

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



December 7, 2025

ADVENT II • ST. AMBROSE, BPCD

¶ ADVENT II



St. Nicholas visits the children after the morning Masses today. The second collection is taken up for our Oblates,

and the Little Church is in the vestibule to receive your alms for poor priests. The Blessing of Religious Articles is available after all Masses. Catechism Classes at 10:40, Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM.

¶ THIS WEEK

Monday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a *Holy Day of Obligation*. All are bound to hear Mass under pain of mortal sin. The special Workers' Mass is at 7:00 AM (*no sermon*). The High Mass is at 9:00 AM, and the last Mass is at 5:45 PM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

On **Thursday** the Catholic Mothers' Consortium meets after the 5 PM Mass. On **Saturday** the Sodality of Charity has their meeting at 11 AM.

¶ PARISH REGISTRATION

Cards are available in the vestibule, just inside the main doors, for parish registration. If you are new to the parish, newly over 18, or if your contact information has changed, please fill one out and return it in the collection basket, bookstore, or office.



¶ 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.

Collection Report

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

¶ NEXT SUNDAY



Next Sunday is Gaudete Sunday.

The **St. Lucia Procession** will

take place before the High Mass. Don't miss the

Christmas Bake Sale!

Catechism Classes will

be at 10:40 AM. Vespers

with Benediction will be at 4:45

PM.  **Set Your Missal:** Third

Sunday of Advent. Second

collect of the Immaculate

Conception, third Against the

Persecutors. 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.

¶ Congratulations

to Michael & Harmony McMahon on the baptism of their son, Joseph Daniel, on Saturday, December 6, 2025.



¶ UPCOMING

- **Christmas Decorating:** Monday, December 22
- **St. John's Feast with Blessing of Beverages:** Saturday, December 27
- **Holy Innocents Children's Party:** Sunday, December 28, after the High Mass
- **January 1st:** Circumcision, holy day. Masses at 7, 9 and 11:30 AM.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Three Divine Persons imbue this sublime creature with all her privileges, her favors, and her graces, and with all of her holiness. The Eternal Father created her pure and immaculate and is well pleased in her for she is the worthy dwelling of His only Son. Through the generating of His Son in His bosom from all eternity, He forecasts the generation of His Son as Man in the pure womb of this Mother, and He clothed her from her conception in the radiant snowy garment of grace and of most perfect sanctity; she participates in His perfection. The Son who chose her for His Mother poured His wisdom into her that from the beginning, by infused knowledge, she knew her God. She loved and served Him in the most perfect manner as He never until then had been loved and served on this earth. The Holy Spirit poured His love into her; she was the only creature worthy or capable of receiving this love in unlimited measure because no other had sufficient purity to come so near to God; and being near to Him could know and love Him ever more. She was the only creature capable of containing the stream of love which poured into her from on high. She alone was worthy to return to Him from whom came that love. This very love prepared her for that "Fiat" which delivered the world from the tyranny of the infernal enemy and overshadowed her, the purest of doves, with the expectancy of the Son of God.

Oh my Mother, how ashamed I feel in your presence, weighted down as I am with faults! You are most pure and immaculate from the moment of your conception, indeed from the moment in eternity when you were conceived in the mind of God. Have pity on me! May one compassionate look of yours revive me, purify me, and lift me up to God; raising me from the filth of this world that I may go to Him who created me, who regenerated me in Holy Baptism, giving me back my white stole of innocence that original sin had so defiled. Dear Mother, make me love Him! Pour into my heart that love that

burned in yours for Him. Even though I be clothed in misery, I revere the mystery of your Immaculate Conception, and I ardently wish that through it you may purify my heart so that I may love your God and my God. Cleanse my mind that it may reach up to Him and contemplate Him and adore Him in spirit and in truth. Purify my body that I too may be a tabernacle for Him and be less unworthy of possessing Him when He deigns to come to me in Holy Communion. Amen.

— Padre Pio



Our Beloved Dead – December

Jerome G. Gerrard	12-01-1989
Albert D. Kinnett	12-02-2003
Bishop Clarence Kelly	12-02-2023
Frank Alban, Jr.	12-03-1988
Rev. James Thielen	12-03-2024
George Greene	12-04-1999
Rosemary Breitenstein	12-08-1999
Regina K. Budde	12-09-1992
Alice M. Corbin	12-12-1995
Floyd Rimer, Jr.	12-12-2002
George Wissing	12-12-2009
Elizabeth L. Smith	12-12-2015
Archbishop Thuc	12-13-1984
Henry Golembeski	12-15-1993
Ralph Patton	12-15-2009
Janice Curran	12-15-2020
Bishop McKenna	12-16-2015
Fred Hauserman	12-16-2010
Vanessa S. Thompson	12-17-2008
Marty Lierl	12-18-2012
Kyle McGuire	12-18-2021
Mary Genevieve Bell	12-19-2004
David T. Miller	12-19-2004
Mary I. Osborn	12-19-2002
Katie Bischak	12-22-2017
Barbara Steinmetz	12-26-2016
Margaret A. Kinnett	12-26-2022
Richard Weik	12-29-2010
Kirby Bischel	12-30-2024

PATIENCE

To him who waits all things will come,
But patience is not sitting down
Upon the curbstones of the town
When skies are overcast and glum,
Nor is it watching day by day,
Indifferent to the tasks at hand,
Content in idleness to stand
Till something better comes your way.

