

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART



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Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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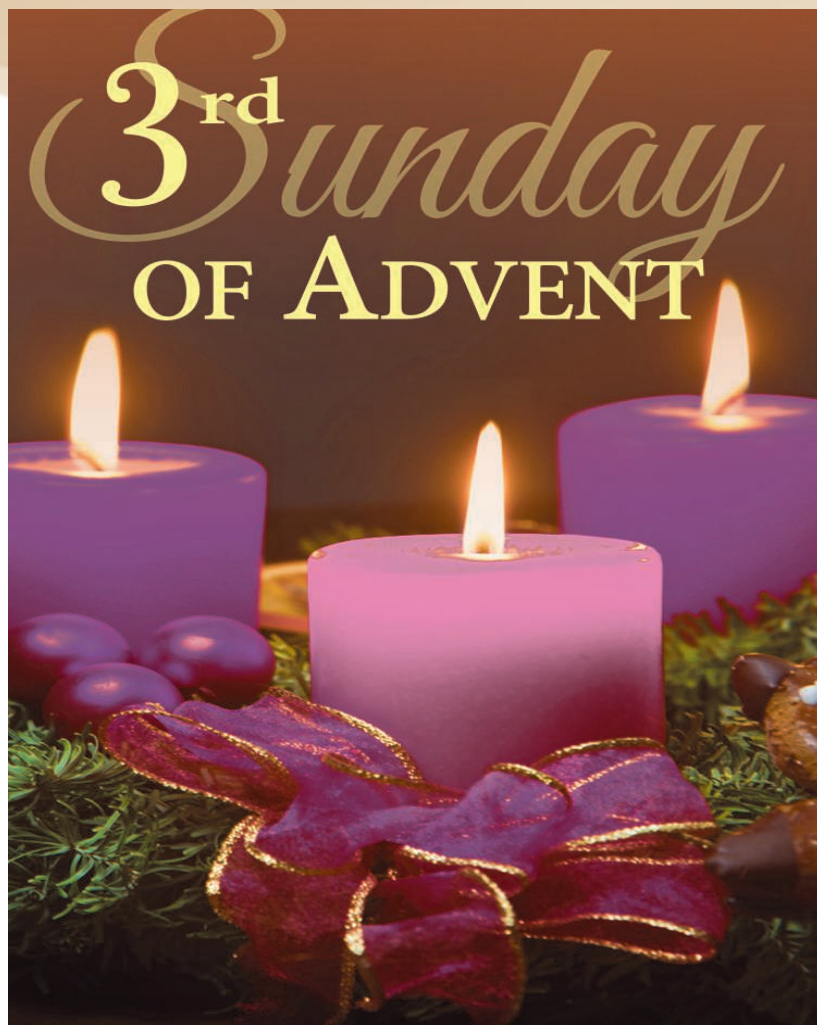
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Liturgy of the Eucharist

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

Weekdays

Wednesday 9:00 am

First Friday of each month 9:00 am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday 9:30 am - noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation

First Friday of each month 8:30 am

First Saturday of each month 3:15 pm – 3:45 pm

Or by appointment

December 11, 2016

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

This is an excerpt from "What's the Smoke For?" by Johan Van Parys. You can purchase this book from Liturgical Press of Collegeville, MN

Dear Johan,

Advent is my favorite season of the year. I love the fact that we take time to prepare for the birthday of Jesus. Sadly, I don't know the meaning of the word Advent. Do you know what it means and where it comes from?

Gentle Reader—

The notion of the birthday of Jesus makes me a little uncomfortable. It reminds me of an unfortunate "children's Mass" with birthday cake and birthday song. Thankfully, there were no candles to be blown out. How many should there have been anyway?

Just to be clear, the season of Advent is the time of preparation leading up to the solemnity of Christmas in all its theological complexities. It is marked by the four Sundays of Advent.

The English word Advent comes from the Latin *Adventus Domini*, meaning the coming of the Lord. Most of us understand this to mean Jesus' presence with us at Christmas as we commemorate and celebrate his birth. The full meaning of *Adventus Domini*, however, embraces Jesus' birth two thousand years ago, his presence with us today, as well as his return at the end of time. Advent thus becomes a time of preparation not only for the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas. It also is a time when we become more aware of Jesus' presence in our lives today. And it is a time during which we prepare for his Second Coming at the end of time.

As a result, when we pray *Maranatha* or "Come, Lord Jesus," we not only pray for his presence in our midst at Christmas but we also pray for his presence among us today. And, most astoundingly, we even pray for his Second Coming, thus hastening the end of time.

As Christians we believe that when Christ returns he will inaugurate the completion of the messianic times. At that time, according to the prophet Isaiah. "They shall beat their swords into plowshares/ and their spears into pruning hooks" and "the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, / and the leopard shall lie down with the kid." "There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain." "The desert and the parched land will bloom with abundant flowers." "Not surprisingly, these are lines taken from readings used during the Advent season.

The beautiful season of Advent invites us to dream of that perfect world without disasters, disease, or death; a world where all God's children and all of creation exist together in perfect harmony. It is also a season during which we commit ourselves to making this harmonious world a bit more possible.

So, when we sing *Maranatha*, let's do it with full voice and heart and let's act in ways that will hasten the arrival of that perfect world. I hope I did not ruin Advent for you.

Gaudete Week

Our week begins with "Gaudete Sunday."

Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, "The Lord is near." This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose colored, and the rose colored vestments.

The second part of Advent begins on December 17. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus' life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory.

Preparing our Hearts and asking for Grace

We prepare this week by feeling the joy. We move through this week feeling a part of the waiting world that rejoices because our longing has prepared us to believe the reign of God is close at hand. And so we consciously ask:

Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow.

Each morning this week, we want to light a *third* inner candle. Three candles, going from expectation, to longing, to joy. They represent our inner preparation, or inner *perspective*. We begin each day this week with a sense of liberating joy. we can pause, breathe deeply and say,

*"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my savior."*

We will go through our everyday life, but we will experience the difference our faith can bring to it. We are confident that the grace we ask for will be given us. We will encounter sin - in our own hearts and in our experience of the sin of the world. We can pause in those moments, and feel the joy of the words,

"You are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

We may experience the Light shining into dark places of our lives and showing us patterns of sinfulness, and inviting us to experience God's mercy and healing. Perhaps we wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. We may want to make gestures of reconciliation with a loved one, relative, friend or associate. With more light and joy, it is easier to say, "I'm sorry; let's begin again."

Each night this week we want to pause in gratitude. Whatever the day has brought, no matter how busy it has been, we can stop, before we fall asleep, to give thanks for a little more light, a freedom to walk by that light, in joy.

*Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people.
We await your coming. Come, O Lord.*

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PARISH NEWS

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

Our second collection will be for the Retirement Fund for the Religious. Your gift helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to today's second collection. Thank You.

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

Christmas Dinner (No Charge) will be hosted by the Marcusen family on Dec. 24 at 6:00 p.m. in Wey Hall.

Parishioners are encouraged to bring a dessert to share.

CCW MEETING

The CCW Meeting on December 13 will start at 6:00 p.m. in the Grant House. Please note the time change!

CHURCH DECORATING

Please plan to volunteer some time on Friday, December 23 to help decorate Sacred Heart Church for Christmas. We will start at 10:00 a.m. and continue until finished.

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, December 17, Sunday, December 18.

4:00 p.m.

Lector: Jeremy Albright
Communion: Mary Stenger,
Chuck Debevec
Gifts: Thiel/Usher
Ushers: Ted Stathes, Joe
Wegleitner
Servers: Brodrick Larson

9:00 a.m.

Lectors: Judy Anderson,
Dave Prickett,
Communion: Beth
Churchsmith, Scott Tryon
Mary Pat Hestbeck
Gifts: Peno Family
Ushers: Don Belland, Bill
Peno, Ron Peltier, Craig
Peterson
Servers: Alexis Ertz



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Totals for the week of 12/4/2016

Plate	184.90
Envelopes (42)	2,811.00
Bldg. Maint Env (2)	140.00
Stipends/Stole	175.00
EFT	344.00
Immaculate Conception	10.00
Trees for Mission Trip Fundraiser	325.00
Liturgical Environment	68.00
Retirement for Religious	25.00
Christmas Flowers	40.00
Food Shelf	126.89
Campaign for Human Development	45.00
Total	\$4294.79

Thank you for your generosity.

NOTE: All donations on your 2016 commitments to Sacred Heart postmarked by December 31, 2016 will be recorded on your 2016 statement. All payments after December 31 will be credited to your contributions for 2017. Thank you!

Church of the Sacred Heart

MASS INTENTIONS



December 14	Open
December 17	Open
December 18	†Leona Bier

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 14

Fr. Jerry Sacred Heart 9:00 am

Saturday, December 17

Fr. Fitzgerald Sacred Heart 4:00 pm

Fr. Shane St. Gregory's 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 18

Fr. Shane St. Gregory's 8:30 am

Fr. Fitzgerald Sacred Heart 9:00 am

Fr. Shane St. Gregory's 10:30 am

NEEDING OUR PRAYERS

Marjorie King	Margarette Brooker	Kim Sarago
Jean Amunson	Marvin Johnson	Jim Kirchberg
Arlene Greenhagen	Bill Sempel	Ethel Thomas
Mary Knack	Bev Hurley	Tom McKenzie
Wayne King	Jim Mitchell	Sue Roth
Robby Murry	Judie Peltier	Abby Larson
Heidi Blatz	Eileen Kost	Betty Erickson
David Gaul	Jim Noon	Rose Peloquin
Colleen Najewski	Cecilia Shinler	Nick Cieminski
Joan Parkin	Betty Anderson	Lenny Anderson
Cathy Gamache	Gerald Mollberg	

Please advise the office if any of these names can be removed. Thank you.

"Loving God, we ask that you enfold in your tender compassionate care all those in our community whose hearts are breaking and whose worries consume them."

PLAN AHEAD CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24

St. Gregory the Great	4:00 p.m. Fr. Shane
	10:00 p.m. Fr. Shane
Sacred Heart	4:00 p.m. Fr. Chuck

Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25

Sacred Heart	9:00 a.m. Fr. Chuck
St. Gregory the Great	10:30 a.m. Fr. Fitzgerald

Mary, Mother of God

Vigil Mass—Saturday, December 31

Sacred Heart	4:00 p.m. Fr. Shane
St. Gregory the Great	5:00 p.m. Fr. Chuck

Mary, Mother of God—Sunday, January 1

St. Gregory the Great	8:30 a.m. Fr. Chuck
	10:30 a.m. Fr. Chuck
Sacred Heart	9:00 a.m. Fr. Shane

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