

# 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



## January 7, 2024 THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE EPIPHANY



### ¶ HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY

The second collection is for our Oblates. The Blessing of Religious Articles is available at the Communion Rail. Catechism Classes resume at 10:40 AM. The “Little Church” is in the vestibule to receive your alms for poor priests. Vespers are at 4:45 PM.

### ¶ THE EPIPHANY BLESSING

On Epiphany, the priest blessed chalk, as well as frankincense so that you could mark your doors for protection according to the ancient custom, and bless your home this Epiphany. Please pick up a pack of these sacramentals, along with the leaflet with prayers and instructions, to bring this blessing home to your family on this feast of the Holy Family. A wonderful family activity for this day!

*“The message of the angel, the visitation, the birth, the finding in the Temple, and the whole history of Bethlehem and Nazareth, although they primarily and nominally introduce Our Lady, are really filled with Jesus.”*

– Bishop Headley



Please pray for the repose of the soul of †Theresa Couch, who died this past Thursday. Her funeral will be Wednesday, January 10.

### ¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for Jim Brueggemann, Jane Fitzgibbon, Henry Sieverding, and Pat Kolb.



### POINSETTIA MEMORIALS

Joshua Baert  
Marden Family

### AN EPIPHANY / HOLY FAMILY PRAYER

O Eternal Father, may every family adore Thee, and the family of nations bow before Thee in humble submission. Hear our prayers for our own families and for all the world. At the intercession of Our Lady and St. Joseph, draw us ever close to Thy Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

### ¶ NEXT SUNDAY: EPIPHANY II

Catechism Classes as usual at 10:40 AM next Sunday. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 *Set Your Missal:* Second Sunday After Epiphany, second collect of St. Hilary, third of St. Felix. Trinity Preface.

*They are the true disciples of Christ, not who know most, but who love most.*

### ¶ REMINDER: SCHEDULING

If you would like to schedule a meeting with a priest, please do so through the proper channels, by calling or emailing the office. Please **don't** call the priests' cell numbers for this purpose, as your appointment may fall through the cracks. Thank you!

*“Be not of those who think perfection consists in undertaking many things, but of those who place it in doing well what little they do. For it is much better to do a little and do it well than to undertake much and do it ill. Yes, little and good, this is the best. Therefore, if we wish to advance, or when we desire to give some special honor to our Lord, we should redouble, not our exercises, but the perfection with which we perform them.” – St. Francis de Sales*

### ¶ SODALITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Sodality of Charity Christmas Party will take place on Saturday, January 13, after the 8:20 AM Mass.

#### Collection Report

Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.....\$5,677.00  
Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.....\$11,453.00  
Thank you for your generosity.

THE HOLINESS OF THE HOLY  
FAMILY

Our Lord spent three hours in redeeming, three years in teaching, and thirty years in obeying, in order that a rebellious, proud, and diabolically independent world might learn the value of obedience.

Home life is the God-appointed training ground of human character, for from the home life of the child springs the maturity of manhood, either for good or for evil. The only recorded acts of our Blessed Lord's childhood are acts of obedience—to God, His heavenly Father, and also to Mary and Joseph. He thus shows the special duty of childhood and of youth: to obey parents as the vice-regents of God. He, the great God Whom the heavens and earth could not contain, submitted Himself to His parents.

If He was sent on a message to a neighbor, it was the great Sender of the Apostles Who delivered the message. If Joseph ever bade Him search for a tool that was lost, it was the Wisdom of God and the Shepherd in search of lost souls Who was actually doing the seeking. If Joseph had taught Him carpentry, He Who was taught was one Who had carpentered the universe and Who would one day be put to death by the members of His own profession. If He made a yoke for the oxen of a neighbor, it was He Who would call Himself a yoke for men—and yet a burden that would be light. If they bade Him work in a little plot of garden ground, to train the creepers or water the flowers, it was He Who was the great Dresser of the vineyard of His Church, Who took in hand the water pot and the gardening tools.

All men may ponder well the hint of a Child subject to His parents, that no heavenly call is ever to be trusted that bids one neglect the obvious duties that lie near to hand.

— Bishop Fulton Sheen



HIDDEN LIFE AT NAZARETH

In the sight of His contemporaries, the life of Jesus Christ at Nazareth then appeared like the ordinary existence of a simple artisan. We see how true this is. Later, when Christ reveals Himself in His public life, the Jews of His country are so astonished at His wisdom and His words, at the sublimity of His doctrine and the greatness of His works, that they ask each other: "How came this man by this wisdom and miracles? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His Mother called Mary?... Whence therefore hath He all these things?" *Unde huic sapientia haec et virtutes? Nonne hic est fabri filius? Nonne mater ejus dicitur Maria? Unde ergo huic omnia ista?* Christ was a stumbling block for them.

