted upon those who offend Him.... But as for this, we are going confident in the infinite mercy of God our Lord that even though we clearly know that we are unworthy instruments, God has wished to give us, sinners that we are, these desires of His; and the audacity which we may seem to have in not fearing to manifest His Name in a foreign land must needs be converted into obedience, since it is thus that God is served.

— St. Francis Xavier

We honored St. Francis Xavier on First Thursday, but all Advent is his, this Kingdom seeking saint.



PRAYER BY ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve Thee as Thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight, and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to ask for rest; to labor and seek no reward but that of knowing I do Thy will. Amen.

¶ 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 bookstore or church office. To have your loved ones' names printed in the special Christmas memorial program, please turn in your envelope no later than **Wednesday, 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, bookstore, or the collection basket.

Violence makes for a better headline, but...

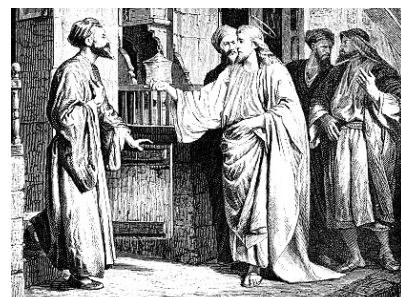
Real social and political transformation...has been most effective when it was not violent, but was simply the refusal of ordinary people to cooperate with oppression. So, there's hope even here.

Collection Report

Sunday, November 29th.....\$5,025.00

THE ROAD OF DISCIPLESHIP

The road of contradiction
Bids that we carry
What's overbearing.
It takes everything we have,
So we leave our possessions
And come with empty hands.
It is the path to our fulfillment
If we only hate ourselves.
It is not a road one glides along;
Our feet must beat the ground.
And only when we turn to leave
We know we've neared the end,
For Mercy meets our breaking
point—
The place where we begin!
— Rita Simmonds



The roar of the world is in my ears.
Thank God for the roar of the world!
Thank God for the mighty tide of fears
Against me always hurled!

Thank God for the bitter and ceaseless
strife,
And the sting of His chastening rod!
Thank God for the stress and the pain
of life,
And Oh, thank God for God!

— Joyce Kilmer

To St. Nicholas

Christ our God showed thee to thy flock as the rule of faith and the model of meekness, thou high priest, thou sainted hierarch Nicholas, for thou pourest forth in Myra a delicious fragrance, and thy splendid deeds give out their bright light, thou the protector of the orphan and the widow: therefore, cease not to pray for the salvation of our souls. Amen.

Happy St. Nicholas Day. We all could use a visit from St. Nick, with a gift of increased courage and generosity. He was the bishop who grabbed the arch-heretic Arius by the beard, and punched him in the face. Pop! What a bishop. He was imprisoned for his fortitude, but Our Lady restored him to his episcopal dignity and the Emperor set him free.

It snowed for December 1st, a pretty harmless snow, and properly “Christmassy” to set the tone. But I’m grateful for a few more mellow days of Autumn.

The Commies are out to cancel Christmas, just as they did Easter. Remember? Resist. Only keep Christmas like a Christian, not a worldling who knows only presents and parties. Now is Advent. Come to church, say your Rosaries, light the Advent wreath. Even manage some extra prayer. Read to the kids. Everybody be quiet a bit. He comes. Get ready.

I don’t think anybody celebrated it (perhaps due to the death of Fr. Cekada), but September actually marked the 25th anniversary of the seminary. Fr. Cekada wrote in his Quidlibet blog that the 1993 Consecration made possible its opening. Fr. Cekada was a faithful promoter and professor all the way through, until God called him in the anniversary month. The seminary has turned out many fine (and just a few not so fine) priests. We are so grateful to **Bishop Sanborn** and his staff for dedicating their lives to training future priests. They will have special need of our support and prayers as they plan to move back north in the new year, leaving the relatively safe harbor of Florida for the “Communist Commonwealth” of Pennsylvania. God protect them and Mary keep them in this dark hour.

We have been happy to host “Tea Party” meetings in Helfta Hall for a number of months now. They are fine people who are looking to understand and oppose this anti-American revolution. Tuesday’s meeting featured a state representative who gave an excellent talk. Afterwards I met some of the members. Quite a mix. One man had given up Methodism for belief in reincarnation. Another followed the “Jews for Jesus” religion. But the third man I met was quite interesting. He was one of the original Presbyterians in Sharonville, very actively involved, from whom we purchased our first church. They had just built a new church and classroom wing in 1980. Imagine how much support they had, how much money was raised. But now, this man tells me, they are reduced to 17 congregants on a good Sunday, ministered to by a lady minister. The rest of the building is Baptist now, housing a congregation that split off in Lockwood. It seems the minister was fired by the denominational authorities, without consultation with the congregation. But how the mainline Protestant churches

have shrunk on their way to oblivion. Meanwhile our church, while certainly having its ups and downs, is now again growing. But then again we have unchanging Catholic truth, and the real Mass.

