

¶ DECEMBER 25, 2011
• CHRISTMAS DAY •

¶ THIS WEEK

We open the week with the three great feasts of Christmas. We're resting a bit on **Monday**, so **St. Stephen's Day** Mass is at **5:00 PM**. Servers, singers and faithful are needed all three days! Usually, there would be a holy day this week, but since Christmas falls on a Sunday, you can pick your own Holy Day out of the Feasts of Devotion: **St. Stephen, St. John (11:20 AM)**, **Holy Innocents (11:20 AM)** and New Year's Eve, **St. Sylvester (7:30 and 8:15 AM)**.

A special word about **Friday** evening, which might tend to be overlooked. We open our annual Infant of Prague Novena before the 5:45 Mass, with the regular Novena and Benediction afterwards.

May your Christmas be filled with **Christ's Mass!**



¶ ST JOHN'S DAY

On **Tuesday** the blessing of wine and other beverages follows the **11:20 AM** 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

Wednesday 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.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY - NEW YEAR'S DAY

First Sunday of the month, with the special collection for our seminary, and the blessing of religious articles after all Masses. The regular Sunday schedule is in effect, **7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:30 AM** and including the **5:45 PM** Mass.

Set your missal: The Circumcision, January 1, with preface and communicantes of the Nativity.



¶ 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.



Remember St. Gertrude's in your will!

On Christmas Day

The stars will sing together, the winds will breathe a prayer,
The heavenly hosts will chorus in harmonies most fair;
And Mary's eyes will shine with love, and Joseph's heart will heave
With the deep and pure emotion of the first blest Christmas Eve;
And Kings will do Him homage, and saints His glory tell,
Yet the Infant Christ will watch to see if I keep Christmas well.

Oh, He will watch my thoughts within, my words and deeds without,
The while His Christmas graces encompass me about;
And every deed of kindness and every reverent thought
His love will welcome as He did the gifts by Shepherds brought.
He never thinks a human heart a slight or little thing;
His love has made a human soul fit offering to the King.

Lord, send me grace on Christmas Day, and choose the grace for me;
And may I know Thee in the gift, whatever it may be;
That in the doing of Thy will my soul grow strong and bright
To turn the darkness of the way to peace of Holy Night;
To bless the hearts anear me, nor any send astray
Whose souls would gain of Love's sweet grace from mine on Christmas Day.


—Catherine McPartin

Ian Maclaren, the famous Scotch author, once wrote this Christmas motto: "Be kind to every one, for every one has a battle to fight."






¶ THANK YOU

Our Cookie and Craft sale was a rousing success as we realized \$1,125.00. Thank you to all who participated especially Mrs. Jennifer Richesson and her helpers who organized the entire event.

THE CALENDAR

Weekday webcast Masses are marked with a 

“Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

- MON 12/26/11 ST STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR**
 (Private Mass) †John Donadio (*Jane Donadio*)
 **5:00 PM High Mass** Novena II
- TUE 12/27/11 ST JOHN, APÉV**
8:00 AM Low Mass Robert & Rebecca Uhlenbrock - Merry Christmas (*Cecilia Omlor*)
 **11:20 AM High Mass** Novena III
The Blessing of Wine and Beverages, and the “Health of St. John” follows Mass
- WED 12/28/11 THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MM**
8:00 AM Low Mass Poor Souls - Gratitude - Helpers for Sacristy Benefactors (*DJR*)
 **11:20 AM High Mass** Novena IV
The Blessing of Children, Party and Gifts in Helfta Hall
- THUR 12/29/11 ST THOMAS A BECKET, BPM**
8:00 AM Low Mass In honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and for Poor Souls (*Patrick Omlor*)
 **11:20 AM Low Mass** Novena V
- FRI 12/30/11 WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS**
8:00 AM Low Mass Tom Simpson - Happy Birthday (*Simpson Family*)
5:15 PM Rosary and Confessions
5:35 PM Opening of the Infant of Prague Novena
 **5:45 PM Low Mass** Novena VI
6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena and Benediction
- SAT 12/31/11 ST SYLVESTER I, PC**
WITHIN THE OCTAVE
7:15 AM Confessions
7:30 AM Low Mass Spiritual & Temporal Welfare of Stella Simpson (*C. Simpson Family*)
8:00 AM New Year’s Eve Devotions
8:15 AM Low Mass Novena VII
- SUN 1/1/12 THE CIRCUMCISION**
NEW YEARS DAY
7:30 AM Low Mass Parents & Godparents (*Dan, Mary & Family*)
9:00 AM High Mass Novena VIII
11:30 AM Low Mass Dr. Jack & Diane Powell’s Intentions (*Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski & Family*)
4:45 PM Vespers and Benediction
5:45 PM Low Mass For the People of St. Gertrude

All Christ’s mind was always concentrated on adoration of His Father. How little is He adored now? Adoration is a necessity to man, his heart must adore or die; men fallen away from God adore—or idolize— power, State, machinery, anything that seems bigger than themselves, to combine mystery with might.

