



# 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 22, 2024 ADVENT IV

### ¶ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Vespers with Benediction are at 4:45 PM. Catechism Classes are on break for Christmas, and will resume on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

### ¶ CHRISTMAS DECORATING...

...**tomorrow**, beginning after the 8 AM Mass, and continuing until finished. Come if you can!

### ¶ CHRISTMAS EVE

**Tuesday** is the Vigil of Christmas, a day of *fast and complete abstinence*. High Mass is at 8:00 AM. The Divine Office is chanted at 7:00 AM (Prime), 1:30 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 pot-luck supper. **Bring a dish to share if you plan to come.**

### ¶ CHRISTMAS DAY

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

### Congratulations to

Alex & Whitney Ball on the baptism of their daughter, Noelle Lucia, on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

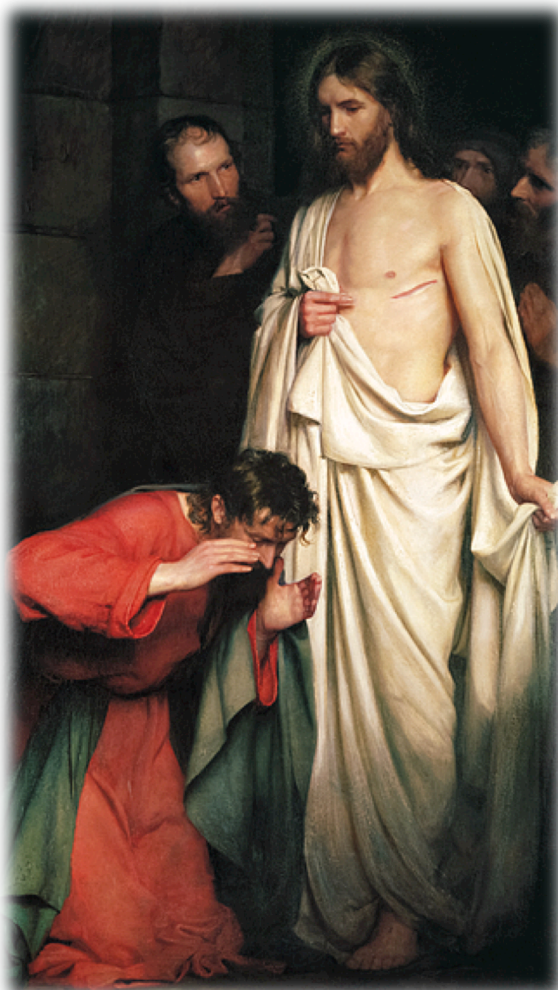


### ¶ UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feast of the Epiphany & Appreciation Dinner:** Monday, January 6

#### Collection Report

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.....\$6,830.00  
Bake Sale.....\$803.00



*Be not faithless, but believing.*

*The Son of God has made Himself little, in order to make us great; He has given Himself to us, in order that we may give ourselves to Him; He is come to show us His love, in order that we may respond to it by giving Him ours. Let us, therefore, receive Him with affection; let us love Him, and have recourse to Him in all our necessities. ❧*

### ¶ ST. JOHN & THE INFANT OF PRAGUE

Our annual novena of nine Fridays in honor of the Divine Infant of Prague opens this **Friday** evening at 5:35 PM. Come with confidence to honor our loving little King. The High Mass of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, is at 5:45 PM, followed by the Blessing of Beverages and “The Health of St. John” in Helfta Hall.



### ¶ NEXT SUNDAY

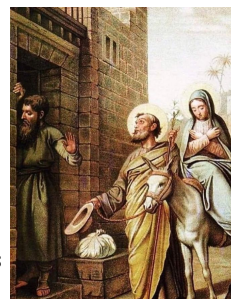
Sunday within the Octave of Christmas. No Catechism Classes. The **Blessing of Children** in honor of the Holy Innocents follows the **High Mass**, and then Bishop McGuire will be hosting a little party for the children. All the children of the parish are invited. Bring your little ones to eat a donut, 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 Becket, third of Christmas. Preface of the Nativity.

### ¶ NEW YEARS DAY

**7:30 AM** Low Mass  
**9:00 AM** High Mass  
**11:30 AM** Low Mass  
*No evening Mass*



ADAM & EVE

We do not hear anyone speak of St. Adam or St. Eve. It sounds odd. The names of our first parents are so definitely associated with original sin, that we think of them as sinners, not as saints. Yet saints they are. Nearly all saints were sinners before they became saints. The blessed Virgin is one exception. Some take John the Baptist to be an exception. He was sanctified three months before his birth, when the Blessed Virgin came to visit his mother. One can hardly be called a sinner who was born without sin, even though he was conceived in sin. Another exception is the prophet Jeremias, whose sanctification before birth is concluded from these words of the Lord to the prophet: "Before thou camest forth out of the womb, I sanctified thee, and made thee a prophet unto the nations." (Jeremias, 1, 5.) Adam and Eve were saints at first, then became sinners, and were again returned to sanctity. Some Catholic calendars place their names on December 24. The proximity to the birthday of Christ, the new Adam and head of the human race, may account for the choice of that date.

Pious books say that Adam sinned once and did penance for that one sin for 930 years, whereas we sin 930 times and hardly do any penance. Did Adam really live that long? Scriptural scholars have much to say on that question. There are as many opinions on it as there are about the "six" days of creation. Since all the bright light there is has already been thrown on the two problems, and discovery of new light seems improbable, both will remain disputed problems on this earth.

— Ono Rio



¶ BOOKSTORE NEWS

Now available: Sermons by Bishop Dolan! Meditations on the Rosary, Marriage, and the family, each with bonus recordings of the Lessons in the Faith. Also our very own Legacy Choir recording of Advent and Christmas songs are available on USB. Get yours today for the car or computer. Adaptors for older cars are available for the lighter plug.

New wall art and crucifixes, chapel mantillas, winter beanie hats, books, throw blankets, diamond art, visor clips, key chains, and so many items are offered in the store. We have a closeout sale on t-shirts and the saint lockets. Take some time and do Christmas shopping that will spread the faith.



*"And so the love that brought Christ from Heaven to earth, raised Stephen from earth to heaven; shown first in the King, it later shone forth in His soldier."*

— St. Fulgentius of Ruspe

Jesus, most lovable Son of the glorious Virgin Mary and only Son of the living God, together with Thy Father Who begettest Thee in the depths of His infinite nature from all eternity, and Who communicatest to Thee that very nature infinite, and with the Holy Ghost Who proceedest from the Father through Thee and Who is Thy Spirit and His, of both the substantial Love, receiving from both the same infinite nature, I adore Thee and I acknowledge Thee to be my God, the only true God, incomparable and infinitely perfect; Who hast created from nothing all that is not Thyself, and Who sustainest and rulest all with endless wisdom, unailing goodness and irresistible might; and I beg of Thee for the sake of the mysteries accomplished in Thy sacred humanity to cleanse me in Thy Blood of all my past sins, pour out upon me without stint Thy Holy Spirit with His grace, His virtues, His gifts; make me believe in Thee, hope in Thee and love Thee, and strive, in everything I do, to be true to Thee; and at last give me Thyself in the splendor of Thy glory, in the midst of the assembly of Thy saints. Amen. *Indulgence of 100 days*

SHEPHERD STORY

"No room," the landlord said when Joseph came  
To find a place for Mary in her plight,  
And no one in all crowded Bethlehem  
Knew that a stable shone with God's  
own light.

Only the shepherds, watching on the  
hill,  
Became aware of glory in the sky  
And voices filling all the firmament  
Where angel forms descended from on  
high.

So they, whose simple hearts had heard  
the song  
And understood the words the angel  
said,  
Left silent flocks and traveled through  
the dark  
To find the Son of God upon His bed.

Silently they looked, then full of joy  
And nearness of all heaven, went away  
To spread the tidings of a Savior born  
Within a lowly stall on Christmas Day.

— Helen Howland Prommel



THE ANGEL'S SONG

As bells of Christmas, sweet and clear,  
Echo across the fading year,  
And Christmas candles, gay and bright,  
Shed beams of Love's eternal light,  
The symbol in a windowpane  
Of hope and peace, good-will again;  
I hear a song of purest gold,  
The Angels to the shepherds told,  
Of peace upon the plains at night,  
Encircled by a heavenly light,  
That though the centuries have fled,  
It marches on with deathless tread,  
And sings in accents, new and clear,  
The Christmas hope that peace is near.

— Wanna Ford Young

## ✠ THE BISHOP'S NOTE ✠

The winter Ember Days are past, and the final Sunday of the Advent season will be completed today. Only three days remain before the temporal birth of Our Messiah, Whom we hail today as the “King of Nations, and their Desired One.” May Our Lady, our Queen, make the final preparations in your heart that her Son may find room; and may He reign there as King and Savior. If you ask her to, she will!

Don't forget the Christmas Vigil this week! It often happens that this day gets forgotten in the busy shuffle of last minute giftwrapping and secular preparations. The morning is filled with beautiful ceremonies which are meant to help us complete our spiritual preparations. The Vigil Mass fills us with the greatest hope and expectancy. The poinsettias are already adorning the altar at that point, the manger will be ready, and the Church sings so hopefully, “This day you will know that the Lord will come, and save us; and in the morning you will see His glory!” In the Communion verse, our hearts are lifted with gladness once more by the words of Isaias, “The glory of the Lord shall be revealed: and all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.”

Christmas is so busy for the clergy and religious, in particular. **Fr. McKenna** will make his usual early morning trip to North Dakota, while **Fr. Simpson** will head south to Dallas...all that after a very late night in church the night before. **Fr. Lehtoranta** is once again in Milwaukee, while **Fr. Brueggemann** and I take care of things here at St. Gertrude's. There is a lot of coming and going, but all to bring Christ to others! I hope our priests and oblates find the time to rest a little and, in general, to slow down and recall the sacred mysteries of the season. The Divine Office and the feasts of Christmas week are filled with readings that are some of the most edifying of the entire liturgical year. Hopefully, each one of you may find the time to do the same!

I almost forgot to mention the St. Lucia procession! Fr. Lehtoranta pointed out that this year was the fifth annual procession, the first one being in 2020. Perhaps, it is better to just quote Father: “The Lucia Maiden for this year was Claire Smith, her attendant was Lucia McConnell, and the girl

carrying the Lucia eyes platter was Clara Young. I thank especially Renee Arlinghaus and Claire McConnell for their help in preparing the procession, and Lucia McConnell for supervising it. I could not have done this without the help of these three. I was especially moved that the organizers really wanted to have this procession because they see it as a tradition. These kinds of things make the young people see the parish as their home. Lucia McConnell and Tanya Kolenich were the only two “originals” left this year, namely girls who have taken part in all five Lucia processions. Besides having been the MC this year, Lucia McConnell was the first Lucia Maiden in 2020. She is the only girl who has been both the Lucia Maiden and the Lucia Maiden's attendant. (Tanya Kolenich was the first girl with the Lucia eyes platter in 2020.) Gaudete Sunday has become the stabilized day for the Lucia procession, since it's the closest Sunday to St. Lucy's feast on December 13. Therefore, at St. Gertrude's, the second Sunday of Advent is for St. Nicholas, and the third Sunday of Advent for St. Lucy, a nice Gertrudian tradition.” I could not have said it better!

May you all have a blessed Christmas!

– Bishop McGuire

P.S. Our school children did a fantastic job at the musicale on Thursday afternoon. How wonderful it was to see and to hear them! God bless their teachers and parents for passing on to this next generation the beauties of our Catholic culture.



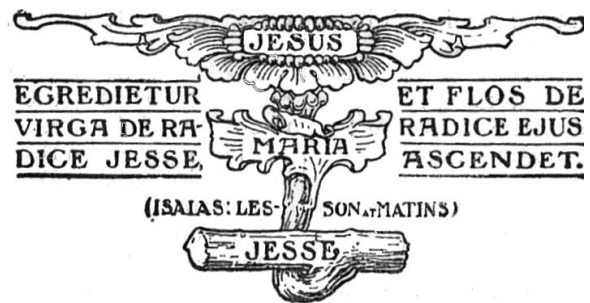
# ✠ CALENDAR

MON	12/23/24	ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CABRINI, V 8:00 AM <b>Low Mass</b> Grandpa & Karen ( <i>Sr. Regina</i> ) <b>Christmas Decorating</b>
TUE	12/24/24	VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS <i>FAST &amp; ABSTINENCE</i> 7:00 AM <b>The Office of Prime</b> 8:00 AM <b>High Mass</b> Fr. Lehtoranta ( <i>The Fathers</i> ) 1:30 PM <b>Vespers</b> 8:30 PM <b>The Office of Matins</b> 10:30 PM <b>Carols</b> 11:00 PM <b>Procession &amp; Blessing of Crib</b> 11:15 PM <b>Midnight Mass</b> Novena I <b>followed by Lauds</b> <b>Potluck Supper in Helfta Hall</b>
WED	12/25/24	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD <i>HOLY DAY</i> CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00 AM <b>Low Mass with string quartet</b> Merry Christmas Dad & Mom ( <i>The Brueggemann girls</i> ) <b>Novena &amp; Benediction</b> 11:00 AM <b>Low Mass</b> Merry Christmas Mr. Nett ( <i>Lucia McConnell</i> ) 5:45 PM <b>Vespers of Christmas Day</b> <i>Bishop's Private Masses:</i> Happy birthday †Mrs. Kinnett ( <i>The Stafford Family</i> ); For the people of St. Gertrude the Great
THU	12/26/24	ST. STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR 8:00 AM <b>Low Mass</b> †Margaret Kinnett – 2 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary of death ( <i>Albert D. Kinnett</i> ) 5:00 PM <b>High Mass</b> Novena II
FRI	12/27/24	ST. JOHN, APEV 8:00 AM <b>Low Mass</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> anniversary of †Mom's death ( <i>Judy</i> ) 5:15 PM <b>Confessions &amp; Rosary</b> 5:35 PM <b>Opening of the Infant of Prague Novena</b> 5:45 PM <b>High Mass</b> Novena III <b>Blessing of Wine &amp; Beverages</b> 6:30 PM <b>Novena &amp; Benediction, "The Health of St. John" reception after Benediction</b>
SAT	12/28/24	THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MM 7:05 AM <b>Confessions</b> 7:30 AM <b>Low Mass</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of †Uncle Arnold's death ( <i>Judy</i> ) 8:10 AM <b>Alma Redemptoris, Sermon</b> 8:20 AM <b>High Mass</b> Novena IV
SUN	12/29/24	SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS ST. THOMAS À BECKET, BPM 7:05 AM <b>Rosary</b> 7:30 AM <b>Low Mass</b> Health & safe travels of Bishop McGuire & Rev. Fathers ( <i>Dave &amp; MaryAnn Marko</i> ) 9:00 AM <b>High Mass</b> Novena V <b>Blessing of Children, Holy Innocents Party</b> 11:05 AM <b>Rosary</b> 11:30 AM <b>Low Mass</b> Poor Souls ( <i>Florence Swinney</i> ) 4:45 PM <b>Vespers &amp; Benediction</b> 5:45 PM <b>Low Mass</b> For the people of St. Gertrude the Great

## PRAYER FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE JEWS

O God, Who revealest Thy almighty power most gloriously in forgiving and helping sinners, and Who dost not exclude the Jews from Thy mercy because of their unbelief, deign to hear the prayers which we offer up to Thee for their enlightenment. May they accept the light of Thy truth, which is Christ, and be thus delivered from the darkness that enshrouds them. Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that those who now constitute the Jewish people may enter upon the way of salvation, and by heeding the admonitions of blessed John the Precursor, may come without fail to Him Whom he foretold, Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

*Indulgence of 300 days*



### Servers

TUE 12/24	8:00 AM HIGH: MC: D. Simpson ACS: P. Caggese, I. Smith MIDNIGHT MASS (ARRIVE AT 10:30 PM): MCS: C. Richesson, M. Simpson, T. Lawrence TH: D. Simpson ACS: A. McClorey, N. Kolenich CROSS: T. Capetillos MITRE: I. Smith CROZIER: F. Caggese BOOK: N. McClorey BUGIA: M. Caggese TRAIN: Ma. Caggese GREMIALE: J. Smith TBS: B. & A. Constantino, J. & D. Hudson, T. Stanislawski, J. Stewart, P. Caggese, M. Kolenich
WED 12/25	9:00 AM LOW: Brueggemanns 11:00 AM LOW: P. McClorey
THU 12/26	5:00 PM HIGH: MCS: M. Simpson, T. Lawrence TH: M. Caggese ACS: F. Caggese, J. Stewart TBS: D., C. & I. Wright, P. Caggese, J. & I. Smith
FRI 12/27	5:45 PM HIGH: MCS: D. Simpson, C. Richesson TH: S. Richesson ACS: A. Constantino, P. Caggese TBS: B. Constantino, Ma. Caggese, J. & I. Smith
SAT 12/28	8:20 AM HIGH: M. Simpson, T. & J. Capetillo
SUN 12/29	7:30 AM LOW: Brueggemann Bros. 9:00 AM HIGH: MCS: N. McClorey, T. Lawrence TH: S. Richesson ACS: J. Rabjohns, J. Hudson TBS: J. & I. Smith, V. Horton, B. & A. Constantino, L. Rabjohns 11:30 AM LOW: Kolenichs 4:45 PM VESPERS & BENEDICTION: D. Simpson, B. Constantino, I. Smith, A. Constantino 5:45 PM LOW: P. McClorey

### Ashes

CHRISTMAS DAY 12/25	MIDNIGHT (ARRIVE BY 10:30PM): M. Lotarski, P. Puglielli, J. & P. Brueggemann 9:00 AM: S. Pepiot, P. & A. McConnell, <i>Volunteer</i> 11:30 AM: J. Seyfried, B. Uhlenbrock
NEW YEARS DAY 1/1	7:30 AM: S. Pepiot, P. & A. McConnell, J. Brueggemann 9:00 AM: P. & C. Arlinghaus, M. Lotarski, S. Weigand 11:30 AM: B. Uhlenbrock, P. Puglielli