

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212

parishoffice@sgg.org • www.sgg.org • www.SGGResources.org

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Sundays 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

Most Reverend Daniel L. Dolan, Pastor • Rev. Anthony Cekada

Rev. Charles McGuire • Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Stephen McKenna

January 3, 2016

THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

OCTAVE DAY OF ST. JOHN, APEV ~ THE INFANT OF PRAGUE



ST. GENEVIEVE, V

¶ HOLY NAME SUNDAY

Today is the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, also the first Sunday of the month. The Blessing of Religious Articles is available after all Masses. The second collection is taken up for the support of our seminary. Catechism classes are recessed until January 10th. Bring the children to a Holy Innocents' Party today after the 9:00 AM Mass. There is a blessing and a little gift for each child after Mass, and then a party with a story and a poem or two.

Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

*Jesus, Son of the Living God,
have mercy on us.*

¶ ALTER CHRISTUS



The "Little Church" is in the vestibule today to receive your offerings for the support of priests.

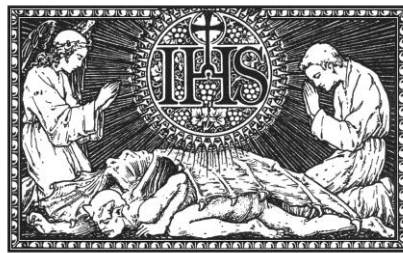
Jesus, King of glory, have mercy on us.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: THE HOLY FAMILY

Catechism classes resume at 10:40 AM. Vespers and Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

☞ Set Your Missal: The Holy Family, with the collect of the Sunday within the Octave of Epiphany, and the Epiphany. Preface and Communicantes of the Epiphany.

*Jesus, treasure of the faithful,
have mercy on us.*



Wednesday, January 6, 2016

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Parish Appreciation Dinner

JOIN US after the
5:30 Solemn Mass for our
PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY.

*So many hours presented this
past year like precious myrrh
or fragrant frankincense. God
reward the gold of your devo-
tion!*

Fr. Mardones will be celebrat-
ing his 25th ordination anni-
versary with us on Epiphany.

*If you think the name 'Jesus' contin-
ually, it purges your sin and kindles
your heart; it clarifies your soul, it
removes anger and does away with
slowness. It wounds in love and ful-
fills charity. It chases the devil and
puts out dread. It opens heaven, and
makes you a contemplative. It puts
all vice and phantoms out from the
lover."*

-Richard Rolle

*Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary,
have mercy on us.*

¶ YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember Bishop Sanborn,
Fr. McKenna, Gary Amyx, Darlene
and Richard Rentschler, Les Pomer-
ville, and all of our sick and shut in.

*The Beasts, the Manger, the Straw,
the Darkness, and the Cold! Such were
the preparations which God made for
Himself. From the first dawn of Crea-
tion every step, and there were count-
less of them, in the worlds both of spir-
it and of matter, was a preparation for
Jesus. It was a step towards the In-
carnation, which was at once the cause
and the model of it. While each step
seemed to take creation further on, it
also brought it a step backward, a step
homeward, a step nearer the original
idea of it all in the mind of God.*

-Fr. Faber

Collection Report

Friday, December 25th.....\$4,419.00

Sunday, December 27th.....\$3,986.00

Thank you for your generosity! Remember St.
Gertrude the Great in your will.



Jesus, true light, have mercy on us.

