

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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www.sgg.org • www.SGGResources.org • traditionalmass.org
TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Sundays 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

Most Rev. Charles J. McGuire, *Pastor* • Rev. Stephen McKenna, *Asst. Pastor*
Rev. Vili Lehtoranta, *Chap. to Oblates & School* • Rev. Thomas Simpson • Rev. Anthony Brueggemann



December 18, 2022

ADVENT IV

EXPECTATION OF OUR LADY



¶ 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.

¶ FINAL RORATE MASSES

The last of our Rorate Masses are on Tuesday and Thursday this week at 7:00 AM.

¶ CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES

Tomorrow is the last day to turn in your Poinsettia Memorial envelopes, for inclusion in the Christmas Programs. The Christmas Novena of Masses envelopes should be turned in by Friday.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: CHRISTMAS DAY

Next Sunday is Christmas Day. The Procession and Blessing of the Crib begin at 11:00 PM on **Christmas Eve**, after the Matins and Carols. The Midnight Mass starts at approximately 11:15 PM.

Christmas Day Masses will be at 9:00 and 11:00 AM, with Vespers at 5:45 PM. There is no evening Mass. Sunday Classes are on break until January 8.



The voice of one, crying in the wilderness

¶ CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Saturday 12/24/22 – Christmas Eve

The Vigil of the Nativity is a day of fast and total abstinence for all Catholics between 21 and 59 years of age.

7:00 AM: The Office of Prime

7:45 AM: Confessions

8:00 AM: Solemn High Mass

1:30 PM: First Vespers of Christmas

8:30 PM: The Office of Matins

10:30 PM: Carols

11:00 PM: Procession, Blessing of the Crib

11:15 PM: Midnight Mass followed by the Office of Lauds

A Potluck Supper follows Midnight Mass. If you plan to come, please bring a dish to share.

Sunday 12/25/22 - Christmas Day

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

11:00 AM: Low Mass with Carols

5:45 PM: Vespers of Christmas Day

No evening Mass



Congratulations to

Joachim & Lisa Zver

on the baptism of their son, Quentin Amadeus, on Sunday, December 11, 2022.

Lumen Christi

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

**Judith Shellabarger – personal
santification**
(Judith Shellabarger)



¶ CHRISTMAS DECORATING

We will be decorating the church for Christmas this **Thursday, December 22nd**. Work will begin after the 8 AM Mass and continue until finished. If you are able to spare an hour or two, please come and help!

¶ WILL THE POT BE LUCKY?

The little supper after Midnight Mass is a potluck...but it tends to be a tad luckless. If you plan to stay and have a bite to eat, please do bring a dish to share.



ADVENT THOUGHTS

The Catholic world admired the Little Flower mostly because it sensed how her hidden, pure, penitential life stood out so strongly against a loud, brassy, pleasure-mad age. Backgrounds always bring out contrasts. Against the black velvet of the midnight sky, stars sparkle like white diamonds. Against the green circle of a Christmas wreath, the red holly berries glow like rubies. And (speaking of flowers, Little and otherwise) against the common dirt all about it, the lily lifts its beauty like a white banner. Isn't it a touching mystery how out of the black soil, that dark home of the worm and the beetle and the bug, there pushes up a lily, immaculate as an altarcloth, soft-woven as a vestment, and shaped as graceful as an uplifted chalice? Perhaps God wanted to give us a constant sermon on climbing above the dirt and the vile smut that may surround us in our life, so He preaches it perpetually from the marble-white pulpit of a lily.

Dirt is all around us too, the dirt of sensuality and indecency, the loose crumbling earth of loose crumbling morals. You need but glance at the top of some newspaper columns and you get the squirmy feeling you are looking at the top of a garbage can, with gossip columnists running in and out like maggots. A decent Christian era would draw a pitying curtain over certain happenings, not put the crime in a picture window; not be photographed standing beside it. Is it that in our age nothing matters and anything goes?

The great danger is that we are liable to consider all this as normal, to get used to it, to assume that this is the way things have to be, just as the poor wretches in concentration camps took moldy bread and thin soup as normal nutrition. Day after day they were fed nothing else. And it is so similar with us. On Sunday

we hear the Gospel read, and perhaps a sermonette preached. For those few fleeting minutes we look at the world through the lenses of faith. We get the viewpoint of God. But we walk out of the church doors, and perhaps from the first billboard we glance at, or the first page of the Sunday paper, we begin our solid unbroken week of listening to the gospel according to the world. The religion of mink and Miami, of a large income and a small family, of narrow prejudices and broad morals, of too much hard liquor and too many easy divorces, of fastidious deodorants and filthy shows: by all this we are surrounded, and like the lily we must lift our heads above the dirt; remind ourselves that our destiny is not to be down with the animals but up with the angels. "You are called to be," says Holy Scripture, "children of God!"



ALL THE YEARS OF HER LIFE
 Mary had desired the salvation of the human race, day after day she had prayed that the Redeemer would hasten His coming, and she was constantly intent to prepare herself for that coming. Now her heart, full of longing and love of God, in complete accord with the divine plan for the salvation of fallen mankind, she gave her consent that the Redeemer should descend to her and abide with her. She dedicated her life entirely to the redemption of mankind when she said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to Thy word."

IN DULCI JUBILO

In dulci jubilo!

We now our homage show!
 Our dearest joy's reclining *in praesepio*,
 And like a bright star's shining
matris in gremio:
Alpha es et O! Alpha es et O!

O Jesu parvule, Thine is my heart always.
 Hear me, I beseech Thee, *O puer optime!*
 And may my prayer reach Thee,
O Princeps gloriae:
Trabe me post te! Trabe me post te!

O patris caritas! O nati lenitas!
 We were deeply stained,
per nostra crimina,
 But Thou for us hath gained
caelorum gaudia:
 O that we were there!
 O that we were there!

Ubi sunt gaudia?
 O, where if 'tis not there?
 Hark the angels singing *nova cantica:*
 Hark, the bells all ringing, *in Regis curia!*
 O that we were there!
 O that we were there!

— *Anonymous (Medieval German Hymn)*
 Translated by Paul Crowley

A CHILD'S PRAYER TO THE HOLY INFANT

Dear baby Jesus
 I love You truly,
 though my small mind, is
 somewhat unruly.

I kneel before You
 and wish as I pray,
 I really could tell You
 all I want to say.

You gave me sisters
 and brothers to play,
 Daddy and Mommy
 and my food each day.

You've truly blessed me,
 that's plain to see.
 Oh! make me love You
 as You must love me!

— *Doreen Read Deering*

Merry...oh, wait. Not so fast. There is still a whole week of Advent left, after all. It is not Christmas just yet! I wish you perseverance in your resolutions to prepare your souls for a Christmas that will be profoundly joyful. Be thankful to God for this last week of Advent, since it will give those of us who haven't observed Advent as faithfully as we should have an opportunity to make up for our procrastination. The temptation to neglect the spiritual preparation will be strong during these final few days as we feel the pressure of buying gifts and decorating our homes, but we must be determined not to let the temporal part of the Holy Day cause us to become forgetful of it. Hold fast, and prepare your hearts and homes for the coming of the Savior. He is nigh! Even at the gates!

The weather seems to have been taking a role in raising our mind to Advent thoughts. It has been a gloomy, indeed a very gloomy week here in the Cincinnati area; but it seems to be lifting now, reminding one of the condition of the human race before the Redemption. Man lived in a spiritual, shadowy darkness, but the darkness began to lift when Our Lady conceived of the Holy Ghost, and the light shone brightly at Our Lord's birth. See how even the weather reminds us of the things of God!

Fr. Oswald stopped by on his way to a mission in Kentucky two Saturdays ago. We had a nice visit. He was telling us that he travels every weekend to various states, including Illinois, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi to offer holy Mass for pockets of faithful Catholics. Missionary work is sometimes very burdensome and requires a lot of endurance, but is most necessary these days. Pray for him and for all of our missionaries, domestic and foreign.

Speaking of missions, it seems that a few souls from Holy Face Mission in Illinois will be making the long trek (though not so long as that of the Magi, to be sure) to St. Gertrude's for Midnight Mass. I am looking forward to seeing them, as well as all of you. Christmas is regarded as a family affair, after all, and aren't we here as St. Gertrude's family? God is our Father, Mary is our Mother and Christ is our Brother, while you and I are adopted children of God. It makes sense, then, that we should have our own family gathering in Church on Christmas Day.

One last practical piece of pastoral advice for this final week of Advent! Have you made your Christmas confession? Our Lord came from heaven to earth to reconcile and to make peace between God and man. It only makes sense that we should go to confession where we will find forgiveness. Neither should we forget, since we

have received the forgiveness of Our Lord, to extend forgiveness towards those who have (seemingly) offended us.

Blessed Advent!



– Bishop McGuire



THE O ANTIPHONS

From December 17-23, the Church observes the ancient custom of praying each day one of the seven "O" Antiphons, so called because each one addresses the God Who comes in Christ with a different biblical title, beginning with the invocation "O." In Latin, the first letters of the titles, read in reverse order, form the acrostic "*Ero cras*," which translates as "I will be with you tomorrow." These texts, traced back to seventh-century Europe, are steeped in biblical allusions offering a rich source for personal prayer and reflection during these final days of preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

The object of the Church in recommending them to our piety, during the days of Advent, which immediately precede the birth of Jesus Christ, is to induce us more efficaciously to prepare ourselves worthily for His spiritual birth in our hearts.

Let us enter into the spirit of the Church, and increase the fervor of our desires, begging that Jesus Christ may visit us, enlighten and deliver us, instruct and sanctify us.

Dec. 17 – O Sapientia (Wisdom), who camest out of the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come and teach us the way of prudence.

Dec. 18 – O Adonai (Lord), and Leader of the house of Israel, who didst appear to Moses in the flame of the burning bush, and didst give unto him the law on Sinai: come and with an outstretched arm redeem us.

Dec. 19 – O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse), who standest for an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall keep silence, and unto whom the Gentiles shall make their supplication: come to deliver us, and tarry not.

Dec. 20 – O Clavis David (Key of David), and Sceptre of the house of Israel, who openest and no man shutteth, who shuttest and no man openeth: come and bring forth from his prisonhouse, the captive that sitteth in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Dec. 21 – O Oriens (Dawn of the East or Dayspring), brightness of the light eternal, and Sun of Justice, come and enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Dec. 22 – O Rex Gentium (King of the Gentiles) and the desired of them, Thou cornerstone that makest both one, come and deliver man, whom Thou didst form out of the dust of the earth.

Dec. 23 – O Emmanuel (God With Us), our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior, come to save us, O Lord our God.

MON 12/19/22 FERIAI DAY
 8:00 AM **Low Mass** Darlene Rentschler
 11:25 AM **High Mass** Rose Kuebler Birthday (12/19)

TUE 12/20/22 VIGIL OF ST. THOMAS
 7:00 AM **Rorate High Mass** Richard's grand & great grandchildren (*Darlene Rentschler*)
 11:25 AM **High Mass** Repose of the soul of †Nina Krawczyk (*Krawczyk Family*)
 5:00 PM **Low Mass** Repose of the soul of †Ernie Stump (Father) (*Rebecca Stump*)

WED 12/21/22 ST. THOMAS, AP
 8:00 AM **Low Mass** Happy Birthday Paul Puglielli (*From Mom*)
 11:25 AM **High Mass** Keith & Mary Anniversary
 5:10 PM **Low Mass** For our deceased Grandparents (*Renee Arlinghaus*)

THU 12/22/22 ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI, V
 7:00 AM **Rorate High Mass** Jean's Family (*Darlene Rentschler*)
 8:00 AM **Low Mass** †Katie, †Sharon, †H.O. & †Mike Briggs (*Your Church Family*)
Church Decorating all day

FRI 12/23/22 FERIAI DAY
 8:00 AM **Low Mass** Repose of the soul of †Nina Krawczyk (*Krawczyk Family*)
 11:05 AM **Confessions**
 11:25 AM **Low Mass** Repose of the soul of †Barbara Stump (Mother) (*Rebecca Stump*)
 5:15 PM **Confessions & Rosary**
 5:45 PM **Low Mass** The Clergy of St. Gertrude the Great (*Mark Cash*)
 6:30 PM **Sacred Heart Novena, Christmas Novena, Benediction**

SAT 12/24/22 VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS FAST & TOTAL ABSTINENCE
 7:00 AM **The Office of Prime**
 7:45 AM **Christmas Confessions**
 8:00 AM **Solemn High Mass** Fr. Lehtoranta (*Alter Christus Confraternity*)
 1:30 PM **First Vespers of Christmas**
 8:30 PM **The Office of Matins**
 10:30 PM **Carols**
 11:00 PM **Procession & Blessing of Crib**
 11:15 PM **Midnight Mass** Christmas Novena I followed by Lauds
Potluck Supper in Helfta Hall

SUN 12/25/22 CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY DAY
 9:00 AM **Low Mass with String Quartet** †Katie Bischak – 5th anniversary 12/22 (*Gloria Zbilicki*)
 11:00 AM **Low Mass with Carols** For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
 5:45 PM **Vespers of Christmas Day**
No evening Mass

Seven Presences in the Midnight Cave

1. The Beasts
2. The Manger
3. The Straw
4. The Darkness
5. The Cold
6. The Mother
7. The Foster Father

Seven Presences in the Spiritual Life

1. Poverty
2. Abandonment
3. Rejection
4. Secrecy
5. Mortification
6. Mercy
7. Prayer



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 His Blessed Mother. Amen. (Traditionally said 15 times a day from St. Andrew's Day until Christmas.)

Collection Report

Thursday, December 8th\$2,901.00
 Sunday, December 11th\$7,581.00
 Bake Sale.....\$1,121.50.00

Servers

FRI 12/23 5:45 PM LOW: Capetillos
 SAT 12/24 8:00 AM SOL.HIGH: MC: P. Omlor TH: D. Simpson ACS: M. Simpson, Seminarian
MIDNIGHT MASS SERVERS POSTED IN SACRISTY.
 SUN 12/25 9:00 AM LOW: Brueggemanns BENEDICTION: Brueggemanns, P. Omlor, D. Simpson
 11:00 AM LOW: Seminarian, Volunteer

Ashers

CHRISTMAS DAY 12/25
MIDNIGHT (ARRIVE BY 10:30PM): M. Lotarski, S. Weigand, P. Puglielli
 9:00 AM: S. Pepiot, P. McConnell, J. Brueggemann, C. Brueggemann
 11:00 AM: J. Seyfried, Volunteer