



## ✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS


**DECEMBER 10, 2006 - ADVENT II - WITHIN THE OCTAVE - OL OF LORETTO**  
Today is the Second Sunday of the Month. The **Legion of Decency Pledge** takes place at all Masses.


**Arts & Crafts** **CALLING THE CRAFTY**  
Next Sunday is our Christmas Craft Sale. Are your projects finished? Almost? You may bring your completed items to the church office, or call Connie Kamphaus 513-892-1469 for more information.

Don't forget we are also having a Christmas Bake Sale at the same time. Plan on sharing some of your Christmas goodies with us to make this a great fundraising booster.

**POINSETTIA MEMORIAL**  
 We are welcoming contributions to defray the cost of the Christmas flowers. We typically use between 100 - 120 plants to decorate the church. If you wish to make your donation in memory of a loved one, please fill out the special Poinsettia Offering envelope available in the vestibule and pews. To have your loved one included in the special Christmas memorial, please turn your envelope in no later than December 18th.

**CHRISTMAS MASS NOVENA**  
 Remember your loved ones in our Christmas Novena of Masses which begins Christmas Day—the perfect gift! Envelopes may be found in the vestibule and the Gift Shop. Fill them out and return them to the Church Office or the collection basket. Envelopes must be turned in no later than December 19th.

**2007 COLLECTION ENVELOPES**  
 The 2007 Collection envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please pick up your envelopes today.

**2007 ROMAN CATHOLIC CALENDAR**  
 This year's calendar is available for purchase in the Book Store. The price is \$6.00. Every Catholic home should have a traditional calendar.

**PRAYERS, PLEASE**  
This Advent season remember our dear

sick and shut-in, particularly: Sam Campbell, father of Linda Campbell.

*You are Invited*— to Christmas dinner at church. If you have no particular plans, or would like to plan to be with us for this blessed day, please call the church to reserve a place. *We need to know*, however, *by Sunday, December 17th*, so don't delay. Some of you may be worried about Vespers, but be assured the meal will be finished in time for the church's evening office at 3:30 PM.

### CONFIDENTIAL TO "CONFIDENTIAL": THANK YOU!

Thank You for your anonymous letter, left in the confessional. I almost missed it, except that I turned the light on to move some wires and found it. Once I saw it was not signed, I, of course, crumpled it up and threw it away, unread. However, I do thank you, mystery writer, for reminding me to teach our seminarians *never* to read anonymous letters.

—BISHOP DOLAN

### NOVENA PRAYER FOR ADVENT

*Hail and blessed be the hour and 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 desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother. Amen.*

*(Traditionally said 15 times a day from St. Andrew's Day until Christmas.)*

DECEMBER 17, 2006

#### Wishers

7:30 AM John Wiesman, Kent Maki, Joe Andreotta, Tom Kamphaus  
9:00 AM Jim Gebel, Richard Smith, Dale Wilker, Bernie Brueggemann  
11:30 AM Bob Uhlenbrock, Kirby Bichel, Dennis Hille, Tim Carney  
5:45 PM John Seyfried

DECEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 17, 2006

#### Servers

•TUE 12/12 5:45 PM LOW: G. Keaveney  
•WED 12/13 6:30 AM LOW: C. & T. Simpson  
•FRI 12/15 5:45 PM LOW: Keaveney, Briggs, Ritze, Bayer  
•SAT 12/16 7:30 AM HIGH: C. & T. Simpson  
•SUN 12/17 7:30 AM LOW: D. & S. Brueggemann  
9:00 AM HIGH: MCs: A. & J. Lotarski; AC: R. Hill & L. Schappacher; TH: A. French; TORCH: A. Richesson, F. & N. Puglielli, G. Wnek  
11:30 AM LOW: C. Ritze & A.D. Kinnett  
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller  
5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

#### Collection Report

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2006 ..... \$5132.22  
SECOND COLLECTION ..... \$ 801.00

*Thank you for your generosity!  
Remember St. Gertrude's in your will!*

## ✠ POETRY CORNER

### NEW TESTAMENT:

### REVISED EDITION

BY SISTER MARY CATHARINE

This is a wrong  
that needs not my bespeaking  
To win your pity,  
Mary of Bethlehem,  
That women with children  
go through our cities seeking  
(How hopelessly) a roof to shelter  
them.

