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. Charles McGuire
Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Stephen McKenna
Hear Bishop Dolan & Fr. McKenna monthly on Behind the Headlines: https://www.patreon.com/truerestoration

December 12, 2021
Advent III • Gaudete Sunday
Within the Octave • *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

¶ Third Sunday of Advent
The St. Lucy Procession precedes the High Mass today. Don't miss the **Christmas Bake Sale** in Helfta Hall. Catechism Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

¶ Christmas Envelopes
Envelopes are in the pews for Poinsettia Memorial Offerings (to be turned in to the office *no later* than December 19) and for the Christmas Novena of Masses.

¶ Rorate Masses

A special Advent observance features the short votive Mass of Our Lady, sung in the early morning by candlelight as we await the coming of Christ, the Light of the World. Come to the Rorate Masses at 7 AM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and Saturday at 7:30 AM.

¶ Ember Days
Wednesday, Friday and **Saturday** (December 15, 17 and 18) of this week are the Church's winter **Ember Days**. 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 7th year must keep the abstinence (meat once at the principal meal on Wednesday and Saturday.)

¶ Christmas Decorating
We will be decorating the interior of the church for Christmas this **Saturday, December 18th**, after the 8:30 AM High Mass. Many hands make light work…and will make Christmas lights work! Come and help. Lunch will be provided.

Collection Report

Sunday, December 5th……..$5,923.00
Second Collection…….....$2,450.00

Sit in the back with fussy children, and *take them out as soon as they cry.* Bring them back in when they're quiet. It works! Thank you.

¶ Next Sunday: Advent IV
The Blessing of Expectant Mothers will be available after all Masses next Sunday. Catechism Classes will be at 10:40 AM. 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 of the Church. Trinity Preface.

¶ Upcoming Events
Ordinations to the Deaconate: Epiphany, January 6, 2022

St. Lucy – Patroness of the Eyes

CHEERFUL KINDNESS

St. Paul admonishes us: "Rejoice in the Lord always: again, I say, rejoice!" (Phil. iv. 4.) And Habacuc sings: "I will rejoice in the Lord, and I will joy in God my Jesus. The Lord God is my strength and He will make my feet like the feet of harts; and He, the Conqueror, will lead me upon my high places singing psalms." (Habac. iii. 18,19.) There is an apostolate of cheerfulness as well as of prayer and of preaching by word and example. Like a sweet, fragrant flower by the roadside, whose bright loveliness is a joy to everyone who passes by, our cheerfulness is a blessing to all with whom we come into contact. A man, or a woman, merely by being cheerful, exerts a quiet yet potent influence for good. Let us bear this in mind that we can be helpful to souls, that we can encourage them and strengthen them in good by our cheerfulness and amiability.

We must do our duty with joy, with eagerness, with love. We must not keep count of what we do, (see St. Therese) nor stop strictly and sternly at the exact limit of duty. Let us learn to devote ourselves generously, above all when there is question of fulfilling certain obligations of our state, position, etc., by which we do good to our brethren. Let us learn to **show always a smiling face**, although our work is distasteful to us or overwhelms us.

"Rejoice in the Lord always!" applies to all true Christians. They ought always to be cheerful, and their joy should find expression in deeds of kindness and helpfulness to all with whom they come into contact. They ought to heed the words of Our Lord to His followers: "Be of good cheer!" Life today is so strenuous that there is constant need of relief from its strain, and a sunny, cheerful, gracious soul is like a sea breeze in sultry August or like a "draught of cool refreshment drained by fevered lips."

"Cheerfulness furnishes the best soil for the growth of goodness and virtue. It is also the best of moral and mental tonics. 'A glad heart maketh a cheerful countenance, but by grief of mind the spirit is cast down.' (Prov. xv. 13.) 'A joyful mind maketh age flourishing; a sorrowful spirit drieth up the bones.' (Prov. xvii. 22.)"

