



ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 RIALTO ROAD : WEST CHESTER, OHIO 45069

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www.traditionalmass.org • www.sgg.org

THE MOST REV. DANIEL L. DOLAN, PASTOR

THE REV. ANTHONY CEKADA, THE REV. JULIAN LARRABEE

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

SUNDAY MASSES

7:30 AM LOW 9:00 AM HIGH

11:30 AM LOW 5:45 PM LOW

ADVENT III

GAUDETE SUNDAY

DECEMBER 13, 2009



I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord.

¶**Vespers, Benediction and Novena**
Sunday Vespers and Benediction as announced. Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart and Benediction: Friday evening after Mass. Other Novenas and Devotions, as announced.

¶**Blessing of Religious Articles:** First Sunday of the month after the morning Masses, at communion rail.

¶**Children's Confessions:** One Sunday of the month at 10:40 AM, as announced.

¶**Blessing of Expectant Mothers:** Third Sunday of the month after all Masses.

¶**Prayer Chain:** To request prayers for your special intentions or needs, or to assist in the Prayer Chain, please call the office.

¶**Appointments & Sick Calls:** Please phone the church office.

¶**Catholic Books & Religious Articles:** A fine selection is available in the Gift Shop after the Masses on Sunday.

¶**Baptisms:** Saturday morning by appointment. At least one parent as well as the sponsor (only one sponsor is required) must be practicing Roman Catholics who

do not belong to the Novus Ordo Religion. Novus Ordo and non-practicing Catholics may not serve as sponsors. The Church will provide a sponsor in case of necessity. The Churching of New Mothers follows the baptismal ceremony. Please make arrangements through the church office.

¶**Confirmation:** Confirmation is solemnly administered at Pentecost of each year, and privately as requested. According to canon law, children should, if possible, be confirmed before First Holy Communion.

¶**First Holy Communion:** Children should make their First Holy Communion when they have reached the age of reason (usually between the ages of five and eight) and know the rudiments of the Faith (the First Communion Catechism.) First Holy Communion is administered each year on the Feast of Corpus Christi.

¶**Matrimony:** If you are contemplating marriage, please make an appointment to speak with a priest *before* setting a date.

¶**Extreme Unction:** Your priests serve a wide area and must often travel far to administer this sacrament. Please do not put off making arrangements until the last moment. Let us know if a church member

is sick, hospitalized or in danger of death.

¶**Mass Intentions:** Individual Mass intentions as well as Purgatorian Society enrollments are available in the vestibule, and may be given in with the collection or at the office.

¶**Registration:** Please complete a card at the Gift Shop or phone the church. Collection envelopes will be mailed.

¶**Dress Code:** *Ladies*—Please wear a modest dress and a head-covering. No tight fitting, low-cut, short, slit, or sleeveless dresses. No pants or shorts. *Men & Boys*—Please wear a shirt and tie, with either suit coat, jacket or sweater, and dress shoes. No T-shirts, sweat shirts, sweat pants, tennis shoes, sneakers, shorts, jeans or Sports logo jackets.

¶**New at St. Gertrude's?** Welcome! In the vestibule you'll find a pamphlet explaining the traditional rules observed here for the reception of Holy Communion. There is also a Visitor's Card to fill out if you want more information on St. Gertrude's or on the traditional Latin Mass. A free information packet on the traditional Latin Mass is available to newcomers. Stop by the Social Hall after Mass for refreshments.

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ **DECEMBER 13, 2009 • ADVENT III • GAUDETE SUNDAY •**

The Craft Sale is here! Bring cookies, and plan to do a little Christmas shopping. Catechism Classes are at 10:30 AM. Extra confessions will be heard during the 11:30 AM Mass.

✠ **THIS WEEK**

Monday December 14, the **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.

We conclude Our Lady's Octave and Novena on **Tuesday**, and then turn our attention to Christmas preparation. The traditional Christmas Novena of the O Antiphons begins on Thursday, December 17th.

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (December 16, 18 and 19) 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.)

✠ **PRAYERS PLEASE**

Please remember our sick and shut in this week in your prayers including Gus Kurtz, recovering from a stroke, and Ralph Patton, and especially for George Wissing, who is very seriously ill.

✠ **CONGRATULATIONS**

We congratulate Genevieve Upton who was received into the Catholic Church by Fr. Larrabee on December 6th and received her First Holy Communion. Our prayers are always with you!

✠ **THANK YOU**

\$120.00 was 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.

✠ **2010 COLLECTION ENVELOPES**

The 2010 Collection envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please pick up your envelopes today.

✠ **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.

✠ **POINSETTIA MEMORIAL**

We are welcoming contributions to defray the cost of the Christmas flowers. 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 21st.*

✠ **NEXT SUNDAY**

Advent IV. Catechism classes are at 10:30. Christmas confessions will be heard for 15 minutes before all Masses, as well as during and after the 11:30 Mass. Blessing of expectant mothers takes place at the Communion rail after all Masses.

Set your missal: Advent IV with the collects of Our Lady in Advent and Against the Persecutors, Preface of the Trinity.

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 of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

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

Ushers

DECEMBER 20, 2009

7:30 AM Kent Maki, Scott Pepiot, Volunteer, Volunteer
9:00 AM Mike Briggs, Mark Lotarski, Paul Puglielli, Steve Weigand
11:30 AM Bob Uhlenbrock, Dennis Hille, Kirby Bischel, Volunteer
5:45 PM John Seyfried

✠ POETRY CORNER

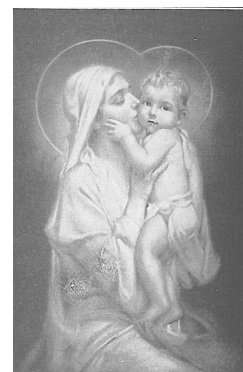
ADVENT MEDITATION

No sudden thing of glory and fear
Was the Lord's coming; but the dear
Slow Nature's days followed each other
To form the Saviour from His Mother
—One of the children of the year.

The earth, the rain, received the trust,
—The sun and dews, to frame the Just.
He drew His daily life from these,
According to His own decrees
Who makes man from the fertile dust.

Sweet summer and winter wild,
These brought Him forth, the Undeified.
The happy Springs renewed again,
His daily bread, the growing grain,
The food and raiment of the Child.

—Alice Meynell



Our prayers have quite a different sort of merit when they are presented by the Blessed Virgin, because she is the only creature who has never offended God.

The Blessed Virgin alone has fulfilled the first commandment: to adore God only, and love him perfectly. She fulfilled it completely.

—Saint John Vianney

Servers

DECEMBER 18, 19 AND 20, 2009

•FRI 12/18 5:45 PM Low: Simpsons
•SAT 12/19 7:30 AM Low: J. Simpson, T. Simpson
8:00 AM Low: M. Briggs
•SUN 12/20 7:30 AM Low: A. & S. Brueggemann
9:00 AM High: MC: R. VandeRyt
TH: R. Hill
AC's: B. Lotarski, T. Simpson
TORCH: J. Lacy, S. Arlinghaus, L. Arlinghaus, J. Simpson
11:30 AM Low: A. D. Kinett
5:45 PM Low: A. Beaver

Collection Report

Sunday December 6th\$4,005.00

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

✠ THE CALENDAR

MON	12/14/09	WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	11:20 AM	Low Mass Our School Benefactors - Thank you (<i>The McClorey Family</i>)
	4:00 PM	Knights of the Sacred Heart
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Special intention FM (<i>GPK</i>)
TUE	12/15/09	OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Frank Cekada (<i>Ron & Annette Mobley</i>)
	11:20 AM	High Mass †Charles & Elinor Richardson (<i>M/M Mark Lotarski & family</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass For MAW (<i>CKW</i>)
WED	12/16/09	EMBER WEDNESDAY FAST AND PARTIAL ABSTINENCE ST EUSEBIUS, BPM
	6:30 AM	Low Mass In honor of St. Joseph (<i>Tom & Stella Simpson</i>)
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Special intention C (<i>GPK</i>)
	11:20 AM	Low Mass Patricia Carota (<i>Katie Bischak</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass St. Martin's Poor Souls
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
THUR	12/17/09	FERIAL DAY ST LAZARUS, BPC
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Frank Cekada (<i>Ron & Annette Mobley</i>)
	11:20 AM	Low Mass Repose of Mr. Oliver Omh (<i>STRC Nigeria</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Poor souls - Special intention (<i>MAW</i>)
FRI	12/18/09	EMBER FRIDAY FAST EXPECTATION OF OUR LADY
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Poor souls - Special intention (<i>MAW</i>)
	11:00 AM	Confessions
	11:20 AM	Low Mass In honor of the B.V.M. (<i>Tom & Stella Simpson</i>)
	5:15 PM	Confessions and Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass Poor souls for Mattingly family conversions Novena, Benediction and Confessions
SAT	12/19/09	EMBER SATURDAY FAST AND PARTIAL ABSTINENCE VIGIL OF ST THOMAS
	7:15 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Thanks for prayers for Stella (<i>Tom & Stella Simpson</i>)
	8:00 AM	Sermon and Low Mass Poor souls - Special intention (<i>MAW</i>)
SUN	12/20/09	ADVENT IV
	7:10 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass †Nadine Henry (<i>M/M Victor Ritzke</i>)
	8:40 AM	Confessions
	9:00 AM	High Mass For the people of St. Gertrude
	10:30 AM	Catechism Classes
	10:45 AM	Confessions
	11:30 AM	Low Mass Merry Christmas – Our children & spouses (<i>Kirby & Jean Bischel</i>) Confessions
	5:45 PM	Low Mass †Tony Quinter (<i>Gerry Keaveney</i>)

✠ BISHOP'S CORNER

Our long, sweet Fall finally gave way to the wind and the dark cold rain of December. Still, what a string of simply splendid Saturdays we enjoyed this Autumn. Wednesday's high winds took our power away for several hours. We had prudently installed a generator and a gas fire place for just such an eventuality. Neither of them worked! The angels, though, came to our assistance, and the power returned at the start of the 5:00 Mass. Human prudence fails, God's Providence never.

Considering last week's stormy start to the winter season, we really did very well for Our Lady's Immaculate Conception. The church was full in the morning for the school childrens' heavenly High Mass. A surprising number of souls made it through the heavy traffic and rain for the evening Mass. I thank Katie for her striking Immaculate Conception altar, with the blue poinsettias around Our Lady. Our children are continuing Mary's feast with several High Masses during Her Octave.

My special thanks go to all who turned out in such numbers for the All Night Adoration. So many helped in so many touching ways. We all will benefit from the blessings of the Blessed Sacrament Exposed, a powerful devotion for peace.

Dear George Wissing, one of our "old timers" at St. Gertrude, is dying. Please pray for him and for his wife Loraine, and family. God reward his strong devotion to our Faith.

Debi Ellis, a former secretary here and a daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Smith, recently caught our webcast of the Mass and wrote: "Greetings from Middle Tennessee! This is just a short note to let you know I was able to watch 'live simulcast' of the Mass this morning! My computer is rather outdated - so it froze up frequently, but I did hear the last 5 minutes or so of your sermon today.

People do not know how fortunate they are to have the Traditional Latin Mass available to them! They seem to forget what it's like to have nothing. I have been here in "Protestant" Country for nearly 10 years, and truly miss the true Sacraments. One day my prayers will be answered, but until then, I will watch your Masses. Thank you!"

Another dear soul, Doris Jeanne Campbell, of Indianapolis, stays in touch as well. She writes: "Rang up the office at Holy Rosary to tell them not to send any more mail. Moments later, the priest (FSSP) called to ask why not. That was something I was trying to answer nicely: What came out was, 'I'm not for the One World Church' and he replied that he could not order me, nor tell me what to do. All nice and polite we were. I hope I did alright."

I'm glad they still can't order us to join the One World Church!

But let us, each one of us, put our house in order for the coming of the King at Christmas. Examine your conscience, make a good Confession, follow the Immaculate Conception Novena with a Christmas Novena of longing and preparation. The time is short. Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

May Mary Immaculate keep you under her mantle,

—Bishop Dolan



✠ ADVENT THOUGHTS

ADVENT VIGILANCE

If, indeed, we listen to the world, we shall take another course...We shall have a secret shrinking from the Church's teaching. We shall have an uneasy, uncomfortable feeling when mention is made of the maxims of holy men and ascetical writers, not liking them, yet not daring to dissent. We shall be scanty in supernatural acts, and have little or nothing of the habits of virtue which are formed by them, and are an armor of proof against temptation. We shall suffer our souls to be overrun with venial sins, which tend to mortal sin, if they have not already reached it...

I say, that we must not only have faith in the Lord, but must wait on Him; not only must hope, but must watch for Him; not only love Him, but must long for Him; not only obey Him, but must look out, look up earnestly for our reward, which is Himself. We must not only make Him the Object of our faith, hope and charity, but we must make it our duty not to believe the world, not to hope in the world, not to love the world. We must resolve not to hang on the world's opinion, or study its wishes. It is our mere wisdom to be thus detached from all things below.

—Cardinal John Henry Newman

Cardinal John Henry Newman (†1890) established the Oratory in Birmingham, England, and was a preacher of great eloquence.

How different are the judgements of God from those commonly accepted among men! With them trial and temptation are considered misfortunes and arouse the compassion even of the best. The Holy Ghost, on the contrary, declares those blessed who are subjected to this test, and his judgement must suffice to correct all our human views. Blessed is he, therefore, who endures temptation, for there is nothing which brings us nearer to God and enables us to make greater progress in well-doing than this trial. It is when we are in the midst of temptation that God is nearest to us, as the Psalmist says: *Juxta est Dominus iis qui tribulato sunt corde*: so that even if the trial brought with it no other advantage than that of asking God to stand by us, it ought to be desired by all faithful souls.

—Cardinal Schuster

SAY THE ROSARY OF THE HOLY WOUNDS FOR ALL OF YOUR NEEDS

A priest in Rome was inspired to add these prayers to the Cross and the First three beads:

"O Jesus, divine Redeemer, be merciful to us and to the whole world. *Amen.*"

"Strong God, Holy God, Immortal God, have mercy on us and on the whole world. *Amen.*"

"Grace and mercy, O, My Jesus, during present dangers; cover us with Thy Precious Blood. *Amen.*"

"Eternal Father, grant us mercy through the Blood of Jesus Christ, Thy only Son; grant us mercy, we beseech Thee. *Amen, Amen, Amen.*"

Recite on the small beads:

My Jesus, Pardon and mercy by the merits of Thy Holy Wounds.

On the large beads:

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ to Heal the Wounds of Our Souls.

"I will grant all that is asked of Me through the invocation of My holy Wounds...You must spread the devotion. You will obtain all because it is through the merits of My Blood, which is of infinite price." — Words of Our Lord to Sister Mary Martha Chambon.



O holy and spotless Virgin, I know not how to proclaim your praises; for you have borne in your bosom Him whom the heavens cannot contain.



✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT:

CHRISTMAS CHURCH DECORATING



Church Decorating will take place Wednesday December 16 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!*

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 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.

Friday, December 25th

Christmas Day

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

11:00 AM: Low Mass with Carols

4:00 PM: Vespers of Christmas Day

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Friday, January 1, 2010

Feast of the Circumcision-New Year's Day

9:00 AM: High Mass

11:00 AM Low Mass and Benediction

2010 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.

The Progress Report

A Periodic Update on What's Happening at St. Gertrude the Great School

December 2009

Music Notes

Top-drawer Catholic musical instruction is one the special things about St Gertrude the Great School (see inset). The school children continue to play a big role in the offering of daily Mass. Some of the boys of course ably serve on the altar. Other students participate through their musical skills, which were notably displayed twice recently.

At the High Mass on the solemnity of our patroness, St. Gertrude, they alternated singing parts of the Mass with the adult parish choir (we won't embarrass the adults by speculating on who sounded better the kids or the grown-ups).

Then at Solemn High Mass for the feast of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception the school choir sang the complete Mass by themselves. They had been learning how to sing the Propers of the Mass (the variable parts) and they performed admirably. One attendee at the Mass told us that the children sang "angelically and enthusiastically". Anyone who

A Timely Reminder: Why We Have a School at St Gertrude the Great

An unsolicited email recently sent to Bishop Dolan:

"In case you are starving for a positive word these days, I'd just like to say thank you for the school. I'm glad it's hanging in there. I came to drop off some treats for Susie's* birthday the other day. Everyone was at Mass, and I stood in the dark empty classroom looking around at that cute sense of orderliness that only Catholic schools have, and noticed the little hand written spiritual bouquets on the bulletin board for the poor souls. I could hear that far away sound of the kids singing down the hall and stood there in disbelief that anyone could want such a perfect thing to end. Didn't know whether to cry or just be really angry.

"Billy* sits at the kitchen counter coloring every evening and singing in Latin and it is so cute. And I know Susie* does little sacrifices without telling me. These are things I could never impart on them on my own, but owe entirely to the school. By their fruits you shall know them, and I love my little fruits. By the way, Billy really enjoyed having Fr. McGuire for those two days."

**names changed to protect the anonymity of the author.*

attends a Mass sung by the school choir will agree the children's voices add an ethereal quality to Mass. As the Psalm says, "Out of the mouths of children Thou hast perfected praise!"

Crafty Kids

The annual St Gertrude the Great Cookie and Craft sale is being held today in Helfta Hall. In addition to all the wonderful adult-made crafts and cookies, the school kids have chipped in with unique creations of their own. Students in Miss Patton's art classes recycled Catholic-themed Christmas cards into heart shaped basket ornaments that are filled with yummy holiday candy... stop by the sale and buy one (or two) for your own tree or give them as a gift!

Our Lady of Good Counsel please pray for the Students, Teachers, Administrators, Parents and Benefactors of St. Gertrude the Great School.