The Christian must adore God, with words and deeds, through the Mass, through the sacrifice of Himself in union with the Mass, through the absolute dedication of his whole heart. Through the presence of Christ in men, God is glorified, His holiness is seen, His name is honored. It is the same as the son of a noble house making a glorious name yet more glorious by the integrity of his own life. He is, we say, ‘worthy of his father’s blood.’ But such a thing between Our Heavenly Father and ourselves can only happen through Christ acting in us.

—C. Houselander

The Church shows me my Saviour and my God veiled under the form of a Host...as Mary showed Him to the Magi under the form of a little child. Adore Him, therefore, O my soul, with the faith of the kings of Bethlehem.

—Saint Peter Julian Eymard

The King of Heaven is cradled, found amid the beasts He made. In a rude manger’s narrow bed, the Lord of all is laid.

Servers
 DECEMBER 26 - JANUARY 1, 2012

- MON 12/26 5:00 PM HIGH: MC: B. Lotarski
 TH: S. Lawrence
 ACs: A.& P. Arlinghaus
 TORCH: P. Omlor, A. Lawrence
- TUE 12/27 11:20 AM HIGH: MC: J. Soli
 TH: J. Simpson ACs: J. Lacy, T. Simpson
 TORCH: M. Simpson, A. Soli
- WED 12/28 11:20 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: T. Simpson, J. Soli
 TH: J. Simpson ACs: S. & L. Arlinghaus
 TORCH: N. McClorey, M. Simpson, J. Lacy, A. Soli
- FRI 12/30 5:45 PM LOW: Friday Night Servers
- SAT 12/31 7:30 AM LOW: Simpsons
 8:00 AM LOW: M. Briggs
- SUN 1/1 7:30 AM LOW: S. & A. Brueggemann
 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: Mr. Bede O., J. Soli
 ACs: A. Richesson, N. Puglielli TH: F. Puglielli
 TORCH: A. Lawrence, J. Lacy, P. Omlor,
 N. Kuebler, M. Simpson, J. Morgan
 11:30 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, N. McClorey
 4:45 PM VESPERS AND BENEDICTION: G. Miller
 5:45 PM LOW: J. Miller

Ushers

JANUARY 1, 2012

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

Collection Report

Sunday December 18th\$3,210.00

✠ BISHOP'S CORNER

A Blessed Christmas, a truly Merry Christmas, to you all! Christmas, "Christ's Mass". Some days how we love to remember the origin and true meaning of this word, Christ's Mass, which is the means of every grace and blessing from above, and which we share with one another here below, during these happy, these holy days, of the Child's birth.

Some who read these lines and receive these greetings hear Mass regularly throughout the week, or faithfully every Sunday. Others only long for the consolation of Christ's Mass this Christmas, for they have it not. Since charity is much a part of this season, adopt some soul or family far away from Mass, and longing for it, or those who have left this precious gift long unopened beneath Calvary's Christmas Tree, never considering its value, busy with the ephemera of life.

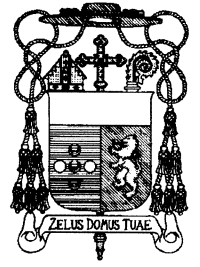
Always have an intention for your Mass and Holy Communion. Have several. Share the wealth. Be filled with holy desires. Don't stop there. "Send your angel to Holy Mass," and unite yourself daily with Christ's Sacrifice of sublime submission and atonement, every good and holy Mass throughout the world. Make a sincere, even if short, Spiritual Communion at least daily, but many times a day. What a treasure is yours! Deplete it. Spend it. Lavish it on unlovely and unloving souls, whom Jesus loves, and for whom He longs.

We often think of our dear dead at Christmas, and do well to do so. They are too often forgotten, who made for us our "Christmas past" so often. But what of truly forgotten souls, who barely made it to Purgatory, and have no one to pray for them there? Sometimes God permits these souls to trawl for prayers, in some obvious, physical way. This accounts for many house hauntings, and ghost sightings. Our Fr. Larrabee just this Advent delivered a home from such hauntings, through the house blessing, and the Exorcism of Pope Leo XIII, as well as the expedient of receiving this noncatholic family's alms for Masses for the souls involved, and offering them. He'll tell you the wholesome lessons involved, when he returns from California, where he is assisting Fr. Zapp for the Holy Days.