A good suggestion in regard to any past trouble or humiliation is this: "Let it go!" "Forget it!" An optimist writes: "If you had an unfortunate experience this last year forget it. If you have made a failure in your speech, your song, your book, or your article; if you have been placed in an embarrassing position, if you have been deceived and hurt by one whom you looked upon as a friend, if you have been slandered and abused, do not dwell upon it, do not brood over it; forget it! There is not a single redeeming feature in these memories. Do not make yourself unhappy by keeping on the walls of your heart the pictures of vanished joys and faded hopes. Forget them. Count your blessings. Be of good cheer."

Let nothing disturb thee,
Nothing affright thee;
All things are passing;
God never changeth;
Patient endurance
Attaineth to all things;
Who God possesseth
In nothing is wanting;
Alone God sufficeth.

– St. Teresa's bookmark

Mary, Virgin of Advent, may we always walk with you in the Light of the Lord Jesus, the fruit of your womb! Amen.

THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE

For a dress she wears the wild-rose,
For a cape the starry night,
And the sheen that frames her figure
Is the sun's resplendent light.

But her face is dark and slender—
"I am black but beautiful!" —
Not the gold-haired Queen of Heaven
With her features fair and full,

But the face of her who traveled
Down to Egypt's deserts dun,
Or who gently washed His garments
'Neath the Galilean sun.

–Fray Angelico Chavez, O.F.M.

Comparatively few people are aware of the most astounding miracle in the world, yet it is relatively close at hand to us. In December 1531 at Tepeyac (near Mexico City) the Blessed Virgin Mary caused to be imprinted miraculously on the cloak of a devout Indian, Juan Diego, an image of herself. At most, a cloak of this kind would disintegrate in from 10 to 20 years, but this particular cloak and the picture upon it are still the same today as in the year 1531, more than 400 years later. It is housed in the Basilica at Guadalupe and is visited by thousands of pilgrims each day. Scientific commissions have again and again examined the cloak and picture and have declared it a supernatural work and a secret reserved to the Divine Majesty. One commission of six prominent artists declares: "Every line and turn of the picture is so clearly a miracle that there actually palpitates in the admirable work the supreme power of its Author." The knowledge of this miracle can be an inspiration to the faith of any Catholic in these perilous times.

Bearing roses in December as a sign, Our Lady of Guadalupe "shows God's love aright." She brings to all the humble of the world the Advent message of hope: arise, winter is over and gone, the spring of new life comes to your land.

The "international look" is always in style for a Catholic. The Church founded by Christ is always Catholic, "worldwide, universal, according to the whole," even as the Church is ever Apostolic, without our having to do anything about it.

Today twelve young ladies of **Fr. Lehtoranta's** Sodality of Charity are honoring St. Lucy in the procession before the High Mass. The Lucia Maiden (this year Natalia Kolenich) wears a crown of light, symbolizing the coming of Christ, the Light of the World, at Christmas. They process up the main aisle, towards the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who brought Christ's light to dark pagan Mexico. They need it today. So does Scandinavia, and the United States.

Our Finnish Fr. Lehtoranta has written well, explaining Catholic teaching in the face of modern errors. St. Nicholas Day was Finnish Independence Day, from Russia. Our Ukrainian **Fr. Valerii Kudriavtsev** has also written well in his blog, Catholicmessage.org. His country is again under threat of Russian invasion. But we rejoice to be associated with these fine priests from faraway lands, all lighting the way to Christ this Advent. We rejoice as well to work with priests from Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil and the Philippines. Oh, and don't forget the Father from Massachusetts, that faraway leftist state. He keeps an eye on the death jab for us, and asserts correct Catholic moral teaching.

Much to rejoice about. The light of Christ draws near. Our preparations hasten His way. Join us for an hour or two if you can this Saturday as we decorate our church for Christmas, one of our *many* "special traditions" at St. Gertrude the Great.

Fr. McGuire has been here this week, and is making sure all of our sick are visited. Ralph Otis, one of our great and loyal parishioners from 5:45, has been sick for several months with cancer, and is slowly declining. Please pray for him, all of our sick and troubled folk, and the inevitable special intentions.

Wednesday's weather was picture perfect for the Immaculate Conception of God's perfect creature, the Blessed Virgin. Snow met us on arising. It fell during the night to "surplice the city in white," as the Poet says. But by noon the warming rays of the sun banished the chill, melted the snow, and bathed us in its cheering rays.

It was a beautiful Holy Day. The Masses were all well attended, especially the Solemn High and the evening. At the High Mass, the sun caught sight of the sacred minister's gold and blue for her who is "beautiful as the sun," and danced on the vestment. The babies were there in record numbers, but mostly grumpy, I think, and wondering what they were doing back in church on a Wednesday morning. Remember to take a pew near the exit in case of major crying. The last classroom on the right is available in case the children need a "safe space" for venting. We all do at times.

Ember Days this week and candlelight early morning Masses. Make Advent count. Rejoice, He comes!

– Bishop Dolan

"*He who is not angry when there is just cause for anger is immoral. Why? Because anger looks to the good of justice. And if you could live amid injustice without anger, you are immoral as well as unjust." – St. Thomas Aquinas*

WHEN YOU LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH SATURDAY EVENING

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.

SERIOUS ADVENT THOUGHTS

"This should be our first Advent light: to understand everything, all that happens to us and all that threatens us, from the perspective of life's character of waiting. We must endure the blessedness and un-blessedness of waiting because we are under way. The character of life is to keep going, to keep a lookout, and to endure until the vigilant heart of man and the heart of God who meets us come together: presently in the true interior meeting in the sacraments and, later, in the final homecoming. God enters only His own rooms, where someone is always keeping watch for Him. 'Those who really wait for Him will not be disappointed.'

"People who fail to live out of the center can be alienated from themselves so easily by outside influences. Other values of secondary importance impose themselves, making life inauthentic and bringing it under an alien law and an alien paradigm. Are we living out of the center of our being, or from memory, from impulses, but not because we are settled in the center of reality and find our stability nourished there?" *(Fr. Alfred Delp, S.J.)*

Wedding Banns

Third time:

Luke Hogan & Mary Lynne Riopel

✠ Calendar

Mon 12/13/21 **St. Lucy, VM** • Within the Octave
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Claire Smith *(Collin Smith)*
11:25 AM **High Mass** Landry Family *(Theresa Couch)*
4:00 PM **Knights of the Sacred Heart**

Tue 12/14/21 **Within the Octave**
7:00 AM **Rorate Mass** Joseph Simpson – Happy Birthday! *(Sarah Simpson)*
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Special Intention *(Anne Marie Omlor)*
11:25 AM **High Mass** †Joe Andreotta *(Linda Maki)*
5:00 PM **Low Mass** †Steven Boylson *(Kirby & Jean Bischel)*

Wed 12/15/21 **Octave Day of the Immaculate Conception**
Ember Wednesday *Fast & Partial Abstinence*
7:00 AM **Rorate Mass** Joseph McMahon
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Alvaro & Gabriel Bayer *(David Bayer)*
11:25 AM **High Mass** †Ralph Patton – anniversary of death *(Donna Patton)*
5:15 PM **Low Mass** Rev. Jeremy Cyr – 26th ordination anniversary 11/16 *(TRCS)*

Thu 12/16/21 **St. Eusebius, BpM**
7:00 AM **Rorate Mass** Luke Hogan & Mary Lynne Riopel – engagement blessings *(Theresa Simpson)*
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Paul Puglielli, Happy Birthday *(Mom)*
11:25 AM **High Mass** †Mike Briggs *(Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski)*

Fri 12/17/21 **Ember Friday** *Fast & Abstinence*
St. Lazarus BpC • Opening of Christmas Novena
8:00 AM **Low Mass** Rev. Mr. Brueggemann – congratulations on your subdiaconate *(Judy)*
11:06 AM **Confessions**
11:25 AM **High Mass** †Mr. Mike Briggs & family *(Dan, Mary & family)*
5:15 PM **Confessions & Rosary**
5:45 PM **Low Mass** Wedding anniversary Charles & Beverly Simpson *(Timothy Ehlen)*
6:30 PM **Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction**

Sat 12/18/21 **Ember Saturday** *Fast & Partial Abstinence*
Expectation of Our Lady
Christmas Decorating Day!
7:15 AM **Confessions**
7:30 AM **Rorate Mass** Margaret Knox
8:15 AM **Alma & Sermon**
8:30 AM **Low Mass** Traditional Catholic clergy *(Dan, Mary & family)*
Christmas Decorating. Lunch provided

Sun 12/19/21 **Advent IV** 🕯🕯🕯🕯
Within the Octave • *Our Lady of Guadalupe*
7:05 AM **Rosary**
7:30 AM **Low Mass** †Fr. Anthony Cekada *(Dominic McConnell)*
9:00 AM **High Mass** For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
10:40 AM **Catechism Classes**
11:05 AM **Rosary**
11:30 AM **Low Mass** Special Intention *(Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prell)*
4:45 PM **Final Advent Vespers & Benediction**
5:45 PM **Low Mass** Fr. Courtney Edward Krier, ordination anniversary *(Carla Reynolds)*

Our Lady of the Magnificat

Our Lady rejoiced, not first of all because she was to be the Mother of God, not first of all in the sweetness of having a child of her own, but because her Child was coming into the world to be light, humility, gentleness, justice, for the healing of the wounds of pride; because He Who now lived in her was the world's life, and His love would prevail from generation to generation.

She loved man, and she loved God. One thing which may have helped her to love the human race was the Scripture which she learned in the Temple. She would have pored over the prophecies foretelling the Passion, and her sensitive mind would have learnt suffering by heart, from the vision of the wounds from head to foot and the bowed thorn-crowned head of uncreated love.

Her kinsmen covered their faces and trembled before God. There was no want of wonder and awe in Mary, but her adoration pierced the veil of the Temple; she discovered the Heart of God. Because she discovered His Heart in her own, she knew His tenderness as well as His might. She knew the mother in Him as well as the Father. She rejoiced in His care for the little and weak. *He has put down the mighty from their seats and has exalted the humble….*

It is Christ whom Our Lady loves in us. In the life of Christ in her own being, the life of the world was quickened. She was pregnant with the Christ life of the whole world. No one of us would ever be a stranger to her in a strange land: to her every one of us would be her only child.

In the fusion of these two loves, the love of God and the love of man, there is another love which is still the same, but to her the most natural and the tenderest of all, the love of Christ Who is both God and man.

– Caryll Houselander

We can all acquire greater cheerfulness by assuming the right mental attitude toward our environment and circumstances, by looking habitually at the bright side of things, by training ourselves persistently to see the good and pleasant things in our common, daily life.

Some persons seem to have eyes only for the disagreeable things that happen to come into their life; they forget or overlook their blessings, and brood over their trials and misfortunes.

The soothing line in "The Rainy Day": "Behind the clouds is the sun still shining," does not comfort them. Stevenson says: "Two men looked out through their prison bars; The one saw mud and the other stars."

Servers

Sun 12/19 **7:30 AM Low:** Brueggemann Bros.
9:00 AM HM: MC: P. Omlor **Chaplains:** Na. McClorey, Seminarian **Th:** D. Simpson **ACs:** M. Simpson, J. Kolenich **Torch:** J., B. & C. McGinnis, J. Stewart
11:30 AM Low: A. McClorey, N. Kolenich
4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction: G. Miller
5:45 PM Low: Seminarian, a Capetillo