

SERVED BY: Rev. Theesmas Pankiraj Pastor

> Rev. Cesar Chen Parochial Vicar

PARISH OFFICE 615 New JERSEY AVE

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SMALL BLESSINGS DAY CARE 201-935-0506

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SacredHeartChurch A Roman Catholic Community

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4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:21

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST - MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm, 1:30pm(Spanish) Monday - Friday: 12:00pm in the church Saturday: 9:00am in the church, 5:00pm in church (Anticipated Mass of Sunday) Holy Days & Holidays: As announced in Bulletin SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00pm - 4:45pm

Daily: Upon request following the 12:00pm Mass SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parents should contact the parish office to schedule an interview and register for the required baptismal preparation session. **Preparation:** in the church at 7:00pm

Sacrament: in the church at at 3:00pm Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Apr. 8 - 8:30 PM, May 14, June 18

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

The Common Policy for Marriage in all Catholic parishes of New Jersey requires couples to begin preparation at least one year prior to the planned wedding date. It is advisable to contact the parish office before any other arrangements are made.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Anointing of the Sick is available for all seriously ill members of our parish family. Please call the parish office.

R.C.I.A.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the Church's process to prepare to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please call the parish office.

PARISH REGISTRATION / OFFICE HOURS We invite all new members of our parish family to register at the Parish Office during regular office hours: 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday - Friday; Saturdays and Sundays Closed.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We approach Christmas with vivid, violent reminders of the evils caused in our society by selfishness, ruthless ambition, twisted hatred and the craze for power at every level. This ugly drama is played out all over our world: in the business community, in our politics, in the bitterness and irreconcilable differences sometimes found in our homes and families, among the peoples of Eastern Europe hopelessly engulfed in a war not of their choosing, in the mistrust found among nations and even in the lack of trust in church leadership.

Yet we gather as a people of faith in a holy season of hope. The voice of fear is drowned out for us by the message we were given in last week's Scriptures: "Be strong, fear not! Here is your God!" That message is reinforced today in the example of two who rose above their fears with absolute trust and confidence in God's love, Joseph and Mary. Both are told not to be afraid in the face of an uncertain future. Mary would humbly accept her role as Mother of the Word-Incarnate. Joseph would abandon traditional wisdom and take his beloved as his wife, despite rumors and the pointing of fingers.

Through this young couple, God would give a sign to the whole of history, the birth of a Child - Emmanuel, Godwith-Us - who would put an end to our fears and bring calm to our hearts.

The birth of this Child points to a much more universal mystery. God's irrevocable choice of our world - with all of its turmoil, fear, and uncertainty - is the place where salvation happens. And this Child is the one who would finally unite the human family in a new community of freedom, justice and peace.

He stands with all human beings who yearn for a radical change of heart and life, who crave liberation from the power of evil, who seek release from all forms of oppression - religious, political, social, and economic. He stands as the only One who can take away our fear and make clear our vision.

It is Jesus who lives the message, challenging political and religious systems, embracing a radical poverty of spirit, and reaching out with compassion and liberation for all the oppressed.

It is He who stirs the profound longings in all of our hearts for true freedom, justice, and peace for ourselves, and for all of our brothers and sisters across the world. It is He who reinforces our Hope. He invites us to commit ourselves fully to these values. He begs us not to trivialize our resolve by being satisfied with token and occasional gestures of Christianity, but to strive even more forcefully to eliminate the hoarding, climbing, and controlling in our own lives and in the world at large.

The human family needs as never before to hear the message of Advent which can free us from our fears and give us direction. More importantly, we need to recognize and respond to the constant invitation of Jesus, God-with-us. We need to join Him in a new world community of shared love, peace, and justice.

The spirit of Advent and Christmas is a mirror in which we see reflected the very best that life can become. Through our faith and courage, we can help each other to put away our fears, to move from darkness to light, to begin to hear again the words of life. We can reach out to support - by the strength of our love and concern - those whose hands are feeble and whose knees are weak. Through our witness to God's love, so many who are crippled by doubt and despair might be able to leap again with courage and energy and new life.

So let's truly be "church." Let's be God's holy people. Let's be light in darkness, peacemakers, and life-givers in every aspect of our lives. Let's put aside our own fears so that we can truly witness to the hope this Advent season proclaims.

WAITING FOR JESUS

As Christians, we are called to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord and Savior. In fact, this hope is given expression at every Mass in the Mystery of Faith.

In the holy sacrifice of the Mass, we proclaim the mystery of our faith - God becoming truly man while remaining fully God, who for the sake of His creatures suffered death and rose to new life which He offers to us who believe in Him. We make this proclamation immediately following the consecration of the bread and wine, when we experience in a real and tangible way the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection. Space and time become irrelevant - we enter into the eternal present of God and are in one sense transported to Bethlehem and Jerusalem where we adore the Lord in the manger with the shepherds, eat in the upper room with the apostles, stand at the foot of the cross with the Blessed Mother and run to the empty tomb with Peter and John. Two of the three formulas for the Mystery of Faith proclaimed in the Mass end with the words, "until you come again." These words take on an even greater sense of anticipation during Advent when we are focused on the incarnation Christ. not only in a grotto in Bethlehem but also in our hearts.

As we are waiting to meet Jesus in this most profound and intimate way it is good to stop and reflect on the concrete aspects of our lives to honestly see how prepared we are for this meeting. The questions asked in the poem below, if reflected on with sincerity, can help us prepare to receive Jesus Christ whenever He comes.

Imagine, on Christmas Day your doorbell rings and when you open the door you find Jesus Christ has come to visit you

Would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?

Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they had been?

Would you hide your CDs and DVDs and put some hymns books out?

Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder ...if the Savior spent a day or two with you, Would you go right on doing, the things you always do? Would you go right on saying, the things you always say? Or would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you go? Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your closest friends? Or would you hope they stayed away until His visit ends?

Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on? Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?

It might be interesting to know, the things that you would do, If Jesus came at Christmas, to spend some time with you.

MASS ON DECEMBER 24TH

The Mass on Saturday, December 24th at 9:00 AM is the Mass for the last day of Advent, it is not a Christmas Mass and does not fufill the obligation to attend a Christmas Mass.

A t Christmas our thoughts naturally turn to those friends and members of our family who shared their faith with us and helped to make each Christmas so special. If you would like to remember your deceased relatives or friends by donating Christmas Flowers and Decorations used to decorate the Church of the Sacred Heart throughout the Christmas Season, just fill in the form below and put it in a plain envelope marked "CHRISTMAS FLOWERS" and drop it in the collection or return it to the parish office at your convenience.

Christmas Memorial Flowers

SACRED HEART HOME SCHOOL ANNUAL TRICKY TRAY Friday, January 13th, Sacred Heart School Doors Open: 5:30PM Raffles Begin 8:15-8:30PM No Alcoholic Beverages Will Be Allowed Kitchen Will Be Open Ticket includes: one sheet for 1st Level Prizes. Coffee,Tea & Dessert. Call Patty at 201-803-9580 or

Coffee, Tea & Dessert. Call Patty at 201-803-9580 (the school at 201-939-4277

\$15 Donation per person. No one under 18.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY

SICK: Betty Tynan, Baby Ryan Joseph Lomuscio, Sal Russo, Charles Klimkowsky, Nancy Namoviez, Giovanna Muscara, Al & Joan Viscuso, Lea Pappas, Anita Barcia, Denise Swanteck, Maureen F. Coughlin, John Smith, Julius Single, Dave Tzrepla, Frank Buco, Sr., Christopher N. Coughlin, Vladimir Pudoff, Isabella Lugo, Tess, Franceso Giacchi, Mario Alongi, Sr., Grace Dacchille, John Scivetti, Ken Stone, Timothy Yushak, Jaxson Rivera, Marilyn Loughran, Luca Ataide, Donald Tetreault, Norma Altreche, Linda Vasquez, Joelle Montillo, Vincent Russo, Nenita A. Jacildone, Anthony Scorre, Fely Czeslowski, Ely Ongoco, Camen Yangco, Lea Aspile, Perpetua Aspile, Anne Montillo, Christopher Di Giovanna, Jamie Canal, Laney Darmiento, Margot O'Hara, Maureen Branigan, Patricia Coughlin, Andrea Globis, Joann De Lorenzo

DECEASED: All those from our parish family the Lord has called home

CHURCH BELLS CELEBRATE & COMMEMORATE

The Sacred Heart Church bell rings:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

- In Honor of: The Intentions of the Cavalcante Family
- Donated by: Jim & Isabel Cavalcante

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

In Honor of: The Intentions of Laila Cheddard Donated by: Jim & Isabel Cavalcante

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

During the week of December 18th, the following items used for worship in our sanctuary were donated in the memory of a relative or friend or a special intention.

SANCTUARY LAMP:

In Honor of: Donated by:

Carol Petrillo-Lintz Happy Birthday in Heaven Her Loving Family

BREAD & WINE:



Carol Petrillo-Lintz Happy Birthday in Heaven Her Loving Family

MASS CANDLES:



In Honor of: Carol Petrillo-Lintz Happy Birthday in Heaven

Donated by: Her Loving Family

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT SAN ALFONSO RETREAT HOUSE LONG BRANCH, N.J.

MARCH 10-12, 2023 ---- RESERVE YOUR SPOT!!!

Enjoy some quite time with Our Lord in the company of friends. This retreat invites us to a renewed grounding in Word and Sacrament, where in faith we encounter God and find our own story. Embracing the Word and graced by the Sacraments, we are called and formed to be the Body of Christ. For questions or further information please contact Margaret Dacchille 201-456-2399. All are welcome to this special weekend of prayer, friendship, and community.

DECEMBER 18, 2022



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Anticipated Mass for Sunday 5:00pm James M. Cavalcante

SUNDAY - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am People Of Sacred Heart
9:00am O.C.
10:30 am John Ruggier
12:00pm Alejsandro Paterak
1:30 pm Severo Cordova Chavez

MONDAY - Late Advent Weekday 12:00pm Ukraine

TUESDAY - Late Advent Weekday 12:00pm Ukraine

WEDNESDAY - Late Advent Weekday/St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

12:00pm Ukraine

THURSDAY - Late Advent Weekday

12:00pm Edward Downey

FRIDAY - Late Advent Weekday/St. John of Kanty, Priest

12:00pm John Mc Garry

SATURDAY - Late Advent Weekday 9:00am Joseph J. Pavlica, Jr.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

5:00pm John Valente & Albert Alberti Midnight Carol Petrillo-Lintz

SUNDAY - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

| 7:30am | Catherine & Pat Costello |
|----------|---|
| 9:00am | Catherine & Pat Costello |
| 10:30 am | Anna Marie Faller & Anthony Michael Silver |
| 12:00pm | Scardino & Pereira Families |
| 1.00 | Dalata Dadutawa a |

1:30 pm Pablo Rodriguez



STEWARDSHIP Collection Totals Not Available At Time Of Publication Reminder: We need \$6,600 in the Sunday Collection to cover our budgeted expenses. Thank you! continued generosity!





Christmas Mass Schedule Saturday, December 24th 5:00 PM - Family Mass 12:00 AM - Midnight Mass Sunday, December 25th 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:30 PM (Spanish)





In observance of the Christmas holidays, the parish office will close on Thursday, December 22nd at 2:00pm and reopen on Tuesday, December 27th at 9:00am.

In observance of the New Year's holiday, the parish office will close on Thursday, December 29th at 2:00pm and reopen on Tuesday, January 3rd at 9:00am.

The priests and staff wish our parish family a holy and joy-filled Christmas & New Year!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!!

WHERE IS GOD MADE MANIFEST?

The way we shaped Christianity, one would think it was all about being nice and middle class and "normal" and under the law. Maybe the reason that our knowledge of God is so limited is because we've been looking for Him in places we consider nice and pretty. Reflect as we approach Christmas, God chooses the ordinary and messy (i.e. our everyday lives.)

amazon.com

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to give a little support to our parish every time you shop, at **NO COST TO YOU**. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a half of one percent of the purchase price to our parish.

Just follow these simple steps:

 Visit smile.amazon.com. It's just like shopping on amazon.com.

 Sign in. Simply use your existing Amazon credentials. If you don't have an account, you can create a new one.

3.) Start shopping! In the box that says Pick Your Own Charitable Organiztion type in 324 Ridge Rd. This the address for the church. There are many, many Sacred Heart Churches on AmazonSmile, by using the address it will bring you directly to our parish. Click the yellow select button.

4.) If you are already an AmazonSmile user and want to switch your selected charity to be our parish, on the top of the screen you will see your current charity listed. Click the down arrow next to the charity name and follow the directions in step 3.

 Please remember to shop our smile.amazon.com link every time. <u>Purchases made on the main Amazon.com site</u> do not support our parish.



Food Pantry Update We are stocking up our Parish Family Food Pantry for the cold winter months. Can you help us make winter a little warmer for our brothers and sisters struggling with food insecurity?

Items needed most, at this time, are: Fruit, Pasta Sauce, Pasta (including Spaghetti), Potatoes (small packages or canned), Vegetables, Coffee (regular and instant), Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cereal, and beans. Thanks to all for the donations which help keep our food pantry stocked! We would not be able to help local families without your generosity. As a reminder, we are unable to package out-of-date food products for distribution to our families.