

ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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 15, 2019

ADVENT III • GAUDETE SUNDAY

OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



¶ GAUDETE SUNDAY

The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available at the Communion rail after all Masses today. 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.

¶ CATECHISM CORNER

The infallibility of the Pope was defined as an article of faith in the fourth session of the Council of the Vatican, July 18, 1870. Whoever refuses to admit this dogma is guilty of the sin of heresy, as are those who deny the infallibility of the *Ordinary* Magisterium of the Church.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT IV

Sunday Classes will be at 10:40 AM next Sunday. Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

📖 **Set Your Missal:** Advent IV, second collect of Our Lady in Advent, third Against the Persecutors. Trinity Preface.

¶ CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Could you please set aside a few hours to help us decorate our church for Christmas? Saturday, December 21, at approximately 9 AM.

§ Servers

SUN 12/22

7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros.

9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: P. Omlor, J. Lacy TH: Na. McClorey ACS: T. Lawrence, C. Arlinghaus TORCH: D. Simpson, A. McClorey, J. Stewart, T. England

11:30 AM LOW: A.D. Kinnett, J. Kolenich

4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller

5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

Lumen Christi

The Sanctuary Lamp has been burning before the Blessed Sacrament during this fortnight for the following intention:

The conversion of Paul & Joan Smith (Collin Smith)



¶ YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE

Please pray for Fr. Nkamuke's mother, Florence; the repose of the souls of †Richard Brueggemann and †Nathan Masellis; and all of the intentions that have been recommended to us.

¶ STOP BY THE BOOKSTORE!

Check out the bookstore for last-minute shopping. Beautiful leather books, Catholic DVDs, children's toys, stationery, Christmas cards, and the classic nativity are available.

Skip the public crowd and give a truly meaningful gift of faith. Several books are highly recommended by the Bishop. We have many of Fr. Lehtoranta's books and you may even be able to have them signed by the author. Know someone in need of a crucifix? New arrivals are in with a range of price. Come in, browse, and buy, finish your shopping early.

"A dead thing goes with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it." - G.K. Chesterton

¶ 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).

¶ CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL

You may make a donation in memory of a loved one, to help defray the cost of the poinsettias and other flowers for Christmas. Please fill out the special flower offering envelopes available in the pews, and return them to an usher or drop them off at the Gift Shop or church office. To have your loved ones' names printed in the special Christmas memorial program, please turn in your envelope no later than **Monday, December 16th**.

¶ CHRISTMAS MASS NOVENA

Remember your loved ones in our Christmas Novena of Masses which begins Christmas Day—the perfect gift! Envelopes may be found in the pews. Fill them out and return them to the church office or the collection basket.

¶ RORATE MASSES

This quiet, beautiful Mass by candlelight is sung at Our Lady's altar in honor of the Incarnation. The Mass begins in the dark, but concludes in sunlight: the coming of the light of the world: Tuesday and Thursday.

Collection Report

Sunday, December 8th.....\$3,451.00
Immaculate Conception.....\$1,821.00

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

St. Teresa was accustomed to redouble her charity towards those who offended her.

St. Francis Borgia used to call those who brought upon him any mortification or trial his assistants and friends.

“Let us endeavor to show ourselves full of compassion towards the faulty and the sinful. If we do not show compassion and charity to these, we do not deserve to have God show it towards us.” – *St. Vincent de Paul.*

This Saint was never astonished at any fault that he saw committed; for he said that to commit faults was the characteristic of man, as he was conceived and born in sin. This acquaintance that he had with the common miseries of man was what made him behave with so much sweetness and compassion to all sinners. He avoided harshness and used only mild and compassionate words and ways, even with the most guilty, endeavoring to conceal and make little account of their faults with a marvelous prudence and charity, and desiring to have his missionaries follow the same course.

St. Francis once said to the Blessed Cataneus, his General: “By this I shall know whether you love God and me, His and your servant; that is, by your showing mercy to delinquents. When you find one, do not let him go without his feeling the effect of your kindness; and if you see him fall a thousand times, love him always more than myself, that you may attract him to good, and never fail to be merciful to all such.”

“Among those who are included under the title of neighbor, there are none who deserve it more, in one sense, than those of our own household. They are nearest of all to us, living under the same roof and eating the same bread. Therefore they ought to be one of the principal objects of our love, and we should practice in regard to them all the acts of a true charity, which ought to be founded not upon flesh and blood, or upon their good qualities, but altogether upon God.”

– *St. Francis de Sales*

COLLECT OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stir up Thy power and come, we pray Thee, O Lord, and with great



might succor us; that our deliverance, which our sins impede, may be hastened by the help of Thy grace and the forgiveness of Thy mercy. Who livest and reignest forever and ever, Amen. (*Say this prayer Saturday evening, as you light all four candles on your Advent wreath.*)

THE LAMB

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed.
By the stream and o’er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!
Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I’ll tell thee,
Little Lamb, I’ll tell thee!
He is called by thy name,
For He calls Himself a Lamb:
He is meek and He is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child and thou a lamb,
We are called by His name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee.
Little Lamb, God bless thee.

