



Sacred Heart Church

A Roman Catholic Community

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www.sacredheartlynd.org

SERVED BY:

Rev. Theemas Pankiraj
Pastor

Rev. Cesar Chen
Parochial Vicar

PARISH OFFICE
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Charles Sofio
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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Parish Catechetical Leader
201-935-3094

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Linda Durocher
Principal
201-939-4277
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SMALL BLESSINGS DAY CARE
201-935-0506

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973-497-4000



MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. - Lk 2:17-19

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 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.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Today, as so many in the world celebrate the beginning of a new year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Mother of God. It is the oldest of all Marian feasts in our liturgy. It is also a feast uniquely appropriate to those of us concerned with new beginnings, with new resolutions, and renewed hopes.

To the consternation of many non Catholics, we sometimes let personal forms of piety towards Mary obscure the reasons behind our Church's devotion to her. Perhaps we, in our personal emotional involvement with Mary, even lose sight of her genuine place in our faith and Church, we run the very real risk of simply sentimentalizing her, and thereby trivializing Christ.

In fact there is very little in scripture that paints an historical portrait of Mary. What the church offers in its devotion towards her, however, is its own spiritual and prayerful experience, its reflections on her throughout the millennia. And this is, ultimately, to the good, because what we today understand of our Lady is a reflection of the Church's prayer and insight, of the Church being led by the Holy Spirit to develop an understanding of why Mary does in fact have a special role in our lives.

But we ought always to remember that development in the Church is about one thing only: that in our attempt to understand God, we grow in comprehension of the meaning of the Incarnation in our world and life. It is in this light that we must reflect on the Virgin Mary, Theotokos, Mother of God, mother of Jesus Incarnate. And just as Mary interpreted all things, pondered all things, in her heart, so does the Church reflect on her and the Incarnation through its liturgy, its writings and its faith. That is why her oldest feast is celebrated within the octave of Christmas, of Emmanuel, of God with us: for all devotion to Mary is a corollary to our devotion to, following of, and worship of Christ.

Today's readings help clarify this devotion, because they so intimately hint at the essential connection between Mary and her Son. Paul's Letter to the Galatians tells us that by being born of a woman, born under the law, the son of God fully participates in the human condition. He is one of us, because of Mary. The very fact of Mary's physicality, her embodiedness, her fleshliness, and therefore Jesus' own body, is the saving link between God and humanity. Through this link Paul writes that we become heirs of Christ, and intimately understand God as Abba, the way her Son understood His Father. It is Mary's profound human kinship with Jesus that allows us to see in her a pledge of the destiny that God has promised all his children. Mary becomes the measure of who we are and who we are to be, and are even now becoming through grace in our lives as she, full of grace, was. The great 14th century English mystic Dame Julian of Norwich wrote that in Mary "our Lord speaks to all mankind as [if he] were [speaking] to one person,... [saying] 'Do you want to see in Her how you are loved?'" In effect, in understanding Mary we begin to understand ourselves as loved by God.

The gospel we have heard today is almost an exact repeat of what was read at the Dawn Mass on Christmas. It is worth noting that in this gospel the shepherds, considered among the marginalized, the poor, the outsider, are those first informed of Christ's birth, and who first visit the infant Jesus. It is the outsider who bears the good news of what the angels have announced: that the Savior, the Messiah, the Lord, has been born. It is the outsider that helps Mary to deeply know her Son. In Luke, Mary represents the ideal believer, for she hears the good news and ponders it in her heart, and fully responds to it. Her heart becomes the place of discovering Jesus, and who he truly is. As our own hearts must become that place of response. Mary's entire life, and the Church's entire life, is centred on that process of pondering who that child now born to us really is. Mary in contemplating her son becomes the Church reflecting on the Incarnation. It is this aspect of Mary's motherhood that is most important for our new year, a year in which we continue our own journey of the heart towards God.

Reflection calls for response. And Mary's response to God ought not to be thought of as simply a choice between right and wrong, good or bad, some sort of ethical or moral decision. Nor should our choices be only that. Mary gives us an example of what our choice as Christians really implies: that each genuine choice we make reveals who we are and is not simply what we do. In our choices we act out of our self, and tell of our self. Christian, human, freedom of choice is not about choosing which film we will go to see, or what we will wear, or what we will own: it is about how we reveal and define ourselves on that journey to God.

NEW YEAR'S OBSERVANCE

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 New Year!

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises,
thank you for the gift of a new year.

May it be a time of grace for me, a time to grow in
faith and love, a time to renew my commitment to
following Your Son, Jesus.

May it be a year of blessing for me, a time to cherish
my family and friends, a time to renew my efforts at
work,

a time to embrace my faith more fully.

Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour
of this new year, that the light of Christ might shine
through me, in spite of my weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may I remember this year that I am a pil-
grim on the sacred path to You.

Amen.

