

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

§ DECEMBER 14, 2008 • ADVENT III

GAUDETE SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. Today is Confession Sunday: Confessions before or during all Masses. Children's confessions are heard at 10:30 a.m.

Adults, please remember that children's confession Sundays at 10:30 are for children only. Please attend to your confessions at other times. Our Catechism children have been unable to complete their confessions due to the influx of adults.

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available following all Masses.

Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 p.m.

§ THIS WEEK

Monday December 15, Knights of the Sacred Heart meet with Fr. McGuire at 4:00 p.m. at the usual location. All boys and men are invited to join us.

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (December 17, 19 and 20) of this week are the Church's winter **Ember days**. All Catholics between the ages of 21 and 59, inclusive, are bound by the Church's laws of fast, and all who have attained their 7th year must keep the abstinence (meat once at the principal meal on Wednesday and Saturday.)

§ CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATING

Church Decorating will take place Monday December 15 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Anyone who can come in and help is welcome. The men are needed to put up the major decorations (roping, wreaths, trees, lights etc.) and the ladies are needed for the finishing work. Call the church for additional times. If you can come, please call Katie 513-251-3895 or the church office 513-645-4212. *We need to know, and we need your help!*



§ PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

In your charity please pray for the repose of the soul of Donald Hille, the father of Dennis Hille, who died recently.

Also please pray for the repose of the soul of the grandmother of Marge Soli, who also died recently, and for her father, who is very ill.

§ THANK YOU

Seven Alter Christus stipends were collected on Sunday from the "little church" donations. These Masses will be offered on behalf of our priests. Thank you very much for your generosity.

§ NEXT SUNDAY

Set your missal: Advent IV with the collect of Our Lady and for the Church. Preface of the Trinity. Vespers and Benediction are at 4:45 PM

§ Christmas Craft and Bake Sale.

Find a way to help, spread some cheer and enjoy this parish event. Be sure to drop off your crafts and baked goods at Helfta Hall by Saturday the 20th.

The children's collection for our African missionary, Fr. Eldred Leslie, will be taken up in each catechism class.

Adults and children not enrolled in catechism are invited to put their gifts in the second collection.



Ushers

DECEMBER 14, 2008

7:30 AM Joe Andreotta, Kent Maki, Joe Bayer, Volunteer
9:00 AM Dale Wilker, Jim Gebel, Richard Smith, Bernie Brueggemann
11:30 AM Bob Uhlenbrock, Dennis Hille, Will Wiegand, Jim Kolenich
5:45 PM John Seyfried

Servers

DECEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 21, 2008

*MON 12/15 5:00 PM Low: C. Ritze
*TUE 12/16 5:00 PM Low: J. Bayer
*WED 12/17 5:00 PM Low: G. Keaveney
*THU 12/18 5:00 PM Low: C. Ritze
*FRI 12/19 5:45 PM Low: G. Keaveney, C. Ritze, J. Bayer
*SAT 12/20 7:30 AM Low: C. & T. Simpson
8:00 AM Low: G. Keaveney, M. Briggs
7:30 AM Low: D. & S. Brueggemann
*SUN 12/21 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: R. VandeRyt, A. Lotarski, TH: S. Cozzens. ACs: G. Wnek, B. Lotarski
TORCH: J. Simpson, P. Duff, F. Pugliesi, D. Wnek
11:30 AM LOW: M. Dirksen, M. Ribar
4:45 PM VESPERS G. Miller, T. Kunkel
5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

✠ POETRY CORNER

PROPHECIES

They said He would come
They promised He would
To release us from the bondage,
imposed
By our first parents' ill-good.

We needed Him then
We need Him even more now
To show us the way
To teach us how

To be true to our Creator
In all that we do
In anticipation of life eternal
With Him, Who's to sacrifice
Himself, for us, on the rood.

-John Seyfried

§ BARGAIN HUNTING THIS CHRISTMAS

What could be a better bargain this year than requesting a Mass to be said for your family or friends during the Christmas Season? The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass said for others is a REAL BARGAIN at a \$20 dollar stipend for the aid of the priest. This is a gift of infinite value that lasts forever.

