

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

¶ **NOVEMBER 20, 2011 • THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST • ST FELIX OF VALOIS • WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF ST GERTRUDE THE GREAT •**

Morning classes are at 10:40 AM, and afternoon Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM. The Blessing of Expectant Mothers follows all Masses today.

¶ THIS WEEK

We have some wonderful feasts this week of Thanksgiving, and we all have so much to be thankful for! On **Monday** we turn to Our Lady for her **Presentation**, praying again for our clergy and religious. On **Tuesday**, we honor the patroness of sacred music, **St. Cecilia**. Say a prayer for our devoted choirs. Thanksgiving is a day to give thanks, the best, the Catholic way, with Holy Mass. There is traditionally just one **Mass** on the **Friday** after, and you may eat meat. The liturgical year ends on **Saturday. St. Leonard of Port Maurice**, whose statue in our church was a gift of Bishop Sanborn, has his feast day.

¶ THANKSGIVING



Join us for a special holiday Mass of Thanksgiving, on Thursday, November 24th, at 9:00 AM., with patriotic music. Holy Mass is the best way to give thanks! Let's joyfully and thankfully stress the religious character of this holiday. The *abstinence* is traditionally *dispensed* on the *Friday* after Thanksgiving and meat may be taken.

¶ ROSARY CONFRATERNITY

Formal enrollment in the St. Gertrude the Great Rosary Confraternity will be held during Advent. There are so many graces and benefits you can gain by membership, not to mention fun and good Catholic company. Come be a part of us! Pick up an enrollment form in the vestibule or contact Gloria Zbilicki (gzbilicki@gmail.com).

¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the *First Sunday of Advent*, the beginning of a new liturgical year. The **Lighting of the Advent Wreath** is at **7:25 AM**, and the **Advent Procession and Blessing of the Advent Wreath** will take place at **9:00 AM**. Catechism Classes are at **10:45 AM**.

Set your missal: Advent I, 2nd collect of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, 3rd Against the persecutors. Preface of the Trinity. **Advent Vespers** are sung with Benediction at **4:45 PM**.

¶ "PREPARE FOR ADVENT"

Visit our Gift Shop to get ready for this season of getting ready. Advent Wreaths, as well as good spiritual reading, are available. Be sure to prepare an Advent Wreath (three purple and one pink candle) for your family dining table or shrine. The first candle may be lit on Saturday evening or Sunday.

¶ AN END AND A BEGINNING



At the end of the ecclesiastical year the Church earnestly reminds us of the judgment that we must pass before the all-knowing God. It is wise to anticipate that judgment in frequent and contrite confession, always living in sanctifying grace in friendly union with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament through frequent and devout Communion; and constantly in worship and private prayer.



A new liturgical season begins next Sunday with Advent. Now is the time to make your resolutions (quiet family nights, no TV, daily rosary, an extra Mass, giving up sweets, etc.) and to get out your Advent wreath and Advent calendar.

O Mary, be by me when Jesus comes to judge me.

✠ POETRY CORNER

GRACE FOR LITTLE THINGS

Thanksgiving for the simple things:

The home-roof shelter overhead,
For sun enough, and rain enough,
And light, and air, and daily bread!

For friends who drop in on the way'

A neighbor's little child who comes;
For friendly books, the postman's call,
The cheery sparrows seeking crumbs.

Thanksgiving for the simple things!

Oh, keep life simple still, I pray,
And take my gratitude, dear Lord,
For little gifts of every day!



—A.P.C.

¶ CHRISTMAS COOKIE AND CRAFT SALE



Craft & Bake Sale



Will be held Sunday December

12th after all morning Masses. Please drop off your food and craft donations on Saturday December 11th in Helfta Hall.

O holy Mary, paradise of sanctity, lily of purity, be my guide and the defender of my chastity.