– *William Blake*



MAIDEN YET A MOTHER

Maiden yet a mother,
daughter of thy Son,
high beyond all other,
lowlier is none;
thou the consummation
planned by God’s decree,
when our lost creation
nobler rose in thee!

Thus His place prepared,
He who all things made
‘mid His creatures tarried,
in thy bosom laid;
there His love He nourished,
warmth that gave increase
to the root whence flourished
our eternal peace.

Nor alone thou hearest
When thy name we hail;
Often thou art nearest
When our voices fail;
Mirrored in thy fashion
All creation’s gird,
Mercy, might compassion
Grace thy womanhood.

Lady, let our vision
Striving heavenward, fail,
Still let thy petition
With thy Son prevail,
Unto whom all merit,
prayer and majesty,
With the Holy Spirit
And the Father be.

– *Dante Alighieri*

“Really great moral teachers never do introduce new moralities, it is quacks and crankys who do that.”

– *C.S. Lewis*

(This would be Bergoglio, with his new morality of “Amoris Laetitia.”)

I am writing this for St. Lucy's Day. Her name brings the promise of returning light to the darkness of our winter. The world's winter is another thing, in need of light which Christ alone could bring. He does, through "Mary, Most Holy of the Light," as the devotion names her.

A further title, blasphemously denied by antichrist Bergoglio, is that of Co-Redemptrix. The false pope calls it "silliness," but the true popes teach it, beautifully and clearly, in their encyclicals. "Together with Christ, she has redeemed the human race," wrote Pope Benedict XV. I hope this sheds a little light on the latest darkness coming from the Vatican.

We are grateful to several of our young men who are working to shed some light on St. Gertrude, both inside and out. The sanctuary lighting is a bit of a challenge. Outside, the dark nights show how many lights have burned out in the parking lot and around the church exterior. This too, is a multistep process. But we're on it.

We're also, of course, setting up Christmas lights outside and in. Some of the work has begun, but there's always more, and the church decorating as well. We're asking for a good crew to help us this Saturday starting about 9 AM.

Our last full week of Advent opens today with the cry of "Gaudete," be glad! The sanctuary is all clad in shades of pink for the occasion, as purple gets lightened to honor the soon arriving Infant King. Last week was entirely devoted to His Mother's Immaculate Conception, its Octave and Novena. It's wonderful to have Holy Days fall on Sundays. Not only convenient for you, but this assures that all will be able to celebrate the feast.

You've probably been busy this Advent, out and about preparing for Christmas, and dodging, I bet, those bothersome Christmas parties which come *too* early. That said, I was very impressed with December's First Friday attendance, which even spilled over into First Saturday.

Last week's Rorate Masses were sparse, but so beautiful. Our Lady of Guadalupe's early Masses were so quiet and prayerful as dark gave way to dawn, and sung chants to whispered words at the altar. On the way down the hill to church, the dawn was red to start, and I thought of the hill of Tepayac, where the Expectant Virgin appeared at daybreak to create Mexico, a Catholic country from its conception. There were birds, too. But mine were hundreds of sleepy starlings startled at the solitary bishop rushing along disturbing their rest, nestling as they were among the evergreens. Some jump out with a cry, others just thrash their wings, making my trip each

morning and night a noisy commute, or an avian gauntlet.

St. Lucy is for the Scandinavian Protestants what St. Nicholas was for the Dutch. At the Reformation some saints were just too beloved to be pitched, and survived. But secular and antichristian (read: Moslem) culture is destroying these European customs. Yet **Fr. Lehtoranta** reports that St. Lucy still has her processions. One girl is chosen as the Lucy Queen, and wears a crown of light, for St. Lucy's feast used to be the darkest day of the year. They even sing "Santa Lucia." Bits of Catholicism which survived until now.

I apologize for the missing calendars. As is often the case in the business world, the printing firm we used with great satisfaction for years has changed hands, and things are different now. Next year we resolve on an early November delivery.

Our webcasting service changed hands recently too, and we had to scramble to find another server. We are grateful to the hardworking webmaster. We hope to update the system with new equipment over Christmas.

Don't forget the Ember Days this week, bare remnants of the old Advent Fast. Christmas Eve is as well. Little enough penance we do, eh? Well, give alms generously to the poor, pray more, and receive the Sacrament of Penance to prepare your heart for Christmas...and rejoice!

- Bishop Dolan

RECOMMENDATION TO JESUS

It was revealed to St. Gertrude that if any one commends himself to God, praying to be kept from all sin, God will never forsake him; and even though he be permitted to fall into some grievous fault, the grace of God will sustain him like a staff, and enable him to return more easily to repentance.

