

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 17, 2023
ADVENT III • GAUDETE SUNDAY
ST. LAZARUS, BPC



¶ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today is Gaudete Sunday. Don't miss the **Christmas Bake Sale** on offer in Helfta Hall after the morning Masses. The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available at the Communion Rail after all Masses. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.



¶ EMBER DAYS

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this week are the Church's winter **Ember Days**. All Catholics between the ages of 21 and 59, inclusive, are bound by the Church's laws of fast, and all who have attained their 7th year must keep the abstinence (meat once at the principal meal on Wednesday and Saturday.)

¶ FINAL 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. If you haven't yet had a chance to attend one, come this week on Tuesday or Thursday at 7:00 AM.

¶ CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES

This is the **last week** to turn in your Poinsettia Memorial envelopes and Christmas Novena intentions. Envelopes are in the vestibule.



¶ NEXT SUNDAY: CHRISTMAS EVE

Next Sunday is the Fourth and Last Sunday of Advent, as well as the Vigil of Christmas. Please note the special schedule in the Calendar. No Catechism Classes. No 5:45 PM Mass. The Divine Office is chanted at 6:30 AM (Prime), 1:00 PM (Vespers), and 8:30 PM (Matins). The three morning Masses are offered as usual. **Helfta Hall will be clean and closed** for the Midnight Mass Reception. No Sunday morning coffee and donuts.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Vigil of Christmas, second collect of Advent IV. Trinity Preface.

¶ MIDNIGHT MASS POTLUCK

Just a reminder that the reception after Midnight Mass is a potluck. **Please bring a dish to share if you plan to attend.**

Collection Report

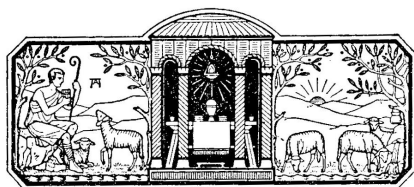
Friday, December 8th.....\$3,265.00
Sunday, December 10th.....\$6,052.00
Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.



Lumen Christi

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

Private Intention
(Richard Borrello)



DO NOT BE AFRAID

Your question is: "How not to worry?"

Well, if only I had an answer to meet that, how gladly I would give it to you, and apply it to myself! But of course there is no shortcut to not worrying.

It does not necessarily imply want of trust; in fact, it may be that what God asks of you is to accept it, and not to worry about worrying!

Trust does not, of course, mean that you trust God to remove the causes of worry, though if you persevere in prayer in spite of all setbacks, He may do that; but trust really means that, however impossible it is to realize this emotionally, your *will* accepts as a certainty that *whatever* God allows to happen is, in His plan of love, what is *really* best for you and those whom you love.

"Surrender" to God's will does not of course mean being able to *want* disaster!

It does mean believing, blindly of course, that whatever happens, and whatever you *feel* about it, you *are* in His hands, and so are those you love.

The more you say, "I must not worry," the more you will: I think it better simply to offer the worrying to God....

I have the temperament which just has to face the worst possibility, and I think, when one does, one realizes that the very worst *can* be accepted. My way is to say in every emergency, "Now what is the worst that *can* happen?" and then, "So what?" That works for me.

— Caryl Houselander



HIS MOTHER

If she had tarried at your door
 In Bethlehem that night,
 Had it availed her to implore
 Your pity in her plight?
 Or would your heart have turned to
 stone
 And bade her sojourn with her own?
 Lo! she may pass this way to-night,
 Amid the cold and gloom,
 Bearing the little Babe of Light
 Within her holy womb;
 Will you refuse her Babe a part
 Of the rough manger of your heart?

— Thomas E. Burke, C.S.C.



THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The Christmas tree is the universal symbol of Christmas. It is of Germanic origin. Tradition teaches that it was first used by St. Boniface who substituted the pine tree, branches pointing to heaven, for the sturdy oak sacred to the pagan tribes. First mentioned, as it is now known, at Alsace in 1521, the Christmas tree was widely accepted in Strausburg and its surroundings in 1605.

It was brought to England by Prince Albert of Saxony, the husband of Queen Victoria, who had a tree set up at Windsor Castle in 1841. The custom was brought to America by German immigrants and is now a beloved feature of the Christmas celebration.



CHRISTMAS DAY

I wonder on that Christmas night
 How many passers-by
 Beheld that strange and lustrous light
 In Bethlehem's patch of sky?
 We know how the shepherds chanced
 to be
 Unto the stable sent,
 But did that star some rich man see
 And wonder what it meant?