This mystery of the hidden life contains teachings which our faith ought eagerly to gather up.

First of all there is nothing great in the sight of God except that which is done for His glory, through the grace of Christ. We are only acceptable to God according to the measure in which we are like unto His Son Jesus.

Christ's Divine Sonship gives infinite value to His least actions; Christ Jesus is not less adorable nor less pleasing to His Father when He wields the chisel or plane than when He dies upon the Cross to save humanity. In us, sanctifying grace, which makes us God's adoptive children, deifies all our activity in its root and renders us worthy, like Jesus, although by a different title, of His Father's complacency.

A WISH AND THE ANSWER

I wish I might have been the shining star  
That led the three Wise Men from lands afar;  
I wish I could have been the soft, sweet hay  
That made a cozy place for Christ that day;  
I wish I might have gazed upon my Lord,  
And knelt and prayed and loved Him and adored.  
The way the happy shepherds did that night—  
I wish I might have seen the angels' light.  
Oh, that I could have heard the angels sing  
Their sweetest songs for Christ, their little King;  
And saw His Mother sweetly smiling there,  
While holy Joseph knelt, deep wrapt in prayer.

Now really since I've stopped to think a while,  
This wishing I've been doing makes me smile;  
I wouldn't want to be the star or hay,  
I'd rather be a child on Christmas Day.  
My heart shall be a lovely cradle bed  
For Christ to rest His tired, little head;  
I'll sweep away all sin with greatest care,  
And make it nice and soft with love and prayer.  
Then when the priest comes with the small, white Host,  
I'll whisper, "Dear Christ Child, I love You most.  
Come to my heart this blessed Christmas Day—

It's so much nicer than  
Your bed of hay!"

— Irene Barbara Renk



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## ✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

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While we have been so very busy with our Christmas celebrations and Epiphany preparations, **Fr. Siordia** and our friends South of the Border in Co-coyoc, Mexico, have been hard at work themselves as they celebrated their patronal feast of Señor de la Expiración (Our Lord of the Expiration). The Mexican people really know how to celebrate the feasts. They prepared for the feast by a novena consisting of the daily Rosary and prayer to Our Lord of the Expiration. Then the people come from all over for three solid days of prayers, Masses, and celebrations including a Mariachi band, of course! The procession on the final day started at 9 PM, going across the city, and returning to church at 3 AM. You can see a few pictures in the bulletin. I am very much looking forward to returning to Mexico and seeing Fr. Siordia after so many years.



*Statue of Our Lord of the Expiration in procession*

Our First Thursday Holy Hour for Priests was very well attended this time as many of our servers and the Knights of the Sacred Heart came as well. A pizza party and game night followed—the well-earned party for Isaac Smith, who recently served his 100th Mass. I had a nice conversation with young Casimir Smith who anxiously awaited his dinner (a Holy Hour is hard work for a youngin' and does build up an appetite!). In all actuality, it was nice to see so many young families that evening.

Well, I am sure everyone wants to hear about the snails now. After all, this is St. Gertrude's, and the bulletin is never complete without a critter story or two, much to the chagrin of some. No sooner did we print the picture of two snails (Francis and Anthony) in last week's bulletin, than several more were discovered, and then even more a couple of days after that...7 snails in

all, 8 if you count the empty shell which we named Nemo (our Latin scholars might get the hidden meaning. Bonus points to anyone who does!). Let's see, there is Francis, Anthony, Little Hugh, John, Becket, Innocent, and Stephen. A story about Anthony...he was hiding in his shell for the longest time and we feared he might be dead, but it turns out he was only hiding. So we said a prayer to St. Anthony that the snail would come out and, wouldn't you know it, he came right out, thus showing the power of prayer to St. Anthony even in the smallest things of life. Okay, enough about the snails...

We do like the little things in life which our Lord has given us, such as snails and cats, and we certainly like a good parish celebration. Don't let that fool you, though. The most important thing is the worship of Almighty God, which we must render to Him by means of the public prayer of the Church and by our own lives, which we strive to live in accordance with God's Commandments. So, our priests travel all over the country and even throughout the world to bring the Mass, the Sacraments, and Catholic doctrine to souls.

I wish you all a very blessed Epiphany. May the thought of the three Kings lead you to the feet of the newborn King of Kings!

– Bishop McGuire



*One of the mats prepared by parishioners for the procession*

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