YOUR HELP REQUESTED

In conjunction with a major fund raising event on March 16, the parish is requesting gift baskets that will be auctioned off that night. If you are interested in donating a \$25, \$50, or \$75 basket, please drop it off at the parish center. Maybe you received items for the Christmas that you can't use, you can also drop off NEW ITEMS ONLY at the parish center to make up a basket. If you have any questions, feel free to call Sabina at 862-249-1186. Thank you for your generosity which will contribute to the success of this fund raising event which will benefit Sacred Heart Church.

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.

CHRISTMAS MEGA 50/50 WINNER

Congratulations to Anna Navatta, winner of our parish's Christmas Mega 50/50 Raffle. Anna received a check for \$5,000. Thanks to all who participated in the raffle!

At 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

Your Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

In Memory of:

_____	Other:\$_____
_____	\$50
_____	\$35
_____	\$25
_____	\$20
_____	\$15
_____	\$10



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
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 Bucu, 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, Laura MacDonald

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

CHURCH BELLS CELEBRATE & COMMEMORATE



The Sacred Heart Church bell rings:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST

In Honor of: The Intentions of the Cavalcante Family

Donated by: Jim & Isabel Cavalcante

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4TH

In Honor of: The Memory of Marie Cavalcante

Donated by: Jim & Isabel Cavalcante

COME AND LISTEN

“COME TO ME ALL WHO ARE TIRED
AND BURDENED AND I WILL GIVE
YOU REST” Matthew 11:28

ARE CARES & WORRIES
WEIGHING YOU DOWN?

COME & LISTEN
ONE WORD COULD
CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

Mondays & Thursdays
Starting Monday, January 9th
8:00pm in Parish Center
(former Convent)

Enter through the
parking lot entrance
CATECHESIS FOR ADULTS
AND YOUTH (ages 13 & older)
Free babysitting will be available

JANUARY 1, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

5:00pm Frank Navatta

SUNDAY - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

7:30am People Of Sacred Heart

9:00am Christian Martin

10:30 am Michael Samarelli

12:00pm Scardino, Pereira &
Alongi families

1:30 pm Maria Da Silva

MONDAY - Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

12:00pm Maria & Achille D'Angelo

TUESDAY - Christmas Weekday/The Most Holy Name of Jesus

12:00pm Eleanor Bender

WEDNESDAY - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

12:00pm Paul Di Bianco

THURSDAY - St. John Neumann, Bishop

12:00pm Wiktorja & Czeslaw Turek

FIRST FRIDAY - Christmas Weekday/St. Andre Bessette, Religious

12:00pm Pedro Glaria

FIRST SATURDAY - Christmas Weekday/St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest

9:00am Purgatorial Society

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

5:00pm William Skip Maloney

SUNDAY - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:30am People Of Sacred Heart

9:00am Thomas Nelson

10:30 am Josephine J. Fescoe

12:00pm Riley & Galindo Families

1:30 pm Daysi & Juan Morales

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
for your continued generosity!

CHOOSE LIFE

Today the Church celebrates the the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and last Friday we celebrated the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Each of these celebrations help to underscore the sacred and beautiful gift that life is. Let's keep in our prayers, especially this week, woman, who are so deceived and trapped by our culture of death, that they are contemplating ending the life of the baby growing in their womb.

The Choice

*A slip of a girl from a very small town,
Where gossip was quick to drag the best down;
A girl that was single was having a baby,
It was certainly a sin; no if, but, or maybe.*

*No way to explain an illegitimate child;
The rumors were swift, they began to run wild.
She led a good life, she tried not to sin;
But her neighbors now thought how terrible she'd been.*

*The man she would marry, now what would he say?
How would she tell him? It would sure ruin his day.
No DNA test; there was no need to bother.
She knew her betrothed could not be the father.*

*She was such a young girl; this time in her life,
A baby could bring her nothing but strife.
A marriage was planned, and a trip far away;
Her love was a carpenter with very poor pay.*

*So if he would have her no matter her plight,
How would they survive with a budget so tight?
He was such a good person; a very nice man,
But when he found out would he understand?*

*Her friends were so quick to give her advice;
No man would want her no matter how nice.
"Before he finds out," they said, "there's no doubt,
We tell you as friends take the easy way out!"*

*"After all, it's just tissue; it's not yet a life.
Why should it cause you inconvenience and strife?"
She knew what they called just fetal demise
Was the death of a child in God's Holy eyes.*

*And she knew a great sin it surely would be,
Not just against God but humanity.
What a terrible world of hate and distortion,
If Mary of Nazareth had had an abortion.*

Ps 139:13

*"For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb."*



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:

- 1.) Visit smile.amazon.com. It's just like shopping on amazon.com.
- 2.) 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 Organization 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.
- 5.) Please remember to shop our smile.amazon.com link every time. Purchases made on the main Amazon.com site 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.