—St. Gertrude

Servers
NOVEMBER 21-28, 2011

•THU 11/24 9:00 AM LOW: B. LOTARSKI, T. J., M. SIMPSON
•FRI 11/25 5:45 PM LOW: J. Gunsher, P. Omlor, Simpsons
•SAT 11/26 7:30 AM LOW: Simpsons
8:15 AM LOW: M. Briggs
•SUN 11/27 7:30 AM LOW: S. & D. Brueggemann
9:00 AM HIGH: MC: R. VandeRy
CHAPLAINS: J. Simpson, J. Soli
TH: A. Lawrence ACs: A. Richesson, J. Simpson
TORCH: J. Lacy, M. Simpson, A. Soli, J. Morgan
L. Arlinghaus, N. Kuebler
11:30 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, P. Omlor
4:45 PM VESPERS AND BENEDICTION: J. Gunsher, J. Lacy,
G. Miller
5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

Ushers

NOVEMBER 27, 2011

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

Collection Report

Sunday November 13th\$3,133.79

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

✠ THE CALENDAR

Weekday webcast Masses are marked with a 

- MON 11/21/11 THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LADY**
 **11:20 AM High Mass** In honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and relief of all holy souls (*Patrick Omlor*)
- TUES 11/22/11 ST CECILIA, VM**
8:00 AM Low Mass Poor Souls Gratitude Mary Rose & William Young (*DJR*)
 **11:20 AM High Mass** Cecilia Gunsher (*Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Gunsher*)
4:00 PM Low Mass Bishop Dolan, Thank you for all you do and your good health (*Richard & Elizabeth Smith*)
6:30 PM Choir Practice (N.B. Special Time)
- WED 11/23/11 ST CLEMENT, PM**
ST FELICITY, M
 **11:20 AM High Mass** Thank you and Happy Anniversary (*The Fathers*)
- THURS 11/24/11 THANKSGIVING**
ST JOHN OF THE CROSS CD
 **9:00 AM Festive Low Mass for Thanksgiving**
 Poor Souls-Gratitude-Our Benefactors
- FRI 11/25/11 ST CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, VM**
5:15 PM Confessions and Rosary
 **5:45 PM Low Mass** Poor Souls -Gratitude-Special Intention
6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena and Benediction
- SAT 11/26/11 ST SYLVESTER, AB**
ST PETER OF ALEXANDRIA, BPM
ST LEONARD OF PORT MAURICE, C
7:15 AM Confessions
7:30 AM Low Mass Repose of the Souls in Purgatory (*Tom & Stella Simpson*)
8:05 AM Sermon
8:15 AM Low Mass †Fr. Abel (*Doris Jeanne Campbell*)
- SUN 11/27/11 ADVENT I**
7:25 AM Blessing of Advent Wreath
7:30 AM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude
9:00 AM Advent Procession and Blessing of the Advent Wreath High Mass Richard VandeRyt (*Noah*)
10:45 AM Sunday Classes
11:30 AM Low Mass For the Poor Souls for Favors Received (*L.M. Faith & Family*)
4:45 PM Advent Vespers and Benediction
5:45 PM Low Mass Mother of Good Counsel Poor Souls (*JCS*)

✠ POOR SOULS

FOR THE DEAD

Help, Lord, the souls which Thou hast made,
 The souls to Thee so dear,
 In prison, for the debt unpaid
 Of sins committed here.

Those holy souls, they suffer on,
 Resign'd in heart and will,
 Until Thy high behest is done,
 And justice has its fill.
 For daily falls, for pardon'd crime,
 They joy to undergo
 The shadow of Thy cross sublime,
 The remnant of Thy woe.

Help, O Lord, the souls which Thou hast made,
 The souls to Thee so dear,
 In prison, for the debt unpaid
 Of sins committed here.

Oh, by their patience of delay,
 Their hope amid their pain,
 Their sacred zeal to burn away
 Disfigurement and stain;
 Oh, by their fire of love, not less
 In keenness than the flame,
 Oh, by their very helplessness,
 Oh, by Thy own great Name,

Good Jesu, help! sweet Jesu, aid
 The souls to Thee most dear,
 In prison, for the debt unpaid
 Of sins committed here.

