

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 22, 2019 ADVENT IV



¶ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM. **The 2020 All Saints Roman Catholic Calendars are in! Available for \$12.95 in the bookstore.**

¶ CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday is the Vigil of Christmas, a day of *fast and complete abstinence*. Solemn High Mass is at 8:00 AM. The Divine Office is chanted at 7:00 AM (Prime), 1:00 PM (Vespers), and 8:30 PM (Matins). Carols begin at 10:30 PM, and the Procession and Blessing of the Crib at 11:00. **Midnight Mass is at 11:15 PM**, followed by the Office of Lauds. After the Midnight Mass, please join us in Helfta Hall for a potluck supper. Bring a dish to share if you plan to come.

¶ CHRISTMAS DAY

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

11:00 AM: Low Mass

5:45 PM: Vespers of Christmas Day
No evening Mass

¶ NEW YEARS DAY SCHEDULE

7:30 AM: Low Mass

9:00 PM: High Mass & Te Deum

11:30 AM: Low Mass & Benediction
No evening Mass

☩ "O Blessed Jesus, give me stillness of soul in Thee. Let Thy mighty calmness reign in me. Rule me, O King of Gentleness, King of Peace." - St. John of the Cross ☩



Lumen Christi

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn before the Blessed Sacrament during the next fortnight for the following intention:

To the Glory of God
(A Parishioner)



¶ FEASTS THIS WEEK

Thursday, December 26th - St. Stephen, Protomartyr: There will be a High Mass at 5:00 PM to honor St. Stephen.

Friday, Dec. 27th - Feast of St. John, Infant of Prague Novena: Our annual novena of Nine Fridays in honor of the Divine Infant opens this Friday evening at 5:35 PM. Come with confidence to honor our loving little King. The High Mass is at 5:45 PM, followed by the Blessing of Wine and Beverages. Be sure to bring yours to be blessed. A reception follows in Helfta Hall.

Saturday, December 28th - The Holy Innocents: The High Mass of the Holy Innocents is at 8:25 AM. This is an important day for the prolife cause.

¶ YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE

Please pray for Joe McMahan, Henry Sieverding, and all the intentions that have been recommended to us.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

There will be no Classes next Sunday. **Classes resume on January 5.** The Blessing of Children in honor of the Holy Innocents follows the High Mass, and then Bishop Dolan will be hosting a little party for the children. All the children of the parish are invited. Bring your little ones to eat a donut, hear a story and receive a gift.

Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM.

☩ **Set Your Missal:** Sunday Within the Octave of Christmas, second collect of St. Thomas à Becket, third of the Octave of Christmas, fourth of St. John the Apostle. Preface of the Nativity.

¶ CATECHISM CORNER

There are two kinds of grace: 1. *Habitual or sanctifying grace*, which dwells in our soul and renders it holy and agreeable in the eyes of God. 2. *Actual grace*, which is an actual help by which God excites and aids us to do good in the order of salvation.

¶ CHRISTMAS MASS NOVENA

Remember your loved ones in our Christmas Novena of Masses, which begins Christmas Day. Envelopes may be found in the pews. Fill them out and return them to the church office or the collection basket **today** so they may be placed on the altar for Christmas.

Collection Report

Sunday, December 15th\$3,599.00

Bake Sale.....\$804.50

Thank you for your generosity.

THE PATH OF PEACE

Peace is Christ's culminating gift. At His birth the angels' song mingled with the first bleating of the Lamb of God, promising peace to God's friends. On the night before He died His own promise comforted His Apostles; when He had risen from the dead His first words to them were *Peace be upon you*.



How is it then that peace is so rare, even in our soul? It may be because we lack the courage without which true peace is unattainable, and with or without which the pseudo-peace we have built up in our imagination is unattainable.... The condition of peace is courage, but the moments in which we most long for it are those when courage seems most difficult. When all that we want is to loosen our hold, to throw off responsibility, to rest. We want not a sword, but a lap big enough to bury our head on.

It is comforting then to realize that the courage peace demands is in fact to relax, to throw all our care into the lap of God. It means that we must take the risk of trusting God's love, believing Christ's word, loving one another.... A child knows no anxiety, if he knows himself to be loved, no mistrust or suspicion. His values are true. He loves things, but he loves them not for what they cost, but for what they are.... Poverty may come, the child knows his father will provide his happiness; pain may come, his mother's hand will take it away. He is not worldly because he lives in a secret world of his own. No one can take his kingdom from him because it is not of this world....

Advent is closing and the longing of the Church for light and for the

spring, the budding forth of the Savior, is culminating in the mystery of Christmas, and we can put aside our cares to make the house of our soul ready for the Child, with prayer as simple as a folk song, rocking the cradle of peace to the beating of the human heart.

— Caryl Houselander

Our Beloved Dead ~ December

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Jerome G. Gerrard	12-01-1989
Albert D. Kinnett	12-02-2003
Frank Alban, Jr.	12-03-1988
George Greene	12-04-1999
Rosemary Breitenstein	12-08-1999
Regina K. Budde	12-09-1992
Alice M. Corbin	12-12-1995
Floyd Rimer, Jr.	12-12-2002
George Wissing	12-12-2009
Elizabeth L. Smith	12-12-2015
Archbishop Thuc	12-13-1984
Henry Golembeski	12-15-1993
Ralph Patton	12-15-2009
Fred Hauserman	12-16-2010
Bishop McKenna	12-16-2016
Vanessa S. Thompson	12-17-2008
Marty Lierl	12-18-2012
Mary Genevieve Bell	12-19-2004
David T. Miller	12-19-2004
Mary I. Osborn	12-19-2002
Katie Bischak	12-22-2017
Barbara Steinmetz	12-27-2016
Richard Weik	12-29-2010

O yes, Lord Jesus,
 Come and reign!
 Let my body
 Be Thy temple,
 My heart,
 Thy throne,
 My will,
 Thy devoted servant,
 Let me be Thine forever,
 Living only in Thee,
 And for Thee! Amen.

*A good prayer for after Holy Communion
 from the Blessed Peter Julian Eymard.*

JOSEPH'S DREAM

Joseph dreams to wed
 The sweet steady of his dreams—
 Fair, observant, led
 By long history.
 Innocent yet aware, his
 Maiden mystery.

A virgin with child?
 The truth is no longer true.
 His dream is defiled.
 Her secret he keeps,
 But his dream has turned bitter.
 Exhausted, he sleeps

To dream sweeping truth
 In the swoop of an angel.
 He needs no more proof.
 Awakened and sure
 Of his dream's promised seed, he
 Espouses what's pure.

With sweat, nails and beam
 He enshrines his glowing bride,
 Protecting his dream.
 He works to uphold
 A place where his dream can thrive
 And never grow cold.

When Joseph's eyes close,
 Survived by his dream that turns
 Bitter with fierce blows,
 That's mocked, pierced and dies
 Nailed to the beam—it can't be!
 He opens his eyes.

— Rita A. Simmonds

This is a great poem. Read it twice.

— Bishop Dolan



✠ THE BISHOP'S CORNER ✠

The weather as well as the feasts these days remind me of a favorite verse of Crashaw:

Welcome all wonders in one sight!
Eternity shut in a span;
Summer in winter, day in night
Heaven in earth and God in man.

So Sunday night for Our Lady's Octave, "the city was surpliced in white." The so beautiful heavy hanging snow, silent because it said it all, fell so thoughtfully after the last Mass, and closed the feast of the white robed Virgin Queen.

Our first snow. It was so beautiful I did not have the heart to draw the drapes and shut it out that night. Then came the cold, and very cold, and with it the dark. Never mind, light is coming! Last night at 11:19 or so we marked the Winter Solstice.

Ember Friday brought mild sun, which is promised us now for Christmas week. Excellent. Oh, there are some who'd like the picturesque white Christmas, but mellow late December days are a blessing from God for those who need to go over to Bethlehem, and Josephs who need to have everything in readiness. But Sunday night... Ah yes, remember the splendor of the hanging snow. It may come again, man's bane and God's gift, but one which melts in humble homage before the Mother and Child.

