
ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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THE MOST REV. DANIEL L. DOLAN, PASTOR, THE REV. ANTHONY CEKADA

THE REV. JULIAN LARRABEE, THE REV. CHARLES MCGUIRE

DECEMBER 4, 2011

• ADVENT II •

• ST PETER CHRYSOLOGUS •

¶Blessing of Religious

Articles: First Sunday of the month after all Masses, at communion rail.

¶Blessing of Expectant

Mothers: Third Sunday of the month after all Masses.

¶Rosary Chain:

To request prayers for your special intentions or needs, or to assist in the Rosary Chain, please call the office.

¶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.

¶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.



John sent two of his disciples to Christ.

¶**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.

¶Catholic Books & Religious

Articles: A fine selection is available in the Gift Shop after the Masses on Sunday.

¶Registration:

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

¶ **DECEMBER 4, 2011 • ADVENT II • ST. PETER CHRYSOLOGUS • ST BARBARA** • 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. New members of the **Rosary Confraternity** will be enrolled at the communion rail following the blessing after the 9 AM Mass.. **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**

This week is a busy one, with a day of fast and abstinence on **Wednesday** as we anticipate Our Lady’s **Immaculate Conception**, and, of course, the **Holy Day** itself. Don’t miss, however, **Tuesday’s** coming of **St. Nicholas**, and **Saturday’s** feast of **Our Lady of Loretto**.

¶ **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.

Collection Report

Sunday November 27th\$3,003.50

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

¶ **FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Thursday 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: **7:00 AM** Special “Workers Mass” no Sermon, **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: GAUDETE**

Please plan to participate in our Christmas Craft and Bake sale. Sunday classes and Afternoon Advent Vespers with Benediction are as usual.

Set your Missal: Advent III, commemoration of St. Damasus and the Octave of the Immaculate Conception.

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.)

¶ **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.

Ushers

DECEMBER 11, 2011

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

Advent

*The days are dear, the time not far,
When in the East will rise the Star
That leads where love and Jesus are!*

*My hands are busy. I must bring
To His dear poor an offering:
My birthday gifts to the sweet King.*

*My heart sings softly and is gay—
The Holy Child is on His Way,—
Our Little Lord of Christmas Day!*

—Alice P. Clark

**Our Beloved Dead
December**

<i>Jerome G. Gerrard</i>	<i>12-01-1989</i>
<i>Alice M. Corbin</i>	<i>12-02-1995</i>
<i>Albert D. Kinnett</i>	<i>12-02-2003</i>
<i>Frank Jr. Alban</i>	<i>12-03-1988</i>
<i>George Greene</i>	<i>12-04-1999</i>
<i>Rosemary Breitenstein</i>	<i>12-08-1999</i>
<i>Regina K. Budde</i>	<i>12-09-1992</i>
<i>Floyd Jr. Rimer</i>	<i>12-12-2002</i>
<i>Henry Golembeski</i>	<i>12-15-1993</i>
<i>Ralph Patton</i>	<i>12-15-2009</i>
<i>Vanessa S. Thompson</i>	<i>12-17-2008</i>
<i>Mary Genevieve Bell</i>	<i>12-19-2004</i>
<i>David T. Miller</i>	<i>12-19-2004</i>
<i>Mary I. Osborn</i>	<i>12-19-2002</i>


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 18th.*

Servers

DECEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 11, 2011

•THU	12/8	7:00 AM LOW: T. Simpson Sr. 9:00 AM HIGH: School servers, Simpsons, Arlinghaus, P. Omlor 5:30 PM BENEDICTION AND LOW: J. Gunsher, G. Miller
•FRI	12/9	5:45 PM LOW: P. Omlor, T., M. & J. Simpson
•SAT	12/10	7:30 AM LOW: Simpsons 8:30 AM LOW: M. Briggs
•SUN	12/11	7:30 AM LOW: D. & A. Brueggemann 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: J. Soli, R. Hill (R. VandeRyt) TH: T. Simpson (Training J. Simpson) AC’S: N. Puglielli, A. Richesson TORCH: J. Morgan, A. Soli, P. Omlor M. Simpson, J. Lacy, N. Kuebler 11:30 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, N. McClorey 4:45 PM VESPERS: G. Miller, Simpsons 5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

Weekday webcast Masses are marked with a 

- MON 12/05/11 Ferial Day St Sabbas, AB**
 **11:20 AM High Mass** Cucina Clerical (*The Fathers*)
- TUE 12/06/11 St Nicholas, BPC**
 **11:20 AM High Mass** Kevin O'Donnell for Vocation (*Emma O'Donnell*)
5:00 PM Low Mass In honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and for Poor Souls (*Patrick Omlor*)
- WED 12/07/11 St Ambrose, BPCD**
VIGIL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OPENING OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION NOVENA
-  **11:20 AM High Mass** In honor of Our Lady - Special Intention (*Cecilia Omlor*)
5:00 PM Low Mass Poor Souls
6:30 PM Choir Practice
- THUR 12/08/11 Holy Day Immaculate Conception**
7:00 AM Special Workers' Low Mass Repose of the Souls in Purgatory (*Tom & Stella Simpson*)
8:30 AM Confessions
 **9:00 AM High Mass** In honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and for Poor Souls (*Patrick Omlor*)
4:30 PM Vespers
5:10 PM Rosary and Benediction, Confessions
5:45 PM Low Mass For the People of St. Gertrude
- FRI 12/09/11 Within the Octave**
10:55 AM Confessions
 **11:20 AM Low Mass** Poor Souls - Gratitude - Katie Bischak
5:15 PM Rosary and Confessions
5:45 PM Low Mass Mother of Good Counsel Poor Souls (*JCS*)
6:30 PM Novena and Benediction
- SAT 12/10/11 Within the Octave**
OUR LADY OF LORETTO
7:15 AM Confessions
7:30 AM Low Mass Repose of the Souls in Purgatory (*Tom & Stella Simpson*)
8:05 AM Novena
8:30 AM Low Mass Mary Ellen Landry - Birthday (*Joan Landry*)
- SUN 12/11/11 Advent III GAUDETE SUNDAY**
7:30 AM Low Mass Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Wilson (*Dan, Mary & Family*)
9:00 AM High Mass Special Intentions (*Rose Kuebler*)
10:40 AM Sunday Classes
11:30 AM Low Mass †William & Marcella Hable (*Jean Bischel*)
4:45 PM Advent Vespers and Benediction
5:45 PM Low Mass For the People of St. Gertrude

The hour of death, so terrible to the sinner, has no terrors for the Christian who has served God faithfully during his life. A rather dramatic illustration of just how calmly a good Catholic can look at death was related by Professor William Lyon Phelps in his column "As I Like It" in Scribner's Magazine. He writes:

G.K. Chesterton told me a good story of the great Catholic hymn-writer, Fr. Frederick W. Faber, author of "Hark, Hark, My Soul," "Faith of Our Father," etc. In his last illness, after he had received Extreme Unction, and composed his mind for death, he asked the physician how long he had to live, and the answer was, "About an hour." Whereupon he said to a friend, "Then you can read me another chapter of Dickens," to which he listened with delight.

So long as we are full of self we are shocked at the faults of others. Let us think often of our own sins, and we shall be lenient to the sins of others.

—Fénelon



What is meant by the "Month's Mind Mass."

By the "month's mind" is understood what is done for a deceased person on the thirtieth day from his death. It is a monthly remembrance of the departed. The same Mass is said as at the funeral, except that a few prayers are different. The Christian name of the deceased is inserted in these prayers.

The Church recommends the solemn services of religion on such an occasion, as also on the third and seventh day, as well as on the anniversary. A high Mass should be offered up if it is in any way possible. The more solemn the services of religion, the more is God thereby honored. Moreover the time is favorable for ardent prayer. It is not too close to death to cause distraction by its necessary accomplishments, nor yet so far away as to cool the ardor of love.

✠ BISHOP'S CORNER

Thanksgiving is always a quiet day for us at church, but morning Mass was bright with fervent gratitude for the many blessings of the year. Mary Immaculate's shrine glowed golden amidst mums and pumpkins, and amber lights. St. John of the Cross hosted this year's celebration, and reminded us not to forget to thank Our Lord for hidden crosses, seeming losses and the like, all of which serve the divine design.

After the main Mass offered by Fr. McGuire, Joshua Gunsher and the servers helped set up everything for a Requiem with Absolution in the side chapel, which he proceeded to serve. This quiet, prayerful service was for the soul of Larry Adams. In his devout generosity he remembered us, and we will not forget him now that he is gone, and unable to pray for himself. November is over, but let us remember to pray always for the Poor Souls.

The last of the beautiful Fall flowers were taken away by many helping hands after Mass on the last day of the church's year, Saturday the 26th, in preparation for the purple and penance of Advent. Did you remember the Advent wreath, and even more your own resolutions and sacrifices? The church was beautiful in its penitential array last Sunday. It should be an image of your soul, shriven with a good confession, sheared of sin and arrayed with holy Advent desires.

During the past days **Fr. McGuire** spent a good amount of time with us in **Fr. Larrabee's** absence. Fr. McGuire is back to Milwaukee and the missions now for ten days, and Fr. Larrabee has returned from his eventful week in Nigeria. The faithful there wrote how consoled and grateful they were for the sacraments and the Holy Sacrifice, brought to them by the sacrifices of this new missionary. Thank you for your prayers for his trip.

Right after the Ordination, **Fr. Cekada** was able to get away to St. Hugh for their patronal feast that following Sunday. High Mass was followed by a dinner, and the faithful were so happy to see their founding pastor again, and he them. His duties here as organist and schola director, to name only two, do not usually permit him to travel much in the year, except to the seminary. You're also hearing from him again in the Building Fund Letters. Let him hear back from you!

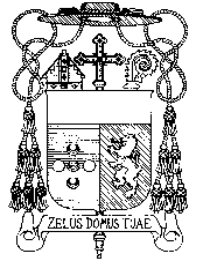
Fr. Cekada leaves this afternoon for a short teaching week at the Seminary, but will be back for the Holy Day. December 8th also marks the tenth ordination anniversary of **Fr. Joseph Selway**, and appropriate celebrations are planned at the Brooksville, Florida chapel where he is pastor and directs the school. Fr. Selway also visits the novitiate of the **Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas** at Our Lady of the Sun Shrine, in Phoenix, Arizona, once a month. The sisters there conduct a small school, as well as train future sisters. **Fr. Federico Palma**, who also was ordained on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, is the local pastor, and is slowly building up the congregation at the church Fr. LeBlanc founded.

Although winter looked in our window on St. Andrew's Eve with some wet snow, I hope this will be another long Autumn, which lasts through some of December at least. I hate to see our finest season, Fall, pack up and depart. The grounds are at their most beautiful, all calm and green, and the knock out roses keep on fighting. Every evening the red roses over the grotto shine like vigil lights in the night illumination, a lasting offering to Mary Immaculate.

Offer Our Lady your homage for the holy day this week, a happy excuse for all of us to "get in" an extra Mass for Advent. I hope you'll also be able to get in some Christmas baking or craft work to make our Christmas Craft sale next Sunday a success. We all know in these prolonged Recession days how every little bit helps.

Thank you for your interest and generosity and prayers for so many things Gertrudian of late. Thank you for your greetings and further prayers for my own 18th anniversary of Episcopal Consecration this past Wednesday. The school children sang a beautiful Mass, with a touching pure "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus." Come and hear them some time.

God bless you, and Mary Immaculate lead you these Advent days to her Son, the Ancient of Days who is about to be born anew for us.



-Bishop Dolan

St. Expeditus

Saint Expeditus is the patron of those who hope for rapid solutions to problems, who wish to avoid or put an end to delays, and who want general financial success. His aid is also sought by those who wish to overcome procrastination as a personal bad habit, as well as by shopkeepers and sailors. His feast day is April 19.

Expeditus is typically depicted as a young Roman centurion holding aloft a cross marked HODIE (“today” in Latin) and stepping on a crow beneath his right foot. Out of the dying crow’s mouth issues a word-ribbon, CRAS (“tomorrow” in Latin). Thus Expeditus destroys a vague tomorrow in favour of a definite today.

There is a cute pun in what the crow says: CRAS CRAS CRAS is how Romans imitated the sound of crows (in English, this is CAW CAW CAW), thus crows and ravens are said to always be croaking about “tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow.” Expeditus, by stomping the crow, destroys the vice of procrastination (pro-CRAS-tination means “putting things off until tomorrow”).

Apparently (not absolutely sure) the crow is the devil who tempted the Saint to put off his conversion until the next day and the Saint said, “I will be a Christian today!”

*—Before he left for Nigeria, Fr. Larrabee was worried because his Visa had not yet arrived. I told him to pray to St. Expeditus, but he had never heard of him. The next day Father received word that the Visa was on its way. Last week one of our faithful sent me this information, which I publish in case **you** have never heard of him.*

Reveal, O God

Reveal your might, O God, and come;
Descend to earth in majesty,
In majesty of poverty,
In power of humility.

Be seen, O God omnipotent,
Enthroned on wood of crib and tree;
Be foremost now in sacrifice,
Surrendered, slay iniquity.

O Son of Man, obedient,
The prisoners bound in sin set free;
The lame, the weak, the blind reprieve;
Proclaim your day of liberty.

Come manifest, most merciful,
In flesh creation’s destiny,
That we may see your love revealed,
Your perfect love, blest Trinity.

For an Ordination

Up and out has the road climbed forth
On to the measureless down;
A toneless gray in the straining north,
Under a gray sky’s frown.

The young sun’s play in the wood with the wind,
The young brook’s swirl in the glen,—
By what new miles shall be left behind
Before you see them again?

Ask not. One at the road’s crest stands.
Oh, ask you who is this?
He makes the shepherd’s sign with His hands,
He gives you the sacring kiss.

The young sun’s play is in His eyes.
The young brook’s grace in His feet;
The young wind breathes in His low replies;
His garb is hyacinth-sweet.

Your road shall climb to the pass apart
Where the ancient black crag drips;
But young shall be your signéd heart,
And young your kisséd lips.

—Geoffrey Bliss, S.J.

— For our newly ordained priest...Remember how the sun shone so beautifully on that St. Gertrude’s afternoon?

O Taste and See

Obedience to God’s commandments, which implies knowledge of sin and of holiness, and the desire and endeavor to please Him, this is the only practical interpreter of Scripture doctrine. Without self-knowledge you have no root yourselves personally; you may endure for a time, but under affliction or persecution your faith will not last. This is why many in this age (and in every age) become infidels, heretics, schismatics, disloyal despisers of the Church. They cast off the form of truth, because it never has been to them more than a form. They endure not, because they never have tasted that the Lord is gracious; and they never have had experience of His power and love, because they have never known their own weakness and need.

—John Henry Newman

Those who look for God in their poverty and need find themselves seeing what many longed to see but did not and many longed to hear but did not. Poverty and need are Advent attitudes.

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.



O most beautiful Mary, O most amiable Mary, you have gained the Heart of God; take also my poor heart, and make me a saint.

—Saint Alphonsus Liguori

Mary Immaculate

Pure are the soft and wintry snows
That lie on hill and lea,
And pure the breeze that freshly blows
Across the deep blue sea;
And pure the fragrant lilies are
Amid their cool green leaves,
And pure the light of moon and star
That shines on frosty eyes.
But purer far the angel train
That ever sweetly sing
In glorious and glad refrain
The praise of God, their King.

Oh, free from any stain of wrong
Are all the saints that hear
With joy untold the angels' song
Rise ever soft and clear;
And far more radiant than the gems
Won from some deep-delved mine
Are all the saintly diadems
In Paradise that shine.
But brighter diadem wears she
Who sits in royal state
By Him who died on Calvary,
Mary Immaculate!

For her radiant angel choir
Pours forth a ceaseless song,
On her the saints with souls afire
Gaze rapturously and long.
No rose or lily, howe'er fair,
No dewdrop on the sward,
For purity may once compare
With her who bore Our Lord.
How pure she is no pen can tell
No tongue her praise relate;
Beloved in heaven, feared in hell,
Mary Immaculate!

—M. R.



Mary is the Queen of the true faith.

—Saint Cyril of Alexandria

NATURE'S SOLITARY BOAST

The Immaculate Conception

When Pius IX solemnly proclaimed the Immaculate Conception in 1854, he affirmed that the Virgin Mother of God possesses a "plenitude of innocence and sanctity." The Church somehow always knew that Mary's holiness surpassed that of other saints. What required clarification was the truth that this grace flows from a special divine prerogative accorded only to Mary. From the first moment of her conception, Mary is preserved from the stain of original sin. As the poet exclaims, "Tainted Nature's solitary boast!" Among men, one woman alone remains "Full of Grace." Why did the Church wait until the nineteenth century to confirm the unique holiness that belongs to the Mother of the Redeemer? The typically modern fascination for progress reached new heights during this period. The modern world, preoccupied as it is with evolutions, requires reminding of the permanent character of God's gifts. So do we. What better way to announce the durable, abiding character of divine grace than to hold up Mary's Immaculate Conception? In 1858, Our Lady confirmed the Church's wisdom. When she appeared to Saint Bernadette at Lourdes, Mary said simply, "I am the Immaculate Conception." *Deo gratias!*

—THE MAGNIFICAT

A PRAYER TO MARY IMMACULATE

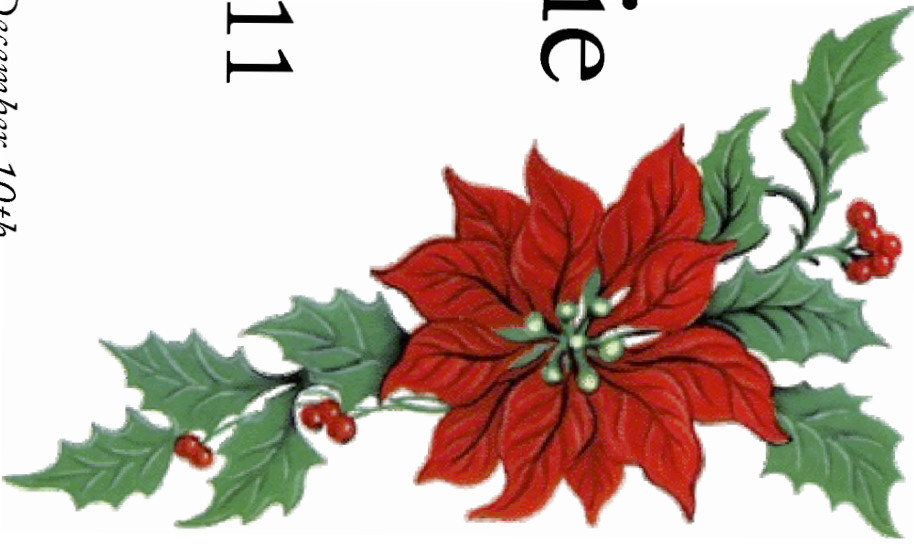
O Virgin Immaculate, thou who by a singular privilege of grace wast preserved from original sin, look in pity upon our separated brethren, who are nevertheless thy children, and call them back to the center of unity. Not a few of them, although separated from the Church, have kept a certain veneration for thee; and do thou, generous as thou art, reward them for it, by obtaining for them the grace of conversion.

Thou was conqueror of the infernal serpent from the first instant of thy existence; renew even now, for it is now more necessary than ever before, thine ancient triumphs; glorify thy divine Son, bring back to Him the sheep that have strayed from the one fold and place them once more under the guidance of the universal Shepherd who holds the place of thy Son on earth; let it be thy glory, O Virgin who destroyest all heresies to restore unity and peace to all Christian people. Amen.



Mark Your Calendar!

Christmas Cookie & Craft Sale



Sunday, December 11, 2011

after all morning Masses

Craft donations can be dropped off in Helfta Hall before Saturday, December 10th.

