

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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www.sgg.org • www.SGGResources.org • traditionalmass.org • EMERGENCY LINE: (513) 509-0424
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 10, 2023

ADVENT II • WITHIN THE OCTAVE

ST. MELCHIADES, PM • OUR LADY OF LORETTO



¶ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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



¶ CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES

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

¶ PARISH REGISTRATION

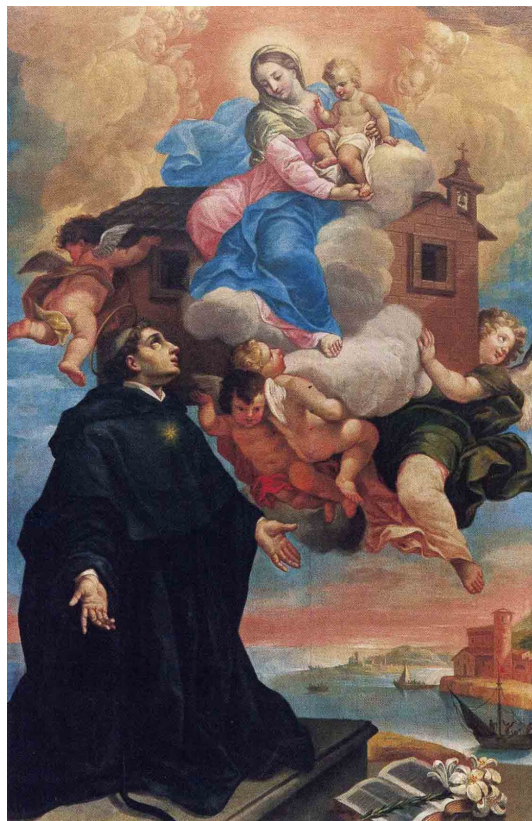
Cards are available in the vestibule, just inside the main doors, for **parish registration**. If you are new to the parish, or if your contact information has changed, please fill one out and return it in the collection basket, bookstore, or office.

¶ 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.

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Regina Gilliam, Nathan Harkleroad, Dorothy De Piante, and the repose of the soul of †David Landry.



¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT III/ GAUDETE

Next Sunday is Gaudete Sunday. The traditional **St. Lucia Procession** will take place *before* the High Mass. Don't miss it, nor the **Christmas Bake Sale** on offer in Helfta Hall. The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available at the Communion Rail after all Masses. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.  **Set Your Missal:** Advent III, second collect of Our Lady in Advent, third for the Church. Trinity Preface.



¶ CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, 12/24, Christmas Eve

7:30 AM: Low Mass

9:00 AM: High Mass

11:30 AM: Low Mass

*Please note, no Catechism Class, and **NO** 5:45 PM Mass on Christmas Eve.*

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

Monday, 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

¶ NEW YEARS DAY SCHEDULE

7:30 AM: Low Mass

9:00 AM: High Mass

11:30 AM: Low Mass

No evening Mass



Collection Report

Sunday, December 2nd.....\$7,689.00
Second Collection.....\$2,479.00
Alter Christus Confraternity.....\$355.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember.
St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

THOSE WHO WOULD RECEIVE CHRIST

As Mary was, so is the Church today, Virgin and Handmaid; at the beginning of the year's liturgy, she waits for everything from the Lord's grace. Those who would receive Christ and bring Him forth must become like her; it is such a birth which they are expecting from the feast of His Incarnation: for "how shall Christ be born into the depths of our understanding if not within us, within our very souls" (St. Ambrose). It will happen to us when our souls are as Mary's was. *The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son...and His name shall be "God with us."*

Year by year we are to renew ourselves in judgment and penance, purge ourselves for a deeper gift of self, take on the virginity that can allow the birth of God within us. This is the content of the Christmas mystery: *The Lord is near to all who call upon His Name...* in the full certainty of expectation; all those, that is, who call upon His Name in truth: in humble acknowledgement of their own emptiness, and expect everything from God.

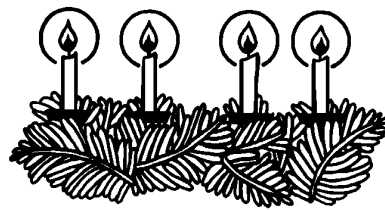
The Lord is near, He is really a God Who walks with us, in all of whom Christ has lived since baptism. But this life is delicate as well as strong; it can suffer from too close and incautious contact with the world and sin; now is the time for us to renew it; let it be born again. May the fact of our salvation have increase by the frequent use of this mystery.

— Sister Aemiliana Lohr, O.S.B.

A family in Middletown is seeking a parishioner who can care for their two cats once a day December 26 through January 2. Please call 610-217-4825 to discuss the job and compensation. Thank you!