A SHORT LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME
OF JESUS

Jesus, Son of the Living God,

*R. Have mercy on us.*Jesus, splendor of the Father, *R...*Jesus, brightness of eternal light,
*R...*Jesus, King of glory, *R...*Jesus, sun of justice, *R...*Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary, *R...*Jesus, treasure of the faithful, *R...*Jesus, good Shepherd, *R...*Jesus, true light, *R...*Jesus, eternal wisdom, *R...*Jesus, infinite goodness, *R...*Jesus, our way and our life, *R...*Jesus, teacher of the Evangelists,
*R...*Jesus, strength of Martyrs, *R...*Jesus, light of Confessors, *R...*Jesus, crown of Saints, *R...*From all evil, *R. Deliver us, O Jesus.*From all sin, *R...*By the mystery of Thy holy Incar-
nation, *R...*By Thy Nativity, *R...*By Thy Infancy, *R...*By Thy most divine Life, *R...*By Thy labors, *R...*By Thy agony and passion, *R...*By Thy sufferings, *R...*By Thy death and burial, *R...*By Thy Resurrection, *R...*By Thy Ascension, *R...*By Thy joys, *R...*By Thy glory, *R...*

That untiring preacher St. Bernardine of Siena (1380-1444), the so-called apostle of Italy, was famous for his preaching about the holy Name of Jesus. Out of milieu of his preaching came the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus, although it is not clear that he was its sole author. Some sources attribute the litany to his contemporary St. John Capistrano (1386-1456, of military, anti-Mohammedan fame). What is

clear is that the litany had its roots in the intense late-medieval popular piety as preachers inveighed against blasphemy of the sacred Name.

The fundamental insight behind the litany, whoever its author may be, is soundly biblical in origin. The power of the Name of Jesus is a major motif found in the New Testament. The stunning hymn found in Philippians praises Christ Who, though He was with God, emptied Himself even unto death on a cross to obtain that "Name which is above every other name," so that at that Name every knee should bend and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (2:6-11).

The power of that Name of Jesus is clear in the episode where Peter and John go to the temple when accosted by a crippled beggar pleading for alms. They lacked alms, but Peter said: "I have no gold or silver, but what I have I give: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk" (Acts 3:6). Peter healed not by his power but in the Name of Jesus.

The invocations in the Litany of the Holy Name reflect an enormous range of insights into the power of that name. There are attributes of the Incarnation (splendor of the Father) just as there are symbols of the Son (light, wisdom, way, life, etc.). Additionally, there are those modes by which Jesus is imitated, honored, and exemplified as light of confessors, crown of saints, teacher of evangelists, and strength of martyrs.

Finally, note towards the end of the litany the insistence that

the Name of Jesus delivers us *from* evil and *by* the unfolding of that Name in Christ's life—from the Nativity to His Ascension. To reflect on this litany is to reflect on the whole mystery of salvation.

-Lawrence S. Cunningham

You will find the full, indulgenced Litany of the Holy Name in your prayer book. An excellent January devotion!



THE WIND AT CHRISTMAS

The wind is singing—

The wind that I made

Long ago, long ago!

'Round the Christmas Crib

Where I'm meekly laid

Sounds the wind's

Oratorio.

It riseth high,

It falleth low,

But all of its beautiful

Words I know,

For it sang 'round My cradle

At Bethlehem—

My Mother and I

Heard all of them

When it sang to Us,

Long ago.

-A.P.C.

This poem seems fitting for us, the "highest point" in Butler County, and if there's wind, it's windy here. We heard the wind "loud and clear" last Sunday.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA
MEMORIALS

*Rafael Cepeda Sr.
Miss Lydia Cepeda*

Holy Name Sunday used to be a big observance in American parishes before the changes. The main men's group was the Holy Name Society, which sponsored a Corporate Communion on the second Sunday of each month along with devotions, and sometimes a breakfast and speaker and other activities. That's all gone now, the parishes and the societies, but let us be careful to preserve the powerful devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus, and ever to speak it as a prayer, with reverence, and a little nod of the head in adoration. When we hear it taken in vain, we should show our disapproval and murmur a prayer of reparation.

How was your Christmas? Ours went very well, in spite of some illness. We were blessed with encouragingly good weather and excellent attendance "like the old days." Nobody particularly came to church during the Octave, of course. What a shame to let all of that beauty and prayer go to waste. But it was wonderful that we had "family choirs" on hand to honor the New Born King each day with a High Mass, enabling us to present in song as well as sacrifice, the many petitions which have come in from all over. Thanks, Simpsons and Lotarskis, as well as our regular Sunday choir members!