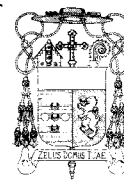


PRAYER FOR THE DYING

Most merciful Jesus, lover of souls! I pray Thee, by the agony of Thy most Sacred Heart, and by the sorrows of Thy Immaculate Mother, wash in Thy Blood the sinners of the whole world, who are now in their agony, and are to die this day. Amen. Heart of Jesus, once in agony, have mercy on the dying. (*An Indulgence of 100 Days*)

Thanksgiving falls well for us this year, just after the octave day of St. Gertrude the Great. The feast day of our holy patroness (and already our eighth happy anniversary at our "new construction") brought us much to be thankful for.

Of course, first we are thinking of our new priest, **Fr. Vili Lehtoranta**. Father's father came from Finland, and eleven priests and bishops from all over the world gathered for the imposing rite of Pontifical Mass and Holy Orders. Many of our faithful attended, as did guests from Michigan and Illinois. Our web congregation was active, and one of the Indian faithful wrote from Bombay: *"I was particularly touched, and my eyes were filled with tears, when Bishop Daniel Dolan consecrated the hands of the ordinand and bound his hands and then handed over the Instruments of Office of the holy priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church according to the traditional formula."*



For me as your pastor, I must say how proud of you I am, and grateful to so many who willingly helped in so many areas, for everything from secretarial to serving, sacristy and housekeeping, transportation to cooking to choir. A special thanks goes to everyone who coordinated "feeding the multitude" of hungry seminarians, priests and guests. God has blessed us with a fine congregation!

I was happy for you to be able to see so many priests from all over: **Bishop Sanborn**, who preached an excellent sermon, **Fr. Francis Miller O.F.M.** of Louisiana, **Fr. Mardones** of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, **Fr. Hecquard** of France, back for the first time since his own ordination, as well as **Fr. Saavedra** of Detroit, Michigan, **Fr. Ercoli** of Seattle, Washington, and **Fr. Selway** of Brooksville, Florida. Thank you for your hospitality towards them. Fr. Lehtoranta will return to us after Christmas to celebrate Solemn Mass for Epiphany. In the meantime, he rejoins the five seminarians to resume his studies until the end of June.

The church certainly looked and sounded magnificent for the ordination, and an abundant and very elegant reception awaited the guests after the Mass. Heaven even favored us with much desired sunshine Wednesday afternoon, and Thursday morning for the First Mass.

The missionary's mantle has descended upon **Fr. Larrabee**, who leaves for a week's visit to Nigeria on Tuesday. We are proud of him, and grateful for his apostolic zeal. The faithful await his coming eagerly, for it has been a year since their last Mass. We had a bit of a worry, since Fr. Larrabee's visa was late in coming, but fervent prayers to the Little Flower, St. Gertrude and St. Patrick (the unlikely patron saint of Nigeria) were heard. Now we must accompany our good Father with more prayers for a safe and fruitful trip.

I write this on the day after the ordination, the Thursday, after the First Mass. The seminarians are getting a Cincinnati/Covington church tour today, and some of the clergy have already left. We are already busy planning Advent!

But first let us give thanks for all of the Almighty's blessings upon the Catholic Church, which has a new priest, and this church, privileged to witness and host this always moving and historical event, as well as so many moving celebrations, all of which give great glory to God, and joy to His faithful here below.

I close with a blessing in St. Gertrude the Great,

—Bishop Dolan

PRAYER BY ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT

Lord Jesus Christ, thou great high priest, whose costly death has brought me life, in the power of Thy Spirit and by virtue of Thy presence confound all the plots the enemy lays against me, break all his snares, and let Thy pitying glance deliver me from blindness of heart. Help me, Christ, by Thy perfect love, to gain the victory in every trial. Teach me by Thy divine humility to be cautious in avoiding every pitfall Satan lays in my path. Guide me by the light of Thy truth, lead me along the path of innocence and purity. And let Thy mercy and blessing go before and after me, and guard me to the very end of my life. Amen.

St. Gertrude relates that hearing one day, in the chanting of the Divine Office, those words of the Gospel naming Christ "*Primogenitus Mariae Virginis*, the First-born Son of the Virgin Mary," she said to herself: "The title of Only Son would seem to be more befitting for Jesus than that of First-born." While she was dwelling on this thought, Mary appeared to her: "No," said she to the holy nun, "it is not *Only Son* but *First-born Son* which is most befitting: for after Jesus, my Sweetest Son, or more truly, in Him and by Him, I have given birth to you all in my heart and you have become my children, the brothers and sisters of Jesus."

