

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

"Invenies Me in corde Gertrudis"

"You will find Me in the heart of Gertrude"

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Sundays 7:30 AM,
9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

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Most Rev. Charles J. McGuire, Pastor
Rev. Stephen McKenna
Rev. Vili Lehtoranta
Rev. Thomas Simpson
Rev. Anthony Brueggemann



November 30, 2025 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



¶ FIRST FRIDAY

8:00 AM Low Mass
11:00 AM Confessions
11:25 AM Low Mass, Benediction
5:00 PM Exposition
5:15 PM Rosary & Confessions
5:45 PM Low Mass
6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena
All Night Adoration

First Friday Reparation Intention: To ask the Sacred Heart to prepare us for His coming.

¶ FIRST SATURDAY

7:05 AM Confessions & Rosary
7:30 AM Rorate Mass, Salve
8:20 AM Devotions, Benediction
8:40 AM Low Mass

First Saturday Reparation Intention: Reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception.

¶ ADVENT I

Today we begin a new Liturgical Year. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

¶ 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 & Thursday at 7 AM, and Saturday at 7:30 AM.



¶ FIRST THURSDAY

Holy Hour for Priests at 5 PM. Servers' pizza party following!

¶ UPCOMING

Monday, Dec. 8: The Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. Masses are at 7 & 9 AM and 5:45 PM.

NOVENA PRAYER FOR ADVENT BEGINS NOVEMBER 30TH

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.)



Congratulations to Joseph and Sarah Simpson on the baptism of their son, Isidore John, on Saturday, November 29, 2025.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT II

St. Nicholas will be visiting the children after the morning Masses next Sunday. The second collection will be taken up for our Oblates, and the Little Church will be in the vestibule to receive your alms for poor priests. The Blessing of Religious Articles will be available after all Masses. Catechism Classes at 10:40, Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Second Sunday of Advent. Second collect of St. Ambrose, third, of Our Lady in Advent. Trinity Preface.

¶ 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.

ADVENT & ETERNAL THOUGHTS

"As it was....so it will be"

Nothing in all the world's literature is so full of joy as the prayers of the Church for Advent and for Christmas. Every nation has its heritage of beauty in art, poetry, and music: no matter what foreign tyrant takes over the government, the people will cling to this last greatest wealth of literature. But the liturgy of the Church is a vast storehouse of wealth from which all may draw who possess one Faith. National differences disappear as all the earth cries out, today as two thousand years ago: *To Thee have I lifted up my soul; in Thee, O God, I put my trust.... Show, O Lord, Thy ways to me and teach me Thy paths....*

There is a joy in the Advent prayers that nothing on earth can equal, because they are so perfectly in accord with the spirit of those who did receive the Redeemer. They might be the very words of Mary, or Joseph, or the shepherds. Following these prayers yearly, as the Church urges us to do, makes us one in spirit with the humble ones who saw Him and understood. It makes the Incarnation a living thing, not an incident of the long ago but a tremendously important part of our lives which recurs again and again.

You and I were not at Bethlehem when His Mother wandered through the streets looking for a place where the Redeemer of the world could be born. We are present when He is born again each day in the Mass.... He comes to us in Holy Communion to bring us joy and strength and holiness and peace.... His Mother would teach us to be humble and obedient... Perhaps we are too busy to answer her knock, or we have the uneasy feeling that it must be uncomfortable to be holy—and if there is anything this generation asks of life, it is to be comfortable.

Two thousand years are nothing in the eyes of God, Who is eternal. Today we are as certainly given the opportunity of receiving or rejecting Him as were the people of Bethlehem on a starry night long ago when the Word was made flesh, and came to dwell among us. — *Sr. Mary Jean Dorcy, O.P.*

ADVENT CUSTOMS

Advent is the season of lovely expectancy, of holy anticipation, and of intense longing. Especially in the home where the children learn to prepare for the Christ Child's birthday, Advent can be made the most tenderly beautiful season of the year.

In studying the literature of the Church we find that the Advent prayers dramatize joyfully the real meaning of preparation for the great feast. With this thought in mind we will explain through these pages the many customs of the Church which we can observe in the home or in the school to keep this Birthday a vibrant, living expectancy among young and old.

Advent Wreath

One of the most popular of the ancient customs is the Advent wreath. It is made of evergreens bound to a wire circle. Originally taken from the pagan fire wheel, it represents the cycle of years from Adam to Christ. It bears four candles spaced evenly, one for each week. The wreath is usually suspended from the ceiling by four purple ribbons, but it may be laid on the dining room table or on an end table with the candle kept burning during the evening meal; some families like to set it up in the children's room. The little ones enjoy helping to make the wreath, which can be fashioned from several bunches of laurel leaves bound to a metal barrel hoop; the laurel, being significant of triumph, reminds us of Christ's victory over sin. One may use fragrant pine or whatever other greens are on hand. The Advent wreath is especially proper to the home, where the children as well as the parents take their turn in lighting the candle.

At the end of Advent the ribbons may be changed to white and tiny bells added for decoration. The festive wreath may then be hung in the entrance hall of the home, and to give the family an opportunity to explain the wreath to neighbors or friends who have not seen it previously.

— *Sr. Mary Laetitia, R.S.M.*

LUX IN TENEBRIS

Lest that the candle of my faith
Grow faint in the love-light and bliss,
There was sent down a night of death
Where the great darkness is.

And though the candle I hold
Sheds but a little ray about,
Fearful the darkness and the cold
If her light were put out.

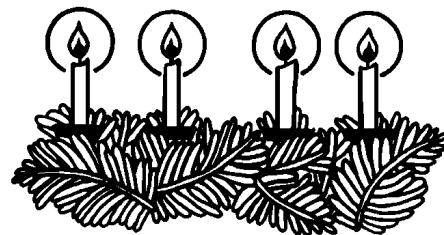
Yet she doth burn up well, and throws
Her faint, protecting gold around,
Shielding from dark and evil foes
My little plot of ground.

Comfortless? Nay; for still I feel
Thou walkest with me through the
night,
Shoulder to shoulder, heel to heel,
Within my space of light.

So I would choose being comfortless
More than great comfort without
Thee;
With Thee great darkness, much
distress,
The vast and shoreless sea.

Fence Thou my candle round about
With Thy sweet hands, lest she grow
pale;
Lest that the earth winds blow her out,
And the black night prevail.

— *Katharine Tynan Hinkson*



Lumen Christi

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

**Jena Noel – Favorable outcome for
our water well issues**
(Jena DuRousseau)

✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

Since being in Mexico, I am not sure what news to tell about the cats, other than **Fr. McKenna** accidentally stepped on Fat Cat. It was told to me that Fat Cat was steering clear of Fr. McKenna the rest of the day and wouldn't have anything to do with him. Father did feel bad about it, and Fat Cat eventually forgave him. So all's well that ends well.

I have a story about how important the Spiritual Works of Mercy are and how much good they can do. One of the Sisters chose a random person to visit in a nursing home and would regularly go to visit her. Together they would say the rosary and perhaps do some other devotions. Eventually, this led to the lady's wanting to receive the sacraments. She had been receiving the sacraments devoutly for a number of months now. Well, we just got word that she died on November 12th. These sorts of things do happen. Our Lady keeps her promises to save souls by the Rosary and the Scapular. These types of souls are often found in nursing homes and it is up to us to try and find them. I believe that the lady saved her soul because of this. If you could, please remember to pray for the repose of the soul of Isabelle Brandenburg.

You have all heard about the danger that **Bishop Nkamuke**, his priests, and Faithful are in over in Nigeria. Different hostile groups have invaded Owerri, the town where they have a mission and in which they just held the Forty Hours Devotion. It makes me wonder if the devil is so angry at the good work that was done there that he has sent men to cause havoc. Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is more powerful than any enemy, and we trust that He will take care of things. Bishop Nkamuke is very thankful for all of the prayers that have been offered for their safety. Keep praying!

My trip to Mexico was a very good one. **Fr. Arnoldo Villegas** has a chapel in Tijuana and another in Mexicali, where we visited for Confirmations. The work he does with the young people in Tijuana is most edifying. Each Saturday from 9am to 1pm he and a few other volunteers teach catechism. The students are very enthusiastic and it was clear to see that they really love their pastor! Father used to run a seminary, but had to stop because of all the work to be done pastorally. He is all by himself and has been so for the last 18 years, I think, since leaving the Trento group. Father would like to visit sometime in May, if possible. It has been a number of years since he was here last, so I hope it can work out!

Below you will see pictures from my trip to Mexico. One road from Tijuana to Mexicali goes through

the most beautiful and rugged mountains. It is truly amazing! So we stopped to take a look at the view. Mexicali is right on the boarder to California, thus the name Mexi-Cali. In one picture you can see a black line—that is the border wall. Mexicali is the hottest place in the world, with summer temperatures up to 120; but it does snow in the mountains right outside of the city. It is quite unusual.

Advent begins today. Make it a good one! Stay with Our Lady and St. John the Baptist, the two patrons of this sacred season.

— Bishop McGuire



✠ CALENDAR

MON 12/1/25 ST. ANDREW, AP • CHRISTMAS NOVENA BEGINS
8:00 AM Low Mass For all who cook for us and for our devoted drivers (*The Fathers*)
11:25 AM High Mass †Rita Boling (*Keith Elflein*)

TUE 12/2/25 ST. BIBIANA, VM
7:00 AM Rorate Mass Patricia Messineo (*KR*)
8:00 AM Low Mass †Bishop Dolan (*Levi Giese Family*)
11:25 AM High Mass 22nd anniversary of †Albert Kinnett's death (*Albert D. Kinnett*)
5:00 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

WED 12/3/25 FIRST WEDNESDAY – PRAY TO ST. JOSEPH
 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, C
7:00 AM Low Mass Souls entrusted to my care (*Collin Smith*)
8:00 AM Low Mass †Fr. Thielen 1st anniversary (*Matthew Hardin*)
11:25 AM High Mass Alfonso T. Capetillo (*Nana & Grandpa*)
5:10 PM Low Mass †Fr. Thielen – one year anniversary (*Bishop McGuire*)

THU 12/4/25 FIRST THURSDAY – PRAY FOR PRIESTS
 ST. PETER CHRYSOLOGOS, BPCD • ST. BARBARA, VM
7:00 AM Rorate Mass †Rita Boling (*Keith Elflein*)
8:00 AM Low Mass Happy Birthday Elizabeth (*Joseph*)
11:25 AM High Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
5:00 PM Holy Hour for Priests: Low Mass For the sanctification of priests (*Alter Christus Confraternity*)
Altar Servers' Pizza Party

FRI 12/5/25 FIRST FRIDAY • FERIAI DAY • ST. SABBAS, AB
8:00 AM Low Mass Intentions of Karen Fischer (*Jane Childers*)
10:55 AM Confessions
11:25 AM Low Mass, Benediction Deceased Members Schmidt Family (*Angela Schmidt*)
5:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary
5:45 PM Low Mass For the Poor Souls in Purgatory (*Michael Simpson*)
6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena
All Night Adoration

SAT 12/6/25 FIRST SATURDAY • ST. NICHOLAS, BPC
7:05 AM Confessions & Rosary
7:30 AM Rorate Mass Don Maher & Wayne Simpson (*KR*)
8:15 AM Salve, First Saturday Devotions, Benediction
8:30 AM First Saturday Meditation
8:40 AM Low Mass †Grandma & †Grandpa Bischel (*Julia Richesson*)

SUN 12/7/25 ADVENT II ☸ • ST. AMBROSE, BPCD
 VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS AFTER MORNING MASSES
7:05 AM Rosary
7:30 AM Low Mass Doris Ritze – Happy Birthday, Mom (*Mary Kunkel*)
9:00 AM High Mass Thou knowest, O Lord (*Arlinghaus Family*)
10:40 AM Catechism Classes
11:05 AM Rosary

All Night Adoration Guard of Honor December 2025

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: David Swinney, Joseph Vines
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Tim Giese, Jim Phelan
9:00 PM - 10:00 PM: Collin Smith, Justin Soeder
10:00 PM - 11:00 PM: Anthony Caggese, Jim Stanislawski
11:00 PM - 12:00 AM: James Kolenich, Paul Puglielli
12:00 AM - 1:00 AM: Levi Giese, Alfonso Capetillo
1:00 AM - 2:00 AM: Dan Stanislawski, *Temporary volunteer needed!*
2:00 AM - 3:00 AM: Dan & Philip Brueggemann
3:00 AM - 4:00 AM: McConnell Brothers
4:00 AM-5:00 AM: Matthew Giese, Bruno Siqueira
5:00 AM - 6:00 AM: Joseph Simpson, Bill Herman
6:00 AM - 7:00 AM: John Riggs, Robert Rosendale

☞ *If you cannot make your hour, please contact the church office immediately: (513) 645-4212.*

☞ *If you have finished your hour but no one has arrived to relieve you, please call Fr. Brueggemann (513-378-2705) or Fr. Simpson (513-378-2870) to substitute.*



COLLECT OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways of Thine only-begotten Son: that through His advent we may be worthy to serve Thee with purified minds; Who livest and reignest, God, forever and ever. Amen.

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

Collection Report

Sunday, November 23rd.....5,770.65
 Thank you for your generosity.

Servers

FRI 12/5 5:45 PM Low: Capetillos
SAT 12/6 7:30 AM HIGH: I. Smith, F. Caggese
BENEDICTION: MCS: D. Simpson, P. Caggese **TH:** F. Caggese
TBS: I. & J. Smith
8:40 AM Low: I. & J. Smith
SUN 12/7 7:30 AM Low: M. McConnell, Brueggemann
9:00 AM HIGH: MC: A. McClorey, D. Simpson **TH:** M. Caggese
ACS: I. Smith, L. Rabjohns **TBS:** T. Stanislawski, Ma. Caggese, B. & A. Constantino, N. & J. Hudson
11:30 AM Low: Kolenichs
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: TH: D. Simpson **ACS:** I. Smith, P. Caggese **CROSS:** A. Constantino
5:45 PM Low: D. Simpson

11:30 AM Low Mass Special Intention Deceased (*Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski*)

4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction

5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great