The 7 AM Mass on the Holy Day will be in the dark, it’s a “Rorate” this year. Don’t be intimidated. Just bring your beads, or pray quietly according to the four ends of the sacrifice, the saints say: Adoration, Thanksgiving, Atonement and Asking or Petition. The bad guys want to keep us in the dark, but this is the kind of darkness which lights the way: to Jesus through Mary.

God bless you for another Advent week.

– Bishop Dolan

P.S. We called to check on the calendars and were told that everybody “had Covid,” and that the earliest we would get them is December 14. The economy is being deliberately sabotaged. Thank you for your understanding, and sorry for the inconvenience.




Sodality of Charity

GUADALUPE / ST. LUCY PARTY

Saturday, December 12, 2020


Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



8:35 AM Low Mass

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Rosary





I am aware that Christ told us that *the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence* (Mt 11:12)...and I know that He offers the cross to anyone who wants to follow Him. But these words, coming from the divine lips of eternal love, from the mercy of God incarnate, cannot be as difficult and harsh as they appear at first glance. And if we understand them that way, it is because we do not understand them correctly. We would do better to concentrate on those other words: *My yoke is sweet, My burden is light*. I think that until we find the yoke of the Lord sweet and light, in the full extension of the word, as He, truth by essence, has told us it is, we have not yet discovered the true way of bearing it.... I only want to teach souls love; that they concentrate very little on themselves, their misery, and their faults; that they should not be preoccupied with themselves; that they fix their attention on Jesus alone, on His goodness, His love. Then I am sure that all their defects and sins will soon disappear because the fire of love will consume everything.

– Mother Mary Magdalen of Jesus in the Eucharist, C.P.

Mother Mary Magdalen († 1960) was a Passionist nun from Spain and a spiritual writer.

✠ COME FOR THE FEAST! ✠

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8



7:00 AM Candlelight Rorate Mass

9:00 AM High Mass

5:00 PM Exposition & Rosary

5:45 PM Low Mass

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

OUTSIDE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

AFTER THE 8:35 AM MASS. CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS!

INSIDE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

AFTER THE 8:00 AM HIGH MASS UNTIL
THE 5:45 PM MASS & DEVOTIONS

Come when you can, leave when you must!



A Modest Advent Resolution

RIGHT JUDGMENT AND LOVE

Be humble towards God and gentle with your neighbor. Judge and accuse no one but yourself, and ever excuse others. Speak of God always to praise and glorify Him, speak of your neighbor only with respect—do not speak of yourself at all, either well or ill.

Avoid over-eagerness and strive to model your interior and exterior upon the humble sweetness of the loving Heart of Jesus, doing each of your actions with the same tranquility as if you had but that alone to do. He wishes you to conform your heart to the virtues of His own....

Consider often that it is only the humble of heart that can enter into the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, converse with Him, love Him and be loved by Him. Conform yourself as closely as possible to His humility and gentleness in dealing with your neighbor.... Love those who humble and contradict you, for they are more useful to your perfection than those who flatter you.

— St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

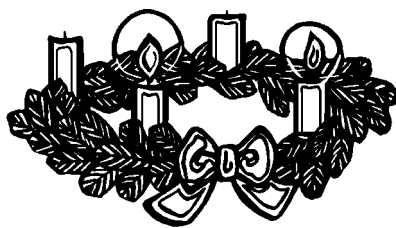


Imen Christi

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

Special Intentions

(Kevin Tsang)



And on a lighter note...

A PAIR TO BEWARE OF

Oh, old Mrs. Gossip and Miss
Tittletattle
Are a pair who can more mischief do
Than is oft done in battle, when big
cannon rattle
And the smoke dims the sky's white
and blue.
Through town and through city, o'er
grass and o'er heather,
With unwearied footsteps they stray;
Apart or together, in all kinds of
weather,
They're seen both by night and by
day.

Dear friends have been sundered by
nod, glance, or story,
By laughter or sigh of the twain;
And youth in its glory, and age grey
and hoary,
Have alike at their hands suffered
pain.

These ladies discourse in the tongues
of all races,
The garb of all nations they wear.
If you e'er see their faces in high or
low places,
Of them and their mischief beware.



— E. Beck

Masses sent to the Missions:

Holy Souls in Purgatory (Steve & Joanne
Heckencamp)
Bernard Fitzpatrick & Family (Tom Gardner)
†Rev. Anthony Cekada (Tom Gardner)
†Richard VandeRyt (Tom Gardner)
Poor Souls (Clare Lotarski)
†Fr. Cekada (Tom & Karen Simpson)

Mass said privately by Bishop Dolan:

†Fr. Anthony Cekada (Christopher Browne)

AN ADVENT PRAYER

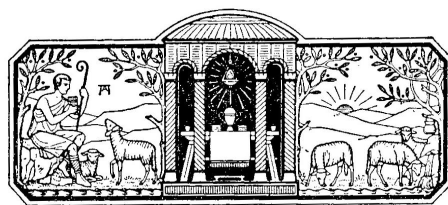
Reveal Thy might, O God, and come;
Descend to earth in majesty,
In majesty of poverty,
In power of humility.

Be seen, O God omnipotent,
Enthroned on wood of crib and tree;
Be foremost now in sacrifice,
Surrendered, slay iniquity.