This thing you know,  
of inns where any stranger  
Against his need  
can find some place to stay,  
Where dogs have homes,  
and oxen still their manger,  
And only children  
may be turned away.

There are no griefs;  
only for our weeping  
The old sorrows  
men have wept before.  
And still Light comes;  
but we are blind or sleeping,  
And let a Child  
turn homeless from our door.



### PENITENTIAL DAWN

BY BISHOP DOLAN

The sun rises past the creek  
Especially in purple times, it seems.  
A peek, a promise, then a panoply  
Of Lenten shades and Advent hues,  
But not to stay.  
The palette runs with rose and indigo  
A riot rushed and in a hush  
Muted, makes its way till all is grey.  
Penance still!

The shouting of the tones dies down  
The churning colors calm and  
Christ our dawn is longed for yet.



*Now riseth up Elias' little cloud,  
That growing shall distil  
the showers of grace;  
Her being now begins,  
who, ere she ends,  
Shall bring our good that  
shall our evil mend.*

—BL ROBERT SOUTHWELL

# ✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D.)

## ¶ A LOVELY CHRISTMAS IDEA

This year we would like to recommend to you the charitable project of the collection of clothing for our Mexican missions. The poor are always in need of clothing. We ask that you please send only good, clean, serviceable clothing. Keep in mind what you would appreciate receiving if you found yourself in the situation of these needy people. Old, worn out, faded items that you would not wear, is really not charity. Please send all items *directly* to:

Fr. Roberto Mardones  
c/o 1519 Opossum Street  
El Paso, TX 79928

## DO NOT BRING CLOTHING TO CHURCH!

## ¶ CHRISTMAS IS FOR CHILDREN. SO, LET'S GIVE THEM A GIFT!

I suspect that some young Catholic parents never have had occasion to question the liberal cultural presuppositions of their own upbringing, and that this may be why they bring up their children pretty much as they were brought up. Alas.

Unfortunately this means (among other things) frustrated children, angry parents (at times) and a whole lot of noise. The good news is that there is an easier way.

Train your children, rather than allow them to "terrorize" others by their constant misbehavior. Set up little training sessions at quiet times, with disobedience punished and good behavior praised — books are available. Many of our parents train their children, and

would be happy to explain how it works.

This kind of training works well to prepare children to behave in church and in public in general. It also prepares them for adult, and eternal, life. They are happy and secure in their limits, and parents can avoid that frustrated feeling which leads, finally, to angry smacking of little ones, with more cries and tears.

Training, finally, disposes young children to be trained to obey Almighty God, as they would their parents: immediately and respectfully. Training; try it! The benefits are eternal!

This Christmas message comes compliments of Bishop Dolan.

## ¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of the Month. Our special Second Collection is for: *Fr. Leslie's African Mission*. The **Blessing of Expectant Mothers** follows all Masses.

The **Christmas Craft and Bake Sale** follows all Masses.

**Vespers and Benediction** are at 4:45 PM.

*Set your missal:* December 17th.

**Third Sunday in Advent - Gaudete**, with the commemorations of the BVM (Advent) and Against Persecutors of the Church. **PREF:** Trinity.



## ¶ CHURCH DECORATING

Saturday, **December 16th**, all members of the parish are invited to come and help with decorating the church (both inside and outside) for Christmas. The more help we have the more quickly we will finish. We

plan to begin around **9:00 AM**. A **meatless Chili luncheon** will be served to all the workers. If you can come, please call Sister 513-703-1330 or the Church Office 513-645-4212 and let us know.

## ¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 5th:** Opening of 40 Hours Devotion



## ¶ CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### • Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Schedule - Morning

7:30 AM: Low Mass

9:00 AM: High Mass

11:30 AM: Low Mass

First Vespers of Christmas - To be announced.

**NO 5:45 PM MASS DUE TO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

### • Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Schedule - Evening

8:45 PM: The Office of Matins

10:45 PM: Carols

11:00 PM: Entrance of the Bishop,

Blessing of the Crib & Vesting

11:30 PM: Midnight Mass followed by

The Office of Lauds

A **Potluck Supper** follows Midnight Mass. If you are planning on coming, please bring a dish to share.

### • Monday, December 25th - Christmas Day

9:00 AM: Low Mass & Benediction, with String Quartet

11:00 AM: Low Mass with Carols

3:30 PM: Vespers of Christmas Day



## OUR GOAL

100%

75%

50%

25%



## NOVEMBER RECTORY FUND FINAL FIGURES

September Monthly goal	\$5000.00
Received to date	\$3780.00
Percent of goal received	75.60%
Possible contributors	200
Contributors to date	90
Percent contributing	45%

*Your support is needed and appreciated!*

## ✠ THE CALENDAR

## ✠ BISHOP'S CORNER



<b>MON</b>	<b>12/11/06</b>	<b>ST DAMASUS I, PC - WITHIN THE OCTAVE Immaculate Conception Novena V</b>
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>High Mass</b> <i>Reparation for Sins Committed (Michael DiSalvo)</i>
	<b>4:15-6:00 PM</b>	<b>Knights of the Sacred Heart (St. Gertrude the Great) St. Angela Merici Girls' Group (St. Gertrude the Great)</b>
<b>TUES</b>	<b>12/12/06</b>	<b>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE - WITHIN THE OCTAVE Immaculate Conception Novena VI</b>
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>High Mass</b> <i>†Special Intention for Maureen (Gerry Keaveney)</i>
	<b>5:45 PM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> <i>†Elizabeth Richter (Jim &amp; Barb Kolenich)</i>
<b>WED</b>	<b>12/13/06</b>	<b>ST LUCY, VM - WITHIN THE OCTAVE Immaculate Conception Novena VII</b>
	<b>6:30 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> <i>Thanksgiving to Our Lady Queen of Angels (C. Simpson Family)</i>
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>High Mass</b> <i>Doris Steinmetz - Improved Health (Barb Steinmetz)</i>
	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>THUR</b>	<b>12/14/06</b>	<b>WITHIN THE OCTAVE Immaculate Conception Novena VIII</b>
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>High Mass,</b> <i>†Floyd Bischel (Dean &amp; Carolyn McClurey)</i>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>12/15/06</b>	<b>OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Conclusion of Immaculate Conception Novena</b>
	<b>11:15 AM</b>	<b>Confessions</b>
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>High Mass</b> <i>Relief of the Poor Souls in Purgatory (Robert Uhlenbrock)</i>
	<b>5:15 PM</b>	<b>Confessions &amp; Rosary</b>
	<b>5:45 PM</b>	<b>Low Mass, Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction, Confessions Deceased Parishioners of St. Gertrude Church (Bernie Brueggemann)</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>12/16/06</b>	<b>ST EUSEBIUS, BPM</b>
	<b>7:15 AM</b>	<b>Confessions</b>
	<b>7:30 AM</b>	<b>High Mass</b> <i>Poor Souls in Purgatory (C. K. Wozny)</i>
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATING</b>
	<b>4:30 PM</b>	<b>Confessions</b>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>12/17/06</b>	<b>ADVENT III - GAUDETE - ST LAZARUS, BPC</b>
	<b>7:30 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> <i>Special Intention (Kathy Schweitzer)</i>
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>High Mass</b> <i>Deceased Parishioners of St. Gertrude Church (Bernie Brueggemann)</i>
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> <i>†Floyd Bischel (Ed &amp; Mary Richesson)</i>
	<b>4:45 PM</b>	<b>Vespers &amp; Benediction</b>
	<b>5:45 PM</b>	<b>Low Mass</b> <i>For the People of St. Gertrude</i>

### ✠ CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR A POOR AFRICAN MISSIONARY

This year we are collecting a Christmas alms on Sunday, December 17th, both in church and in the Catechism Classes. Fr. Eldred Leslie is an elderly, poor missionary priest in South Africa. He is faithful to the true Church and Mass, and lives in very difficult conditions. A truly worthy priest and Confessor of the Faith, Fr. Leslie knew our own dear Fr. Randolph and is like him, a convert to the Faith. His only request is for money which can be used to give alms to the poor unclothed, shoeless children who besiege him whenever he steps out of his house. Please be generous. *"And opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts..."*

The Second Sunday of Advent, Legion of Decency Sunday, falls in the Octave of Our Blessed Mother's Immaculate Conception, and this year opens the week in which our short Advent is already half over. Courage, then—and generosity! May Mary Immaculate inspire you.

Down in sunny Argentina, where it is early summer, Father Federico Palma was ordained on the Holy Day, and is today singing his First Solemn High Mass. I will also have confirmed a good number of Soldiers of Christ. God willing, I will return Tuesday. Thank you for accompanying me with your prayers.