They've told us of the crowded inn
 And of the laughter gay;
 But was there none who entered in
 On that first Christmas Day
 To say he'd seen a wondrous sight
 And bear the news to them
 That God had hung a beacon light
 High over Bethlehem?

Of all the throng that hurried by
 Did no one lift his eyes
 To read the glory of the sky?
 Were all so worldly-wise
 That God should bid the angels sing,
 Upon that midnight clear,
 An anthem to the new-born King
 And only shepherds hear?

I wonder is it still the same?
 Are we beyond His reach?
 Have we, pursuing wealth and fame,
 Grown deaf to gentler speech?
 Should such a strange thing come to
 be

And angel choirs appear,
 Would only watchful shepherds see
 And thoughtful shepherds hear?

— Edgar A. Guest



✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

Sickness is still ravaging the school and church. Miss Mikesell, one of our schoolteachers and the school choir director, pretty much lost her voice and could not sing for a week. I hope she gets better soon and can return to singing. **Fr. Simpson** came to the rescue and sang the propers on two separate school days, and even sang the Rorate Mass on one of those days. He didn't seem to mind at all.

Speaking of singing, the choir has been hard at work preparing for all the Sundays and Holy Days which are bunched up this year. We have the best choir that I have heard, and I've been to many places where they have excellent choirs and superb voices. The choir as a whole rarely receives the thanks that they deserve. It is true that they will receive a great reward in heaven because, "He who sings prays twice." Still, it must be nice to hear a compliment or to receive a simple "thank you." So, thank you to each and every one of you who sacrifices so much to add beauty to our liturgical services. Your hard work and labor of love never goes unnoticed, though at times it might go unmentioned.

You might know that two of our cars have been out of commission since July. When Fr. Cekada died, the title should have been switched and put in Bishop Dolan's name, but because life is busy here at SGG this never happened. Now, since Bishop Dolan's death, the cars have to go through two separate stages in probate. The first is to switch the cars from Fr. Cekada's estate to Bishop Dolan's; the second is to switch them from Bishop Dolan's estate to the church. It has taken a while, but we should conclude this business sometime around Christmas and then be able to use those two much-needed cars. Say a prayer that it all works out soon. If all goes well with my mother's estate, I may be able to attain another car to lend to the Sisters to drive back and forth to church. We will see if this pans out.

Our four seminarians received the cassock on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. You can see a photo of the event in the bulletin. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are:

Alfonso (Poncho) Capetillo, a second year seminarian from SGG; Joshua Balancio, a first year seminarian from the San Francisco Bay area; Roberto Gorbea, a second year seminarian who is from Puerto Rico, but had been a seminarian at Sacred Heart Church in Lawrence, MA; and finally, Miguel Jomarrón, a first year seminarian from Cuba, but who has more recently lived in Michigan. The priests in the picture are

Fr. Carlos Ercoli (on the left) and **Fr. Hector Romero** (on the right), both originally from Argentina. Fr. Ercoli was ordained by Bishop Dolan and taught at Most Holy Trinity Seminary while I was still a seminarian there.



Today is Rejoicing Sunday. May Our Lady of the Smile bring you some peace of heart and a cheerful disposition this last week before Christmas.

– **Bishop McGuire**



COLLECT OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Stir up Thy power and come, we pray Thee, O Lord, and with great might succor us; that our deliverance, which our sins impede, may be hastened by the help of Thy grace and the forgiveness of Thy mercy. Who

livest and reignest forever and ever, Amen.

(Say this prayer Saturday evening, as you light all four candles on your Advent wreath.)

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.)

✠ CALENDAR

MON	12/18/23	FERIAL DAY • EXPECTATION OF OUR LADY 8:00 AM Low Mass †Natividad Aicra (<i>Victoria Cerise</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass My †Father – 2 nd anniversary <i>(Bishop McGuire)</i>
TUE	12/19/23	FERIAL DAY 7:00 AM Rorate Mass Rose Kuebler Birthday (<i>MV</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass †Mary McGuire (<i>Christopher Browne</i>) <i>(rescheduled from 11/28)</i> 11:25 AM High Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>Christopher Browne</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>Matt Hardin</i>)
WED	12/20/23	VIGIL OF ST. THOMAS • EMBER WEDNESDAY <i>FAST & PARTIAL ABSTINENCE</i> 7:00 AM Low Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>Patricia Elliott</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Special intention (<i>Beatriz Tuazon</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass For a dear friend (<i>Sr. Eulalia</i>) 5:10 PM Low Mass Intentions of St. Monica Club St. Monica Club Meeting
THU	12/21/23	ST. THOMAS, AP 7:00 AM Rorate Mass For the repose of the soul of †Jean Bischel (<i>Aleksi Kojonen</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Special intention (<i>Cleo Speckert</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass †Mary McGuire (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass Repose of the souls of our grandparents <i>(Renee Arlinghaus)</i>
FRI	12/22/23	ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI, V • EMBER FRIDAY <i>FAST & ABSTINENCE</i> 7:00 AM Low Mass Patrick Klabenes – thanks! <i>(Renee Arlinghaus)</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass, Benediction Poor Souls in Purgatory <i>(Mark Cash)</i> No evening services
SAT	12/23/23	EMBER SATURDAY <i>FAST & PARTIAL ABSTINENCE</i> 7:10 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>Bob & Becky Uhlenbrock</i>) 8:10 AM Alma, Sermon 8:20 AM High Mass Happy Birthday Monica Prell <i>(Mom & Dad)</i>
SUN	12/24/23	VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS • ADVENT IV ☪☪☪☪ 6:30 AM Office of Prime 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass †Mary McGuire (<i>The McConnell Family</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass In honor of St. Philomena – Thank you <i>(Hudson Family)</i> 11:05 AM Rosary 11:30 AM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great 1:00 PM First Vespers of Christmas No evening Mass 8:30 PM Matins 10:30 PM Carols 11:00 PM Procession, Blessing of the Crib, Midnight Mass Christmas Novena I Potluck Reception in Helfta Hall, Lauds

Christmas Day Masses: 9 & 11 AM

SO WHO ARE YOU?

In the Advent Gospel readings we encounter the enigmatic figure of John the Baptist. There we learn less about who John is than about who he is not. A litany of negatives describes the Baptist: he is not the light, he is not the Christ, he is not Elijah or the Prophet. When John finally identifies himself, he gives not a name, but a verse from Isaiah: “I am ‘the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.’” Did John have a self-esteem problem? Far from it! In a striking way, John stands out in the Scriptures as a man who really knows his God-given mission. John is the “friend of the bridegroom” who heralds the bridegroom’s coming. He is the “voice” who prepares the world for the Word. Achieving self-knowledge in our own lives requires embracing similar sorts of negatives: I am not in charge of what happens in my life, I am not the master of my situation, I am not the measure of all things. But when we clear out these fantastical (yes, fantastical!) illusions, we are liberating ourselves to be who God wants us to be. We are liberating God to work through us.

– Lisa Lickona

St. Gertrude, after St. Paul, was great on Liberty of Spirit. This is the path to true liberation.

Ashers

CHRISTMAS EVE

7:30 AM: S. Pepiot, P. McConnell, A. McConnell, Brueggemann
9:00 AM: P. Arlinghaus, J. Seyfried, S. Wiegand, *Volunteer*
11:30 AM: P. Puglielli, B. Uhlenbrock

CHRISTMAS DAY

Midnight: M. Lotarski, S. Weigand
9 AM: S. Pepiot, P. McConnell, C. Brueggemann, P. Brueggemann
11 AM: J. Seyfried, B. Uhlenbrock

NEW YEARS EVE

7:30 AM: S. Pepiot, P. McConnell, A. McConnell, P. Brueggemann
9:00 AM: P. Arlinghaus, J. Seyfried, S. Wiegand, *Volunteer*
11:30 AM: P. Puglielli, B. Uhlenbrock

NEW YEARS DAY

7:30 AM: S. Pepiot, P. McConnell, A. McConnell
9 AM: P. Arlinghaus, J. Seyfried, C. Brueggemann, P. Brueggemann
11:30 AM: B. Uhlenbrock, P. Puglielli

Servers

SAT 12/23 **7:30 AM LOW:** J. & L. Rabjohns
8:20 AM HIGH: M. Simpson, J. Stewart, D. Simpson

SUN 12/24 **7:30 AM LOW:** M. McConnell, Brueggemann
9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: C. Richesson, T. Lawrence **TH:** C. Arlinghaus **ACs:** T. England, M. Caggese **TB:** J. Hudson, I. Smith, B. Constantino, C. VanderPutten, P. & F. Caggese
11:30 AM LOW: Kolenichs
1:00 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller, D. Simpson, I. Smith

CHRISTMAS SERVERS POSTED IN SACRISTY