



Sacred Heart Church

A Roman Catholic Community

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SERVED BY:

Rev. Theemas Pankiraj
Pastor

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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201-935-3094

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Linda Durocher
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SMALL BLESSINGS DAY CARE

201-935-0506

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

973-497-4000



December 15, 2024

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16

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. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 2, Apr. 19 (8:30pm), May 18, Jun. 1

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday

The crowds asked John an Advent question: "What should we do?" Like people in every age, they were beset with fear, anxiety, and discouragement.

We have as many reasons as they to be afraid, to be filled with concern about health, economics and social evils. Every day we face a barrage of images that show us - quite explicitly - how broken our world has become. Every day we are confronted with aggression, competition, greed and the lust for property and power, and the growing disregard for the poor, the homeless and the displaced. There seems to be far too much for us to handle anymore.

Precisely because things look so bad, we are more apt to turn to the Lord for answers and remedies. It is our very helplessness that leads us to rely more fully on the Lord. And so we too cry out: "What should we do?"

Today's Scripture readings give us a clear, precise and practical answer: "Shout for joy . . . exult with all your heart! Have no fear... be not discouraged!" (Zephaniah 3)

Paul tells us: "Rejoice in the Lord always! Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Then God's own peace will stand guard over your hearts and minds." (Phil.: 4)

John the Baptist answers very specifically in a different vein: "Give to him who has nothing; exact nothing unjustly; do not bully anyone; be content with your pay." (Luke: 3)

The Lord is in our midst. This is not "fake news" but rather it is "Good News!" It is the one reality that can answer all our needs and dispel all our fears. But first we have to believe! We have to make ourselves aware of God's presence all the time. If we can do this then everything can change - for the better. We will then see and feel His presence in all of the ordinary events and circumstances of every day. We will then experience His pain and sorrow in the suffering of our brothers and sisters.

There is a lot of pain and suffering in our world. Problems in our world and nation can feel overwhelming. Advent is not always a season full of joy to those suffering grief, loss, or some obstacle that weighs upon their soul. Many times it is difficult to find God within.

So, what should we do?

We should live lives that reflect what we have received and what we believe. Our presence in the world must proclaim to all that the Lord indeed is in our midst. Our lives must mirror His life. We must become the same miracles of love, healing and reconciliation to all of our brothers and sisters. Our goodness and compassion must touch those who are blind and deaf to the Lord. Our mercy and acts of service must free those who are crippled by pride and hate.

But most of all we must banish fear and be the source of strength and courage to those around us who are really destroyed by the evil of our day.

In answer to our Advent prayer: "What should we do?" the answer is abundantly clear: "Rejoice! The Lord is in your midst! God's own peace will stand guard over your hearts."

**AN ANCIENT ADVENT TRADITION
THE "O ANTIPHONS"**

During the final days of Advent, the anticipation increases as the birth of the Savior draws nearer and nearer. In the final eight days (octave) before Christmas, this anticipation is marked by something special that happens in the prayers of the Liturgy of the Hours.

The antiphons of the Evening Prayers (Vespers) during the week before Christmas all welcome the birth of the Savior by heralding one of His resplendent Biblical titles along with a special petition in light of that title. It is a liturgical tradition started in the earliest centuries of the Church and continues in monasteries and convents today, and even in homes of the Catholic faithful who make the Liturgy of the Hours a part of their daily prayers.

The O Antiphons are special because each one emphasizes a different prophetic title of the soon-to-be-born King of Kings as foreshadowed in the Old Testament by the prophet Isaiah: Wisdom, Lord of Israel, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Radiant Dawn, King of All Nations, and Emmanuel. Additionally, the ancient monks who first assembled the O Antiphons were very creative with the order in which they are prayed. If one takes the first letter of each antiphon (in the Latin) starting from the last to the first, the word ERO CRAS is formed which translates, "Tomorrow I will come." The last antiphon is prayed on the final day before the Christmas Eve Vigil.

December 17

O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.

December 18

O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

December 19

O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

December 20

O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

December 21

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

December 23

O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.

**SACRED HEART HOME SCHOOL
ANNUAL TRICKY TRAY**

**Friday, January 17th, Sacred Heart School
Doors Open: 6:00PM 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. Ticket Deadline Jan. 6th. \$20 Donation per person. No one under 18.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY

SICK: 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, Francesco Giacchi, Mario Alongi, Sr., 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, Perpetua Aspille, Anne Montillo, Margot O'Hara, Patricia Coughlin, Andrea Globis, Laura MacDonald, Ava Romano, Fr. Anthony Di Stefano, Ruben Arevalo Gacildone, Helen Dowling, Dr. Leticia Luna, Jeanette Knowlton, Martina O'Connell, Michele Gilmore, Milena Giacchi, Freddy Berrios, Maryann Sheridan, Naham, Rudy Rivas, Tania, Jaime Diaz, Romile Diaz, Brian Oppici, Robert Schaefer, Eric Dietz, Marion Dietz, Jamie Brown, John Santelli, Julius Single, Jr., Tina Gentile, John Llewellyn, Joann Di Giovanna, John De Stefano, Sr.