O Son of Man, obedient,
The prisoners bound in sin set free;
The lame, the weak, the blind reprieve;
Proclaim Thy day of liberty.

Come manifest, most merciful,
In flesh creation's destiny,
That we may see Thy love revealed,
Thy perfect love, blest Trinity.

To Him Who comes the world to free
To God the Son all glory be
To God the Father as is meet,
To God the Blessed Paraclete.



*In my pastures the poor shall eat, and
the needy lie down in safety. (Is 14:30)*

Those who look for the fulfillment of God's promises out of a sense that they are entitled to them because of their intelligence, their virtue, their achievements, often discover to their cost that they were looking only for themselves—and it is themselves they find. Those who look for God in their poverty and need find themselves seeing what many longed to see but did not and many longed to hear but did not. Poverty and need are Advent attitudes.

*St. Nicholas, glorious Confessor of
Christ, assist us in thy loving
kindness. 100 days*

✠ CALENDAR

MON	12/7/20	VIGIL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION <i>FAST & ABSTINENCE</i> ST. AMBROSE, BPCD • <i>OUR LADY OF LIGHT</i>
	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 †Frank & †Eleanor Cekada
TUE	12/8/20	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLY DAY
	7:00 AM	Rorate Mass To thank those who prayed for me (<i>Lori Patton Moore</i>)
	8:45 AM	Confessions
	9:00 AM	High Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
	4:30 PM	Vespers
	5:00 PM	Exposition, Rosary
	5:30 PM	Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass Dr. Jesus – Thanksgiving (<i>Kent Maki</i>)
WED	12/9/20	WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	7:00 AM	Rorate Mass Janet Strauss (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ritze</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass David Brueggemann (<i>Alex McConnell</i>)
	5:15 PM	Low Mass A Thank You to the Holy Souls (<i>Renee Arlinghaus</i>)
THU	12/10/20	WITHIN THE OCTAVE • ST. MELCHIADES, PM <i>OUR LADY OF LORETTO</i>
	7:00 AM	Rorate Mass My Mother (<i>T. Bayer</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Rosa Barre – 43 rd Anniversary 9/7 (<i>Tom & Karen Simpson</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass †Vivian O’Laughlin (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski & family</i>)
FRI	12/11/20	ST. DAMASUS I, PC • WITHIN THE OCTAVE <i>NOT A FAST DAY</i>
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Judy Metz (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ritze</i>)
	11:05 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	High Mass †Gary Amyx
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For Mom & Dad on your anniversary (<i>Simpson children</i>)
	6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena & Benediction
SAT	12/12/20	WITHIN THE OCTAVE • OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
	7:15 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Rorate Mass Isaac Smith (<i>Collin Smith</i>)
	8:20 AM	Alma & Sermon
	8:35 AM	Low Mass †Elizabeth L. Smith – 5 th Anniversary (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M. Prell & family</i>) Followed by Girls’ Sodality
SUN	12/13/20	ADVENT III • GAUDETE SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE • ST. LUCY, VM
	7:05 AM	Rosary
	7:30 AM	Low Mass †Ed Wilson (<i>Patsy McConnell</i>)
	8:55 AM	Santa Lucia Procession
	9:00 AM	High Mass †Fr. Cekada (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Michael Briggs</i>)
	10:40 AM	Sunday Classes
	11:05 AM	Rosary
	11:30 AM	Low Mass †Ernie Nellenbach (<i>Colleen Greenwell</i>)
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

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.)



CATECHISM CORNER

Every Christian must believe that there is one God, and no more than one God: that God is a pure Spirit, the Lord and Maker of heaven and earth, Who has neither beginning nor end, but is always the same; Who is everywhere present; knows and sees all things; can do all things whatsoever He pleases; and is infinite in all perfections.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF FATIMA AGAINST COMMUNISM

O Queen of Fatima, in this hour of so many dangers for the Americas and the world, turn away from us the scourge of atheistic communism. Do not allow communist regimes, which deny all the Commandments of God, to be established in the many countries born and formed under the sacred influence of Christian civilization. Therefore, O Lady, nourish and intensify the rejection which communism encounters at all levels of society in the Americas.



Intervene so that all the peoples of the Americas, resolutely hindering the steps of communist infiltration, may help bring closer the glorious day of victory which thou didst predict at Fatima with these words so filled with hope and sweetness: Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.

Add this to your Rosary sometimes to fight the Revolution.

Servers

TUE 12/8	7:00 AM RORATE: M. & D. Simpson 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: P. Omlor, C. Richesson CROSS: C. Arlinghaus TH: D. McConnell ACs: Na. McClorey, A. McConnell MITRE: S. Richesson CROZIER: A. McClorey TORCH: B., J. & C. McGinnis, C. Arlinghaus, A. McClorey, S. Richesson 5:30 PM BENEDICTION: G. Miller, N. Kolenich 5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller, N. Kolenich
SUN 12/13	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: J. Lacy, M. Simpson MC: P. Omlor CROSS: T. England TH: T. Lawrence ACs: D. Simpson, C. Arlinghaus TORCH: M., N. & J. Kolenich, D. England 11:30 AM LOW: Na. & A. McClorey 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller 5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller