

# 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 Rev. Charles J. McGuire, *Pastor* • Rev. Stephen McKenna  
Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Thomas Simpson • Rev. Anthony Brueggemann

**December 3, 2023**  
**ADVENT I**  
**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, C**



## ¶ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The second collection today is for our Oblates. The Blessing of Religious Articles follows all Masses. Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM. Advent Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

## ¶ RORATE MASSES

A special Advent observance features the short votive Mass of Our Lady, sung in the early morning by candlelight as we await the coming of Christ, the Light of the World. Rorate Masses are on Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 AM, and Saturday at 7:30 AM.



## ¶ CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES

Envelopes are in the vestibule for Poinsettia Memorial Offerings (to be turned in to the office *no later* than December 21<sup>st</sup>) and for the Christmas Novena of Masses.



## Tumen Christi

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

**Martin Alfonzo Klarić –  
special intentions**  
*(Anna Klarić)*

### Collection Report

Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.....\$6,389.12  
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

## ¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT II

**St. Nicholas** will be visiting the children after the morning Masses next Sunday. Sunday Classes will be at 10:40 AM, and Advent Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

📖 *Set Your Missal:* Advent II, second collect of the Immaculate Conception, third of St. Melchisedes. Trinity Preface.



*Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
pray for us now and at the hour  
of our death. Amen.*

## ¶ THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

**Friday** is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a **Holy Day of Obligation**. All are bound to hear Mass under pain of mortal sin. The special Workers' Mass is at **7:00 AM** (*no sermon*). The High Mass is at **9:00 AM**, and the last Mass is at **5:45 PM**. Vespers with Benediction are at **4:45 PM**. *The Friday abstinence is dispensed.*



# COME EMMANUEL

**What is recalled by the Advent season?** *Advent* is the first part of the liturgical year. It lasts about a month and comprises four Sundays before Christmas.

*Advent* recalls the centuries of waiting for the Messiah after the fall of the first man. Hence, it is the beginning of all world history, from Adam (first to be redeemed) to Christ (Redeemer of all men).

The center of this first cycle is *Christmas*, which is prepared for by *Advent* and continued by the *Epiphany*.

**What should be our soul's attitude during Advent?** During *Advent*, we should instill a *great desire* in our heart to receive Jesus; that is, to bear an inner resemblance to Him. We ought, then, to prepare our souls for the second (spiritual) coming of Jesus in our hearts by means of sanctifying grace, either repossessed or augmented. We shall furnish proof of this great desire by much prayer in union with Isaiah (the most complete of the messianic prophets), with St. John the Baptist (the precursor of the Messiah), and above all, with the Divine Savior's Mother, the Blessed Virgin.

We shall increase this great desire by wishing for millions of Confessions and fervent Communions for Our Lord on Christmas, for genuine conversions, and for graces of sanctification for multitudes of generous souls. In so doing, we shall imitate the zeal of the Jews in olden times, who waited four thousand years for the Messiah's coming!

We shall choose our ejaculatory prayers from among the words and chants of the liturgy: "Lord, come to

me!"—"Come in the soul of...and...!"—"Come on earth to everywhere!"—"Lord, prepare my heart to receive You; come and tarry not!"

We shall love to sing the songs and hymns of Advent: *Rorate Caeli* ("Let the heavens distill dew"), *Come, O Divine Messiah, Alma Redemptoris Mater*, and the great "O" antiphons, followed by the *Magnificat*, etc.

Our Communions will be better prepared. We shall ask the Blessed Virgin for her spirit of recollection, of union with Jesus living in her, for her desire to give Him to everyone she met, etc.

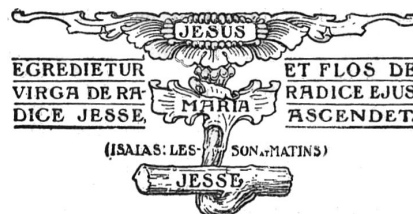
We shall impose some penances on ourselves, especially on the Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of Advent, and on the vigils of the Immaculate Conception and of Christmas.

**How does the Church, in her rubrics, show forth the spirit of Advent?** In order to point out that the time of Advent is a time of *purification* (and not of joy), of *expectation* (and not of possession), she has the priest who celebrates Mass do so in violet-colored vestments. *Violet*, the color of Lent and Advent, is a *sign of penance*.

The *Gloria* (the hymn indicated to salute Christ's coming at Christmas) is not said in the Mass. The *Ite, missa est* and the *alleluias* are omitted.

Marriages with solemn nuptial Masses and the nuptial blessing are not permitted, etc.

**What is the theme for Sundays of Advent?** The dominant theme here is expectation, the desire for Jesus' coming.



## TO SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

Loyola's words in waves of heavenly light  
Resistless broke upon thy soul,  
As breaks fair morning on the shores of night  
Where in the east cloud-billows roll.

"What shall it profit thee the world to gain,  
If thy immortal soul be lost?"  
They beat against thy heart in loud refrain—  
Thy restless heart, long tempest-tossed.

And thou didst anchor cast in Love Divine,  
Unfathomed e'en by seraph heart,  
Close bound by triple vow, the sacred sign  
That thou from thence might ne'er depart.

And dying, thou in love didst whisper low,  
With hope that comes of sacrifice,  
"In Te speravi!" and earth's latest glow  
Was merged in light of Paradise.



## AN ADVENT PRAYER

How long the Advent must have been,  
O waiting Mother, unto thee!  
How keen the hunger of thine eyes  
The Holy One to see!  
A thousand times thou must have felt  
His head upon thy breast  
Before that precious little form  
Within thine arms found rest.

My heart is cold, I feel no thrill  
Of thy deep heart's desire:  
Do thou but touch my soul to flame  
With love's consuming fire,  
That I may scan the Advent stars  
For Bethlehem's saving sign,  
And mingle my fond hopes for Him,  
O Mother dear, with thine!

- S. M. R.

Advent has arrived again and I truly hope it has not found you unprepared. A new liturgical cycle begins, and along with it our spiritual life should be renewed or begun again. Make straight the way of Our Lord!

As I pulled into the church parking lot after a trip to Chillicothe last Wednesday evening, I was cheered to see it full of cars and with children playing and parents chatting. Wednesday evening choir nights have become quite the gathering for our church family. Even some of the priests like to get in on all the action and come down after their dinner! Feel free to stop by, even if you aren't a part of the choir, just to socialize and be with fellow parishioners. Even better, come slightly earlier to attend the 5:10 Mass. Could be a good Advent resolution!

There have been many children who have come down with a bad cold lately (I think most of the church staff caught it, too). Still, everyone is courageously pushing on. They say (whoever "they" might be) that a lot of kids here in West Chester have been getting pneumonia this year. 'Tis the season for this kind of thing. Illness is always a hidden blessing though. Don't waste it by complaining!

I have been in communication with **Fr. Siordia** and he says that they are getting ready for their patronal feast (Our Lord of the Expiration) in January. If you remember, Father has a very old and miraculous statue of Our Lord in his church. People come from all around to Cocoyoc for the feast day. In fact, he says there are about 25,000 people who attend! He has invited me to Mexico to do confirmations, but said to wait until February so as to avoid the crowds. So it looks like I will be going in early February. **Fr. Contreras**, of the Company of Jesus and Mary, will also be in Mexico at that time. It will be a busy week as I meet with the different priests with whom Bishop Dolan used to work.

**Fr. Noel Ramirez**, who teaches in the seminary in Argentina and who also works with Fr. Contreras, recently had knee replacement surgery. All went well and he is now in recovery. **Fr. Nicolas Benegas**, my first priest, reports that he is doing well and has been doing quite a bit of mission work in Mendoza (or as he insists...Republica de Mendoza!). **Fr. Adan Rodriguez**, also from the Company of Jesus and Mary, will be coming down from Our Lady of the Rosary in Connecticut to visit with us on the weekend of December 16th. If you see him, stop to introduce yourself. He is a fine priest and has taken over the apostolate of the

late Bishop McKenna.

In Nigeria, **Bishop Nkamuke** and **Fathers Ojeka** and **Okerulu** finished their first ever Solemn Forty Hours and said that it was a great success. An announcement was made by His Excellency that he will be ordaining his two deacons to the holy priesthood on the feast of the Epiphany. There is so much good news coming from the missions in Nigeria these days. May God reward the clergy and faithful there for their apostolic zeal.

Please don't forget the Holy Day this Friday, or the special Rorate Masses on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The Marian Masses are so important. If you are looking for an extra way to honor Our Lady, look no further. You will have plenty of opportunities this Advent! May she help you, this season, to prepare for the coming of her Divine Son.

– **Bishop McGuire**

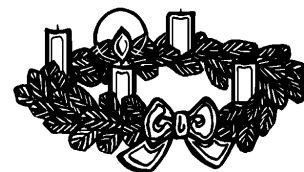


#### ADVENT TREASURE

I treasure silence during Advent. Silence is a gift that we can give ourselves in the middle of a noisy season. And silent prayer is something we can all afford—it costs nothing. Of course many people—parents of young children, children of aging parents, and people with hectic working lives—may not have much time to spare, but even a few minutes of quiet may help to center oneself.

In busy times it's important to let quiet be your prayer. This can be as simple as "withdrawing," as Jesus did, from the busyness of life and just sitting in the presence of God. Or it could be a simple meditation, reflecting on a single word from the stunning readings of Advent: from the Book of Isaiah, the Psalms, or the Gospels.

Sometimes people feel guilty for taking a break in the weeks before Christmas—there's often so much to do. But think of silence as a gift you give not only to yourself but to God, Who wants to meet you in the silence as you wait for Jesus to enter your heart in a new way this Advent.



#### AN ADVENT GOOD WORK

To visit and relieve the sick cannot fail to be a thing very pleasing to God, since He has so greatly commended it. But to do it with the greatest ease and merit, we must regard the sufferer not simply as a man, but as Christ Himself, Who testifies that He receives in His own person all such service.

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# ✠ CALENDAR

|            |                 |  |
|------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>MON</b> | <b>12/4/23</b>  | <b>ST. PETER CHRYSOLOGOS, BPCD</b><br>ST. BARBARA, VM<br><b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> †Jean Bischel ( <i>Charlie Henry</i> )<br><b>11:25 AM High Mass</b> My dad's health – prayers answered!<br>( <i>Mary Lacy &amp; siblings</i> )  |
| <b>TUE</b> | <b>12/5/23</b>  | <b>FERIAL DAY • ST. SABBAS, AB</b><br><b>7:00 AM Rorate Mass</b> †Jean Bischel ( <i>Levi Giese Family</i> )<br><b>11:25 AM Requiem High Mass</b> Purgatorial Society<br><b>5:00 PM Low Mass</b> †Jean Bischel ( <i>Charlie Henry</i> )   |
| <b>WED</b> | <b>12/6/23</b>  | <b>ST. NICHOLAS, BPC • FIRST WEDNESDAY</b><br><b>7:00 AM Low Mass</b> Poor Souls: For the Nigerian Missions<br>( <i>L. Faith &amp; Family</i> )<br><b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> Relief of the Holy Souls ( <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. James E. Kolenich &amp; Family</i> )<br><b>11:25 AM High Mass</b> Mr. & Mrs. Tom Simpson – Happy Birthday!<br>( <i>C. Simpson family</i> )<br><b>5:10 PM Low Mass</b> Special intention  |
| <b>THU</b> | <b>12/7/23</b>  | <b>ST. AMBROSE, BPCD • FIRST THURSDAY</b><br>VIGIL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – <i>FAST &amp; COMPLETE ABSTINENCE • OUR LADY OF LIGHT</i><br><b>7:00 AM Rorate Mass</b> Kathleen Boylson ( <i>Kirby &amp; Jean Bischel</i> )<br><b>8:00 AM Low Mass</b> For the sanctification of priests ( <i>Alter Christus Confraternity</i> )<br><b>11:25 AM High Mass</b> †Frank & †Eleanor Cekada  |
| <b>FRI</b> | <b>12/8/23</b>  | <b>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLY DAY</b><br><i>NO FRIDAY ABSTINENCE DUE TO HOLY DAY</i><br><b>7:00 AM Worker's Mass – no sermon</b> Special intention<br>( <i>Dianne Payne</i> )<br><b>9:00 AM Pontifical High Mass</b> Intentions of the St. Monica Club<br><b>4:45 PM Vespers, Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction</b><br><b>5:45 PM Low Mass</b> For the people of St. Gertrude the Great   |
| <b>SAT</b> | <b>12/9/23</b>  | <b>WITHIN THE OCTAVE</b><br><b>7:10 AM Confessions</b><br><b>7:30 AM Rorate Mass</b> Special intention – D.A. ( <i>Simpson children</i> )<br><b>8:10 AM Salve, Sermon</b><br><b>8:20 AM Low Mass</b> Creighton Family ( <i>Victoria Cerise</i> )   |
| <b>SUN</b> | <b>12/10/23</b> | <b>ADVENT II</b> ☩ ☩<br>WITHIN THE OCTAVE<br>ST. MELCHIADES, PM • <i>OUR LADY OF LORETTO</i><br><b>7:05 AM Rosary</b><br><b>7:30 AM Low Mass</b> †Jerome & †Millie Wilker ( <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Wilker</i> )<br><b>9:00 AM High Mass</b> For all of our friends who prayed for us – Thank you ( <i>Hudson Family</i> )<br><b>10:40 AM Catechism Classes</b><br><b>11:05 AM Rosary</b><br><b>11:30 AM Low Mass</b> Repose of the Souls in Purgatory: Faith Family ( <i>Robert Faith</i> )<br><b>4:45 PM Advent Vespers, Benediction</b><br><b>5:45 PM Low Mass</b> For the people of St. Gertrude the Great |

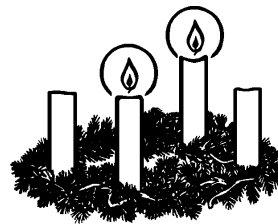
## NOVENA PRAYER FOR ADVENT

*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.)



**Extended hours for shopping at the Bookstore! We will be open after 5:45 Mass on the holy day, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> we will be open in the morning until afternoon so you can get your shopping in without the public crowd. Look for special deals and more information to come!**

## COLLECT OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways of Thine only-begotten Son: that through His advent we may be worthy to serve Thee with purified minds; Who livest and reignest, God, forever and ever. Amen. (*Say this prayer Saturday evening, as you light two purple candles on your Advent wreath.*)

*"We should love the poor with peculiar affection, beholding in them the very person of Christ, and showing them the same consideration that He did."*

– St. Vincent de Paul

## SERVERS

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>FRI 12/8</b>  | <b>5:45 PM LOW:</b> Capetillos  |
| <b>SAT 12/9</b>  | <b>7:30 AM HIGH:</b> M. Simpson<br><b>8:20 AM LOW:</b> Kolenichs  |
| <b>SUN 12/10</b> | <b>7:30 AM LOW:</b> M. McConnell, Brueggemann<br><b>9:00 AM HIGH:</b> MCS: D. Simpson, S. Richesson <b>TH:</b> A. McClorey<br><b>ACs:</b> F. Caggese, C. VanderPutten <b>TB:</b> N. & J. Hudson, P. Caggese, B. Constantino, L. Rabjohns, I. Smith<br><b>11:30 AM LOW:</b> Kolenichs<br><b>4:45 PM VESPERS &amp; BENEDICTION:</b> G. Miller, D. Simpson, I. Smith<br><b>5:45 PM LOW:</b> <i>Volunteer please!</i> |