DECEASED: Lazaro Baluja, Phyllis Scelsa

St. Patrick's Celebration - March 8th Your Unwanted Christmas Gifts Needed

Before you put those unwanted Christmas gifts that you received in the back of your closet, consider donating them to our parish. A **NEW ITEMS** will be used to make baskets for raffle that we will have at our St. Patrick's Day Celebration. All items can be left near the shrine of the Sacred Heart in the back of the church.

BLESSING A NATIVITY SCENE

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223. The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

THE PERFECT GIFT FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING

Make a donation to the Sacred Heart Food Pantry as a gift or remembrance to a favorite loved one. You can obtain a gift any time of the year, for any occasion, and help the needy families of the Sacred Heart Community. Please visit the Parish Office, Monday thru Friday, 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM.

DECEMBER 15, 2024



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Anticipated Sunday Mass

5:00pm Joseph Lo Scalzo

SUNDAY - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am People Of Sacred Heart

9:00am Betty Tynan

10:30 am Darcy Kordosky

12:00pm James M. Cavalcante

1:30 pm Alejandrina Ruiz

MONDAY - Advent Weekday

12:00pm Julian & Lorenza Duran

TUESDAY - Late Advent Weekday

12:00pm Angel V. Pagan (Living) &
Perry Cerf (Living)

WEDNESDAY - Late Advent Weekday

12:00pm Meagan Valente

THURSDAY - Late Advent Weekday

12:00pm James Rita Owens

FRIDAY - Late Advent Weekday

12:00pm Marie Costantino

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

9:00am Linda G. Clemente

Anticipated Sunday Mass

5:00pm Lejda - O'Mara Family

SUNDAY - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30am People Of Sacred Heart

9:00am Teresa S. Digesere

10:30 am Edward Downey

12:00pm Lucia & Antonio Samarelli &
Michele Samarelli

1:30 pm Horacia & Jaime Jimenez

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday December 1 - \$5,962

Assessment - \$2,448

Early Christmas - \$200

Early Immaculate Conception - \$10

Reminder: We need \$7,900 in the Sunday Collection to cover our budgeted expenses. Thank you



SAVE THE DATE
Special Visitors
Coming To Our Parish
Sunday, January 5th
At 3:00 PM

The Three Kings will stop by our church on their way to adore the Christ Child on Sunday, January 5th at 3:00 PM. All are invited to come and greet them. The children of our parish family are encouraged to write letters to Kings and to give to them when they visit and they will receive a gift from the kings.



Christmas Mass
Schedule

Tuesday, December 24th

5:00 PM - Vigil Mass

12:00 AM - Midnight Mass

(The Mass at 9:00 AM on December 24th is for the last day of Advent. It IS NOT a Christmas Mass and does not fulfill the obligation to attend Mass on Christmas)

Wednesday, December 25th

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM

10:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:30 PM (Spanish)



Food Pantry Update

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" Matthew 25:40

Our Parish Family Food Pantry food distribution date for Christmas is December 21st.

We are stocking up the pantry for Christmas and the winter season. Can you help us assist our brothers and sisters struggling with food insecurity to have a merrier Christmas?

If you can donate any of these items, it would be greatly appreciated: Cereal, Fruit, Pasta Sauce, Pasta (including Spaghetti), Potatoes (small packages or canned), Vegetables, Coffee (regular and instant), Peanut Butter, and Jelly, Tuna, Macaroni & Cheese, Beans, Food items can be left near the shrine of the Sacred Heart in the back of the church. Turkeys and hams can be brought to the parish center Mon - Fri 9:00 - 4:00. Please don't leave them in the church.

HOLIDAY FAVORITES AT THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA IN NEWARK

The 53rd Candlelight Carol Sing - Wed. Dec. 18 & Thu. Dec. 19 at 8:00 PM

The ambiance of candle light and seasonal decor, along the Cathedral Choir, organ, instrumentalists and thousands of participants combine to create an event not to be missed. Free Will Offering

The Messiah by George Frederick Handel - Sun. Dec. 22 at 7:00 PM