

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

¶ DECEMBER 5, 2010 • ADVENT II •



ST. SABBAS THE ABBOT • The "Little Church" is in the vestibule today. **Alter Christus Confraternity** supports priests who might not otherwise receive help. Please be generous. The monthly **Second collection** is for the support of our Seminary. The **Blessing of Religious Articles** follows all Masses at the communion rail. **Advent Vespers with Benediction** are at **4:45 PM**. **St. Nicholas** will be visiting our children after the 9 AM and 11:30 AM Masses in Helfta Hall. Catechism classes are at 10:40 AM.

¶ THIS WEEK

On **Monday** our **Knights of the Sacred Heart** meet at church at **4:00 PM** for sodality work. **Tuesday** we open the **Immaculate Conception Novena** in preparation for the feast day. May I ask all of you to make it for the needs of our Church? Remember the fast and abstinence in preparation for the great feast. After the Holy Day, the Octave of Our Lady continues with daily Mass all week. **Our Lady of Loretto**, patroness of air travel, is honored on **Thursday**. Please support the **Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart**, with Benediction, after the **Friday 5:45 PM Mass**.

¶ VIGIL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The 7th of December is the *vigil* before the feast of the *Immaculate Conception* of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a **day of fast and complete abstinence**. Everyone over 21 and under 59 years of age is bound to observe the fast. Every Catholic over 7 years of age is bound to observe abstinence. On days of fast only one full meal is allowed. Eating between meals is not permitted. Beverages including milk and fruit juices may be taken. On days of complete abstinence, meat and soup or gravy made from meat are not permitted. Therefore, on the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception you are allowed only one full meatless meal.

Solemn First Vespers of the Feast are at **2:30 PM**.

¶ FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Wednesday of this week we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a *Holy Day of Obligation*. All are bound to assist at Mass under the pain of mortal sin. The Mass schedule for the Holy Day is as follows: **9:00 AM, and 5:45 PM**. The Vespers are at 4:30 PM, and Rosary at 5:10 PM, followed by Benediction. Pray with us!

¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday morning classes and afternoon Vespers are offered as usual. Please plan to support our Christmas cookie/craft sale.

Set your missal: Advent III, Gaudete. Commemoration and Last Gospel of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Reception of New Members of the Rosary Confraternity follows the High Mass.

Book signing on December 11 for Parishioner's New Book

Parishioner Donna Alice Patton's new book, *The Gift of Summer Snow: A Tale from the Garden of Mysteries*, was released by Philothea Press on December 2nd. The *Gift of Summer Snow* follows up on the success of Donna's previous book, *The Search for Madonna*, which many families at St. Gertrude's enjoyed reading. Like *Search for the Madonna*, *The Gift of Summer Snow* is a young-adult mystery novel with very strong Catholic themes. It will make a great Christmas gift for young Catholic readers. There will be a book signing for Donna's new book on Saturday, December 11th from 1-3pm at Book Bums, 8992 Cincinnati Dayton Road in West Chester. Copies of Donna's book will be available for purchase.

Ushers

DECEMBER 12, 2010

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

Collection Report

Sunday November 28th\$3,352.00

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

✠ POETRY CORNER

Our "in house poet" John Seyfried submitted these lines after Ed Sayre's death. He and Ed were classmates at Purcell High School in 1957.

Bishop Dolan

Be Prepared

*We know neither the day nor the hour,
When we'll be taken away.
And we don't know the circumstances
of our parting,
On that, our very last day.*

*We only know that we must die;
So be prepared our Lord did say.
And follow the example, of those very
wise virgins.
And stay always prepared, for when the
Bridegroom comes our way.*

I wrote this while thinking of Ed Sayre. It appears he was given a special grace and knew the end was near. We might not be so fortunate, as our Lord, so many times, made quite clear.

¶ PRAYERS PLEASE

Please pray for all of our sick and shut in especially for Becky Mattingly, Christine Neukam, Connie Kamphaus, Phil Schmelzer, and William Bonace.

¶ ADVENT KINDNESS

"I was sick and you visited me."
You could visit Althea LeBlanc or send her a card: Althea LeBlanc, 501 North 2nd St. Loveland, OH 45140.