Many thanks to many elves, large and small, who helped to put our Christmas together in the printery, sacristy, the church with its shrines and decorations, as well as by cooking and singing and cleaning and serving and praying. All of this, all of it dear faithful, is fed and furnished by Christ's Mass which is our purpose and which is thus prepared for fittingly, and celebrated worthily at this season of Christmas. It's always Christmas at Mass.

A Blessed Christmas! Forgive and be forgiven! Be good! Come to Mass!

In the Mother and her Child,



—Bishop Dolan



Clip and Save

For Those Absent from Mass and the Sacraments

O Eternal Father, by the heart of my Jesus, Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, I dare approach Thee. By this Divine Heart I give Thee adoration for all who do not adore Thee, I love Thee for all who cherish Thee not. I acknowledge Thee to be my God, for all who, blind and deaf, out of contempt, refuse to acknowledge Thee. By this Divine Heart, I would give Thee the homage which all Thy creatures owe Thee. In spirit I go round in the world searching all the souls redeemed by Thy Precious Blood. I embrace them all to present them to Thee by Him, and through Him I beseech Thee to fulfill their conversion. Can it be, Eternal Father, that Thou wilt allow them to remain ignorant of my Jesus? Wilt Thou suffer that they should not live for Him Who died for us all? Heavenly Father, Thou seest them lying all in death; give them life, by this Divine Heart. Amen.

Perfect Trust

*Oh, for the peace of a perfect trust
My loving God in Thee;
Unwavering faith that never doubts
Thou chooseth best for me!
Best, though my plans be all upset;
Best, though the way be rough;
Best, though my earthly store be scant;
In Thee I have enough.
Best, though my health and strength be gone,
Though weary days be mine,
Shut out from much that others have;
Not my will, Lord, but Thine!
And even though disappointments come,
They too are best for me;
To wean me from this changing world,
And lead me nearer Thee.
Oh, for the peace of a perfect trust
That looks away from all;
That sees Thy hand in everything
In great events or small!
That hears Thy voice—a Father's voice—
Directing for the best,
Oh, for the peace of a perfect trust,
A heart with Thee at rest!*

—Submitted by Becky Mattingly, this poem was found among her mother's effects, written in her own hand.

*Oh, Jesus, help me to feel
another's woes,
That mercy I to others show,
That mercy show to me.*

*—Favorite prayer of Sara "Sally" Osborn
December 25, 1881 - December 26, 1962*

*A contented mind
is a continual feast.*



The Wonder of Christmas

Every year comes the wonder of Christmas.

Christ, who established Christmas by deciding to effect our Redemption through the Incarnation, is not circumscribed by boundaries when He sheds His Christmas spirit. The Christmas sun shines for all—the just and the unjust. everyone feels Christmas warmth. It is everywhere for everyone a warmth which penetrates to the soul.

The light of Christmas penetrates through chink and crevice. It may not be a large opening. A little light will enter anyhow to brighten and warm.

So many try to have Christmas without the Child and the Crib. They find substitutes. So be it. The smoking flax must not be stamped out.

It were a happy omen if all who do the things of Christ at Christmas did the things of Christ all year round. And a blessed fulfillment of prophesy if in doing the things of Christ, they accepted His will and bowed to His name!

We get impatient that the Christ of Christmas seems less and less, the substitutes more and more. If the Child Himself permit His effacement, that His spirit—unaccepted, unallowed though it may be—may yet warm and quicken the mercy of good deeds in the souls of wavering or lost loyalties, it seems we should rest content too. Jesus is the way and the truth for many who will not admit this.

That the world is more human, kind, in spite of discouraging shortages, is due to the Christ of the Crib. Men and women, who will not accept Him, often do what He says, go where He points. The one-Fold, one-Shepherd promise seems far off at the moment. Yet are there many millions without the Fold who work His work. They do not know it. Many of them would repudiate the implication. For all that the Little Child is leading them.

—What to think of those who only come to church at Christmas, or not even that? Read these excerpts from an old Ave Maria article "The Wonder of Christmas" by P.J.C.

This is my "Gospel of Optimism" this Christmas, and I give it as a consoling gift to you who mourn the dead souls in your family, as do I, as well as those without who have yet to come into the one and true Church and Mass.

Surely if we sacrifice, offer the Holy Sacrifice and smile sweetly (severe words being only sparingly used) the light of Christmas will be kindled in these souls yet.

*Merry Christmas,
—Bishop Dolan*