The truly patient man is one
Who, checked and hindered by the
fates,

Still bravely works the while he waits,
And holding fast unto his dream
Though halted now, still plays the man
And does whatever task he can,
However humble it may seem.

Day after day and week by week,
Against the odds must patience fight,
Clinging forever to the right.
'Tis not a virtue, pale and meek,
That merely sits beside the road
And waits for luck to come along;
But it's alive, alert and strong
And bravely bears a heavy load!

— Edgar A. Guest



COURAGE

Press on! Though mists obscure
The steep and rugged way,
And dark'ning doubt besets—
Soon dawns the brighter day.
Keep on! Though hours be long,
And days deep-fraught with woe,
Let patience do her perfect work,
And vanquish every foe.
Hope on! Though all seems lost,
And threat'ning storms beat high,
Have faith! Be still and know
That God is ever nigh.
Fight on! Though fear assails
And panic grips the heart,
The battle you will surely win
If you play well your part.

— Grenville Kleiser

✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

The second Sunday of Advent is here already. How is your Advent going thus far? Have you managed to detox from any unnecessary use of cell phones and other devices that usually only help to distract us from what we should be doing and to snuff out holy desires? I wonder how much less sin would be committed, and how much more spiritual progress would be made were it not for these things. Sure, they have their purpose, but they also have a way of taking over our lives. Holy desires! Without them we go nowhere in our pursuit of heaven.

The Cross is heavy at times, but someone always has it worse! When we compare our little crosses that throw us into fits of impatience to those real sufferings that others have, it is a revelation of how petty we can be. **Bishop Nkamuke** and his priests and Faithful are still in great danger from Boko Haram and other terrorist groups and so they must always be on guard and be cautious in their going about. The latest is that these groups have control of the highways, making it even more difficult to go places. Still, Bishop Nkamuke is very thankful for your prayers, so please continue them. He and I are having our priests pray a special collect against persecutors and evildoers at each Mass until further notice. The collect is outstanding in its simplicity and in what it asks for. "Crush, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the pride of our enemies, and humble their insolence by the power of Thy right hand." It is not often that bishops have their priests add this sort of prayer, called an *Oratio Imperata*, to the Mass. These orations are very powerful and we are confident that this will work.

Our other priests are faring well, it seems. **Fr. Mardones** is saying Mass every day—quite impressive after such a traumatic experience as a leg amputation! Just a few months ago, no one was sure that he would live, but prayers were answered and he is now back to saying Holy Mass. How good God is! **Fr. Brueggemann** is going out to Seattle for the feast of the Immaculate Conception to see one of our seminarians receive the cassock. **Fr. Simpson** is on his long trip and will be gone for the entire week. If I'm not mistaken he starts out in Texas going to El Paso, Austin, and Dallas; then he flies to North Dakota to visit Grand Forks and Minot before heading to Milwaukee. Whew! What a journey! **Fr. McMahon** came down from New York to do a baptism on Saturday and stayed for a short visit...which is always welcome!

Fr. Simpson, the Sisters, some men of the parish and I did a little rearranging in church this past week.

We moved the St. John statue near the side chapel to make room for a large statue of St. Clare that we have had since the days when St. Clare Church was in Columbus. She even came with us when the mission had to move to Chillicothe. Since the mission closed a number of years ago she has been kept in our garage, and we have finally found a place for her in church. Pray to her when you go by her statue. She is a powerful saint!

Don't forget that Monday is a Holy Day of Obligation, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States. Mothers, don't forget the CMC meeting this Thursday. The Sodalists will have their meeting on Saturday at 11:00 and are planning to sing at a nursing home close to church.

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!

— Bishop McGuire



COLLECT OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Incline Thine ear to our prayers, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation: Who livest and reignest, God, forever and ever. Amen. *(Say this prayer Saturday evening, as you light two purple candles and one rose on your Advent wreath, and frequently throughout the week.)*