¶ 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

✠ Servers

DECEMBER 6 - DECEMBER 12, 2010

•TUE 12/7 4:00 PM LOW: J. Gunsher
•WED 12/8 9:00 AM HIGH: School Servers, S. & L. Arlinghaus, T. & J. Simpson, A. Wanke
5:30 PM LOW & BENEDICTION: J. Gunsher, G. Miller, F. & N. Puglielli
•FRI 12/10 5:45 PM LOW: J. Gunsher, Simpsons
•SAT 12/11 7:30 AM LOW: Simpsons
8:15 AM LOW: M. Briggs
•SUN 12/12 7:30 AM LOW: A. & D. Brueggemann
9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: R. Hill, J. Lotarski
TH: F. Puglielli ACs: A. Richesson S. Arlinghaus
TORCH: L. Arlinghaus, P. Lawrence, N. Puglielli, J. Lacy
11:30 AM LOW: A. Kinnett, N. McClurey
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller, Simpsons
5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

✠ THE CALENDAR

MON	12/06/10	ST NICHOLAS, BPC
	11:20 AM	Low Mass Intentions of Kaldawi Family
	4:00 PM	Knights of the Sacred Heart
TUES	12/07/10	ST AMBROSE, BPCD
		VIGIL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
	8:00 AM	Requiem Low Mass †Eleanor Cekada
	11:00 AM	High Mass of the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception Poor Souls in honor of the Immaculate Conception Opening of the Immaculate Conception Novena
	2:30 PM	First Solemn Vespers of the Immaculate Conception
	4:00 PM	Low Mass †Ruth Anna Cottrell (<i>Brendan Blase</i>) of St. Ambrose
WED	12/08/10	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
	8:30 AM	Confessions
	9:00 AM	High Mass †Rosemary & Cliff Breitenstein
	4:30 PM	Vespers
	5:10 PM	Rosary and Confessions
	5:30 PM	Benediction
	5:45 PM	Sermon and Low Mass All deceased for whom we are bound or for whom we should pray (<i>Patrick Omlor</i>)
	7:00 PM	Immaculate Conception Novena
THURS	12/09/10	WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Poor Souls
	11:20 AM	High Mass Needs of our Parish
FRI	12/10/10	WITHIN THE OCTAVE
		ST MELCHIADES, PM
		OUR LADY OF LORETTO
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Marian Murray (<i>Puglielli Family</i>)
	10:55 AM	Confessions
	11:20 AM	Low Mass For the SGG Clergy (<i>Patrick Omlor</i>)
	5:15 PM	Confessions and Rosary
	5:45 PM	Low Mass Poor Souls - Our Lady's Choice (John Seyfried) Novena, Benediction and Confessions
SAT	12/11/10	ST DAMASUS I, PC WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	7:15 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Those praying for Stella (<i>Tom Simpson</i>)
	8:00 AM	Sermon and Novena
	8:15 AM	Low Mass Gratitude Poor Souls (Little Vietnamese Lady)
SUN	12/12/10	ADVENT III
		GAUDETE SUNDAY
		OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
	7:30 AM	Low Mass †Walter Harpen Month's Mind (Bishop Dolan)
	9:00 AM	High Mass John Boyd Family (<i>Margaret Sutton</i>)
	10:40 AM	Catechism and Adult Education Classes Reception of New Members Rosary Confraternity
	11:30 AM	Low Mass †Tom Kamphaus (<i>Jane Donadio</i>)
	4:45 PM	Advent Vespers and Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude

✠ BISHOP'S CORNER

It snowed, or tried to, on December 1st, almost as if to say, along with the biting chill: "December is here, winter has arrived." The day before so many of you charitably braved the rains and the dark day to be the family for Ed Sayre's funeral - his Rosary and Mass. I'm so proud of you for this wonderful and touching work of charity, and I am sure his family was moved as well.



Painting resumed yesterday in the church after a Thanksgiving hiatus. We hope to have everything done and dry before the Christmas decorations go up.

It turns out our speakers got disconnected, so the PA system was pretty much "down and out" of late. Those of you who reported problems hearing weren't imagining things. I'm sorry for the trouble, and hope to have everything working well today. We'll be getting a new, larger microphone to pick up and relay the sermon better.

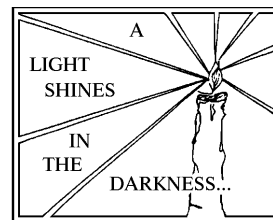
The cats are exceptionally well clothed for winter this year. Their fluffy, thick white fur reminds me of the ermine on a cardinal's Cappa Magna. I wonder if this means we will have a hard winter?

