



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. Charles McGuire
Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Stephen McKenna
Hear Bishop Dolan & Fr. McKenna monthly on Behind the Headlines: <https://www.patreon.com/truerestoration>

December 19, 2021 ADVENT IV



¶ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available after all Masses today. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ RORATE MASSES

Our final Rorate Masses are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week.



¶ CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday is the Vigil of Christmas, a day of *fast and complete abstinence*. Solemn High Mass is at 8:00 AM. The Divine Office is chanted at 6:30 AM (Prime), 1:30 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

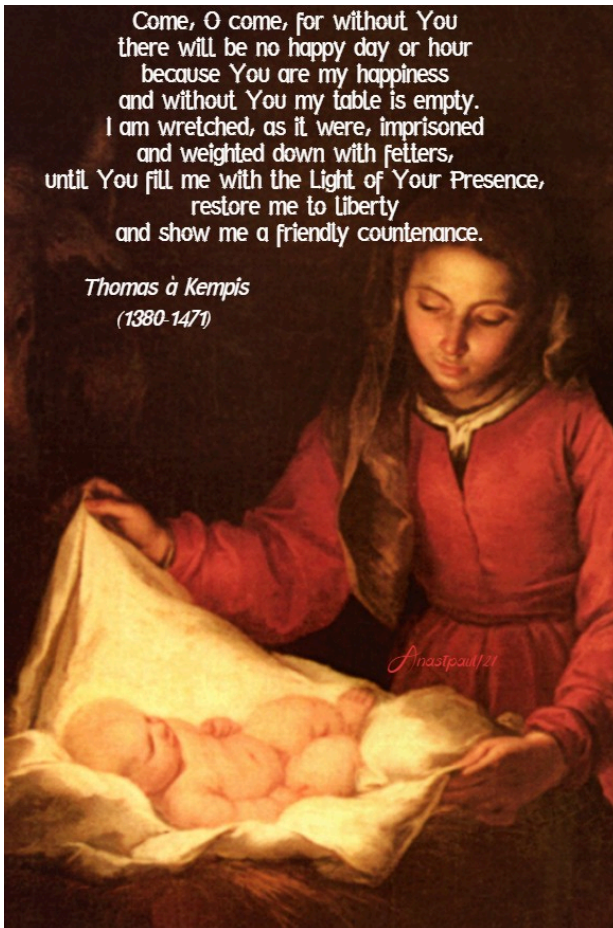
No evening Mass

Collection Report

Wednesday, December 8th\$2,413.00
Sunday, December 12th\$5,753.00
Bake Sale.....\$1,327.00

Come, O come, for without You
there will be no happy day or hour
because You are my happiness
and without You my table is empty.
I am wretched, as it were, imprisoned
and weighted down with fetters,
until You fill me with the Light of Your Presence,
restore me to liberty
and show me a friendly countenance.

Thomas à Kempis
(1380-1471)



*Let each leave his house empty so that
we may see our Master wrapped in
swaddling clothes and lying in a man-
ger... The table of this altar takes the
place of the manger. And surely the Mas-
ter's Body will be lying on this altar.*

— St. John Chrysostom

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Fr. McGuire's father, Kyle; Marge Kitchen, Nancy Zeitz, and the repose of the soul of †Duke England.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ST. STEPHEN

There will be no Catechism Classes next Sunday. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** St. Stephen, second collect of the octave of Christmas. Preface of the Nativity.

¶ NEW YEARS DAY SCHEDULE

7:30 AM: Low Mass
9:00 PM: High Mass & Te Deum
11:30 AM: Low Mass & Benedic-
tion

No evening Mass

¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

**Ordinations to the Diaconate:
Epiphany, January 6, 2022**

¶ VARIA

You may combine your Mass stipends checks into one. Sorry for the inconvenience.

We would like to get a spotlight on St. Michael the Archangel over the cloister, and would welcome suggestions as to how to go about this.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
DECEMBER MIAMI UNIVERSITY
GRADUATES**

Veronica Briggs:
Bachelor of Science

Florence Lotarski:
Bachelor of Science Education

A PRAYER TO PREPARE FOR JUDGMENT

O my powerful God and merciful Father of my soul, Creator of all the things of the earth! Since Thou art my only good, I firmly believe without the possibility of doubt that I am to be saved through the infinite merits of the Passion and death of my Lord Jesus Christ, no matter how very great may be the sins of my youth and all that I have committed since then. Thou, Lord, created me and gave me my body and soul and all that I have; and Thou, my God, hast made me to Thy likeness, and not the false gods of the gentiles. O Christians, let us give thanks and praise to God, Three and One, Who hast given us to know the faith and true law of His Son Jesus Christ!

O my Lady, Saint Mary, hope of Christians, Queen of Angels and of all the saints who are with God our Lord in heaven! I now recommend myself to thee, my Lady, and to all the saints at the hour of my death, so that thou mayest protect me from the world, the flesh, and the devil, which are my enemies. O Lord Saint Michael, defend me from the devil at the hour of my death, when I shall have to render an account to God of all my past life.

