



ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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

THE REV. CHARLES MCGUIRE

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS

SUNDAY MASSES

7:30 AM LOW 9:00 AM HIGH

11:30 AM LOW 5:45 PM LOW

ADVENT IV



John preaching the Baptism of Penance.

DECEMBER 20, 2009

¶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 20, 2009 •**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

Christmas Confessions are being heard before all Masses today, during the 11:30 AM Mass, and after the 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM Masses.

Blessing of expectant mothers is available after all Masses.

Please fill out the Christmas Mass Novena and the Christmas Flower Memorial envelopes.

¶ **THIS WEEK:**

The **Knights of the Sacred Heart** are in recess until the New Year. The Apostle of the Americas comes tomorrow, St. Thomas, and the first American Saint, Frances Xavier Cabrini on **Tuesday**. On **Thursday** we fast and abstain for the **Vigil of Christmas**. Confessions are heard after morning Mass. **The Holy Night Vigil** begins with Matins at 8:30 pm, and Carols at 10:30 pm, followed by **Midnight Mass**. Bring something to share at the potluck which follows.

Christmas morning Masses are at 9:00, with the String Quartet and Benediction, and at 11:00, with Carols.

¶ **PRAYERS PLEASE:**

Please remember to pray for the repose of the souls of George Wissing whose funeral was Wednesday and Ralph Patton whose funeral was Friday. Please also remember our sick and shut in.



¶ **CONGRATULATIONS:**

To David and Megan Mann on the Baptism of their daughter Audrey Elizabeth on December 19.

¶ **THANK YOU:**

Thank you to all those who came to the Craft and Cookie Sale last Sunday to help our school. We brought in around \$1,200.00. Thanks again!!!



¶ **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:**

St. John's Day: Catechism classes are recessed until after Christmas. Bring a beverage or wine to be blessed in honor of St. John after the High Mass, and plan to "drink the health of St. John" with us in Helfta Hall. Vespers and Benediction return! Come back to church at 4:45 PM.

¶ **SET YOUR MISSAL:**

St. John (December 27) with the commemoration and Communicantes of the Nativity, and Preface as well.



Collection Report

December 8th\$1,840.00
 Sunday December 13th\$4,172.00

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

Ushers

DECEMBER 25, 2009

12:00 AM Bob Uhlenbrock, Steve Weigand, Mark Lotarski, Dennis Hille
 9:00 AM Kent Maki, Richard Smith, Paul Puglielli, Kirby Bischof
 11:00 AM John Seyfried, Scott Pepiot

DECEMBER 27, 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 Bischof, Volunteer
 5:45 PM John Seyfried

✠ POETRY CORNER

HOW FAR IS IT TO BETHLEHEM

How far is it to Bethlehem?
 Not very far.
 Shall we find the stable-room
 Lit by a star?

Can we see the little Child,
 Is He within?
 If we lift the wooden latch
 May we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there,
 Ox, ass, or sheep?
 May we peep like them and see
 Jesus asleep?

If we touch His tiny hand
 Will He awake?
 Will He know we've come so far
 Just for His sake?

Great Kings have precious gifts,
 And we have naught;
 Little smiles and little tears
 Are all we brought.

For all weary children
 Mary must weep.
 Here, on His bed of straw,
 Sleep, children, sleep.

God, in His Mother's arms
 Babes in the byre,
 Sleep, as they sleep who find
 Their heart's desire.

—Frances Chesterton



Servers
 DECEMBER 24, 25, 27 2009

- THU 12/24 9:00 AM HIGH: Volunteers
 Midnight Mass (Be at Church by 10:15 PM)
 R. VandeRyt, Joseph, John, Brandon Lotarski
 Thomas and Joseph Simpson, R. Hill, A.D. Kinnett
 A. Richesson, N. McClorey, J. Lacy, A. Wanke,
 and any other servers available
- FRI 12/25 9:00 AM LOW: S, A&D Brueggemann, F&N Puglielli
- SUN 12/27 7:30 AM LOW: A. & S. Brueggemann
 9:00 AM HIGH: MC's: John Lotarski, R. Hill
 TH: F Puglielli
 AC's: T. Simpson, N. Puglielli
 TORCH: S. Arlinghaus, L. Arlinghaus, J. Simpson, J. Lacy
 11:30 AM LOW: A. D. Kinnett
 4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction: G. Miller, & Volunteer
 5:45 PM LOW: A. Beaver