(St. Gertrude, *The Herald of Divine Love*, Bk. IV ch. 3.)

✠ ADVENT PREPARATION

A MEDITATION TO PREPARE FOR ADVENT

Consider first, that the time of Advent, (so called from being set aside by the Church for worthily celebrating the Advent, that is the coming of Christ), is a penitential time (not a party time), and a time of devotion, in which we are every day called upon by the Church of God to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths; to enter into the like dispositions to those which St. John the Baptist required of the people when he was sent to preach to them conversion and penance, in order to prepare them for their Messiah; that so we also, by turning away from our sins, by sorrow and repentance, and turning ourselves to the Lord our God with our whole heart, by love and affection, may dispose our souls to welcome our Savior whose birth we are about to celebrate; and to embrace in such a manner the mercy and grace which He brings with Him at His first coming, as to escape hereafter those dreadful judgements which His justice shall execute upon impenitent sinners at His second coming.

See then, my soul, that thou dedicate this holy time to suitable exercise of devotion and penance, that thou mayest answer the end of this institution and be induced by the wholesome fear of the dreadful judgements that are continually hanging over the heads of impenitent sinners, to make good use of this present time of mercy, lest hereafter there should be neither time nor mercy for them.

Ah! sinners, if this day you hear the voice of the Lord, either sweetly inviting you with the allurements of His mercy, or terrifying you with the threats of His judgements, see you harden not your hearts. For now is your time. Sleep on no longer, unless you come to sleep in death, as it happened to them of old, who refusing to harken to God's voice, provoked Him so far, that He swore to them in His wrath, that they should never enter into His rest. O remember

that the day of the Lord and His judgements shall come as a snare upon all them that will not watch, *Luke xxi, 35.*

Conclude to enter now into the true spirit of this holy time—which is a penitential spirit—and to prepare the way of the Lord, by putting away all thy sins, and purifying thy soul for Him; thus shalt thou welcome Him at His coming, and shalt be welcome to Him.

—BISHOP CHALLONER



BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (recite next Saturday evening)

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R. Who made heaven and earth.

Let us pray. O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

Let us pray. Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, O Lord, and come, so that we may escape through Thy protection and be saved by Thy help from the dangers that threaten us because of our sins. Who livest and reignest forever and ever. **R.** Amen.

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.)

Advent represents the time which preceded the coming of Christ, and which the just of the Old Testament, the patriarchs and prophets passed in the expectation of Our Divine Saviour.

During this time the Church prepares herself to celebrate the temporal birth of the Son of God. In her prayers she adopts the words by which the saints of the Old Testament expressed their longings and their desires for the coming of the Messiah. She is anxious that her children should take advantage of the graces of His first coming in the fullness of time as a Saviour, in order that they may prepare for His second coming at the end of the world as a terrible judge of all mankind. She wishes also that her pastors, like St. John the Baptist, should prepare the way of the Lord, by exhorting their people to make themselves ready in heart and mind to receive Him, and thereby become partakers of the graces which He will communicate to such as will have rendered themselves worthy of their reception.

The spirit of the Church, during Advent, appears in all her practices and ceremonies. She no longer sings canticles of joy; during this holy time she forbids the solemnization of marriage; she vests her ministers, and clothes her altars, with penitential ornaments; she prescribes abstinence and fast on certain days, and she recites particular prayers, to show how ardently she wishes her children to prepare pure and holy ways for the Lord.

She desires that, at the approaching feast of Christmas, Jesus Christ may be born anew in us by the grace of a perfect conversion, and by an increase of faith, hope and charity, as well as of every other christian virtue. In order to receive Him worthily, we must prepare ourselves, by sentiments of religion, devotion and vigilance; by retirement from the world, by withdrawing from company; by prayer, penance, and meditation; by the practice of piety, charity and humility; and finally by reading works that may instruct us in the knowledge of this great mystery.

We exhort you to assist daily at Mass, as regularly as your occupations will allow, and during that time to read some books of piety, calculated to edify and prepare you for the celebration of this great solemnity, that you may be then enabled to make a good confession and a worthy communion.