Weigh, Lord, my sins against the merits of the Passion and death of my Lord Jesus Christ, and not against my few deserts; and I shall thus be delivered from the power of the enemy and shall go to enjoy forever the glory of paradise. Amen Jesus.

— St. Francis Xavier



TO JUDGE WELL

Our human judgment can easily be clouded by the fleeting values of the world, the false accusations of the devil, and our past experiences of sin. All kinds of influences can derail our thinking until we “miss the mark” altogether.

So how can we better listen to God and allow Him to transform our thinking? First, we can humbly ask Our Lord in prayer to show us where we need to change our perspective. That can lead to repentance, or simply to a different way of viewing another person, a relationship, or a situation.

Second, we can keep in mind this promise from Our Lord: “My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways” (Isaiah 55:8). The more we understand this truth, the more we will be able to discover God’s ways of thinking and seeing. That discovery may just convince us that we need a change of heart and mind—and that God will help us make that change!

“Dear Jesus, help me let go of any ways of thinking that are not in line with Thy ways.”



Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; and a door round about my lips. — Ps. cxl. 3

BRIGHTEST AND BEST

Even the best
rant and rage
occasionally

It’s virtual, mind:
so there’s no way
to count the victims
probably

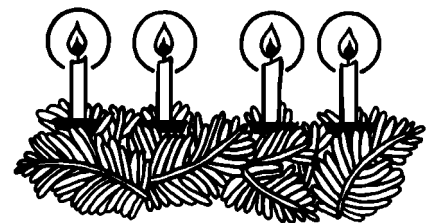
But all these thoughts
are judgments made
internally

So let the brightest
stay a bit and wait
patiently

Cast not your pillow feathers
to all and sundry
electronically

Wait on Him
Who alone will judge
eternally

— Bishop Dolan



To a darning-needle once exclaimed
the kitchen sieve,
“You’ve a hole right through your
body, and I wonder how you live.”
But the needle (who was sharp) re-
plied, “I too have wondered
That you notice my *one* hole, when in
you there are a hundred!”

— Saadi, tr. by James Freeman Clarke

*To thee, O Virgin Mother, who wast
never defiled with the slightest stain
of original or actual sin, I commend
and entrust the purity of my heart.
100 days*

I'm writing this on Friday, as I always do. This Ember Friday of Advent we're praying for Kyle, **Fr. McGuire's** father, who is dying. This is a sad watch, but a crucially important one, an *Advent* one. We pray Our Lord to come and take His servant into Heaven. "The coming of God, our thoughts must now employ." "Come, Lord Jesus."



Another divine coming employs our thoughts, Christ at Christmas. Our heart, our soul is Our Lord's Bethlehem. Our hearts "overflow with the good word," the eternal Word of God, made man. Thus the lights and trees and crèche in our homes, and more, much more, in church which is the Eucharistic Bethlehem year round.

Saturday was church decorating day, and I know it will be a success. Earlier this Advent, one sunny Saturday I looked out into the cloister to see boys—boys!—carefully transforming our fountain into a Christmas tree. High praise to them, and to all of the church helpers this year. Some kind soul organized the lights, which traditionally go on for Christmas Eve, and burn throughout the forty days until Candlemas.

You're all busy in your homes and lives, of course. But your Christmas, Christian willingness to help here bears witness to a consoling truth about our church: This is your spiritual home, an essential part of your life. God makes His home with us, and invites us in, Emmanuel.

This year's Christmas overflows with great things. In addition to our traditional offerings for the Eve and Midnight and day of Christmas and its novena of Masses, our seminarians will be preparing themselves for the last Sacred Order before priesthood, the diaconate. Preceded by the recollection of the canonical retreat of six days, the order of Levite will be bestowed, a precious heavenly gift, on Epiphany. Plan to be with us for the Pontifical Mass at 10 AM, followed by a dinner which honors the new deacons (who were the Church's original "table waiters") as well as all of you who work and wait and serve here at church all year long.

Speaking of long, our Advent is almost as long as it could be this year. Use these days to long for Jesus' coming, to catch up with Christ in quiet prayer and Holy Mass. Most of all go with Mary, through whom the Messiah, the Promised One, came and comes.

Blessed Advent!

— Bishop Dolan

ANTICIPATION

The crib sits empty
The votives are without light
As we await the baby Mary
Virgin Mother of the Eternal Light
Both of whom we'll love with all our might

—JCS

SAINT SENSE

If you are already rightly disposed, and marked with the good inscription, see that you keep what is written, and **remain unchanged in a changing time** concerning an unchanging Thing.

— St. Gregory Nazianzen

Don't follow the Changes. Reject newfangled theories, and all the government lies.

GUARD YOUR TONGUE

As to sins of the tongue, "are you not one of those who report conversations, color facts, and sow discord? Have you never turned the very goodness of another into evil by your sneers and insinuations? Look how often you have been meanly jealous, and said everything you could to lessen the credit of others? Think of the ignoble tittle-tattle in which you have indulged, spreading reports, magnifying small secrets, and setting people by the ears! Moreover, have you ever scrupled to sacrifice your brother or sister to your wit and cynicism, saying words which bite and stick, words which divide hearts for many a long day? How true is the word of St. Bernard, that the tongue which talks without the restraint of charity is the tongue of the viper!"