✠ THE CALENDAR

MON	12/21/09	ST. THOMAS, AP
	11:20 AM	High Mass Our School Benefactors - Thank you (<i>The McClorey Family</i>)
	4:00 PM	Knights of the Sacred Heart
	5:00 PM	Low Mass †Theresa Childers (<i>Joanne & Family</i>)
TUE	12/22/09	ST FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI, V
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Special Intention BKK (<i>GPK</i>)
	11:20 AM	Low Mass †Dad (<i>GPK</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Poor Souls for Mattingly Family conversions
WED	12/23/09	FERIAL DAY
	8:00 AM	Low Mass In honor of St. Joseph (<i>Tom & Stella Simpson</i>)
	11:00 AM	Low Mass Patricia Carota (<i>Katie Bischak</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Poor souls - Special intention (<i>MAW</i>)
	6:30 PM	Choir Practice
THUR	12/24/09	VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS, FAST DAY
		ST LAZARUS, BPC
	8:00 AM	The Office of Prime
	9:00 AM	High Mass †Mom (<i>J. Ramey</i>)
		Confessions
	1:15 PM	1st Vespers of Christmas
	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
FRI	12/25/09	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS DAY
	12:00 AM	High Mass For the People of St. Gertrude
	9:00 AM	Low Mass and Benediction , with String Quartet <i>Christmas Novena I</i>
	11:00 AM	Low Mass For all of our friends, relatives & benefactors
	4:00 PM	Vespers of Christmas Day
SAT	12/26/09	ST STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR
	7:15 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Pro-Life Cause (<i>Rosary Confraternity</i>)
	8:00 AM	Sermon and High Mass <i>Christmas Novena II</i>
SUN	12/27/09	ST JOHN, AP
	7:30 AM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude
	9:00 AM	High Mass <i>Christmas Novena III</i> The blessing of Wine & Beverages "the health of St. John"
	11:30 AM	Low Mass The recovery of Gus Kurtz (<i>Bishop Dolan</i>)
	4:45 PM	Vespers and Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass Living & Deceased of extended Morris-Niehaus Family (<i>S & C Niehaus</i>)

✠ BISHOP'S CORNER

I was moved almost to tears at dear George Wissing's funeral the other day that something so beautiful and perfect (I was seated at the sedilia, and listening to our school children sing for the first time the Dies Irae) could still be given to God, despite every desperate scheme of Satan in this day and age, and all of our losses of late: Here we were singing this solemn Requiem for gentle, good George, as we would in two days' time for our newest Catholic, Ralph Patton, so soon called by Christ. Servers came, and singers, and life went on in the face of death. It is our Catholic way, and happens by the unique protection of Our Blessed Mother.

Thanks then to all of you who are doing funerals these days and Christmas decorations, and practicing carols and hanging garlands at St. Gertrude the Great. Thanks to you for sticking with us, and Our Lord. What a victory His Mother, Our Queen prepares with soldiers such as you! Thanks, too, for your enthusiastic participation in our Christmas Craft and Cookie sale. "A good time was-truly-had by all," and a good amount (over \$1,000.00) raised for our good works here at Church.

Indeed, it seems that classic Christmas spirit is overflowing here, anticipated already in Advent. We are warmed & cheered by the charity of it all, and feel closer to each other - family in some deep spiritual sense - than we have felt in a long time. Thanks be to the God of all "peace and hope."

I look forward to seeing you all, and greeting you this Christmas, along with **your** family, and strangers and perhaps some stray souls, gingerly feeling their way back home. All will be welcome. As the Irish used to do, we'll be leaving a light in the window for them.

A Blessed Christmas!

—Bishop Dolan

A Christmas Invitation

Come to Confession, give Christ the gift of your sins. **Come** Christmas Eve and make the Midnight Holy Hour with us. **Come** to Helfta Hall with some food to share after Midnight Mass. **Come** back to Church for Vespers and quiet prayer Christmas afternoon, at 4:00 PM.

Come....Let us Adore.



✠ ADVENT THOUGHTS

HOW TO BE VIGILANT

The easiest way to keep your peace of heart is to accept everything as coming directly from the hands of the God who loves you. If you do this, any pain or persecution, anything which is difficult to accept will be transformed into a source of joy, happiness, and peace...

Silence and recollection are two very effective ways of bringing ourselves before the Lord and entering into the sanctuary of His love: "When peaceful silence lay over all, and night had run the half of her swift course, down from the heavens leapt your all-powerful word."

When a person comes to terms with his feelings, when he lives in God and walks by the light of faith, he has attained that stillness of the night which God is waiting for. It is then that the Word of God comes to birth in him in a way which is entirely of the spirit, entirely of God.

Remain within your deepest self, in the interior kingdom of your spirit.

Remember that your soul is a temple of the living God. "The kingdom of God is within you."

Night and day let your aim be to remain in simplicity and gentleness, calmness and serenity, and in freedom from created things, so that you will find your joy in the Lord Jesus.

Love silence and solitude, even when in the midst of a crowd or when caught up in your work. Physical solitude is a good thing, provided that it is backed up by prayer and a holy life, but far better than this is solitude of the heart, which is the interior desert in which your spirit can become totally immersed in God, and can hear and savor the words of eternal life.

With great purity of intention, aim in everything to do what pleases God. Always remain faithful to God and genuinely accept whatever he wishes.

—St. Paul of the Cross

ROSARY CONFRATERNITY NOTES

We are looking for a Rosary Repair person, specifically to fix broken link Rosaries. If you can help, please contact Darlene Rentschler at 513-574-7106 any evening 6-9 PM, and sometimes at Church

Mark your calendar now to join us for the monthly pro-life Rosary at the abortion clinic on December 26th, at around 10 AM. Check with Charles Simpson.



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.)



Abba Theodore of Pherme asked Abba Pambo, 'Give me a word.' With much difficulty he said to him, 'Theodore, go and have pity on all, for through pity, one finds freedom of speech before God.'



✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT:

CALLING ALL COOKS

Volunteers are needed to prepare and drop off meals to feed our hardworking clergy, particularly Monday through Thursday for the month of January and February. Will you commit to performing this good work one or two days a month? Cost of the food is gladly reimbursed. Please call the church office and ask for Gloria.

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.

✠ WISDOM FROM FR. MARTIN TO A DISSIDENT

NOTE: *The following is an excerpt from a letter from Fr. Martin Stepanich OFM about our recent difficulties here at St. Gertrude the Great. Fr. Martin was ordained before Vatican II and was one of the first priests in the U.S. to reject the changes.*

Instead of publicly pronouncing judgment upon the priests of St. Gertrude's, you would do well to take to heart the words of St. Francis of Assisi who wrote thus in his "Testament" to his friars: "The Lord gave me so great faith in priests who live according to the form of the Holy Roman Church, on account of their order, that if they should persecute me, I would wish to have recourse to them... I wish to fear, love and honor them and all others as my masters. And I do not wish to consider sin in them, because I discern the Son of God in them, and they are my masters."

The desired solution for once again establishing the right Catholic order and unity and charity at St. Gertrude's cannot be achieved through offensive and misleading messages spread around by way of your Internet or by protest tracts stuck onto windshields in S.G.G. parking lots.

Nor can the right solution be found in the creation of rebel Mass locations in secular buildings for breakaway S.G.G. parishioners who have abandoned their once greatly admired and loved home of the Eucharistic Lord, thanks, to a great extent, to the agitators who helped stir them up against their leaders. However much the rebels and breakaways may try to justify their rebellious action, the situation is very plainly a wide-open split of the S.G.G. parish. It is a glaring division separating still faithful S.G.G. parishioners from no longer faithful S.G.G. parishioners who, as a result, now have no respectable name with which to identify themselves.

The only real solution for restoring St. Gertrude's to its former highly respected status is fervent and confident prayers to God to bring that restoration about. As it is, much prayer for that purpose has reportedly been underway for some time. But if we may suggest even more such prayer, we would recommend a program of daily Holy Hours made by S.G.G. parishioners, either individually or in groups. Let's hope that this can be managed at St. Gertrude's every single day.

Since Our Lady is the model of perfect prayer, there is one very suitable perfect prayer of hers that faithful S.G.G. parishioners should be glad to repeat every day. It is a prayer attributed to her in the incomparable Mystical City of God (volume Coronation, page 244), and reads as follows:

"I ask, O my Son, that Thou look upon the affliction of Thy Church and that, like a loving father, Thou hasten the relief of Thy children engendered by Thy Most Precious Blood."

With prayers and blessing,

Father Martin Stepanich, O.F.M., S.T.D.
November 30, 2009