The Rorate Masses are done for the year, for the dew is about to drop down from the heavens above. Only a few souls showed, the regulars mostly, but how we were rewarded. Still, the daily Masses at their now pretty much fixed times draw a much better attendance than before. Christmas Octave has its own schedule, but at the regular times. Try to come, lest the angels' song go unheard by men. Though the Little King loves it, every note of it, as does His Mother Queen.

Fr. Soliman of the Philippines writes that they maintained the ancient Catholic custom there of a *novena* of **4:30 AM!** sung Rorate Masses. That means that the "Misa de Aquinaldo" requires Father to be up at 3:30 AM, like the monks of old. The intention of the Novena is always "For the Filipinos' constancy in the Faith and the conservation of religion in these parts." Excellent intention for today, and a beautiful devotion on the part of priest and people.

Fr. McGuire reports a good response to their new Milwaukee two Mass Sunday schedule. **Fr. Lehtoranta** will be again their "Christmas priest." He is looking forward to Christmas vacation, as I am sure

do all of our devoted teachers. But our students, well, I know they'll miss it. As will I them. Miss Florence's kindergarteners have been visiting me of late to offer one of their fresh baked chocolate chip cookie or a lovely Christmas drawing.



Fr. McKenna is always happy to be with us for Midnight Mass but early the next morning heads out to Grand Forks to bring them Christmas, a true Santa on his flying sleigh, offering the Gift of gifts. **Fr. Caleb Sons**, ordained only in June, is spending Christmas with us, and we are so happy to welcome him, as well as the return of Messers **Thomas Ojeka** and **John Okerulu**, our Nigerian seminarians.

Thanks to all of you who turned out yesterday to help us decorate the church, a work of loving art each year. Invite somebody to come. You never know. Don't forget to come yourself, and celebrate the dearest day of the year, Christmas with Christ's Mass.

If you're coming to Midnight Mass, look lively when the opening procession with the Baby Jesus passes by. Have your fervent petitions ready. It is an hour of grace, as is the elevation of the Christmas Masses, and the Blessing of Benediction on Christmas morning.

May blessings galore be your gift for His Birth. He only asks your heart, someplace to place them, for He comes loaded down with gifts.

Merry Christmas!

- Bishop Dolan



MON	12/23/19	ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CABRINI, V 8:00 AM Low Mass Joseph Prell – successful surgery (<i>Beth & Children</i>) 9:00 AM Low Mass Our Children, Godchildren, & Grandchildren – Merry Christmas (<i>Mr. & Mrs. Michael Briggs</i>)
TUE	12/24/19	VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS <i>FAST & ABSTINENCE</i> 7:00 AM The Office of Prime 7:24 AM Confessions 8:00 AM Solemn High Mass In honor of St. Joseph (<i>Tom & Karen Simpson</i>) <i>Private Mass:</i> Morris/Niehaus Families & S. & C. Niehaus 1:00 PM Vespers 8:30 PM The Office of Matins 10:30 PM Carols 11:00 PM Procession & Blessing of Crib 11:15 PM Midnight Mass Novena I followed by Lauds Potluck Supper in Helfta Hall
WED	12/25/19	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS DAY <i>HOLY DAY</i> 9:00 AM Low Mass with string quartet For the people of St. Gertrude the Great Novena & Benediction 11:00 AM Low Mass Intentions of the Celebrant 5:45 PM Vespers of Christmas Day <i>Private Mass:</i> Mary Christensen – Christmas (<i>Keith Christensen</i>) <i>Several private Masses will be offered during the morning hours.</i>
THU	12/26/19	ST. STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR 9:00 AM Low Mass Merry Christmas Mom & Dad! (<i>The Arlinghaus Children</i>) 5:00 PM High Mass Novena II
FRI	12/27/19	ST. JOHN, APEV 8:00 AM Low Mass †Bishop Robert McKenna – 4 th Anniversary Dec. 16 (<i>Tom & Karen Simpson</i>) 5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:35 PM Opening of the Infant of Prague Novena 5:45 PM High Mass Novena III Blessing of Wine & Beverages 6:30 PM Novena & Benediction, “The Love of St. John” reception after Benediction
SAT	12/28/19	THE HOLY INNOCENTS 7:15 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass Sisters of Our Lady of Reparation – Thank you! (<i>Theresa & Joseph Simpson</i>) 8:15 AM Sermon & Novena 8:25 AM High Mass Novena IV
SUN	12/29/19	SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS ST. THOMAS À BECKET, BPM BLESSING OF CHILDREN AFTER THE HIGH MASS 7:05 AM Rosary 7:30 AM Low Mass Our children & spouses & godchildren (<i>Dan & Mary</i>)

ONLY INFALLIBLE “FROM THE THRONE”?

