

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ DECEMBER 26, 2010

- ST STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR •
 - WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS •
- Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

THIS WEEK:

✠ ST JOHN'S DAY

On **Monday** the blessing of wine and other beverages follows the **5:45 PM** High Mass. You are welcome to place any beverage to be blessed at St. John's shrine. Afterwards, come to the Helfta Hall "to drink the health of St. John," some blessed wine or juice which carries his powerful protection.

✠ CHILDREMAS

Tuesday bring the children to **Holy Innocents' Mass** at **11:20 AM**. There is a blessing and a little gift for each child after Mass, and then a little party with a story and a poem or two. We're counting on the children of the parish to help us to sing and serve.

✠ NEW YEAR'S EVE

Friday is New Year's Eve. Fr. Cekada's **Mass** is at **8:00 A.M.**, and Bishop Dolan will be presiding over a true prayer vigil or "New Year's Eve Watch", starting with the **Rosary** at 5:10 PM. We open the annual and "grace filled". **Infant of Prague Novena** at **5:35 PM**, which is followed by Mass with Sermon, and year's end devotions before the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. We conclude, as usual, with the **Sacred Heart Novena** and **Benediction**. Sanctify with us the last hours of the old year.

✠ NEW YEAR'S DAY

Happy New Year's Day is a **new holy day of obligation**. The Masses are at **9:00 AM** and **11:00 AM**.

Make the first of your **Five First Saturdays** your first New year's Resolution. Pray the Rosary with us at 8:30 AM. Benediction with First Saturday Devotions follows the **11:00 AM Mass**.

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

Collection Report

Sunday December 19th\$5,063.00

✠ POETRY CORNER

BABIES OF BETHLEHEM

They could not wait for Christ to die
 And rise in glory from the earth;
 These little Stephens, lily-high,
 Bore bloody witness to His Birth.

Like roses from the bushes torn,
 Men plucked them from their
 mothers' breast,
 Leaving a sharp and crimson thorn
 Where every silken bud had pressed.

They rolled like grape strewn by the
 wind,
 Their virgin wine staining the sands,
 Before their angel-guides could find
 Palms small enough to fit their
 hands.

O ruddy grapes! O roses red!
 O martyred dolls with upturned eyes!
 A perfume is the blood you shed,
 The first-pressed wine for Paradise!

—Fray Angelico Chavez O.F.M.



THE NATIVITY

Among the oxen (like an ox I'm slow)
 I see a glory in the stable grow
 Which, with an ox's dullness might at
 length
 Give me an ox's strength.

Among the asses (stubborn I as they)
 I see my Saviour where I looked for
 hay;
 So may my beastlike folly learn at
 least
 The patience of a beast.

Among the sheep (I like a sheep have
 strayed)
 I watch the manger where my Lord is
 laid;
 Oh that my baa-ing would win thence
 Some woolly innocence.

—C.S. Lewis

✠ NEXT SUNDAY:

The Holy Name of Jesus.
Set your missal: The Holy Name of Jesus, commemoration of St. Stephen, Preface of the Nativity. It is also the feast of the Infant of Prague. Vespers and Benediction are at 4:45 PM. Classes resume next week.

✠ UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, January 6th. Epiphany Solemn High Mass at 9:00 AM. followed by the blessing of gold, frankincense, myrrh and chalk. Early afternoon Vespers concludes the day. Spend it with us.

Friday, January 7th. First Solemn Mass of Fr. Fleiss at **5:30 PM**, followed by the Epiphany Appreciation Dinner.

✠ BANNES OF MARRIAGE

Kent Maki and Linda Elswick

✠ THANK YOU

Our Christmas craft and bake sale brought in \$1200.00. Thank you all for your generosity and participation!

LUMEN CHRISTI

For the next fortnight the Sanctuary Lamp will burn before the Blessed Sacrament for:

SALVATION OF OUR CHILDREN
 AND GODCHILDREN'S SOULS
 (Regina & Ken Gilliam)

