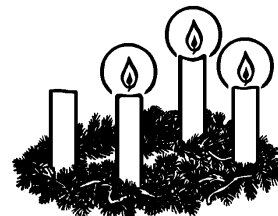


ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • (513) 645-4212
parishoffice@sgg.org • bpdolan@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

December 16, 2018
ADVENT III
GAUDETE SUNDAY
ST. EUSEBIUS, BPM



¶ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today is Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available at the Communion rail after all Masses. Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM. Our **Christmas Bake Sale** takes place after the morning Masses. Come back to Helfta Hall and sample some Christmas goodies! Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.



¶ RORATE MASSES

A special Advent observance features early morning Mass by candlelight as we await the coming of Christ the Light of the World. The final Rorate Mass is simply sung on Saturday at 7:30 AM.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT IV

Next Sunday is the Fourth and last Sunday of Advent. The second collection will be the Children's Collection for Nigeria. **There will be no Sunday Classes.** Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Advent IV, with a Collect Our Lady in Advent. Trinity Preface.



¶ CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Monday, Christmas Eve

7:00 AM: The Office of Prime

8:00 AM: High Mass

8:30 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, Potluck Supper

Christmas Day

9:00 AM: Low Mass with string quartet, Novena & Benediction

11:00 AM: Low Mass with Carols

5:45 PM: Vespers of Christmas Day

No evening Mass

¶ NEW YEARS DAY SCHEDULE

7:30 AM: Low Mass

9:00 PM: High Mass

11:30 AM: Low Mass

No evening Mass



¶ 2019 CALENDARS ARE IN!

The 2019 All Saints Roman Catholic Calendar is available now in the bookstore for \$12.95.

Collection Report

Saturday, December 8th\$2,101.00
Sunday, December 9th\$5,605.00

¶ EMBER DAYS

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this week are the Church's Ember Days in Advent. All Catholics between the ages of 21 and 59, inclusive, are bound by the Church's laws of fast, and all who have attained their seventh year must keep the abstinence (meat only once at the principal meal on Wednesday and Saturday).

¶ YOUR PRAYERS...

Please remember Fr. Baryj, hospital; finding a chapel for our Dallas mission; and our Rosary Chain intentions this week include Christine Martin, John Menezes, Neil Karian, Amanda Riggs, and special intentions for Chris Radford and Rose Forde.

¶ CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES

Christmas Mass Novena and Flower Memorial envelopes can be found in the pews. Please fill them out and return them to the office, bookstore, or collection basket. The **Flower envelopes** must be returned to the office by no later than **Monday, December 17th**, to appear in the Christmas programs and bulletin.

Offertory: *"The visible sacrifice is the sacrament or sacred sign of the invisible sacrifice. Therefore the prophet, and the penitent soul which he represents, appealing to God for mercy, say: The true sacrifice is a soul broken by sorrow; you will not disdain, O Lord, a contrite and humble heart."*

— St. Augustine

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

The majority of the Christmas decorating will take place on Thursday, December 21st. Come for Mass at 8:30 AM, and stay as long as you can; or come in the afternoon.

Hope to see you there!

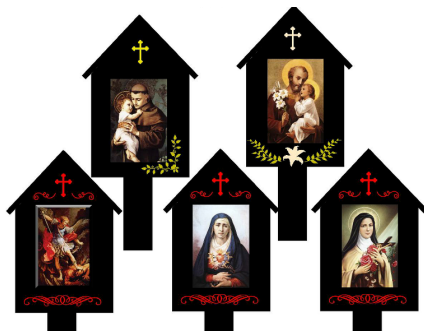


Looking for a special gift? **Come to the Bookstore!**

Honor a Saint in the garden with an Outdoor Shrine. Perfect for the parent or person that has everything, just \$50.

Nativity mugs all ready for gift giving and nominally priced. Supply is limited, so hurry in.

Remember to keep Christ in Christmas with a truly Catholic gift.



YAG SUCCESS!

Congratulations to Dominic & Jennifer Current, who were married on December 1st at Our Lady of the Snows Chapel in Denver, Colorado. The groom is the son of Bill & Cindy Current of Johannesburg, Michigan (a long time traditional family who used to attend Bishop Dolan's Our Lady of the Way mission) while the bride is the daughter of Dave and Caroline Cerise of Basalt, Colorado. Dave Cerise attended our school here at St. Gertrude's many years ago.