A curious misunderstanding often appears even among educated Catholics: it is thought that nothing less than a solemn definition carries any binding force for Catholics. This error had become so common that Pope Pius XII saw fit to strike at it. In his encyclical, *Humani generis*, of August 12, 1950, he wrote as follows:

Nor must one think that the things which are taught in Encyclical Letters do not of themselves demand assent, on the pretext that in them the Popes do not exercise the supreme power of their teaching authority. For these things are taught with the ordinary teaching authority, in regard to which it is also correct to say: “He who heareth you, heareth Me.”

Servers

TUE 12/24	8:00 AM SOL.HIGH: MC: P. Omlor TH: R. VandeRyt ACS: M. & D. Simpson. <i>Volunteers</i> MIDNIGHT MASS (ARRIVE AT 10:30 PM): MCS: R. Vande Ryt, J. Lacy, P. Omlor TH: B. Lotarski ACS: P. & Na. McClorey CROSS: T. Lawrence MITRE: C. Richesson CROZIER: A. D. Kinnett BOOK: M. Simpson BUGIA: D. Simpson TRAIN: S. Richesson GREMIALE: S. Richesson TORCH: C. Arlinghaus, T. Lawrence, J. Stewart, A. McClorey, J. & N. Kolenich
WED 12/25	9:00 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. BENEDICTION: MC: D. McConnell TH: A. McConnell TORCH: Brueggemanns 11:00 AM LOW: Volunteer
THU 12/26	5:00 PM HIGH: Simpsons, P. Omlor
FRI 12/27	5:45 PM HIGH: P. Omlor, Simpsons, Seminarians
SAT 12/28	8:25 AM HIGH: P. Omlor, Simpsons, Seminarians
SUN 12/29	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. 9:00 AM HIGH: CHAPLAINS: M. Simpson, C. Richesson TH: T. Lawrence ACS: D. Simpson, S. Richesson TORCH: J. Stewart, T. & D. England, C. Arlinghaus 11:30 AM LOW: P. & A. McClorey 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: G. Miller 5:45 PM LOW: G. Miller

Ashers

CHRISTMAS DAY 12/25	MIDNIGHT (ARRIVE BY 10:30PM): M. Lotarski, S. Weigand, P. Puglielli, <i>Volunteer</i> 9:00 AM: P. Arlinghaus, S. Pepiot, J. Andreotta, P. McConnell 11:30 AM: J. Seyfried, <i>Volunteer</i>
SUNDAY 12/29	7:30 AM: S. Pepiot, J. Andreotta, K. Maki, P. McConnell 9:00 AM: M. Briggs, P. Arlinghaus, S. Weigand, M. Lotarski 11:30 AM: J. Seyfried, R. Uhlenbrock, D. Hille, <i>Volunteer</i> 5:45 PM: <i>Volunteer</i>
NEW YEARS DAY 1/1	7:30 AM: S. Pepiot, J. Andreotta, K. Maki, P. McConnell 9:00 AM: M. Briggs, P. Arlinghaus, S. Weigand, S. Arlinghaus 11:30 AM: J. Seyfried, R. Uhlenbrock, D. Hille, <i>Volunteer</i>

9:00 AM	High Mass Novena V Blessing of Children
10:40 AM	Children’s Party
11:05 AM	Rosary
11:30 AM	Low Mass Intentions of our fellow Catholics (<i>Kolenich Family</i>)
4:45 PM	Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM	Low Mass Keith Christensen (Christmas gift) (<i>Mary Christensen</i>)