Our Beloved Dead – December

Jerome G. Gerrard	12-01-1989
Albert D. Kinnett	12-02-2003
Bishop Clarence Kelly	12-02-2023
Frank Alban, Jr.	12-03-1988
George Greene	12-04-1999
Rosemary Breitenstein	12-08-1999
Regina K. Budde	12-09-1992
Alice M. Corbin	12-12-1995
Floyd Rimer, Jr.	12-12-2002
George Wissing	12-12-2009
Elizabeth L. Smith	12-12-2015
Archbishop Thuc	12-13-1984
Henry Golembeski	12-15-1993
Ralph Patton	12-15-2009
Janice Curran	12-15-2020
Bishop McKenna	12-16-2015
Fred Hauserman	12-16-2010
Vanessa S. Thompson	12-17-2008
Marty Lierl	12-18-2012
Kyle McGuire	12-18-2021
Mary Genevieve Bell	12-19-2004
David T. Miller	12-19-2004
Mary I. Osborn	12-19-2002
Katie Bischak	12-22-2017
Barbara Steinmetz	12-26-2016
Margaret A. Kinnett	12-26-2022
Richard Weik	12-29-2010



"One of the principal effects of holy abandonment in God is evenness of spirits in the various accidents of this life, which is certainly a point of great perfection, and very pleasing to God. The way to maintain it is in imitation of the pilots, to look continually at the Pole Star, that is, the Divine Will, in order to be constantly in conformity with it. For it is this will which, with infinite wisdom, rightly distributes prosperity and adversity, health and sickness, riches and poverty, honor and contempt, knowledge and ignorance, and all that happens in this life. On the other hand, if we regard creatures without this relation to God, we cannot prevent our feelings and disposition from changing, according to the variety of accidents which occur."

—St. Francis de Sales

PENITENTIAL DAWN

The sun rises past the creek
Especially in purple times, it seems.
A peek, a promise, then a panoply
Of Lenten shades and Advent hues,
But not to stay.
The palette runs with rose and indigo
A riot rushed and in a hush
Muted, makes its way till all is grey.
Penance still!

The shouting of the tones dies down
The churning colors calm and
Christ our dawn is longed for yet.

— Bishop Dolan



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.)

✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

A full week of Advent has passed already and we only have two more full weeks left. I believe it is the shortest Advent season that we can possibly have. In fact, the fourth Sunday of Advent is actually the Vigil of Christmas this year.

St. Nicholas is visiting us today between the morning Masses. Next Sunday is the touching St. Lucy procession. Fr. Lehtoranta has been working hard with the Sodality to get ready for it. Father has an especially busy time right now as he is also teaching in the school, giving spiritual conferences to the oblates, getting ready for a trip to St. Hugh's for Christmas, and putting the finishing touches on this year's Ordo. The Ordo is the book which tells the priest the different feast days and is full of important liturgical details. Many of the priests are looking forward to receiving theirs because this Ordo is so much more accurate and detailed than the other ones which are put out in different countries. Father really does a lot of tireless work around here. Thank you, Father!

News reached us last week of the death of Bishop Clarence Kelly of the SSPV. This news must have come as quite a shock to many even in spite of his age. He was about 80 years old. The Fathers in Nigeria offered Requiem Masses for the repose of his soul. I

know many of you have been praying for him as well. May God show mercy on this priest of God and quickly bring him to his eternal reward.



On a happier note, little Maria Brueggemann (a.k.a. Peppy) was a great help in the sacristy last weekend as she waited for her brothers to finish the project of fixing the livestream in the cry room. She wasn't really helpful in making sacristy decisions, but did an excellent job sweeping floors and keeping up general morale. After all, morale is very important. She is welcome back anytime!

The livestream should be up and running now. I thank Paul Arlinghaus, the Brueggemann clan, and anyone else who helped with this project. Previously, the lag time between the livestream and what was actually happening at the altar was more than a minute, if my memory serves me correctly. Now it is only a lag of a few seconds. Mothers, please use the room for nursing or if your child decides to be fussy during Mass. **The vestibule is not the place for either.**

We continue the Octave this week and have the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe as well. See you in church, I hope. Stay with Our Lady this week of Advent!
– Bishop McGuire



You're Invited
Holiday Shopping Event

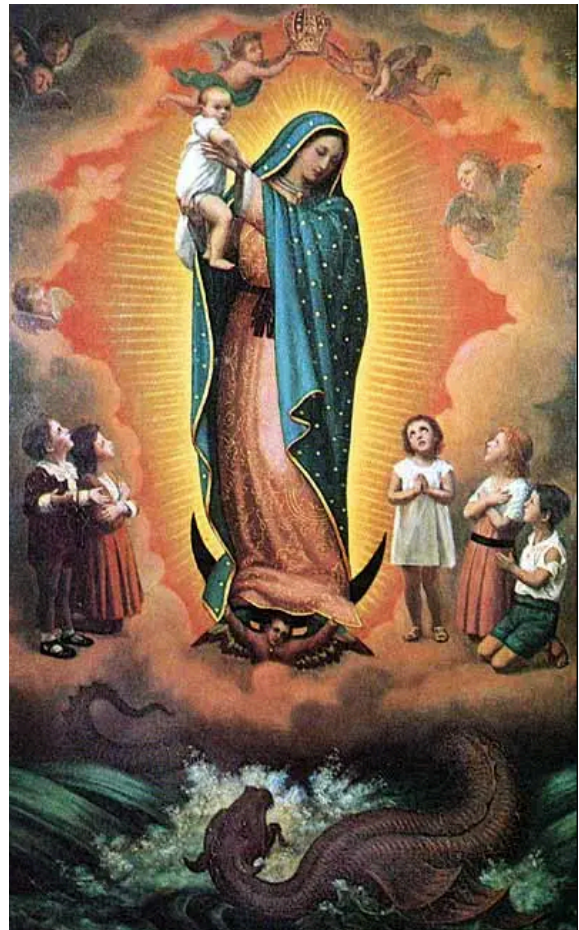


SGG BOOKSTORE

Saturday Dec. 16

from 8am until 3pm

Join the fun with special deals.
New items - Great ideas - Sale



✠ CALENDAR

MON	12/11/23	ST. DAMASUS I, PC 8:00 AM Low Mass Thou knowest, O Lord! (<i>Zach Doyle</i>) 11:25 AM Low Mass Our children & grandchildren (<i>K/V</i>)
TUE	12/12/23	WITHIN THE OCTAVE <i>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</i> 7:00 AM Rorate Mass Special intention (<i>Christopher Browne</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Theo Luke Tseng – special intentions (<i>H.Y.</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass †Elizabeth L. Smith – 8 th Anniversary (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell & family</i>)
WED	12/13/23	ST. LUCY, VM WITHIN THE OCTAVE 7:00 AM Low Mass Our children, Grandchildren, Godchildren (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Wilker</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass In thanksgiving to Bishop McGuire (<i>Judy</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Repose of the soul of †Lorie Mikesell (<i>Steven & Erin Yeung</i>) 5:10 PM Low Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>John Boyd</i>)
THU	12/14/23	WITHIN THE OCTAVE 7:00 AM Rorate Mass Fr. Thielen (<i>Christopher Browne</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Happy Birthday, Joseph (<i>Theresa</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass The Ball Family (<i>Sr. Eulalia</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass †Mr. & †Mrs. Loren McGuire (<i>Dan, Mary & family</i>)
FRI	12/15/23	OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 8:00 AM Low Mass †Bishop Daniel L. Dolan – rest in peace (<i>Tim Hopkins</i>) 11:05 AM Confessions 11:25 AM Low Mass †Therese & Tony Lamb (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski</i>) 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass Tom Simpson (<i>Christopher Browne</i>) 6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	12/16/23	ST. EUSEBIUS, BPM 7:10 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Rorate Mass For all who helped with the retreat – thanks! (<i>The Retreatants</i>) 8:10 AM Alma, Sermon 8:20 AM Low Mass Special intention M.W. (<i>Rebecca Hinton</i>)
SUN	12/17/23	ADVENT III – GAUDETE SUNDAY ☪☪☪ <i>ST. LAZARUS, BPC</i> BAKE SALE IN HELFETA HALL! 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>The McConnell Family</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass In honor of Our Mother of Good Counsel – Thank you (<i>Hudson Family</i>) 10:40 AM Catechism Classes 11:05 AM Rosary 11:30 AM Low Mass †Mrs. Mary McGuire (<i>Clare Lotarski</i>) 4:45 PM Advent Vespers, Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD



“What went you out into the desert to see? A reed shaken with the wind?” (Gospel). No, but a man of one idea, and who pursued that idea through all difficulties and opposition and failure, not counting the cost. I want to copy John the Baptist. I want to prepare the way of the Lord in my heart. How shall I do it? Not by allowing myself to be

a reed shaken with the wind, trying very hard for a day or two and then giving all up and saying it is no use; not by making good resolutions and then quietly dropping them because they have been broken. No, but by a steady, determined effort, in spite of many failures, to overcome in myself everything which I know will be a hindrance to my King pursuing His way in my soul. He is never disappointed by my failures; these are more than made up, for directly I tell Him that I am sorry. What pains His loving Heart is cessation of effort, giving up the fight, running away from the enemy instead of standing up to be knocked down again, if my Captain thus wills to give me another opportunity of meriting, and of practicing humility. Saints are not made by victories all along the line, but by repeated failures humbly and patiently accepted, with a firm determination that each failure shall be the last. But what is the use when I know I shall fail again? I do not know; I need not fall, it is my own fault if I do. To do less than have a firm determination about the future would be to lay down my arms. Every effort made for God leaves me holier, and, as long as I keep on trying, I am making progress in the spiritual life, though I cannot see it.

– Mother St. Paul (d. 1940)

SERVERS

FRI 12/15	5:45 PM LOW: Caggese
SAT 12/16	7:30 AM HIGH: M. Simpson, I. Smith 8:20 AM LOW: Capetillos
SUN 12/17	7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: N. McClorey, M. Simpson TH: N. Kolenich ACs: J. Rabjohns, D. Hudson TB: N. Hudson, A. Constantino, F. Caggese, M. Kolenich, T. England, A. McClorey 11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller, D. Simpson, I. Smith 5:45 PM LOW: <i>Volunteer please!</i>