PLEASE READ THIS...AND HOPE!



Well did the poets feign that love was born of the wind and the rainbow, to mark its fickleness and inconstancy!

But it is not so with

the **love of the Virgin Mary**, in whom there is no change, nor shadow of vicissitude. She loved us as soon as she knew us, and she knew us as soon as she was conceived. She has loved us constantly, faithfully, strongly, and tenderly, for almost eighteen centuries. She loves us at present with an invincible love; she continues, and will eternally continue, to love us most ardently, if we will but wish it, and not resolve scornfully to tear ourselves from her arms, from her loving bosom, and at the same time from our good. Neither our low and vile condition, nor our misery and poverty, neither disgraces nor sufferings, infamy nor dishonor, natural defects nor failings, neither age nor youth, infirmity nor death itself, can cool in the least the ardor of her love. Whether we are noble or ignoble, rich or poor, fortunate or disgraced, glorious or without fame; though lame, blind, deaf and dumb, foolish and ignorant; whether young or old, strong or weak, sick or well, living or dead, **Mary loves us, and will never cease to love us.**

Poor child, unfortunate creature, born in the lowest condition, brought up in poverty and miseries, crippled in all your limbs, afflicted with ten thousand infirmities and diseases, abandoned by everyone, scorned and contemned by all; you who seem the refuse and opprobrium of the world; you, yes, **you are**, if you wish, **the object the most loved by the Empress of the World**; and your very

VISITATION

She washed the dishes, swept the kitchen floor,
Then sat beside the loom which faced the door,

To fashion garments for her child to wear:

The days of baby laughter drawing near.

Not long she plied the spindle till she heard

A step soft as the stir of brooding bird...

Her cloistered child leaped up with joy to greet
The Word made flesh clothed in our Lady sweet.

– Sister M. Eulalia



abjectness, **your miseries**, disgraces, deformities, which render you so vile, so abject, and so contemned in the eyes of men, **make you most dear to Mary**, and cause that most tender heart to love you more faithfully, more constantly, and more tenderly; because she sees in you a more express image of her divine Son, who for us became the opprobrium of men, and the outcast of the people.

– Dom Roberto, Er. Cam.

December has all weathers on its pallette although this artist employs its colors sparingly. Did you remember to delight in Tuesday's white dawn, creation covered in frost and shining bright until the mild sun melted it into another mellow day? By the weekend the cats thought it was Spring and were out about their rounds. While making after-Mass coffee the other day, an alert **McFather** spotted a hawk breakfasting on some little creature in the office garden. Its colors blending perfectly (the hand of the Creator!) with the Winter background, the bird was only distinguished by enthusiastic movement as it ate.

I imagine most folk except for our shut-ins are moving rapidly these days, what with—already—final Christmas preparations looming. We're setting aside Thursday as Church Decoration Day, but some workers will be here earlier in the week, too, and Saturday is always a cleanup day. So if you can give a hand, let us know. Our church is so beautiful at Christmastime, but unlike Nature's vesture, man's takes work. Many helping hands make light work, didn't somebody say?

Richard Smith is back home, and soldiering on as he always does. I think most of our sick have been seen, and **Fr. McGuire** was even able to go up to Columbus to bring Our Lord to Gary Amyx, who years ago was a 5 o'clock faithful. Father always remarks how unfailingly *edifying* this shut-in is, even as he is slowly subdued by Parkinson's, and his strength drains away. What could be better than visiting the sick at Advent, or anytime?

Well, instructing children in the Faith is right up there, too. I grieve at how regularly some children miss Sunday Catechism, oh and Mass, too. Parents, could you wrap regularity in religion, and put it under the tree? What a present that would be. Pretend it's in a sports or dance program you've enrolled your children. Would you miss? If you did, the money you paid would be wasted. But your children were bought at a great price, the Precious Blood. Don't waste them. Grandparents, you're our second line of defense, since most sponsors disappear after the Baptism. Please activate!

I was thinking of this because our **Fr. Arnoldo Villegas** wrote awhile back about the stupendous Saturday Catechism he and his volunteer ladies conduct for *three hours* each week. Plenty of time for a Rosary, a spiritual talk, prayers, play practice, lunch and games and, of course, *catechism!* Father is in Tijuana, and while I'm sure the migrants, the "Migra" (US immigration forces) mucked up the border crossing something terrible, this was not what he wrote about, but Saturday Catechism and First Friday Adoration. Because *this* is the stuff that

matters. Fr. Villegas had his first All Night Adoration at his new Ss. Peter and Paul Church in always hot Mexicali recently. Women took the earlier hours, and then men watched the night. Adoration enables us to cross the border between earth and heaven, and illegals are welcome, no visa required.

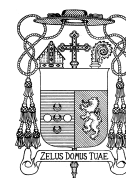
Please pray for **Fr. Francis Miller's** Dallas chapel, out of a home by Christmas. It's dedicated to St. Anthony, so we're praying he *finds* them a new place. The McFathers help out there each month, and we were just going to begin First Saturdays in January.

It's not Christmas yet, but we were planning out the schedule for a busy next year through Easter. Lent will emphasize recollections, for Children, Young Adults, and Altar Boys, and I'm wondering if any *adults* would go for something spiritual one Saturday? Of course, there's always the Friday night "double devotional" we offer each year. Give it a thought.

But first Christmas. Tomorrow the Church begins her solemn O Antiphon Novena at Vespers, which we anticipate at Mass. Pray with us. Decorate with us. Bring the children with us. Soon it will be Emmanuel, God with us!

May St. Joseph clean up for home and hearth and heart for Christ's coming.

— Bishop Dolan



A CHRISTMAS NOVENA PRAYER

O Great Son of God, Thou hast become man in order to make Thyself loved by men. But where is the love that men give Thee in return? Thou hast given Thy life blood to save our souls. Why then are we so unappreciative that, instead of repaying Thee with love, we spurn Thee with ingratitude? And I, Lord, I myself more than others have thus ill-treated Thee. But Thy Passion is my hope. For the sake of that love which led Thee to take upon Thyself human nature and to die for me on the cross, forgive me all the offences I have committed against Thee.

I love Thee, O Word incarnate; I love Thee, O infinite goodness. Out of love for Thee, my God, I am so sorry for all the injuries I have done to Thee, that I could die of grief for these offences. Give me, O Jesus, Thy love. Let me no longer live in ungrateful forgetfulness of the love Thou bearest me. I wish to love Thee always. Grant that I may always persevere in this holy desire.

O Mary, Mother of God and my Mother, pray for me that Thy Son may give me the grace to love Him always, unto death. Amen.

— St. Alphonsus

MON	12/17/18	FERIAL DAY <i>ST. LAZARUS, BPC</i> OPENING OF THE CHRISTMAS NOVENA	
		8:00 AM	Low Mass For all who cook for us and for our devoted drivers (<i>The Fathers</i>)
		11:25 AM	High Mass †Patricia Patton (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski & family</i>)
TUE	12/18/18	FERIAL DAY <i>EXPECTATION OF OUR LADY</i>	
		7:00 AM	Advent Early Mass Happy Birthday Becky (<i>Joan Fey</i>)
		8:00 AM	Low Mass †Margie Davey (<i>Barbara Stump</i>)
		11:25 AM	High Mass Brendan Lotarski – Happy Birthday (<i>Fr. Lehtoranta</i>)
		5:00 PM	Low Mass Gavin Michael Wright, his parents & brothers (<i>Kirby & Jean Bischel</i>)
WED	12/19/18	EMBER WEDNESDAY <i>FAST</i>	
		7:00 AM	Advent Early Mass Rose Kuebler (<i>Mike Volz</i>)
		8:00 AM	Low Mass †Loraine Gates (<i>JCS</i>)
		11:25 AM	High Mass Temporal Aid (<i>Mary Beth Grumblatt</i>)
		5:00 PM	Low Mass †Günter Franz (†11/16/18) (<i>Matthew Giese</i>)
THU	12/20/18	VIGIL OF ST. THOMAS	
		7:00 AM	Advent Early Mass †Ryan Greenwell (<i>Colleen Greenwell</i>)
		8:30 AM	High Mass 14 th Anniversary of †Marilyn Wagner's death (<i>Jamie Wagner</i>)
		Church Decorating Day	
FRI	12/21/18	ST. THOMAS, AP EMBER FRIDAY <i>FAST</i>	
		8:00 AM	Low Mass †Grandparents (<i>Arlinghaus</i>)
		11:10 AM	Confessions
		11:25 AM	High Mass Keith & Mary Christensen – 50 th Anniversary
		5:15 PM	Confessions & Rosary
		5:45 PM	Low Mass †John, †Mom, †Aunt Annie, & †Uncle Arnold (<i>Judy</i>)
		6:30 PM	Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	12/22/18	ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CABRINI EMBER SATURDAY <i>FAST</i>	
		7:15 AM	Confessions
		7:30 AM	Rorate High Mass †Katie Bischak – First Anniversary (<i>Gloria Zbilicki</i>)
		8:15 AM	Alma & Christmas Novena
		8:30 AM	Low Mass Henry Sieverding (<i>Mike Sieverding</i>)
SUN	12/23/18	ADVENT IV	
		7:05 AM	Rosary
		7:30 AM	Low Mass Happy Anniversary Bishop Dolan (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Victor Ritze</i>)
		9:00 AM	High Mass Happy Birthday Matthew Van Den Bussche (<i>Leanne Arlinghaus</i>)
		Sunday Classes resume 1/13	
		11:05 AM	Rosary
		11:30 AM	Low Mass Dean & Carolyn McClorey & their children (<i>Fr. Lehtoranta</i>)
		4:45 PM	Advent Vespers & Benediction
		5:45 PM	Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

THE GREAT ANTIPHONS: A CHRISTMAS NOVENA

The public prayers of the Church consist not only of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass but also of the Divine Office, the prayers of the priests' Breviary. The Office was at one time chanted solemnly throughout the Church. We almost always do Vespers here. The Magnificat or Cantic of the Blessed Virgin Mary is chanted near the end of Vespers. Starting on December 17 a series of Antiphons are added to Vespers before and after the Magnificat. Just to read those "O Antiphons" each day would be a wonderful part of any Catholic's preparation for Christmas! Pray them with the Magnificat.

The following Antiphons are said entire before and after the Magnificat, from the 17th to the 23rd of December, inclusive.

Antiphon for the 17th of December (O Sapientia): *O Wisdom that comest out of the mouth of the Most High, that reachest from one end to another, and dost mightily and sweetly order all things: come to teach us the way of prudence!*

Antiphon for the 18th of December (O Adonai): *O Adonai, and Ruler of the house of Israel, who didst appear unto Moses in the burning bush, and gavest him the law in Sinai: come to redeem us with an outstretched arm!*

Antiphon for the 19th of December (O Radix): *O root of Jesse, which standest for an ensign of the people, at whom the kings shall shut their mouths, whom the Gentiles shall seek: come to deliver us, make no tarrying.*

Antiphon for the 20th of December (O Clavis): *O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; that openest and no man shutteth; and shuttest and no man openeth: come to bring out the prisoner from the prison, and them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death.*

Antiphon for the 21st of December (O Oriens): *O Dayspring, Brightness of the everlasting light, Sun of Justice, come to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death!*

Antiphon for the 22nd of December (O Rex): *O King of the Gentiles, yea, and desire thereof; O Corner-stone, that makes of two one: come to save man, whom Thou hast made of the dust of the earth!*

AN OFFERTORY PRAYER

"It is necessary that, when we accomplish this sacrifice, we immolate ourselves to God by a contrite heart; because, when we celebrate the mystery of the Passion of the Lord, we must live what we are doing. Jesus only becomes a true Victim for us before the Face of His Father, when we, entering into His dispositions, become victims ourselves."
– St. Gregory

SERVICES

SUN 12/23 7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: J. Lacy, P. Omlor TH: C. Richesson
ACs: T. Lawrence, M. Simpson TORCH: J. Stewart, T. England, S. Richesson, C. Arlinghaus
11:30 AM LOW: P. & Na. McClorey
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller
5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller