

# 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 24, 2023 VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### ¶ CHRISTMAS EVE/ADVENT IV

Today is the Fourth and Last Sunday of Advent, as well as the Vigil of Christmas. There are no Catechism Classes today. **Helfta Hall is clean and closed** for the Midnight Mass Reception. No coffee and donuts today. The Divine Office is chanted at 1:00 PM (Vespers), and 8:30 PM (Matins).

### ¶ CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE - EVENING

*The Fast and Abstinence are dispensed due to the Sunday.*

**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.*

### ¶ 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*

### ¶ THE HEALTH OF ST. JOHN

**Wednesday** is the feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist. A High Mass will be sung in his honor at 5:45 PM, followed by the Blessing of Beverages and "The Health of St. John" in Helfta Hall.

### ¶ CHILDRENAS

**Thursday** is the feast of the Holy Innocents. The Blessing of Children is given after the 11:25 AM Mass, followed by a party for the children in Helfta Hall.



### ¶ NEW YEARS EVE, DEC. 31<sup>ST</sup> AND CIRCUMCISION / NEW YEARS DAY:

**7:30 AM:** **Low Mass**

**9:00 AM:** **High Mass**

**11:30 AM:** **Low Mass**

**4:45 PM:** **Vespers**

*No evening Mass*

*The Mass schedule is the same on both December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.*

### ¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Michael Faith, Christian and Gavin Wright, and the repose of the souls of †Fr. Louis Campbell, †Christopher Maloney, and †Mary Beth Grumblatt.

### ¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the Sunday Within the Octave of Christmas, and New Year's Eve. There will be no Catechism Classes and **no 5:45 PM Mass**. Vespers will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Sunday within the octave of Christmas, with commemorations of St. Sylvester and the Octave of Christmas. Preface of the Nativity.

### Collection Report

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> .....\$7,698.00

Christmas Bake Sale.....\$781.00

Thank you for your generosity. Remember St. Gertrude the Great in your will.

**ST. GABRIEL, ANGEL OF THE INCARNATION**

Of the three archangels mentioned in Holy Scripture, St. Gabriel appears to be the King of Heaven's chief ambassador. ...And of all the embassies on which he was sent, the greatest was to announce the wonderful mystery of the Incarnation and the mighty work of the Redemption through the shedding of the Blood of the Incarnate Word. "He it was, who at the Annunciation first spoke those words to Mary which ceaselessly reecho round the earth: 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women' (*Luke 1:28*). And he it was who there adored with her the Word made flesh to dwell among us." (*Spirit World*.) He was, we may say, the first Adorer of the Precious Blood on earth, and the first to pronounce the sweet name of Jesus, Savior.

...Though his name is not expressly mentioned, we may well believe what tradition tells us that it was St. Gabriel who announced to the Shepherds on the hills of Bethlehem the birth of our sweet Lord, and that it was he who led the multitude of blessed spirits who sang around the crib the heavenly song: "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth among men of good will."



**"NO, WE MUST NOT SLEEP"**

No, we must not sleep  
This holy night;  
We must not sleep.

The Virgin, all alone, is thinking:  
What will she do  
When she gives birth  
To the King of Immeasurable Light;  
If, before His Divine Essence,  
She will tremble.  
O what will she say to Him?

No, we must not sleep  
This holy night;  
We must not sleep.

— *Fray Ambrosio Montesino*



**PRAYER IN HONOR OF THE INCARNATION**

*O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst vouchsafe so to annihilate the greatness of Thy incarnate divinity and most sacred humanity, as to be born in time, and become a little child; grant that we may acknowledge infinite wisdom in the silence of a child, power in weakness, majesty in abasement: so that adoring Thy humiliations on earth, we may contemplate Thy glories in heaven, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest, God, forever and ever. Amen.*

**A CHRISTMAS HYMN**

*And some of the Pharisees, from amongst the multitude, said to Him: Master, rebuke Thy disciples. To whom He said: I say to you that if these shall hold their peace, the stones will cry out. — Luke 19:39-40*

A stable lamp is lighted  
Whose glow shall wake the sky;  
And stars shall bend their voices,  
And every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry,  
And straw like gold shall shine;  
A barn shall harbor heaven,  
A stall become a shrine.

This Child through David's city  
Shall ride in triumph by;  
The palm shall strew its branches,  
And every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry,  
Though heavy, dull and dumb,  
And lie within the roadway  
To pave His kingdom come.

Yet He shall be forsaken,  
And yielded up to die;  
The sky shall groan and darken,  
And every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry,  
For stony hearts of men:  
God's Blood upon the spearhead,  
God's love refused again.

But now, as at the ending,  
The low is lifted high;  
The stars shall bend their voices,  
And every stone shall cry.  
And every stone shall cry,  
In praises of the Child  
By whose descent among us  
The worlds are reconciled.

— *Richard Wilbur*



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## ✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

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It's Ember Friday, the feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, and our church workers and volunteers are busy decorating the church in time for Christmas. Theresa has been extraordinarily busy filling calendar orders, making trips to the post office and printing bulletins and programs. She does her work quietly, but I honestly don't think this place could run well without her. She is truly an integral part of St. Gertrude's. **Fr. Lehtoranta** left this morning for his annual Christmas visit to our Milwaukee chapel, while **Fr. McKenna** departs this evening for St. Anthony mission in Dallas, where he will spend a day with his younger brother and then offer both Sunday Mass and Christmas Midnight Mass, before flying up to St. Teresa of Avila mission in North Dakota for Christmas Day Masses. **Fathers Simpson** and **Brueggemann** will remain here with me to assist with all of the upcoming Masses and celebrations of Christmastide. I hope they take some time to visit their families during the holidays. It is to be encouraged! Lastly, the Arlinghaus clan is coming in tomorrow to set up the Nativity scene. I can't wait to see what they have in mind!

Pictures of last week's St. Lucia Procession are to be seen in this bulletin. Fr. Lehtoranta and the Sodality members worked very hard in preparation for this Catholic custom which comes, I believe, from Sweden. The young ladies did a fine job, for which, I am sure, St. Lucia was very pleased.

**Fr. Adan Rodriguez** enjoyed his stay with us and mentioned that he feels much more at ease after getting a little rest before Christmas. It is my hope to have **Fr. Richards**, from Sacred Heart Church in Lawrence, MA, to come down for a few days when he is able.

Sunday is unique because the Vigil of Christmas falls on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This doesn't happen too often, but it makes for a very busy couple of days. I call it the "never-ending Sunday" since we have our normal schedule of Sunday morning Masses and then Prime, Vespers, Matins, Carols, Midnight Mass, and Lauds. It is a long day and we are keeping a true vigil, something like Catholics centuries ago would have kept. If you haven't made a particularly good Advent you might consider coming to all the extras on Sunday to make one final push towards preparing your soul for Christmas.

Don't forget, amidst all the hustle and bustle of Christmas, to recall to mind the real reason for the season. Gather the family and even the guests around the family shrine for a Rosary. Come back to Mass during

the Octave. These Masses are exceptionally beautiful and offer a quiet time to pray.

I and all the clergy of St. Gertrude's wish you all a very merry and blessed Christmas!

– Bishop McGuire



A s h e r s

### 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

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# ✠ CALENDAR

<b>MON 12/25/23</b>	<b>NATIVITY OF OUR LORD <i>HOLY DAY</i></b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
<b>11:15 PM</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b> Christmas Novena I <b>Lauds</b>
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass with String Quartet</b> Merry Christmas Dad & Mom ( <i>Brueggemann girls</i> ) <b>Benediction</b>
<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass with Carols</b> For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
<b>5:45 PM</b>	<b>Vespers of Christmas Day</b> <b>Bishop McGuire Private Mass</b> †John Metz & †Aunt Annie – 33 <sup>rd</sup> anniversary of death ( <i>Judy</i> )
<b>TUE 12/26/23</b>	<b>ST. STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR</b>
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> First anniversary of †Margaret Kinnett's death ( <i>Albert D. Kinnett</i> )
<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>High Mass</b> Christmas Novena II
<b>WED 12/27/23</b>	<b>ST. JOHN, APEV</b>
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> Special intention – deceased lifelong friend ( <i>Richard J. Zbilicki &amp; Gloria</i> )
<b>5:45 PM</b>	<b>High Mass</b> Christmas Novena III <b>Blessing of Beverages, "The Health of St. John" in Helfta Hall</b>
<b>THU 12/28/23</b>	<b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MM</b>
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> †Mrs. Jean Bischel ( <i>The Hudson Family</i> )
<b>11:25 AM</b>	<b>High Mass</b> Christmas Novena IV <b>Holy Innocents Children's Party</b>
<b>FRI 12/29/23</b>	<b>ST. THOMAS À BECKET, BPM</b>
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> †Mary McGuire – rest in peace ( <i>Binh &amp; Connttha Nguyen</i> )
<b>11:25 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> Kirby Bischel – strength through grace ( <i>Tim Hopkins</i> )
<b>5:15 PM</b>	<b>Confessions, Rosary</b>
<b>5:35 PM</b>	<b>Infant of Prague Novena I</b>
<b>5:45 PM</b>	<b>High Mass</b> Christmas Novena V
<b>SAT 12/30/23</b>	<b>WITHIN THE OCTAVE</b>
<b>7:10 AM</b>	<b>Confessions</b>
<b>7:30 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> †William Egger – anniversary of death ( <i>Lauren Caggese</i> )
<b>8:10 AM</b>	<b>Alma, Sermon</b>
<b>8:20 AM</b>	<b>High Mass</b> Christmas Novena VI
<b>SUN 12/31/23</b>	<b>SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>
<b>7:05 AM</b>	<b>Rosary</b>
<b>7:30 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>High Mass</b> Christmas Novena VII
<b>11:05 AM</b>	<b>Rosary</b>
<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> Patrick Caggese – Happy Birthday! ( <i>Love, Dad &amp; Mom</i> )
<b>4:45 PM</b>	<b>First Vespers of the Circumcision</b> <i>No evening Mass</i>

*New Year's Day Masses: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:30 AM*

## THE SHEPHERDS



It is to the simple and the child-like, such as were these shepherds, that the Lord unveils the mysteries of His kingdom. We are reminded here of those words which He afterwards uttered: "I confess to Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them to little ones. Yea, Father; for so it hath seemed good in Thy sight." We may imagine with what grace and kindness Mary and Joseph received these good men, listened to their narration, replied to their questions, and gave them what further instruction they needed.

Nor can we suppose that this was the only visit which these shepherds paid to the stable in the rock, or the only time that they had the happiness of adoring the Divine Infant. During the remainder of the time that Mary and Joseph tarried there they would surely return again more than once, bringing probably some little offering out of their scanty means.

### Servers

<b>MON 12/25</b>	<b>9:00 AM LOW, BENEDICTION:</b> M. & D. Simpson <b>11:00 AM LOW:</b> P. McClorey
<b>TUE 12/26</b>	<b>5:00 PM HIGH: MCS:</b> C. Richesson, D. Simpson <b>TH:</b> S. Richesson <b>ACS:</b> T. Lawrence, M. Simpson <b>CROSS:</b> M. Caggese <b>TBS:</b> P. & F. Caggese, I. Smith, C. Vander Putten
<b>WED 12/27</b>	<b>5:45 PM HIGH: MCS:</b> M. Simpson, D. Simpson <b>TH:</b> N. Kolenich <b>ACS:</b> M. Kolenich, F. Caggese <b>CROSS:</b> M. Caggese <b>TBS:</b> P. & M. Caggese, B. & A. Constantino
<b>THU 12/28</b>	<b>11:25 AM HIGH: MC:</b> T. Lawrence <b>TH:</b> M. Simpson <b>ACS:</b> Seminarian, D. Simpson <b>CROSS:</b> F. Caggese <b>TBS:</b> P. Caggese, B. & A. Constantino, I. Smith
<b>FRI 12/29</b>	<b>5:45 PM HIGH: MC:</b> N. McClorey <b>ACS:</b> A. McClorey, I. Smith
<b>SAT 12/30</b>	<b>7:30 AM LOW:</b> Brueggemann bros. <b>8:20 AM HIGH: MC:</b> Seminarian <b>ACS:</b> T. & J. Capetillo
<b>SUN 12/31</b>	<b>7:30 AM LOW:</b> M. McConnell, Brueggemann <b>9:00 AM HIGH: MCS:</b> N. McClorey, Seminarian <b>TH:</b> A. McClorey <b>ACS:</b> D. Hudson, C. Vander Putten <b>TB:</b> I. Smith, N. & J. Hudson, B. Constantino, L. Rabjohns. <b>11:30 AM LOW:</b> C. & J. Plucker <b>4:45 PM VESPERS &amp; BENEDICTION:</b> G. Miller, D. Simpson, I. Smith
<b>MON 1/1</b>	<b>7:30 AM LOW:</b> M. McConnell, Brueggemann <b>11:30 AM LOW:</b> P. McClorey

NEW YEAR'S DAY HIGH MASS SERVERS POSTED IN SACRISTY