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	12/8/25	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION <i>HOLY DAY</i>
	7:00 AM	Worker's Mass (no sermon) Renee Fernandez (Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski)
	9:00 AM	High Mass †Catherine Vinski – anniversary of death 12/2 (Mary Egger & Lauren Caggese)
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
TUE	12/9/25	WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	7:00 AM	Rorate Mass †Mary Elaine Browne – 10 th anniversary (Christopher Browne)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Alfonso T. Capetillo (Nana & Grandpa)
WED	12/10/25	WITHIN THE OCTAVE • ST. MELCHIADES, PM <i>OUR LADY OF LORETTO</i>
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Richard Brueggemann (Anna Brueggemann)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Special Intention – St. Joseph (Michelle Mikesell)
	5:10 PM	Low Mass †Duke England (Andrea England)
THU	12/11/25	ST. DAMASUS I, PC • WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	7:00 AM	Rorate Mass Judy Metz (Victoria Cerise)
	11:25 AM	High Mass Intentions for Stanislawski family – Thank you (Kevin & Phyllis Kiernan)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Intentions of the CMC Catholic Mothers Consortium Meeting
FRI	12/12/25	WITHIN THE OCTAVE • OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Michael Simpson – Happy Belated Birthday (Your Godmother)
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	Low Mass †Nancy Seyfried (JCS)
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass †Elizabeth L. Smith – 10 th Anniversary (Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell)
	6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	12/13/25	ST. LUCY, VM • WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	7:05 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Rorate Mass Bishop McGuire & Priests at St. Gertrude's (Jane Childers)
	8:10 AM	Salve, Sermon
	8:20 AM	Low Mass For all those who have prayed for us (Eddie & Renee Fernandez)
	11:00 AM	Sodality Meeting
SUN	12/14/25	ADVENT III ☸☸☸ • GAUDETE SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE • CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE!
	7:05 AM	Rosary
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Poor Souls (Angela Schmidt)
	9:00 AM	St. Lucia Procession, High Mass To St. Joseph, Model of Artisans – In Thanks (Joe Druecker)
	10:40 AM	Catechism Classes
	11:05 AM	Rosary
	11:30 AM	Low Mass Alfonso Capetillo – Seminarian (Bob & Becky Uhlenbrock)
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

✠ ADVENT CUSTOMS

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CRIB. During Advent the whole family will be looking forward to the preparation of the Christmas Crib. Its first use is accredited to St. Francis of Assisi at Greccio in Italy in 1223. The saint asked one of his friends whom he loved with special affection to prepare the crib so all could see how Christ was born at Bethlehem in lowly poverty; how He was bedded in the manger of hay between ox and an ass.

The joyful day approached. The Franciscan friars were called to meet at Greccio. Peasants living nearby prepared candles and torches to brighten the night. The crib was made ready and hay was brought to line it. The ox and the ass were led to the spot. Crowds drew near rejoicing, and their voices resounded through the fields and the woods. The saint stood before the crib, his heart filled with joy, and there at midnight a Solemn Mass was sung.

MODERN CRIBS. Since the time of St. Francis the Christmas Crib has become a familiar sight in Christian lands all over the world. The building of the manger can be a big project for all the family. Those who cannot afford the purchase of all the figures which make up the crib scene may begin very simply with a home-made stable and one or two figures—perhaps only Mary and the Babe. These dear statues can be kept each year, until the whole scene of Bethlehem is reproduced.

The children will beg to take part in this lovely work, even painting little figures which the father may cut out of plywood. They can fashion the Judean hills with crushed brown paper sprinkled with Christmas snow, with twigs for trees clustering close to the home-made stable. Such scenes are among the dearest memories of childhood, especially if, as Christmas nears, family prayers are said at the crib.

Some parents have the significant custom of teaching the children to prepare the crib for the Holy Infant by placing straws each evening in the manger, as many straws as they have performed little acts of sacrifice during the day. On Christmas Eve the youngest child carries the Infant and places It in the manger as the family sings carols of welcome. Will children ever forget such a Christmas? – *Sr. Mary Laetitia, R.S.M.*

Servers

MON 12/8: 7:00 AM **Low:** Brueggemanns

9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: S. & C. Richesson, D. Simpson **TH:** M. Simpson **ACS:** M. Caggese, J. Rabjohns **MITRE:** I. Smith **CROZIER:** F. Caggese **TRAIN:** J. Smith **TBS:** V. Siqueira, Ma. Caggese, T. Stanislawski, B. & A. Constantino, L. Rabjohns

4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: **TH:** D. Simpson **ACS:** B. & A. Constantino **CROSS:** I. Smith

5:45 PM Low: N. McClorey

FRI 12/12: 5:45 PM **Low:** M. Caggese, D. Simpson **BENEDICTION:** MCS: D. Simpson, F. Caggese **TH:** M. Caggese **TBS:** B. & A. Constantino

SAT 12/13: 7:30 AM **High:** F. Caggese, A. Constantino
8:20 AM Low: Rabjohns

SUN 12/14: 7:30 AM **Low:** M. Schneider, Brueggemann

9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: D. Simpson, N. Kolenich, M. Simpson **TH:** N. McClorey **CROSS:** J. Rabjohns **ACS:** M. Kolenich, A. McClorey **TBS:** J. Kolenich, L. Rabjohns, V. Horton, V. Siqueira, J. & I. Smith

11:30 AM Low: Capetillos

4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: **TH:** D. Simpson **ACS:** I. Smith, B. Constantino **CROSS:** J. Smith

5:45 PM Low: VOLUNTEER