Servers

DECEMBER 27 - JANUARY 2, 2011

- MON 12/27 5:45 PM HIGH: MC: Joe Soli, TH: T. Simpson
 AC's: J. Simpson, J. Lacy, Volunteers
- TUE 12/28 MC: J. Lotarski, TH: B. Lotarski
 AC's: T. SIMPSON, J. SIMPSON
 TORCH: J. Lacy, P. Omlor, S. & L. Arlinghaus
 OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE ASKED TO SERVE AND
 SING AS USUAL
- FRI 12/31 5:45 PM LOW: Simpsons
- SAT 1/1 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: J. Lotarski, J. Soli
 TH: F. Puglielli AC's: N. Puglielli, A. Richesson
 TORCH: S. & L. Arlinghaus, J. Lacy, P. Omlor,
 J. Simpson, N. Kuebler
 11:00 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, N. McClorey
 BENEDICTION: G. Miller
- SUN 1/2 7:30 AM LOW: A. & S. Brueggemann
 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: R. VandeRyt, R. Hill
 TH: T. Simpson AC's: S. Arlinghaus, A. Wanke
 TORCH: J. Lacy, P. Omlor, J. Simpson,
 N. Kuebler A. Arlinghaus, P. Lawrence
 11:30 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, A. Wanke
 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
 5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

Ushers

JANUARY 2, 2011

- 7:30 AM Scott Pepiot, Kent Maki, 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

✠ THE CALENDAR

MON	12/27/10	ST JOHN, ApEv 5:45 PM High Mass Christmas Novena III followed by the Blessing of Wine and other beverages, and a blessed little reception to drink the "Health of St. John."
TUES	12/28/10	THE HOLY INNOCENTS 8:00 AM Low Mass Poor Souls in honor of the Holy Innocents 11:20 AM High Mass Christmas Novena IV Blessing of Children and Children's Party
WED	12/29/10	ST THOMAS A BECKET, BpM 8:00 AM Low Mass Christmas Novena V 4:00 PM Low Mass All Deceased for whom we are bound or for whom we should pray (<i>Patrick Omlor</i>)
THURS	12/30/10	WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS 8:30 AM Low Mass Christmas Novena VI 11:20 AM Low Mass Our Children and their spouses (<i>Kirby & Jean Bischel</i>)
FRI	12/31/10	ST SYLVESTER I, PC WITHIN THE OCTAVE 8:00 AM Low Mass †Thomas Kamphaus (<i>Emily Harten</i>) 5:10 PM Rosary 5:15 PM Confessions 5:35 PM Opening of the Infant of Prague Novena 5:45 PM Low Mass Christmas Novena VII followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, New Year's Eve Devotions and Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart, Benediction and Confessions
SAT	1/1/11	THE CIRCUMCISION NEW YEARS DAY 8:30 AM First Saturday Rosary and Devotions 9:00 AM High Mass Christmas Novena VIII 10:40 AM Confessions 11:00 AM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude Benediction with First Saturday Devotions
SUN	1/2/11	HOLY NAME OF JESUS 7:30 AM Low Mass Strengthen my Children's Faith (<i>Patsy McConnell Family</i>) 9:00 AM High Mass Christmas Novena IX 11:30 AM Low Mass †Albert Kinnett - Birthday Remembrance (<i>Margaret & A.D. Kinnett</i>) 4:45 PM Vespers and Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass Special Intention (<i>Frances Mattingly</i>)

✠ BISHOPS CORNER

All of this past week, your devoted fellow members reported to the galley to give a hand with the oars, and help our Christmas celebration to come together. This always entails a certain amount of stress and fatigue, of course, as well as just that that kind of selfless giving in which God takes the lead, giving us His Only Begotten Son, born once at Christmas, but yesterday and today again by our celebration of the Holy Sacrifice.

It is the Mass that matters, and only the Mass that puts Christmas together - Christ's Mass. It is the Mass which makes us to renew our spirit of sacrifice, to row together for God's glory and man's good, his eternal good.

Thank you, dear workers, and givers and volunteers, and faithful. Thank you for your gifts, your time, your sacrifices, which make our church to be such a splendid stable for the sacrifice of the Mass each Christmas, indeed, each Christ's Mass, all year long.

My special thanks go to you who found time last Monday to be Fred Hauserman's family - as indeed you are - for his funeral Rosary and Requiem. May his little boat swiftly reach the heavenly shore. Thanks for rowing him in.

"The young fathers," **Fr McGuire** and **Fr. Larrabee**, departed on Wednesday for their Christmas missions. Fr. McGuire headed to Milwaukee, stopping in **Saybrook, Illinois** for a mission Mass for **St. Isidore**. He returns home after New Year. Fr. Larrabee will be helping **Fr. Zapp** (who recently had shoulder surgery) in **Modesto, California** at **St. John Bosco**. Father bought an almond grove there, and hopes to build a church for his growing congregation.

Two of my independent "priest sons" have a plan to help each other out. **Fr. Adam Cyr** has invited **Fr. Ercoli** to come to take over his **Holy Redeemer Chapel** in **Seattle, Washington**. Fr. Cyr hopes to pursue a monastic vocation with another priest in the wilds of Northern Idaho. We wish them all well, and promise them our prayers. May God bless their endeavors.

Indeed, let us pray for all priests, all of our fellow Catholics, our seminarians (we are happy to have **Mr. Vili Lehtoranta** with us again this Christmas) and, since it is St. Stephen's day, for our enemies. In His goodness, God always keeps up their numbers, so that we might be sanctified and have our prayers more readily heard. Pray for your enemies and forgive them daily.

Do have a blessed week of Christmas. Try to make Christ's Mass a part of it! Bring a bottle to be blessed Monday. Bring yourself to the altar crib in our shining stable. Bring Jesus in out of the cold, into your heart for Holy Communion.

I conclude by thanking again our decoration committee, our cleaners and choirs, editorial staff, sacristans and servers, and everyone who takes oars in hand, and helps us row.

A Blessed Christmas Week!

—Bishop Dolan



"What gift can I bring the newborn King?"

A Motto For The Year

As I sit here in my quiet room,
casting about in mind for a motto
which may serve as a guide during this
New Year, I recall some unsigned verses
which once appeared in the *Spectator*.
They run thus:

“I asked the New Year for some motto
sweet,
Some rule of life by which to guide my
feet;
I asked and paused. It is answered soft
and low:
‘God’s Will to know.’

“Will knowledge, then, suffice, New
Year?” I cried;
But ere the question into silence died,
The answer came: ‘Nay, this remember,
too –
‘God’s Will to do.’

“Once more I asked: Is there still more
to tell?”
And once again the answer sweetly fell:
“Yea, this one thing all other things
above –
‘God’s Will to love.’ ”

God’s will to know – God’s will to
do – God’s Will to love: here is strength,
contentment, happiness. Many an old
year we have seen sink into the gulf of
time, and many dear friends have paid
that homage to Nature and the grave
which we ourselves must in turn pay,
and the loss of them, through the
source of keen regret, is the kindly
process by which Providence weans us
from undue attachment to the pleasures
of sense and the joys of life. This green
earth is not an eternal biding-place.
Comrades are carried off from our side;
reverses strike us; sickness discloses our
slight hold upon life; and the corporal
faculties lose gradually their suppleness
and power. The silver cord that binds
together body and soul is weakening
under the strain of prolonged existence;
and we are warned to prepare for the

moment when time shall be no more.
Doubtless, our best preparation is to
take a cheerful view of life’s duties, and
do, day by day, our work in the world,
whatever it may be, with courage,
hopefulness, and generosity of spirit.

–M.J. Watson, S. J.: *Within the Soul*

**Holy thoughts and tender words
Are at best mere leaves and flowers,
But the fruits are generous deeds—
Where, O coward soul, are ours?
Soon, too soon, will come the end:
God forgive what’s past and gone!
Mary Mother! Angels! Saints!
Pray for me and help me on.**

–Rev. Matthew Russell, S.J.



*O almighty God, in the form of a little
child! Make me worthy to meditate
upon your greatness and power, and
your majesty as God and man.*

**The Child Jesus invites us to the
grotto and teaches us that in order to
accomplish good it is necessary to
suffer; the Child Jesus presents
Himself to us between Mary and
Joseph, and they are our consolers in
all of our activities.**

–Saint Gaspar del Bufalo

**Behold, a Lamb born for you, Son of
our sovereign God.**

–Saint Teresa of Avila

*Your throne, O God, endures forever
and ever, yet now you have a manger
for your throne.*

–Saint Thomas of Villanova

St. Stephen’s Day.

May God, Who crowned the blessed
Stephen His first Martyr, both in his
confession of the Faith and in his
endurance of martyrdom, encircle us in
this present life with the crown of
righteousness, and bring us in that which
is to come to the crown of glory. Amen.

May He grant us evermore to
abound in that love both of God and of
our neighbor which he held fast even
amid the assaults of those who stoned
Him. Amen.

So that, being strengthened by his
example, and also aided by his prayers, we
may receive the blessing of Him whom he
saw standing at the Right Hand of God.
Amen.

St. John the Evangelist's Day

May God Almighty, Who through
the blessed John, Apostle and Evangelist,
willed to reveal to the Church the secret
mysteries of His Word, vouchsafe to bless
us on this his festival. Amen.

And may he grant us strength by the
gift of the Holy Spirit to receive inwardly
in our minds what he, inspired by the gift
of the same Spirit, hath poured into our
outward ears. Amen.

That being assured by his teaching of
the Divinity of our Redeemer, we may by
loving what He taught and by fulfilling
what He revealed, attain to the gifts
which the Same Jesus Christ our Lord
hath promised. Amen.

The Holy Innocents Day

May God Almighty, for the adorable
Infancy of Whose Only-Begotten troops
of innocent children were slain by the
cruelty of wicked Herod, bestow on us
the precious gifts of His blessing. Amen.

And as He granted to them that they,
not by speaking but by dying, should
confess His only Son Our Lord, so may
He grant to us to profess the true Faith
not only with our lips, but also by a
blameless life, and patience even unto
death. Amen.

And as He accepted them as the first-
fruits of His Holy Church, so may He
make us with fruit of good works to
attain to the joys of our everlasting
Home. Amen.

SGG School News

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

December 2010

St. Gertrude the Great School is on recess until January for the Christmas holiday. In December, the students assisted the church in fulfilling some special liturgical functions. One student who regularly is MC for the school's daily High Masses was lucky enough to travel with Father Cekada to Florida, where the young man assisted at the ordination of Fr. Fliess. This past Monday the school choir sang the Requiem for Mr. Fred Hauserman. The school's Christmas craft sale was held December 12th and was very successful.

Christmas Craft and Bake Sale Wrap Up

SGG School held its annual Christmas Craft and Bake sale on Sunday, December 12th. As the variety of items for sale showed, parishioners responded very generously to the request for crafted and baked items to support the sale. And judging by the number of enthusiastic shoppers in Helfta Hall for the sale, parishioners likewise appreciated the selection of things available for purchase. Thank you to everyone who either crafted and baked something for the sale and also to all who bought an item.

As part of this year's sale, the school raffled off four terrific prizes. Approximately 150 raffle tickets were sold. The drawing was held on Sunday, December 19th after the 9am Mass. The winners were:

Handmade Rosary & Purse—H.O. Hinton
Sorrowful Heart Sculpture—Jane Brockman
Wine-Lover's Basket—John Seyfried
Treasure Chest of Toys—H.O. Hinton

Since he took home two of the four prizes, last Sunday evidently was Mr. Hinton's lucky day. Mr. Hinton showed his gratitude for his good fortune by spontaneously performing an act of charity for the gaggle of disappointed children who came to the drawing with hopes of winning the toy chest. After taking possession of the toys, Mr. Hinton proceeded to give them all away to the kids who were there. St. Nicholas was undoubtedly pleased by Mr. Hinton's act of kindness. Congratulations to the prize-winners and thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket for the raffle. Special thanks to Richard and Gloria Zbilicki for helping with ticket sales.

St Nicholas's Day at SGG School

Speaking of St. Nicholas ... one of the festive occasions the Church observes during the Advent season is the feast day of good St. Nicholas, on December 6th. The school children marked the day by assisting at the Mass for the saintly bishop, naturally. And it's a school tradition for St Nicholas to leave chocolate and candy canes on the desk of every student. This year the school also honored St. Nicholas in some novel ways.

In art class that morning, one second-grade girl happened to be making a boat out of construction paper. A classmate mentioned to her that the boat looked a little bit like a bishop's miter. The girl was then inspired to forgo her ship building and instead complete a bishop's hat. Her classmates liked her creation so much, and it being St. Nicholas's day after all, that they all dropped what *they* were making and made miters of their own. Seeing this, the first graders didn't want to be left bare-headed for St. Nick's Day; so they got busy making miters too. Soon the school was full of kids with tall pointy hats.

One school mother extended the school's cupcakes-for-birthdays custom to St. Nicholas by bringing in a batch of St. Nick cupcakes. Every cupcake was confected into a sugary likeness of the saint and each came topped, of course, with a paper miter.

Another school mom imitated the generosity of the Bishop of Myra by distributing assorted treats to the school staff. All in all it was a very festive observance of St. Nicholas's day this year at SGG school.

Save Your Christmas Cards and Donate Them

to our school. Students recycle used Christmas cards into Christmas-tree ornaments for next year. So don't throw those cards away; instead please bundle them up and give them to Miss Sharon Patton. Thank you!

Our Lady of Good Counsel, please pray for the students, teachers, administrators, parents and benefactors of St Gertrude the Great School.