I got my Christmas presents early and am well content. All I wanted, I was telling Santa, was hot running water after a hiatus of several years of the tepid trickle. Oh, and... (there's always an "and," isn't there?) a stove and a microwave for the priests' office kitchen, where we often take our meals, *would be nice*. We didn't have one, "not one that works," as King John would say. It came, so, pretty good!

In addition, many cards and gifts, baked goods and goodies and whole meals have made their appearance, and we clergy are all of us very grateful this Christmas for your kindness. Thank you.

Caravaggio and Puccini have been enjoying the spring-like weather, even though the bunnies have pretty much bested them. The office kitchen mice have as well. Puccini often lunches there, and they never bother *him*.

The cats, however, had the best Christmas ever. Thanks to one devoted "Cat'lic," they had a present or two waiting for them. Caravaggio grew tired of the waiting, however, and on Boxing Day decided to take matters into his own...paws. We were saying some morning prayers on St. Stephen's day, the cat and I, when he noticed something and jumped down from my lap. All I heard was a discreet rustle, rustle, rustle as Caravaggio retrieved his present from the Christmas gift sack in my room. He then proceeded to open the gift (remember we're talking paws here!), removing the wrapping and then got through the plastic baggie which enclosed his Christmas catnip. Our little "Stoner" then went on to enjoy a pretty nice St. Stephen's Day!

But many had crosses this Christmas. Think of bad

weather and flooding. Fr. Mardones says Juarez and El Paso had the worst (and first!) snow in many years, shutting down the cities over the weekend. Bishop Sanborn's back grew worse after his Michigan trip for Bishop McKenna's funeral, and he finally had to cancel his Christmas trip to England and the Continent. How sad to miss Mass for Christmas, or be laid up and out of action. Do keep His Excellency in your prayers, as also Fr. McKenna, whose back is only very slowly mending. Fr. Cekada is off and on the back list too.

The rest of us are okay with just allergies and colds. No complaints! Fr. Lehtoranta reports a good Christmas in Milwaukee and the missions. He returns today, as school starts tomorrow. Fr. Mardones flies in on Monday to be our guest of honor for Wednesday evening's Twelfth Night Solemn Epiphany High Mass, and party. We wish especially to thank our workers, helpers, and benefactors. You are many, thank God. We hope to see you Wednesday evening, as we also salute a faithful priest of God, for his twenty-five years.

I'm writing this on a dark and cold New Year's Eve. Fr. Cekada is busy putting the finishing touches on a timely video exploring why Catholics are afraid of Sedevacantism. The organ has gone out, however, so he's changed hats and is waiting hopefully for the repairman. Fr. McKenna has been dispatched to do the shopping for New Year's Eve Dinner. Fr. McGuire offered Mass for the Sisters today, and then went to help Katie in the sacristy. She is dealing patiently with altar linen spots. 19 and Jake cleaned the church yesterday, and Theresa is doing this bulletin.

There...all present and accounted for! Happy, holy and peaceful New Year to you!

In Jesus' Name,

-Bishop Dolan



Our God Seeks Us!



In religions such as Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism and the like, man is the wooer and God the wooed; man the seeker, God the found. In the Judaic-Christian tradition, the role of man to God is that of a mirror to light, echo to voice. What has revealed the love of God where we are concerned, is that He has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might have life through Him. That love resides not in our showing any love for God, but in His showing love for us first, when He sent out His Son to be atonement for our sins, and therefore our Savior."

-Archbishop Fulton Sheen

(The True Meaning of Christmas)

THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS



We come to consider how this holy Infant, now born spiritually, shall be named. I think there is no name more fitting for Him than Jesus, for Scripture says: *He was called Jesus* (Lk 2:21). This is the most sacred of all names. It was foretold by the prophets, announced by an angel, proclaimed by the Apostles, and desired by all the saints. O powerful Name! O grace-filled and joyous Name! O delightful and glorious Name!

