
ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 RIALTO ROAD : WEST CHESTER, OHIO 45069

PH: 513-645-4212 • FAX: 513-645-4214

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

DECEMBER 18, 2011

• ADVENT IV •

¶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 preaching the Baptism of Penance.

¶**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.

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS


¶ DECEMBER 18, 2011 • ADVENT IV •

Christmas Confessions are available today before all of the Masses. Regular morning classes are at 10:40 AM, and Advent Vespers with Benediction at 4:45 PM. Take a moment to fill out the Christmas Novena and Poinsettia Memorial offering envelopes. Stop by at our Christmas Craft Sale in Helfta Hall after Mass. Pick up a 2012 calendar in the gift shop.

¶ 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 today. *To have your loved one included in the special Christmas memorial program, please turn in your envelope no later than December 19th.*


¶ NEXT SUNDAY

Please note the special Christmas schedule, and that there is no 5:45 PM Mass. Vespers are sung at 5:45 PM.

Set your missal: Christmas, Proper Preface and Communicantes.



¶ CONGRATULATIONS

 To Emily and Alfonso Capetillo on the Baptism of their daughter Gemma on December 11th.

¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

First Friday-Epiphany

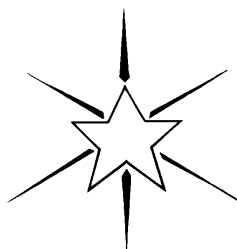
Fr. Lehtoranta celebrates a First Solemn High Mass for us at 5:30 PM on January 6, along with the traditional blessing of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for All Night Adoration. After services, all of our helpers, workers, adorers and faithful are invited to our Annual Appreciation Dinner.

Holy Innocents Day

11:20 AM Mass for our children and blessing, followed by a party with entertainment and gifts.

¶ OUR SICK

Please pray for all of our shut in and sick especially for Jack and Diane Powell, Stella Simpson, and Fr. Martin who had a painful fall recently.



"Awaiting the Coming of the Light"

The following Masses were said in the Missions:

Thanksgiving to God and St. Jude for prayers answered (*Cecilia Omlor*)
Private Intention (*Cecilia Omlor*)
Deceased priests for our priests (3) (*ACC*)
Bishop Dolan (*ACC*)
Fr. Cekada (*ACC*)
Fr. McGuire (*ACC*)
Fr. Ercoli (*ACC*)
Fr. Larrabee (*ACC*)
Fr. Saavedra (*ACC*)
Fr. Thielen (*ACC*)
Bishop Sanborn's Priests (*ACC*)
All of our priests (*ACC*)
Fr. Mardones (*ACC*)
All of Our Priests (*ACC*)

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

✠ POETRY CORNER

Virgin of the Expectation,
Waiting for that blessed birth!
Lead us in our exultation
For thy God who comes to earth.
Once the angel flew to greet thee;
Now thy womb the Lord contains.
Let us rise and run to meet thee,
Singing praise with gladsome strains.

How thy soul proclaims His greatness,
Spirit-filled to praise His Name!
With thy longing hymn so ageless,
We are blessed to sing the same.
Bearing Light for all creation,
Those in darkness thou shall reach.
Virgin of the Expectation,
Pray for us, thy Son to preach.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.



Merry Christmas

Servers
DECEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 25, 2011

•FRI 12/23 5:45 PM LOW: Friday Night Servers
•SAT 12/24 8:00 AM HIGH: Simpsons
•SUN 12/25 12:00 MIDNIGHT MASS:
MC'S: R. VandeRyt, J. Soli, R. Hill
CRUCIFER: A.D. Kinnett
BOOK: S. Lawrence
CANDLE: A. Lawrence
MITRE: A. Richesson
CROZIER: N. McClorey
TRAIN & GREMIALE: J. LACY
ACS: T. & J. Simpson
TH: B. Lotarski
TORCH: P. Lawrence, A. Soli, P. Omlor,
N. Keubler, M. Simpson, J. Morgan
9:00 AM LOW: D. & S. Brueggemann
BENEDICTION: MG: T. Simpson, F. & N. Puglielli
11:00 AM LOW: Volunteer

Ushers

DECEMBER 25, 2011


12:00 AM Mike Briggs, Bob Uhlenbrock, Dennis Hille, Kent Maki
9:00 AM Paul Arlinghaus, Eldon Neukam, Scott Pepior
11:00 AM John Seyfried, Volunteer


Collection Report


Sunday December 11th\$3,317.00


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

✠ THE CALENDAR


Weekday webcast Masses are marked with a 


MON 12/19/11 FERIAI DAY
 **11:20 AM High Mass** Dr. Jack & Diane Powell's Intentions (*St. Gertrude the Great School*)

TUE 12/20/11 VIGIL OF ST THOMAS
8:00 AM Low Mass Mr. Scott Richesson Family-Merry Christmas (*Cecilia Omlor*)
 **11:20 AM High Mass** Children & their spouses: Mark & Annette, Beth & Chester, etc. (*Kirby & Jean Bischel*)
5:00 PM Low Mass Richard H. Smith (*Joe, Beth & Kids*)
6:30 PM Choir Practice

WED 12/21/11 ST THOMAS, AP
8:00 AM Low Mass My Family - Merry Christmas (*Cecilia Omlor*)
 **11:20 AM High Mass** In thanksgiving to the Poor Souls (*Simpson Family*)
5:00 PM Low Mass Joe Hinton - Restoration of Health (*H.O. & Becky*)

SCHOOL ON CHRISTMAS VACATION UNTIL JANUARY 4TH

THUR 12/22/11 ST FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI, V
8:00 AM Low Mass My Godchildren - Merry Christmas (*Cecilia Omlor*)
 **11:20 AM Low Mass** †Sylvia Good - anniversary of death (*Dolores Ritze*)
5:00 PM Low Mass My mother and father - Merry Christmas (*Cecilia Omlor*)
6:30 PM Choir Practice

FRI 12/23/11 FERIAI DAY
8:00 AM Low Mass Grandchildren all 34 (*Kirby & Jean Bischel*)
5:15 PM Rosary and Confessions
 **5:45 PM Low Mass** Patrick, Anne Marie, and Paddy Omlor - Merry Christmas (*Cecilia Omlor*)
6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena and Benediction

SAT 12/24/11 VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS
DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE
7:00 AM The Office of Prime
7:45 AM Confessions
8:00 AM High Mass For all of our Priests and all who work at the Church (*F.M.*)
Christmas Novena
9:00 AM Confessions
2:00 PM First Vespers of Christmas

9:00 PM: The Office of Matins

10:30 PM: Carols



11:00 PM: Procession and Blessing of the Crib

11:15 PM: Midnight Mass For the people of St.

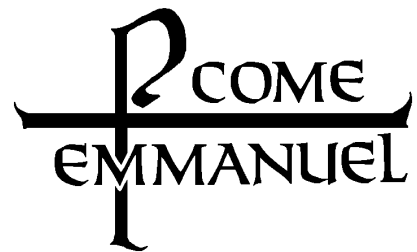
Gertrude followed by the Office of Lauds
A *Potluck Supper* follows Midnight Mass. If you are planning on coming, please bring a dish to share.

SUN 12/25/11 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 AM: Low Mass with String Quartet, Benediction

11:00 AM: Low Mass with Carols

5:45 PM: Vespers of Christmas Day



Holly and Mistletoe

Here are the Holly and the Mistletoe:
Symbol and sign of all Christ's pain and woe.

The thorns along the stem
That caught His white robe's hem
And later made His crown,
Prest sharply down!

And all along, the berries round and red,—
These are the drops He shed
That all be comforted.
These are His Passion.

This us why
They signal "Christmas!" to the passer-by.
And here's the Mistletoe;
To us its sign appears,
Sad tears!

Blood and the tears of Christ
Beyond all jewels priced!
Tie them together. We shall remember thus
Tears and the blood that once He shed for us!

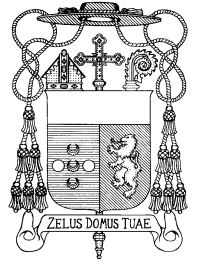
—Gertrude E. Heath



✠ BISHOP'S CORNER

It looks like our Autumn has indeed lingered through Advent, with sweet sunny days, as well as mild wet ones. Winter, doubtless, is waiting in the wings, but for once is waiting its turn until St. Thomastide, the Winter Solstice. Soon enough.

We are all of us meant to take a leaf from meek Winter's book and **wait** at Advent, wait quietly and hopefully (NB: correct use of a much abused adverb) for the coming of our God to save us. Like desperately needy children waiting for Santa's ear, we should be rehearsing our list, so nothing is missed. Don't miss out on these days of grace and wonder, lost in a world of lists and running and doing. God is waiting ever so patiently for you. Make Him some time in your day today, so there will be some place in your soul, as well as your life, when Mary and Joseph and the donkey come your way, unexpectedly looking for shelter for the Little One.



Oh, but we're busy at church too. The altar shone in white and blue for Mary Immaculate, the church rang with clear children's voices, and many of you found time, or made it, for your Holy Day Mass. (The 7 AM "Workers Mass" is getting popular.) Mary's white gave way to dusty rose (a good match with the dawn last Sunday, I noted on the way over) for Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday. And while the cookies never came through, the crafts were available in abundance. Come back and take a second look this morning. It's for a good cause.

The decorations are going up a bit early, but this is only prudent, because one never knows if Winter will weary of its wait, and the city slip on its surplice of snow before the feast. The choir is singing away, preparing their best for the King **every** Lord's Day, as well as for the blessed night of His Birth. I'm pleased to see more men joining the choir, and just plain edified at everyone's devotion.

May your devotion increase as the days decrease, these last ones before He comes--the Light of the World. Don't delay your Christmas confession. Pray, too, for many "Christmas Catholics" to show up, and welcome them, those wayward Bethlehemites, who come at last to "see this thing that is come to pass." "I must dwell in thy house this day."

Help us out this week with the decorating if you can. Remember to bring a little something to share with others after Midnight Mass. Be sure to give us your intentions for that so powerful prayer we begin each Christmas--a Novena of Masses.

Help yourself this week, and help the Holy Child find His way into your heart by pausing for prayer, by whispering Hail Marys, by smiling even if. . . ; by saying yes to archangels who announce God's will to you.

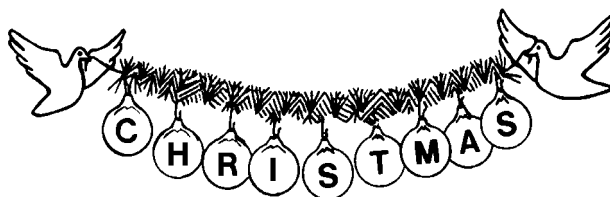
A Blessed Advent of our God to you and yours!

—Bishop Dolan

The Ember Days are the times set aside for ordinations to major orders, and that fact undoubtedly influenced the choice of the Epistle for the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Priests are God's chosen instruments, selected with divine care for the particular needs of each age. Criticism of priests sets a bad tone in the parish. No priest claims to be perfect; God will judge him. Look upon the priest with the eyes of faith, and be grateful that you have this dispenser of the mysteries and riches of God in your midst.

A Prayer for Priests

O my good Jesus, teach me always to see Thyself in the Priest. I know that he has been set over me to direct me and to help me to save my soul. I know that Thou wilt never find fault with me if I obey him in everything in order to do Thy Holy Will. Teach me to love and respect him always. Do Thou protect him and be near him in his great work of saving souls. Keep him from harm. Help him to bring many souls to Thee and thus to win for himself a glorious crown in Heaven. Amen.



Behold, I am coming soon...I am the Alpha and the Omega...I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star.

What John the Baptist Was Born to Tell Us

Make straight the way of the Lord, fill up the valleys, lower the mountains and hills. They, as well as the ditches and valleys, trouble travelers. Make straight the paths. Those that twist and turn fatigue the pilgrim greatly. Our life too contains many hills, valleys, and tortuous ways which can be put right only by penitence. Penitence fills up the valleys, lays low the mountains, makes straight and smoothes the ways. Do penance, says Saint John; lower those mountains of pride, fill up those valleys, those ditches of lukewarmness and tepidity.

The valleys which the glorious Saint John wants us to fill up are none other than fear which, when it is excessive, leads to discouragement at the sight of our sins. Fill up the valleys; that is, fill your heart with confidence and hope because salvation is near at hand. (Lk. 21:28; Rom. 13:11). The sight of our great faults brings with it a certain horror and shock, a certain fear and terror which unnerves the heart and often leads it to discouragement. These are the ditches and valleys that must be filled up for Our Lord's coming.

One day the good Saint Thais (I must tell you this because it comes to my mind and is apropos) said this to Saint Paphnutius: "Father, what am I to do? The memory of my miserable life terrifies me." She had been a great sinner, and was now filled with fear because of those past sins. The good saint replied: "Take care not to raise your eyes to Heaven, you who have time and again used them to cast dangerous glances, to flirt, and the like. And do not raise those hands through which you have performed so many evil deeds. Throughout your whole life, exercise yourself in humility and confide yourself to the goodness of God. Fear, but hope at the same time. Fear lest you become haughty and proud, hope lest you fall into discouragement and despair." Fear and hope ought never to be without one another, since fear without hope is despair and hope without fear is presumption. We must, then, fill up these valleys formed by the fear which comes from the knowledge of the great imperfections and sins we have committed. We must fill them with confidence mingled with the fear of God.

—Saint Francis de Sales

Saint Francis de Sales (†1622) was a great figure of the seventeenth-century rebirth of Catholic, mystical life.



God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

What the Prince of Peace Asks of Us

Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. (Luke 12:51)

Wait a minute, Isn't Jesus the Prince of Peace? Didn't He come to bring reconciliation and not division? Then why is He telling His disciples something that sounds altogether different?

Jesus wasn't saying that He was on a mission of division and disintegration. Rather, He was describing a natural consequence of His coming. He knew that not everyone would accept the good news and that this rejection could cause conflicts. So He wanted to warn His disciples ahead of time, so that they would not become disillusioned or frustrated when the inevitable divisions did occur.

Jesus also wanted to make it clear that the coming of the Messiah did not mean instant and universal peace. A new age has dawned, to be sure, but it isn't the final age of harmony and tranquility that we all long for. No, we live in the age of the church, an era marked by the ongoing struggle between light and darkness that we all know so well.

It is important for us to know that divisions over issues of faith and morality will happen on their own. God isn't asking us to become confrontational zealots. He doesn't want us preaching a gospel of harsh condemnation to those who disagree with us. Rather, He wants us to try our best to respond to His call in our lives. And if our words or our witness causes conflicts, He wants us to learn how to lighten up, refine our approach, and look for another opportunity to share the gospel in a less argumentative way. In bad times as well as good, we need to be openhearted to everyone we meet, sowing seeds of the love that God has poured into our hearts.

Remember: Not all divisions have to be permanent. St. Paul tells us that the kingdom of God is a matter of "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17). If we can keep this promise in the forefront of our minds, we just might be able to help bridge whatever divisions occur and help someone else invite the Lord into his or her life.

"Father, fill me with Your joy and peace today. Help me to be an agent of unity and reconciliation in a world of isolation and divisions."



Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

Christmas Novena - December 18th

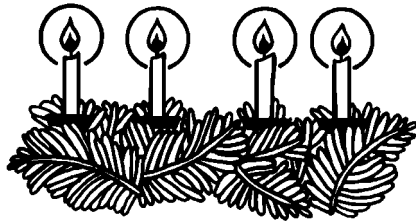
O Infant God, Who from the moment of Thy conception in holy Mary's womb, didst offer Thyself to Thine eternal Father for the salvation of our souls, vouchsafe to give us a lively sense of the one thing necessary, so that we may labor zealously for others, and work out our own salvation in fear and trembling, yet with confidence in Thy love.
Pater; Ave; Gloria; Hail and Blessed...

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.)

O pure husband of most holy Mary, glorious Saint Joseph, unspeakable was your joy when the angel revealed to you the high mystery of the Incarnation.



O God of Possibilities!

I will abandon myself fully to the Holy Spirit, allowing myself to be led wherever and whenever the Spirit wants, accompanying the Spirit, for my part, with effective and strong resolutions and serious discernment...The Holy Spirit descends upon us with great gentleness, never with a racket.

*—St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917)
(Her feast day is this Thursday)*

The light of the morning in the holiness of Mary, by which the Sun of Justice, who was about to come from her, irradiated her.

—Saint Bonaventure

Dove of Peace

Mary is the meek dove of God. In this universal deluge of corruption which appals, saddens, and depresses, Mary, with her green olive branch appears in our midst adorned as she is with the ineffable beauty of her original innocence, she infuses in us great confidence, and she presents herself before God to obtain for us help, mercy, and salvation.

—St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.

Our Lady of the Poor

The girl who saw the Blessed Mother at Banneux, Belgium in 1933, Mariette Beco died recently at the age of 93.

Many Catholics treat visionaries as a permanent pipeline from Heaven (like Lucy of Fatima) and are misled. Mariette had the right idea:

She said: "I was no more than a postman who delivers the mail. Once this has been done, the postman is of no importance any more." Mariette reported her first apparition on the evening of Sunday, January 15, as she stood at the kitchen window in her home in Banneux.

It was then that she said she saw the Virgin Mary beckon to her from the garden but her mother was afraid and stopped her daughter from going outside. Seven apparitions followed, during which Our Lady of Banneux said: "I am the Virgin of the Poor" and "I come to relieve suffering."

Prayer to the Virgin of the Poor

Our Lady of Banneux; Mother of the Saviour
Mother of God,
Virgin of the Poor,
you have invited us to believe in you
as you promised to believe in us.
We put all our trust in you.
Please hear the prayers
which you have asked us to offer.

Bring consolation to those with spiritual
and temporal troubles.
Graciously restore to those who have strayed,
the gift of faith, and implore for the poor
their daily bread.

Heal the sick, alleviate suffering
and pray for us, so that through
your intercession, the Reign of Christ
the King may spread over all Nations.
Amen.

This is a good prayer to say this Christmas for all of our poor, and those who have strayed.
—Bishop Dolan



✠ CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE ✠

¶ CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
Christmas Eve Schedule



7:00 AM: The Office of Prime

7:45 AM: Confessions

8:00 AM: High Mass

9:00 AM: Confessions

2:00 PM: First Vespers of Christmas

9:00 PM: The Office of Matins

10:30 PM: Carols

11:00 PM: Procession, Blessing of the Crib

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.

Sunday, December 25th

Christmas Day

9:00 AM: Low Mass with String Quartet, Benediction

11:00 AM: Low Mass with Carols

5:45 PM: Vespers of Christmas Day



¶ NEW YEARS DAY

Sunday, January 1, 2012

Regular Sunday Schedule

7:30 AM Low Mass

9:00 AM High Mass

11:30 AM Low Mass

5:45 PM Low Mass