— Bishop Hedley

At a weekday Mass, when do the faithful go up for Holy Communion?

The best time is *after* the priest's *Domine Non Sum Dignus*, with its three bells, and before Father turns around for the people's.



What mistakes have we not made in judging others! Have we not always found in our past experience that on the whole our kind interpretations were truer than our harsh ones?

How many times in life have we been wrong when we put a kind construction on the conduct of others? We shall not need our fingers to count those mistaken upon.

MON	12/20/21	VIGIL OF ST. THOMAS
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Bishop da Silva – Ad multos annos! (<i>Collin Smith</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Brent Campbell – conversion (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Bill Oleyar</i>)
	4:00 PM	Knights of the Sacred Heart
TUE	12/21/21	ST. THOMAS, AP
	7:00 AM	Rorate Mass Alyssa Smith (<i>Collin Smith</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †John Metz – 31 st Anniversary 12/18 (<i>Judy</i>)
	11:25 AM	High Mass †Ronald Lotarski (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski & family</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Damian Arthur (<i>Matthew Arthur</i>)
WED	12/22/21	ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI, V
	7:00 AM	Rorate Mass Michael & Harmony McMahon
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Jim Soli (<i>Mr. & Mrs. James E. Kolenich & Family</i>)
	5:15 PM	Low Mass Repose of the souls of our †grandparents (<i>Arlinghaus</i>) (from 12/21)
THU	12/23/21	FERIAL DAY
	7:00 AM	Final Rorate Mass †Mike Briggs (<i>Tom & Karen Simpson</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Murray John Barrett (<i>Katharine Barrett</i>)
FRI	12/24/21	VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS <i>FAST & ABSTINENCE</i>
	6:30 AM	The Office of Prime
	7:45 AM	Confessions
	8:00 AM	Solemn High Mass Unity among Catholics (<i>Dan, Mary & family</i>)
	1:30 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
SAT	12/25/21	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD <i>HOLY DAY</i> 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 Intentions of the Celebrant
	5:45 PM	Vespers of Christmas Day
SUN	12/26/21	ST. STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR
	7:05 AM	Rosary
	7:30 AM	Low Mass My †grandparents (<i>Matty Brueggemann</i>)
	9:00 AM	High Mass Novena II
	11:05 AM	Rosary
	11:30 AM	Low Mass Briggs family (<i>Puglielli family</i>)
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great



WHAT EVERYONE MUST BELIEVE

Everyone must believe that Christ liberated us from sin; that He redeemed us by His love and obedience which took the form of sufferings and death; that by His love and obedience He expiated the guilt of sin, and by His Passion and Death the penalty of sin; that at each stage of His redeeming work Christ acted as our Head and Representative so that we expiate our sins and regain our supernatural heritage in and by Him; that the precise period in history in which these events took place was under Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judea; that the reality of Christ's death was attested by His Burial.



The standard of the Last Judgment is absolute. It is this—the measure which we have meted to others. Our present humor in judging others reveals to us what our sentence would be if we died now. Are we content to abide that issue? We ought to cultivate most sedulously the habit of kind interpretations.

Men's actions are very difficult to judge. Their real character depends in a great measure on the motives which prompt them, and those motives are invisible to us. Appearances are often against what we afterward discover to have been deeds of virtue.

Lumen Christi

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

Patrick & Nicholas (*Deirdre McGinnis*)

Servers

FRI 12/24	8:00 AM SOL.HIGH: MC: P. Omlor TH: D. Simpson ACS: M. Simpson, Volunteer MIDNIGHT MASS (ARRIVE AT 10:30 PM): MCs: P. Omlor, C. Richesson, M. Simpson TH: T. Lawrence ACS: N. McClorey, C. Arlinghaus CROSS: N. Kolenich MITRE: S. Richesson CROZIER: A. McClorey BOOK: A. McConnell BUGIA: D. Simpson TRAIN/GREMIALE: C. VanderPutten TORCH: J. McGinnis, J. Kolenich, B. McGinnis, T. England, J. Stewart, C. McGinnis
SAT 12/25	9:00 AM LOW: P. Omlor, Brueggemann Bros., or seminarians 11:00 AM LOW: Seminarian
SUN 12/26	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. 9:00 AM SOL.HIGH: MCs: M. Simpson, N. McClorey TH: D. Simpson ACS: T. England, J. McGinnis CROSS: J. Kolenich TORCH: B., C. & Jr. McGinnis, J. Stewart 11:30 AM LOW: Capetillo Bros. 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: Seminarian 5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

Aishers

CHRISTMAS DAY 12/25

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

SUNDAY 12/26

7:30 AM: S. Pepiot, P. McConnell, Brueggemann, Brueggemann
9:00 AM: P. Arlinghaus, J. Seyfried, S. Weigand, M. Lotarski
11:30 AM: B. Uhlenbrock, P. Puglielli
5:45 PM: Volunteer