



ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • PARISH OFFICE: (513) 645-4212 (9 AM-3 PM)
parishoffice@sgg.org • bpmcguire@sgg.org • frlehtoranta@sgg.org • frmckenna@sgg.org
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 31, 2023 SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS • NEW YEAR'S EVE



¶ CHRISTMAS SUNDAY NEW YEAR'S EVE

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

¶ CIRCUMCISION/ NEW YEAR'S DAY

Tomorrow is the feast of the Circumcision, a holy day of obligation. Masses are at 7:30, 9, & 11:30 AM. *There is no evening Mass.*

¶ FEAST OF DEVOTION

Tuesday is the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. Masses are at 8 & 11:25 AM and 5 PM.

¶ FIRST FRIDAY

8:00 AM Low Mass
11:00 AM Confessions
11:25 AM Low Mass, Benediction
5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary
5:35 PM Infant of Prague Novena II
5:45 PM Low Mass
6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction

Please note: NO All Night Adoration

First Friday Intention: For our youth: Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious life and for all: Generosity in the practice of the Faith.



¶ FIRST SATURDAY

7:30 AM Low Mass
9:00 AM Pontifical High Mass, Blessing of Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh. Breakfast in Helfta Hall follows Mass.

First Saturday Intention: Reparation for blasphemies against Our Lady's Divine Maternity, and the refusal of her twin titles of Co-Redemtrix and Mediatrix of Graces.

JANUARY 6 THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



7:30 AM Low Mass

9:00 AM Pontifical High Mass,
Blessing of Gold,
Frankincense & Myrrh

*You are invited to a breakfast in
Helfta Hall!*



¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the feast of the Holy Family. The second collection is for our Oblates. The Blessing of Religious Articles will be available at the Communion Rail. Catechism Classes resume at 10:40 AM. Vespers will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 *Set Your Missal:* The Holy Family, second collect of the Sunday Within the Octave of Epiphany, third of the Octave of the Epiphany. Preface and Communicantes of the Epiphany.

Lumen Christi

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

Conversion & salvation, Maria Santos Prtenjaca (Anna Klaric)

Collection Report

Sunday, December 24th\$7,616.00
Monday, December 25th\$9,293.00



THE CIRCUMCISION

January 1 is the feast of the Circumcision of our Divine Lord. Circumcision was common among many ancient peoples; and, among the Jews, was the ceremony by which Jewish male children were made partakers of the privileges of the Old Covenant. Jesus, though not bound by this law, wished to fulfill it “to show His descent according to the flesh from Abraham,” and “in order to bear in His body the stigma of the sins He had taken upon Himself.” The ceremony was appointed for the eighth day after birth; and thus, the birthday of Christ being celebrated on December 25, this event is commemorated on January 1. This day was already a pagan festivity celebrated with a great deal of immoral revelry. To show disapproval of this, the feast of the Circumcision was originally observed as a day of fasting; but later on the fast was discontinued. On this day Jesus received His Name.

Prayer for a Blessing on the New Year

O Sacred and adorable Trinity, hear our prayers on behalf of our clergy, and for all that are in authority over us. Bless, we beseech Thee, during the coming year, the whole Catholic Church; convert heretics and unbelievers; touch the hearts of sinners that they may return to Thy friendship, give prosperity to our country and peace among the nations of the world; pour down Thy blessings upon our friends, relatives and acquaintances, and upon our enemies, if we have any; assist the poor and sick; have pity on the souls of those whom this year will be summoned before Thy judgment seat. May all our actions be preceded by Thy inspirations and carried on by Thy assistance, so that all our prayers and works, having been begun in Thee, may likewise be ended in Thee. Amen.

*Christmas Poinsettia
Memorials*

**Armando & Cely Franciso & All
Departed Relatives of Chris &
Amelia Bartlett**
Lu & Ben Trinidad

Lim Yok Kim
David Augustine Tan

Mr. Donald Scanlon, Sr.
Maureen Scanlon



A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

The Church's year is laden with symbolism and mysteries, with anniversaries and festivals. It points back in loving remembrance to Jesus and the Saints; it points forward to the things of the world to come. It is like the hall of some ancient palace, filled with trophies and souvenirs, hung round with pictures of notables, reminding us at every step of hopes and ideals, trials and triumphs. It is a picture-history where the child can look and learn, where the scholar or the thinker can sit and meditate. It never wears us, because it has such a variety of appealing doctrines and incidents; it never grows old, because it deals with persons and things of undying interest. Our appetite grows with what it feeds on, and the days of the Church year are used as landmarks in our own lives also; so that there are very few of us to whom those days are not endeared by some incidents of our own history. We shall follow the Church on one of these her annual trips, questioning her as Dante questioned his guides in the regions of the dead; and if we bring away only a small fraction of the things we hear, we shall be enriched exceedingly.

THE LONELY CRIB

I love the slender Mother-maid
The night was dark but her heart un-
afraid
As she knelt in the straw where the
beasts had trod
And crooned and cooed to the living
God.

And I love Saint Joseph whose heart
wept o'er
The ruined stall and the broken floor
And the roof unmended for Him
and her,
And to think himself was a carpen-
ter!

O Thrones, Dominions, Spirits of
Power,
Where were you there in that bitter
hour!
And where the Cherubim-wings
withal
To cover the wind-holes in the wall!

The faded eyes of a wondering ass
Were dreamy mirrors where visions
pass.
And a poor old ox in the stable dim
His moo was the song of the Sera-
phim!



Christmas has ended for the world, but is just beginning for us Catholics who hold to the sacred traditions of the true Church. I hope you are having a blessed one.

Here at church, **Fathers Simpson and Brueggemann** have been doing all the work while I took a couple of days off due to illness. They covered the Masses themselves on the feasts of St. Stephen and of St. John, and took the time to arrange the parties, too. St. John's High Mass and celebration was very popular this year. It was my pleasure to visit with a young couple visiting us from Fr. Trough's mission in South Carolina. I hear that many of you are making them feel quite welcome here. This is something which I have always loved about St. Gertrude's—the family-like atmosphere that it provides. Your charity and ability to make newcomers feel welcome has always impressed me and many others.

The Holy Innocents children's party was very enjoyable. I am not sure who enjoys this party more, me or the children! The children had their fill of sugar and Theresa even made the hot chocolate, then the children gathered round as I read to them their story and a poem. Little Anthony Giese was particularly attentive and even answered correctly a question that I asked afterwards. Reference to a "Maid" was made in the poem I read, so I asked who this maid might be. He answered "Mary!" Anthony not only enjoys books, but he also likes making flower arrangements which we sometimes use in church at various shrines.



Marcel Caggese served his very first Mass on the feast of St. John and did a wonderful job as torchbearer. Someone said he has already started counting how many Masses he serves, something which Isaac Smith started when he began serving. Isaac has served well over a hundred Masses now and we still owe him a

little party. Soon, Isaac, soon! I asked one server if he did anything special for Christmas. Honestly, I was expecting to hear that he had visited family somewhere or got some new game or something to that effect, but that was not the case. Much to my edification, he answered quickly and with a genuine look of sincerity, "I got to go to Midnight Mass." That was enough to make me tear up a little on the inside, as it shows that we have been blessed with a very good bunch of Catholic youth who love their Faith.

Bishop Nkamuke tonsured two of his seminarians recently (pictured), and will ordain two of his deacons to the sacred priesthood this Saturday, the feast of the Epiphany. I was thinking that it might be a nice idea to try and come to the Mass and Holy Hour for priests this First Thursday evening and pray for the Nigerian clergy, especially the ones about to be ordained. Come if you can. Speaking of clergy, Alfonso Capetillo, our seminarian, is here on a much-needed Christmas break. It is good to see him again. Do keep him in your prayers, too.



There is so much more to write about, but I will refrain for now. Don't forget the Holy Day tomorrow! May the Infant Savior grant you all the graces for a holy New Year.

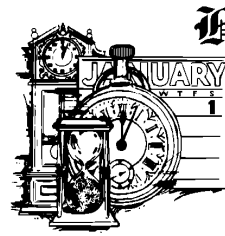
– **Bishop McGuire**

P.S. These two snails—who have been named Francis and Anthony—were found in the poinsettias on the altar. I suppose they will be added to the sacristy menagerie. Maybe they have a knack for ironing albs. All creatures great and small (and slimy?), praise the Lord!



✠ CALENDAR

MON	1/1/24	THE CIRCUMCISION <i>HOLY DAY</i> OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS • NEW YEAR'S DAY
	7:30 AM	Low Mass St. Monica Club
	9:00 AM	High Mass Christmas Novena VIII
	11:30 AM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great <i>No evening services</i>
TUE	1/2/24	HOLY NAME OF JESUS OCTAVE DAY OF ST. STEPHEN • <i>INFANT OF PRAGUE</i>
	8:00 AM	Low Mass SGG Souls in Purgatory (<i>KLB</i>)
	11:25 AM	Low Mass †Jean Bischel & Kirby Bischel (<i>Colleen Klabenes</i>)
	5:00 PM	High Mass Christmas Novena IX
WED	1/3/24	OCTAVE DAY OF ST. JOHN, APEV FIRST WEDNESDAY • <i>ST. GENEVIEVE, V</i>
	7:00 AM	Low Mass For all who cook for us and for our devoted drivers (<i>The Fathers</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass The family of †Jean Bischel (<i>The Puglielli Family</i>)
	5:10 PM	Low Mass †Jean Bischel (<i>A.M.B.</i>)
THU	1/4/24	OCTAVE DAY OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MM FIRST THURSDAY – PRAY FOR PRIESTS
	7:00 AM	Low Mass †Mrs. Mary McGuire (<i>Dominic McConnell</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Edla Rozen – Rest in peace (<i>Judy</i>)
	11:25 AM	Low Mass Our clergy – thank you (<i>Jim Soli</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass & Holy Hour for Priests For the sanctification of priests (<i>Alter Christus Confraternity</i>)
FRI	1/5/24	FIRST FRIDAY • VIGIL OF THE EPIPHANY ST. TELESOPHUS, PM
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Comfort of the afflicted (<i>Mark Cash</i>)
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	Low Mass Sanctification of the just (<i>Mark Cash</i>)
	5:15 PM	Confessions, Rosary
	5:35 PM	Infant of Prague Novena II
	5:45 PM	Low Mass St. Monica Club
	6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction <i>NO All Night Adoration</i>
SAT	1/6/24	THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD • FIRST SATURDAY
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Our children, Grandchildren, Godchildren (<i>Dan & Mary</i>)
	9:00 AM	Pontifical High Mass For all our church workers, volunteers & benefactors Blessing of Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh Epiphany Breakfast in Helfta Hall
SUN	1/7/24	THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE EPIPHANY
	7:05 AM	Rosary
	7:30 AM	Low Mass †Kent Maki, Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary (<i>L. Maki</i>)
	9:00 AM	High Mass St. Monica Club
	10:40 AM	Catechism Classes
	11:05 AM	Rosary
	11:30 AM	Low Mass Catharine Rake
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great



Happy New Year

JANUARY 1

The day for beginning the New Year differed in different ages and countries. Among the Romans

it was Julius Caesar that set it for January 1; and among the Jews today the New Year begins in September of our reckoning. In early Christian times March 25 was the generally accepted day, and long continued so in England. "It was not till late in the sixteenth century that January 1 was in most Christian countries accepted as the first day of the year."

This is the 2024th year from the birth of Jesus Christ. Such a system of designating the years was introduced about 527 years after the event by a Scythian monk named Dionysius Exiguus, that is, Dennis the Little. He lived at Rome, where events were generally reckoned from the foundation of the city. He figured out that from that event to the birth of Christ 753 years had elapsed, and made that the year of the Christian era, calling the years that followed 'years of the Lord.' This is what we mean when we write A.D. (that is, *Anno Domini*, "year of the Lord"). To designate the years that preceded, we use B.C. (that is, before Christ). The system of Dionysius was gradually adopted through the Christian world. But there are at present other ways (or eras) for designating the years; for example, those in use among the Mohammedans, Chinese, Jews, and Hindus. The godless moderns today impose C.E., for "common era."



Servers

MON 1/1	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemanns 9:00 AM HIGH: M. Simpson, C. Richesson TH: T. Lawrence ACs: N. Kolenich, J. Rabjohns CROSS: D. Simpson TB: A. Constantino, M. Kolenich, T. England, L. Rabjohns, D. Hudson, I. Smith 11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos
TUE 1/2	5:00 PM HIGH: M. & D. Simpson, I. Smith
FRI 1/5	5:45 PM LOW: Capetillos
SAT 1/6	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemanns 9:00 AM PONTIFICAL: POSTED IN SACRISTY
SUN 1/7	7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: M. C. Richesson, D. Simpson TH: S. Richesson ACs: P. Caggese, D. Hudson TB: C. VanderPutten, N. & J. Hudson, B. Constantino, F. Caggese, L. Rabjohns 11:30 AM LOW: Kolenichs 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller, D. Simpson, I. Smith 5:45 PM LOW: C. & J. Plucker