O Jesus, full of compassion, I commend to Thee my spirit and my soul, in union with that love wherewith Thou didst commend Thine own to the Father on the cross; and I place them in the most sacred wound of Thy tender Heart, that they may be therein protected from all the snares of the enemy. Thou knowest, O good Jesus, and I know by my own sad experience, how weak and frail I am so that I could not of myself persevere in good, or resist temptation even for one single hour. Wherefore I pray Thee, by the reverence due to that union wherein Thy manhood is united to the adorable Trinity in order to our glorification, that Thou wouldst deign to unite my will to Thine, and so to strengthen and secure it, that it may be unable to rebel against Thee. In union with Thy most sinless limbs, I commend to Thee all the members of my body, with all their movements, that they may throughout this day move for Thy glory alone, for Thy praise and Thy love. Amen.



✠ CALENDAR

MON	12/16/19	ST. EUSEBIUS, BPM 8:00 AM Low Mass Mr. Jim Soli (<i>Theresa Simpson</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass The Terrana Family (<i>Arlinghaus</i>)
TUE	12/17/19	FERIAL DAY <i>ST. LAZARUS, BPC</i> 7:00 AM Rorate Mass †Elaine Manuele (<i>Theresa Simpson</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass Special Intentions (<i>P.T. & A.M. Omlor</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass †Nancy J. Bradl (<i>Sherry Bradl</i>) 5:00 PM Low Mass †Rebecca Ruff (<i>Theresa Simpson</i>)
WED	12/18/19	EMBER WEDNESDAY FAST <i>EXPECTATION OF OUR LADY</i> 7:00 AM Low Mass Poor Souls (<i>Tom & Karen Simpson</i>) 8:00 AM Low Mass †John Metz & †Aunt Annie – 29 th Anniversary (<i>Judy</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Conversion of poor sinners (<i>Mary Christensen</i>) ☞ 5:10 PM Low Mass Happy Birthday, Joseph! (<i>Theresa Simpson</i>)
THU	12/19/19	FERIAL DAY 7:00 AM Rorate Mass †Nathan Masellis 8:00 AM Low Mass Fr. Cekada (<i>TRCS</i>) 11:25 AM High Mass Special Intentions & In Thanksgiving (<i>Theresa Simpson</i>)
FRI	12/20/19	EMBER FRIDAY FAST <i>VIGIL OF ST. THOMAS</i> 8:00 AM Low Mass †Ryan Greenwell (<i>Eva Nellenbach</i>) 11:05 AM Confessions 11:25 AM High Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory (<i>Mary Christensen</i>) 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:45 PM Low Mass †Marilyn Wagner – 15 th Anniversary (<i>Jamie Wagner</i>) 6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction
SAT	12/21/19	ST. THOMAS, AP EMBER SATURDAY FAST 7:15 AM Confessions 7:30 AM High Mass †Special Intentions (<i>Arlinghaus</i>) 8:15 AM Salve Regina & Sermon 8:30 AM Low Mass Debi Ellis – Good Health (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell & family</i>) 9:00 AM Church Decorating
SUN	12/22/19	ADVENT IV 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass Repose of the soul of †Matta 9:00 AM High Mass All Priests, Seminarians & Religious Sisters (<i>Mary Christensen</i>) 10:40 AM Catechism Classes 11:05 AM Rosary 11:30 AM Low Mass †Albert Kinnett (<i>Margaret Kinnett</i>) 4:45 PM Advent Vespers & Benediction 5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

Deck the Walls Church Decorating This Saturday!

We need you!

Come Saturday & make Christmas shine!

Starting after the morning Masses.

All skills can be put to use; fluffing greens & wreaths, hanging lights & garlands, assembling trees, setting up the nativity and many more jobs.

First time helping? Great! Someone will show you what to do.

Something for everyone. Bring the family!

Many hands make light work.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

We want to meditate, to reflect, to immerse ourselves in the mystery of joy. All through the centuries, the philosophers have wrestled with this. If there is a good God, why is there all this pain, why is there this sorrow? But the joy is always in Domino. We don't know, but He knows. What we do learn is that He is drawing us all, He is calling us to know that there is really nothing stable outside Himself, and that in Him and in Him alone is the explanation of all things. Already as we ponder things in this way we begin to experience a serenity coming into our very pain, whatever it may be, that this is an all-loving God who is reminding us where we are all going. We are all moving steadily step by step each day, moving with each tick of the clock towards this terminus. This is what He wishes to say to us: in Him alone all find their home. Something begins to come into our stricken hearts, that we are all going home. The more we are in Domino on this earth, the more we are already at home.

The Church does not say, "No Gaudete Sunday this year," but she says, "Rejoice in the Lord." The world is in travail and in turmoil, but God says, "Rejoice in Me, rejoice." There is pain and suffering and there is the temptation to anxiety and there are the disappointments, but there is God saying, "In Domino is all joy." Let us sing then with all our hearts, not just on Gaudete Sunday, but always; and let us dance under the wreath of eternity, that all joy is in God, and that when He disappoints us in the evanescence of ephemeral things, when He allows us to be disappointed in persons, when He allows us to experience such disappointment in ourselves, He is only saying what He told Paul to say to us: Gaudete in Domino.

– Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C.