This Name is *powerful*, because it brings down our enemies, restores our strength, and renews our mind. It is *grace-filled*, because in it is contained the foundation of faith, the ground of hope, and the fulfillment of holiness. It is *joyous*, because it is gladness to the heart, music to the ear, honey to the tongue, and splendor to the mind. It is *delightful*, because it nourishes when it is recalled, soothes when it is uttered, anoints when it is invoked, refreshes when it is written, and instructs when it is read. It is a truly *glorious* Name, because it gives sight to the blind, makes the lame walk, brings hearing to the deaf, speech to the dumb, and life to the dead. O blest Name endowed with such powers!

Devout soul, whether you are writing, reading, or teaching or whatever you are doing—may nothing have taste for you, nothing please you, apart from Jesus. To the little Infant begotten in you spiritually, give the Name Jesus, which means: Savior, amidst the miseries of this life. May He save you from the vanities of the world which entice you.



from the deceits of the devil which surround you, and from the weakness of the flesh which torments you.

Devout soul, amidst the many scourges of this life cry out:

Jesus, Savior of the world, save us, whom Thou hast redeemed by Thy Cross and Blood.

Help us, O Lord our God.

Save us, sweet Jesus, our Savior.

Strengthen the weak, comfort those who mourn, help the frail and give constancy to the faint-hearted.



-St. Bonaventure (†1274) was a minister general of the Franciscans. He is a Doctor of the Church.

XXXIX: THE HOLY INNOCENTS
Around the altar, playing with your crowns—
Like hoops you roll them with your fresh green palms—
Yourselves a foison harvested from towns
That once resounded with your artless psalms;

With new-made canticles you fill the skies,
Before the Infant King's ethereal throne,
Where you are gathered, heaven's precious prize,
In milk-white robes with violet stitching sewn.

May you, who took Christ's place, victorious,
Bring down His vengeance on our blood-soaked earth,
Where Herod's death squads reign inglorious,
And innocence is given little worth.

For, Christ assumed an infant's form that we,
To take on His, should like as children be.

-Joseph McKenzie, *In festo Sanctorum Innocentium Anno MMXV*

XXXVIII: THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS

Our nakedness was swaddled by the night,
With Eden's worn-out dust our feet were shod,
When heaven opened and a being of light
Announced that earth had just received its God.

And we beheld what angels had foretold:
The patriarch, the Virgin, and the Child.
The barn was warm, though human hearts be cold,
And we adored the Infant meek and mild.

How was it we were first we cannot say,
Though like our King we had no fixed abode:
Our home was but the sky, the passing day,
Possessing nothing thus we nothing owed.

We saw what those who better know than we
With self-sufficient eyes shall never see.

-Joseph McKenzie
In Vigilia Nativitatis Domini Anno MMXV



"OFFER UP" THIS NEW YEAR

Have you ever heard someone use the phrase "offer it up" about a problem? Offering up our troubles to God is a great way to remember that, in our faith, suffering is never wasted or meaningless when it's united with Christ's suffering on the Cross, for atonement for sins.

Many people find it helpful to start the day with a morning offering. These prayers we present here for offering up suffering can help you and others as well.

We start first with this well-known prayer Our Lady taught the three Fatima visionaries, the children Lucia Dos Santos, and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, in 1917, to be said when offering up sufferings, sacrifices, or penances:

"Oh my Jesus, I offer this for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

In a similar vein, we offer this prayer:

Dear Lord, help me to remember
in these troubled times
The cross Thou hast carried for
my sake,
So that I may better carry mine
And to help others do the same,
As I offer up (*whatever your concern or problem here*) to Thee
For the conversion of sinners
For the forgiveness of sins
In reparation for sins
And for the salvation of souls.
Amen.

Here's a shorter version that expresses the same sentiment:

"Dear Lord, I offer Thee (*whatever your concern or problem here*) for the conversion of sinners, for the forgiveness of sins, in reparation for sins, and for the salvation of souls. Amen."

Our suffering can help both ourselves and others *we may not even know*. If we are 'in Christ', we, like Him, can offer up our sufferings to the Father—and He uses them. They become seeds, or rainwater, and something beautiful springs up that we seldom see in this life.



This concept of redemptive suffering is one of those wonderful divine mysteries, much like our Lord's Incarnation and His Resurrection that we as human beings will never fully be able to explain but that can give our lives so much meaning. Our sufferings *can* have a purpose!

God has given us free will to choose to follow Him or not. We've abused it many times because of our own sinful nature. And yet He can not only forgive our sins through the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) but also, if we stay close to Him in prayers of offerings, He can take our troubles of any size and use them to make amends for our sins or those of others. (Think of this like paying to fix a window you or someone else broke!)

As Bishop Fulton Sheen once wrote "Pain, agony, disappointments, injustices—all these can be poured into a heavenly treasury from which the anemic, sinful, confused, ignorant souls may draw unto the healing of their wings."

Think of your sufferings and prayer offerings such as these as contributions into an "Atonement Bank." It's not in danger of needing a bailout, and it can give you quite a high rate of return! Your "deposits" can help you, your loved ones or people you don't even know attain salvation and Eternal Life!

The Priesthood

God-given power they possess,
serving Him they love;
Spirit pollenating flesh, this sacrificial dove.

Holy planting of the seed in spirit
one with Christ
Begetting souls for Heaven, adopted Sons in life.

Accompanied by the Word in Truth
Completing selfless love
Flow supernatural waters
Like the dew from Heaven above.
The sowing of the Passion Love
Of our Lord Jesus Christ,
A cross for Heaven on this earth,
Sublime and painful life.

The nurturing of seedling, singular
holiness preserved;
Rejecting worldly recompense, that
God alone be served.

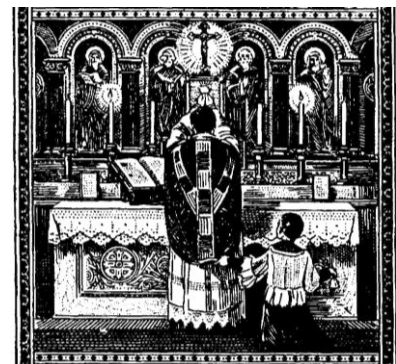
The straightening of the sapling
In Will of God grown strong,
Advancing Grace and Wisdom to
right the human wrong.

The flourishing of full grown
branch

That bears in Christ good fruit,
A truthful mind, a loving strength,
A wounded heart that's mute.

Torn by painful sight of sin,
He stays God's wrathful Hand
Offering Mass, restoring Grace and
healing souls of man.

-Mrs. Paul B. Schurmann



For Fr. Roberto Mardones'
25th Anniversary of Ordination,
December 20, 2015

✠ CALENDAR

All Sunday Masses, school day Masses, Friday evening and Saturday morning Masses are webcast at SGGresources.org.