There are other advantages as well: One can avoid the crowds at the mall. There is no need to browse the internet. This gift is the right size and color for everyone and does not need to be returned or exchanged. It is not made in China. Here is a gift that does not break, get lost, or collect dust.

For a child it is a gift that doesn't have to be picked off the floor or stored when he gets bored with it. There is no need for batteries. Everyone needs this gift.

Can you think of a better gift to give to loved ones than a Christ "Mass" for Christmas?

With thanks to Jean Bischel

Collection Report

Sunday December 7th\$5,228.15
2nd Collection\$1,471.00
Monday December 8th\$1,696.00
2nd Collection\$5.00

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

✠ THE CALENDAR

MON	12/15/08	OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
	11:25 AM	High Mass <i>Madison Wilker's Intentions</i> (Kathy, Sam and Seth Cozzens)
	4:00 PM	Knights of the Sacred Heart
	5:00 PM	Low Mass <i>Dr. Mary Ann Wozny (C.K.W.)</i>
TUES	12/16/08	ST. EUSEBIUS BPM
	11:25 AM	Requiem High Mass <i>Purgatorial Society</i>
	5:00 PM	Low Mass <i>For the kindness of a stranger</i> (The Wnek Family)
WED	12/17/08	EMBER WEDNESDAY
		<i>Fast and Partial Abstinence</i>
	6:30 AM	Low Mass † <i>Barbara Schmelzer</i> (Tom and Stella Simpson)
	11:25 AM	High Mass <i>For my Bible History Students</i> (Rev. Markos Ramolla)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass <i>Poor Souls (Gerry K.)</i>
THUR	12/18/08	FERIAL DAY EXPECTATION OF OUR LADY
	11:25 AM	High Mass † <i>Rita Brueggemann (Gary Amyx)</i>
	5:00 PM	Low Mass <i>In honor of Our Lady of Good Counsel for</i> <i>Kathleen Mary West (Mario Derksen)</i>
FRI	12/19/08	EMBER FRIDAY <i>Fast and Abstinence</i>
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:25 AM	High Mass <i>Fr. McGuire, Fr. Ramolla, Fr. Saavedra</i> (Tom Simpson)
	5:15 PM	Confessions and Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass, Novena, Benediction, Confessions <i>In thanksgiving for answered prayers</i> (Michelle Cramer)
SAT	12/20/08	EMBER SATURDAY <i>Fast and Abstinence</i>
		VIGIL OF ST. THOMAS
	7:00 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass <i>Special Intention (Kathleen Mary West)</i>
	8:15 PM	Sermon and Low Mass (N.B. Special Time) <i>Michelle Cramer (Dan Beaven), Confessions.</i>
SUN	12/21/08	ADVENT IV Christmas Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass <i>Mom's Christmas Mass</i> (Charlene A. Bloemker)
	9:00 AM	High Mass † <i>Anne S. Duff (The Duff Family)</i>
	10:30 AM	Catechism Classes
	11:30 AM	Low Mass <i>Special Intention Dec'd</i> (Mrs. and Mrs. Victor Ritze)
	4:45 PM	Vespers and Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass <i>For the people of St. Gertrude</i>

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.)

✠ BISHOP'S CORNER

Gaudete Sunday's rejoicing seems somewhat superfluous in a season so shot through with holy joy and happy longing for the birth of our Savior, and full of feasts too, of our dear Lady. Still, may today's Rose and rejoicing inspire us to greater generosity for the four fast (penance at least!) days which still separate us from Christmas. The best penance is the Sacrament of Penance, with sincere sorrow and practical resolutions. We are sinners, and must do some penance if we are to save our souls.

Last Monday's Mass of the Immaculate Conception, especially the High Mass, was very moving. The attendance was excellent, and I know Our Lady was pleased to see so many of you at her feast. We are still in her octave - and novena- which concludes tomorrow. Ask her to bless the Church, and make Catholics at least see her purity shine resplendently. Pray for our country, too.

Today Fr. Cekada is visiting Milwaukee, his home town, and I am in Columbus again, always a joy. Fr. McGuire is joining Fr. Ramolla for some Christmas confessions here. Take advantage of the extra confessor.

Later today, is an excess of zeal, Fr. McGuire will be going down to Lexington for Mass at the Bischel's home. Let's pray we draw many more souls to Christ, and away from the One World Church.

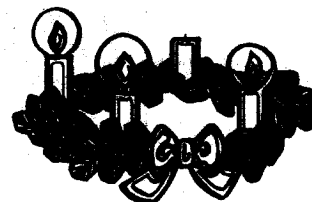
I had a nice visit Monday with Dr. Warren Pevnick D.O., from Greensville, Ohio - the same town where the Kolbs live. Dr. Pevnick is a convert of faith, and his is a fascinating story of God's grace. He-like Pat Kolb and her daughter Susan-drives sixty miles one way to Holy Mass.

Tomorrow evening I'm hoping for a lot of help to get the majority of the Christmas decorating done. I thank you in advance, as also the choir (they're practicing as I write this), for many hours given to God's glory.

May our faithful persevere, our fallen away return, and converts come to the crib this Christmas.

God bless you and Mary keep you!

—Bishop Dolan



Of Advent St. Charles Borromeo (†1584) said:

"Like a devoted mother, keenly concerned for our salvation, the Church uses the rites of this season, its hymns, songs, and other utterances of the Holy Spirit to teach us a lesson. She shows us how to receive this great gift of God with thankfulness and how to be enriched by its possession. She teaches us that our hearts should be as prepared now for the coming of Christ our Lord as if he were still to come into this world."

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

2009 COLLECTION ENVELOPES

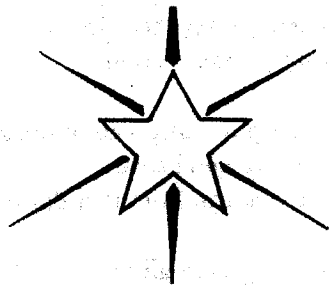
The 2009 Collection envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please pick up your envelopes today.

2009 ROMAN CATHOLIC CALENDAR

This year's calendar is available for purchase in the Book Store. The price is \$7.00. Every Catholic home should have a traditional calendar.

DECEMBER 21: SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR A POOR AFRICAN MISSIONARY

Next Sunday we are collecting a special Christmas Alms during all Masses for Fr. Eldred Leslie, 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 treasure, they offered Him gifts..."*



In the period of Advent, the Church arouses in us the consciousness of the sins we have had the misfortune to commit, and urges us, by restraining our desires and practicing voluntary mortification of the body, to recollect ourselves in meditation, and experience a longing desire to return to God who alone can free us by His grace from the stain of sin and its evil consequences.

-Pope Pius XII



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Wednesday December 24th

Christmas Eve Schedule-Morning

8:00 AM: The office of Prime

9:00 AM: High Mass

1:15 PM: 1st Vespers of Christmas

Christmas Eve Schedule-Evening

8:30 PM: The office of Matins

10:30 PM: Carols

10:45 PM: Entrance of the Bishop,
Blessing of the Crib & Vesting

11:15 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.

Thursday, December 25th-

Christmas Day

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

11:00 AM: Low Mass with Carols

3:30 PM: Vespers of Christmas Day

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 1, 2009

Feast of the Circumcision-New Year's Day

9:00 AM: High Mass

11:00 AM Low Mass and Benediction

Peace
On Earth



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 program, please turn in your envelope no later than December 19th.*

COME
EMMANUEL



CHRISTMAS MASS NOVENA

Remember your loved ones in our Christmas Novena of Masses which begin 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.

AN ADVENT SUNDAY AFTERNOON

THE OBLIGATION OF AVOIDING THE OCCASIONS OF SIN

CONTINUED

What are the chief occasions of sin for you? Look the question in the face and answer it truthfully. It is a so-called friend, who, whenever you are with her, leads you to commit sins of the tongue? Is it an inordinate desire to be well-dressed to attract attention, to indulge in some dangerous pleasure? Is curiosity a cause of sin, or do novels claim too large a portion of your time? Does love of ease and comfort draw you from God? We all have our occasions of sin and it is wise to know the perils that beset us individually. However we must not stop here, but, having discovered the danger, we ought instantly to take flight. If, as you were strolling down a country lane, you saw a mad bull approaching you at full speed, you would not wait to be told to get out of its way as quickly as possible, nor would you consider yourself a coward for not facing the enraged animal. Be as prudent as regards spiritual foes, which are far more dangerous, since they can kill our immortal souls; and the moment you descry the enemy "take to your heels" and all will be well. "He who hesitates is lost" says the proverb, and this is true as regards spiritual dangers. Turn resolutely and quickly from them lest they lead you into sin. The devil, the world, and the flesh are ever striving to entice us from the narrow way, but they can not force us to leave it, since they have no power over our free will. Do your part bravely then; "the Lord will be at thy side and will keep thy foot that thou be not taken."

How many of our own have yielded to the solicitation of the enemy! How many have even given up the Faith! We could name one or more as we read these lines. Let us pray especially for them; let us ask that the Good Shepherd may bring back these wandering sheep and that He may grant to those who are still serving Him within the Fold the grace to persevere until they reach the term of life's pilgrimage. We must pray also for those who are sorely tempted, that God may uphold and strengthen them in their hour of trial, and

enable them to overcome their enemies and to honor God by their generosity and fidelity.



**Our Lady of Guadalupe
Model of Prayer and Holiness**

Ten million Indians embraced the Catholic Faith in less than a decade following the Guadalupe apparitions in 1531, while the Franciscan missionaries had only produced scarcely one million converts in the previous decade. Bro. Peter of Ghent, O.F.M. alone baptized over a million Indians in the wake of the heavenly visitation, and one location 3,000 were baptized and married during Christmas day in 1538. What was the secret of the Holy Virgin's success? What lesson does this loving Mother teach the faithful, especially missionaries, regarding efficacious evangelization? **Simply put, the salvation of souls depends upon grace and she is the Mediatrix of all grace that comes to man. We could all be effective evangelizers simply by allowing Mary to use us as instruments in her hands for the salvation of souls.** In her life and in all her apparitions she points the way by word and example - keeping the commandments, living in union with Christ through prayer and sacrifice.

We see the perfect, ever Virgin Mary of Guadalupe preeminently manifested in the sacred Image as the "woman" absorbed in deep prayer. What is more, from the sash about her waist the native Americans immediately knew she was with Child, and that Jesus the God-Savior was abiding in her. "Abide in me, and I in you." (Jn. 15-4). **Because of her perfect union with the Most Holy Trinity and her unparalleled sanctity, it comes as no surprise that her maternal presence in Mexico begot the life of grace in millions of wandering souls.**

-Fr. Maximilian, F.F.I.

OUR LADY OF NAZARETH *Magnificat*

Over the mountains Mary went
In spirit's exultation,
A priestess bearing the sacrament
In loving veneration.
The flowers abloom in the morning dew,
The palm, the oak, the birch and the yew,
The deer, the hare, and the thrushes too,
All offered their salutation.

Rivers and brooklets seemed to know
The maiden sweet and holy;
Saw in her eyes the queenly glow,
Though plain her garb and lowly.
Roses bloomed on her virgin face,
Lilies blossomed beneath her pace,
Angels greeted the mother of grace,
As Mary passed, fast or slowly.

Mary reaching Elizabeth's door,
Two vessels of election,
Began their jubilant hearts to pour
In womanly affection.
The Son of God and of Zachary
Met in their mothers' deep ecstasy,
And linked forever their destiny
That hour of predilection.

Singing her glorious psalm of praise,
She made the ages listen;
In brighter gleam, from that day of days
The stars of heaven glisten.
The song of joy by her begun,
Will be the heavens' only one,
When all the redeemed by Mary's Son
Shall from their graves be risen.