I hope to see many of you on Saturday, for many hands are needed to make light work of our Christmas decorating. Please come and spend a few hours with us. A delicious meatless Chili lunch will be on offer.

Father Cekada, fresh back from Florida himself, is offering our morning Masses. Next Sunday Father Thielen will be with us for Christmas confessions.

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

—Bishop Dolan

### ✠ THE LOGIC OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

It is not surprising that wherever the most enlightened piety exists, there also, hardly a moment's hesitation on this subject will be entertained. *"Caro Jesu Caro Maria!"* "The flesh of Jesus is the flesh of Mary!" they will at once exclaim with the great Saint Augustine. How can it be that the God of all purity, to whom even the least shadow of sin is an object of eternal abhorrence, would have suffered His Virgin Mother to be, even for an instant, such an object in His sight! From her He received that flesh and blood, that human nature in which, made one with the Divinity, He redeemed the world, and can we believe that the same in Mary's person, in any possible degree was ever sullied by the demon's breath; dishonored by the taint of guilt? Or again, with Saint Cyril, the pious Catholic will ask, "Who have ever heard that an architect built a glorious dwelling for himself, and at once gave it over to be possessed by His most cruel and hated enemy?"

If there were no other words of Holy Writ on this topic but one — "Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ" (Mt 1: 16), — they would be amply sufficient. Behold the divine fact that overthrows every difficulty; the inspired oracle that sweeps away every objection...

Purer than heaven's purest angel; brighter than its brightest Seraph; Mary, after her Creator, God, who made her and gave her all, is the most perfect of beings, the masterpiece of Infinite Wisdom, Almighty Power and Eternal Love.

To such a being we cannot reasonably suppose that a perfection was denied her which had been already, gratuitously, bestowed on inferior creatures: on the angelic spirits.

JOHN NEWMANN

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.

Gathered for the blessing of the wreath, the father begins:

*(This first part is repeated each week)*

**Father:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**All:** Who made heaven and earth.

**Father:** O God, by Whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessings upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, and may receive from Thee abundant graces, through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

#### SECOND WEEK

**Father:** O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds, Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen. *(Two candles are lighted by the eldest child and left burning during the meal.)*

#### THIRD WEEK

**Father:** O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thine ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation, through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen. *(Three candles are lighted by the mother and allowed to burn as before.)*

#### FOURTH WEEK

**Father:** O Lord, stir up thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with Thy great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede, through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen. *(All four candles are lighted by the father and allowed to burn as before.)*

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 to add a touch of gaiety to the home, and to give the family an opportunity to explain the

wreath to neighbors or friends who have not seen it previously.

#### 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?

#### AS CHRISTMAS NEARS

Commercially Christmas has become only a gimmick for making money rather than a feast celebrating the birth of Christ. Medieval winter scenes appear in advertisements before the symbol of the Christmas star, and so-called Santa Clauses precede the Crib-picture. It is up to Christians today to show the world the real Christ of Christmas, to restore the child-wonder of breathless beauty brought back to life by the liturgical celebration.

#### THE CHRISTMAS WREATH

A much loved custom is the use of the Christmas wreath. It too may be a family project fashioned by loving hands and made of any green available at Christmas time.

The wreath is usually decorated with a large bow or with tiny bells or cones, and hung in the window. Some like to place it outside the front door as a welcome token. By its circular pattern it shows the love of God, which has neither beginning nor end, and indicates our belief that it was this universal love which brought Christ down to the world, a tiny Babe in a cold manger at Bethlehem.

#### THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

As the great day approaches, holy anticipation sharpens our faith and sanctifies our hope and joy, while we prepare the Christmas candle. Any ordinary candle may be used, even one which has been decorated by the children, though nowadays commercial candles, very beautiful ones, are easily come by. A simple white blessed candle would be appropriate, since it typifies Christ, the Light of the world.

Preferably it is placed in the window on Christmas eve, and as night falls, it shines forth to tell all the world that Joseph and Mary are welcome in the home. Perhaps it would be lighted by the father of the house, while all kneel and mother or one of the children reads aloud the Christmas story from the second chapter of St. Luke. This is one ceremony the children will always remember.

*(Continued next Sunday)*