



ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

4900 Rialto Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069 • PARISH OFFICE: (513) 645-4212 (9 AM-3 PM)
parishoffice@sgg.org • bpmcguire@sgg.org • frlehtoranta@sgg.org • frmckenna@sgg.org
www.sgg.org • www.SGGResources.org • traditionalmass.org • EMERGENCY LINE: (513) 509-0424
TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS: Sundays 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM High, 11:30 AM, 5:45 PM

Most Rev. Charles J. McGuire, *Pastor* • Rev. Stephen McKenna
Rev. Vili Lehtoranta • Rev. Thomas Simpson • Rev. Anthony Brueggemann



December 15, 2024 ADVENT III – GAUDETE SUNDAY OCTAVE DAY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

¶ GAUDETE

Rejoice a little today on Gaudete Sunday with the **Christmas Bake Sale** in Helfta Hall! The Blessing of Expectant Mothers is available at the Communion Rail. Sunday Classes are at 10:40 AM. Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM.



¶ EMBER DAYS

Wednesday, Friday and **Saturday** 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.)

¶ FINAL RORATE MASSES

If you have not yet had the opportunity to attend a Rorate Mass this Advent, this week is your last chance! These quiet, early morning High Masses by candlelight are a beautiful tradition. Come Tuesday or Thursday at 7 AM, and keep an Advent vigil with Our Lady.

Collection Report

Sunday, December 8th.....\$6,480.00
Holy Day Collection.....\$2,821.00



¶ CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve
8:30 PM Matins
10:30 PM Carols
11:00 PM Procession, Blessing of the Crib
11:15 PM Midnight Mass, Potluck Supper

Christmas Day
9 AM Low Mass with string quartet
11:00 AM Low Mass with carols
5:45 PM Vespers

New Years Day
7:30 AM Low Mass
9:00 AM High Mass
11:30 AM Low Mass
No evening Mass

Lumen Christi

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

Conversion of Smith family members
(Lindsey Shultz)

¶ CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES

This is the **last week** to turn in your Christmas Poinsettia Memorial and Christmas Novena Envelopes. Find these in the vestibule.

¶ MIDNIGHT MASS POTLUCK

Just a reminder that the reception after Midnight Mass is a potluck. **Please bring a dish to share** if you plan to attend.

¶ NEXT SUNDAY: ADVENT IV

Vespers with Benediction will be at 4:45 PM. Catechism Classes are on break for Christmas, and will resume on January 5th. **Set Your Missal:** Advent IV, second collect of Our Lady in Advent, third for the Church. Trinity Preface.

¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Decorating: Monday, December 23
Feast of St. John, with the Blessing of Beverages and "The Health of St. John": Friday, December 27
Holy Innocents Children's Party: Sunday, December 29
Feast of the Epiphany & Appreciation Dinner: Monday, January 6



ADVENT WATCHFULNESS

When shall freedom be fully given to me to see how sweet Thou art, O Lord, my God? ...Many evils befall me in the vale of miseries, often disturbing me, making me sad and overshadowing me, often hindering and distracting me, alluring and entangling me....

O Jesus, Splendor of eternal glory...to Thee my silence speaks. How long will my Lord delay His coming? Let Him come to His poor servant and make him happy.... Come, O come, for without Thee there will be no happy day or hour, because Thou art my happiness and without Thee my table is empty. I am wretched... until Thou fillest me with the light of Thy presence, restorest me to liberty, and showest me a friendly countenance. Let others seek whatever they will, but nothing pleases me or will please me but Thee, my God, my hope, my everlasting salvation. I will not be silent, I will not cease praying until Thy grace returns to me, and Thou speakest inwardly to me, saying: "Behold, I am here. Lo, I have come to you because you have called Me. Your tears and the desire of your soul, your humility and contrition of heart have inclined Me and brought Me to you."

— Thomas à Kempis

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



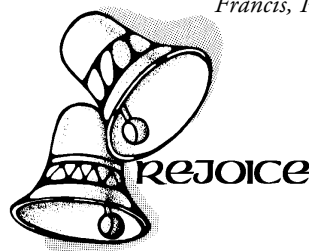
Stir up Thy power and come, we pray Thee, O Lord, and with great might succor us; that our deliverance, which our sins impede, may be hastened by the help of Thy grace and the forgiveness of Thy mercy. Who livest and reignest forever and ever, Amen. (Say this prayer Saturday evening, as you light all four candles on your Advent wreath.)

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.



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



Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, is here already. We always seem to think these penitential seasons pass by much too quickly. This year, however, it has been a rather heavy Advent and really does seem to have passed by with barely a thought of Advent, with so much attention being paid to Fr. Thielen during his last illness, death, and burial. This all started the day before Advent began. On the bright side, it is clear that God wanted us to spend this season just as Providence arranged it. As the prayer says: Providence can provide; Providence does provide; Providence will provide.



The choir sounded wonderful during the funeral Mass. The Introit (from Mozart's Requiem) was very nice. Speaking of the choir, I would like to thank them for all that they do to make Holy Mass so much more beautiful by their singing, as well as Andrew Richesson's organ playing. The amount of work that the choir does is much appreciated. I count roughly half the days out of the next thirty that include practice or singing of some sort or another. Considering they all have families and jobs and still practice so much speaks very highly of them. It is a labor of love. If you are a choir director, organist, choir member, or member of the parish schola—THANK YOU. Continue your work for love of God, for it is He who will reward you very highly.

Thank you also to all who have helped at all during these last couple of weeks. I will not try to name everyone, but just know that your work and assistance has not been unnoticed.

As mentioned earlier, today is Gaudete Sunday, or Rejoicing Sunday. Take some time today to recall God's gifts to you and your families. There is so much to rejoice over. We just have to remember God's goodness toward us.

Be assured of my prayers for your perseverance!
 – Bishop McGuire



GAUDE GAUDE EMMANUEL, NASCETUR PRO TE ISRAEL

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 by some religious Orders. Certain parishes are reviving the custom of having Solemn Vespers on the eve or afternoon of major feasts. The Magnificat or Canticle 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!

"The following Antiphons are said entire before and after the Magnificat, from the 17th to the 23rd of December, inclusive. If the Vespers are of a first or second class double, the great Antiphon is said after the prayer of the feast, for the commemoration of Advent.

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 maketh of two one: come to save man, whom Thou hast made of the dust of the earth!



Antiphon for the 23rd of December

(O Emmanuel): O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver, Longing of the Gentiles; yea, and salvation thereof: come and save us, O Lord our God!



MON 12/16/24 ST. EUSEBIUS, BPM
8:00 AM Low Mass For all those who have prayed for us (*Tom & Karen Simpson*)
11:25 AM Low Mass For our fallen-away children (*St. Monica Club*)
St. Monica Club Meeting
Bishop's Private Mass †Bishop Robert McKenna – 9th anniversary 12/16 (*Tom & Karen Simpson*)

TUE 12/17/24 FERIAL DAY • ST. LAZARUS, BPC
 OPENING OF THE CHRISTMAS NOVENA
 ☩ **7:00 AM Rorate Mass** Happy Birthday to my Goddaughter! (*Renee Arlinghaus*) (from 12/16)
8:00 AM Low Mass Special Intention Deceased (*Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lotarski*)
11:25 AM High Mass Madeline Young – Happy Birthday (*Grandma & Grandpa*)
5:00 PM Low Mass †Jake Klobberdanz (*K. & M. Christensen*)

WED 12/18/24 EMBER WEDNESDAY FAST & PARTIAL ABSTINENCE
 EXPECTATION OF OUR LADY
7:00 AM Low Mass †Fr. Thielen (*Maria Miller*)
8:00 AM Low Mass †John Metz & †Aunt Annie – 34th anniversary of death (*Judy*)
11:25 AM High Mass †Kyle McGuire (*Bishop McGuire*)
5:10 PM Low Mass †Loren (Kyle) McGuire – anniversary of death (*Erika McKnight*)

THU 12/19/24 FERIAL DAY
 ☩ **7:00 AM Rorate Mass** For our new Soldiers of Christ in Mexico
8:00 AM Low Mass Rose Kuebler Birthday (*Mike Volz*)
11:25 AM High Mass Fr. Joseph Appelhanz, ordination anniversary (*K. & M. Christensen*)
School Musicale

FRI 12/20/24 EMBER FRIDAY FAST
 VIGIL OF ST. THOMAS
8:00 AM Low Mass For †Catherine Gardner (*Donald Gardner*)
11:00 AM Confessions
11:25 AM High Mass Jack Young – Happy Birthday (*Grandma & Grandpa*)
5:15 PM Confessions & Rosary
5:45 PM Low Mass Holy Souls (*Arlinghaus Family*)
6:30 PM Sacred Heart Novena, Benediction

SAT 12/21/24 ST. THOMAS, AP
 EMBER SATURDAY FAST & PARTIAL ABSTINENCE
7:05 AM Confessions
7:30 AM Low Mass Repose of the souls of our †grandparents (*Renee Arlinghaus*)
8:10 AM Alma Redemptoris, Sermon
8:20 AM High Mass Our Anniversary (*K. & M. Christensen*)

SUN 12/22/24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ☩☩☩☩
7:05 AM Rosary
7:30 AM Low Mass For my family & friends (*Maria Brueggemann*)
9:00 AM High Mass Special Intention (*Arlinghaus Family*)
11:05 AM Rosary

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*

SERVERS

FRI 12/20 5:45 PM LOW: B. Constantino, F. Caggese
BENEDICTION: MC: D. Simpson, M. & F. Caggese, B. Constantino, Ma. Caggese
SAT 12/21 7:30 AM LOW: Rabjohns
8:20 AM HIGH: T. Lawrence, A Constantino, F. Caggese
SUN 12/22 7:30 AM LOW: M. McConnell, Brueggemann
9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: S. Richesson, A. McClorey **TH:** M. Caggese
ACs: L. Rabjohns, P. Caggese **TBs:** B. Constantino, I. Smith, T. Stanislawski, V. Horton, N. & J. Hudson
11:30 AM LOW: Capetillos
4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: D. Simpson, I. Smith
5:45 PM LOW: P. McClorey

11:30 AM Low Mass Vivian Young – Happy Birthday (*Grandma & Grandpa*)
4:45 PM Vespers & Benediction
5:45 PM Low Mass For the people of St. Gertrude the Great