Well, hard or soft, it is in Our Lord's hands, and we know we are, too. I look forward to seeing most of you again on Wednesday for our dear Lady's Immaculate Conception.

How is your Advent coming? Do you at least **yearn** for Christ to come and change you and save you? Good – a first step. Take the rest with Mary. They go easier that way.

With a blessing,

–Bishop Dolan



Narcissus Putz
Priest and Martyr (1877-1942)

Father Narcissus Putz, ordained to the priesthood at the age of twenty-five, served as a parish priest in Poznan, Poland. In the autumn of 1939, the Nazis invaded Poland, and began a bloody persecution of Poland's Catholics. The Nazis arrested Father Putz on November 9, 1939. He was sent to the concentration camp of Dachau, Germany, where after suffering torture he died for his faith on December 5, 1942.

Why is it that we are only allowed to remember the Jews who died in World War II? Where are the monuments, the museums, the annual observances of the many, many Polish Catholics, martyrs, especially the Nazi-targeted clergy and religious?

O God of Rejoicing!

When John leaps for joy Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit, but we know that though Mary's spirit rejoices she does not need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Her Son, who is beyond our understanding, is active in His mother in a way beyond our understanding. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit after conceiving John, while Mary is filled with the Holy Spirit before conceiving the Lord. Elizabeth says: *Blessed are you because you have believed.*

You are also blessed because you have heard and believed. A soul that believes both conceives and brings forth the Word of God and acknowledges His works.

Let Mary's soul be in each of you to proclaim the greatness of the Lord. Let her spirit be in each to rejoice in the Lord. Christ has only one mother in the flesh, but we all bring forth Christ in faith.

—Saint Ambrose of Milan (c. 340-397)

Most holy Lady ... all-pure, all-immaculate, all-stainless, all-un-defiled, all-incorrupt, all-inviolable ... spotless robe of Him who clothes Himself with light as with a garment ... flower unfading, purple woven by God, alone most immaculate.

—Saint Ephrem the Syrian

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.)

Clip and Save

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
NOVENA**

Priest: O Immaculate Virgin Mary, conceived without sin! Remember, thou wert miraculously preserved from even the shadow of sin, because thou wert destined to become not only the Mother of God, but also the Mother, the Refuge, and the Advocate of man; penetrated, therefore, with the most lively confidence in thy never-failing intercession, we most humbly implore thee to look with favor upon the intentions of this novena, and to obtain for us the graces and the favors we request. [Here silently mention your requests.] Thou knowest, O Mary, how often our hearts are the sanctuaries of God, Who abhors iniquity. Obtain for us, then, that angelic purity which was thy favorite virtue, that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone, and that purity of intention which will consecrate every thought, word, and action to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a constant spirit of prayer and self-denial, that we may recover by penance that innocence which we have lost by sin, and at length attain safely to that blessed abode of the Saints, where nothing defiled can enter.

V. O Mary, conceived without sin.
R. Pray for us who have recourse to Thee.

Please pray this Novena with us daily from December 7 - 15, for our Church.

Mary is that uncorrupted earth which God blessed, and was therefore free from all contagion of sin.

—Saint Bruno

O Mary, may we feel the saving power of your sweetest name.

House of Gold

God was the Goldsmith
Conceived this chalice
Light eons before
Man's mischievous malice.

God was the Shaper
Fashioned the mold,
Poured into it only
The purest of gold.

In the fullness of time
As the prophets foretold
God's Son entered into
This vessel of Gold.

—Paul Stauder S.J.

Advent Meditation

*Rorate Coeli desuper, et nubes pluant Justum.
Aperiatur Terra, et germinet Salvatorem.*

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

—Alice Meynell

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.*

Don't Forget!

Christmas Craft & Cookie Sale

Sunday, December 12 after all morning Masses
*Food and craft donations can be dropped off at
Helfta Hall on Saturday, December 11th.*

Don't Miss Out!

Christmas Gift Raffle

Tickets available for purchase after
all morning Masses. Drawing to be
held Sunday, December 19
after the 9am Mass. *You
need not be present to win!*

*Prizes: a beautiful hand-
made rosary & purse,
a Sorrowful Heart
hand-carved
wooden sculpture,
a wine-lover's gift
basket, and a children's treasure
box filled with toys.*