MON	1/4/16	OCTAVE DAY OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MM
	8:00 AM	Low Mass Mary Omlor (<i>Patrick Omlor</i>)
	11:20 AM	High Mass Sharon Patton (<i>Juliana McClory</i>)
TUE	1/5/16	VIGIL OF THE EPIPHANY ST. TELESOPHUS, PM
	8:00 AM	Low Mass In honor of the Divine Infant of Prague for my dear Mother (<i>Anne Marie Omlor</i>)
	11:20 AM	High Mass In honor of St. Anthony – something lost was found (<i>Regina Gilliam</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass The health of Joe Tomasi (<i>Justin Soeder</i>)
	5:50 PM	First Vespers of the Epiphany
WED	1/6/16	THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
	8:00 AM	Low Mass †Frank Youngworth – 11 th Anniversary 1/6 (<i>Diane Puglielli</i>)
	9:00 AM	Low Mass For our church workers
	5:15 PM	Blessing of Gold, Frankincense, & Myrrh
	5:30 PM	Solemn High Mass Fr. Mardones' Intentions Parish Christmas Party
THU	1/7/16	FIRST THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	8:00 AM	Low Mass In honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help for the repose of the soul of †Janice West
	11:20 AM	High Mass For the sanctification of priests (<i>Alter Christus</i>)
	5:00 PM	Low Mass Sr. Isidore Maria (<i>Christopher P. Browne</i>)
FRI	1/8/16	WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	8:00 AM	Low Mass For relief of all Faithful Departed (<i>Patrick Omlor</i>)
	10:55 AM	Confessions
	11:20 AM	High Mass Propagation & Preservation of the Faith (<i>Christopher P. Browne</i>)
	5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
	5:35 PM	Infant of Prague Novena II
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For our Family & Friends (<i>C. Simpson family</i>)
	6:30 PM	Novena & Benediction
SAT	1/9/16	WITHIN THE OCTAVE
	7:10 AM	Confessions
	7:30 AM	High Mass Our children & their spouses (<i>Kirby & Jean Bischel</i>)
	8:20 AM	Sermon, Low Mass In honor of the Fourteen Holy Helpers for †Janice West (<i>A.M. Omlor</i>)
SUN	1/10/16	THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE EPIPHANY
	7:30 AM	Low Mass Mom, Dad and family (<i>John Brueggemann</i>)
	9:00 AM	High Mass Sr. Jeanne Marie (<i>Christopher P. Browne</i>)
	10:40 AM	Sunday Classes Resume
	11:30 AM	Low Mass †Elizabeth L. Smith (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell & Family</i>)
	4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
	5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

THE WONDERS OF HOLY MASS



The Saints never speak so eloquently as when they speak of the Mass. They can never say enough on this sublime subject, for, St. Bonaventure says the wonders of the Mass are as many as there are stars in the heavens and grains of sand on the seashores of the world.

The graces, blessings and favors granted to those who assist at this Divine Sacrifice are beyond all comprehension.

The Mass is the greatest wonder in the world. There is nothing on earth to equal it, and there is nothing in Heaven greater than it.

The next greatest wonder is the indifference and ignorance of Catholics regarding Holy Mass. How is it that so many Catholics do not go to Mass?

The Great Sacrifice of Calvary is offered near to their homes, almost at their very doors, and they are too slothful to assist at it.

The Sacrifice of Calvary! Yes, for the Mass is really and truly the very same as the death of Jesus on the Cross.

–Fr. Paul O'Sullivan, O.P.

(An alert parishioner drew my attention to this quote, in hope it may inspire a soul or two to put "More Masses each week" on the New Year's resolutions list. Do! Thank you. – Bishop Dolan)

CATECHISM CORNER

The two principal things which the Gospel commands are, to avoid evil, and to do good.

The principal good works which we have to perform, consist in the practice of spiritual and corporal works of mercy, which we ought to exercise towards our brethren, assisting them in their necessities, and forgiving their trespasses against us.

The Gospel commands us also to mortify ourselves, to practice humility, to despise the world, to do penance, to endure all sorts of evils with patience, to keep ourselves pure, to watch and pray.

Servers

WED 1/6	5:30 PM SOL. HIGH: MC: R. Vande Ryt CROSS: S. Arlinghaus TH: B. Lotarski ACS: J. Simpson, N. McClorey TORCH: D. & M. Simpson, C. Richesson, P. & N. McClorey, P., D., & A. McConnell
SUN 1/10	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. 9:00 AM HIGH: MC: B. Lotarski TH: S. Arlinghaus ACS: L. Arlinghaus, A. Richesson TORCH: T. Lawrence, C. Arlinghaus, C. Richesson, M. Simpson 11:30 AM LOW: Nicholas & Peter McClorey 4:45 PM VESPERS: G. Miller 5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller