

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 17, 2023

Sacred Heart Parish

Partnering Parishes Sacred Heart, St. Charles Borromeo (Drexel Hill) and St. Hedwig's Chapel (Chester)

Rev. Msgr. George A. Majoros,
M.Div., M.S., Pastor

Rev. Paul Stenson,
Retired Priest in Residence

Deacon John H. Farrell
Permanent Deacon

Sacred Heart Church
316 East Broadway Avenue
Clifton Heights, PA 19018

Rectory
Phone 610-623-0409
Fax 610-623-2926
E-mail sacredheartchurch@rcn.com
Parish Website:
www.sacredheart-cliftonheights.net

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:30AM to 3:30PM
Remotely Monday, Wednesday, Friday
In parish office Tuesday and Thursday

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To live and grow as a church in the Roman Catholic tradition by devotion to God in worship, doctrine, ministry, and loving service to each other and to the people entrusted to us.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24, 2023

(Regular Schedule 4th Sunday of Advent)

Sacred Heart Church

7:30A.M.

St. Hedwig Chapel

9:15A.M.

St. Charles Borromeo Church

10:00A.M. and 4:00PM

Christmas Eve, Vigil Masses Sunday, December 24, 2023

Sacred Heart Church

4:30P.M. (note time)

St. Charles Borromeo Church

5:30PM (note time), 12:00 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25, 2023

Sacred Heart Church

7:30A.M and 12:00Noon

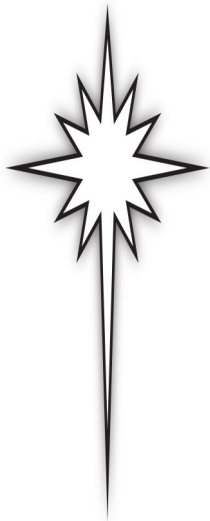
St. Hedwig Chapel

9:15A.M.

St. Charles Borromeo Church

10:00A.M

(No 4:00P.M. Mass)



Dear Church Family,

December 17, 2023

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent—with one full week plus one day to get ready to enter the **CHRISTMAS SEASON**. Perhaps the **Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)** can be just what you need to get in the true spirit of the Season of Christmas by making room in your heart for Christ.

(For your convenience, please see the special times for the Sacrament of Penance on *page three* of this bulletin)

Next Sunday, December 24, 2023, we will follow the regular schedule of Masses for the weekend.
(Please see the full schedule on this weeks *bulletin cover*).

Christmas is the solemn celebration of the Nativity (Birth) of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Savior of the world. It is always a Holy Day of Obligation, and this holy day enables us to worship our loving God who took on our human nature and became Man so that we can share in His Divinity forever. Start your Christmas festivities by coming to Holy Mass and bring His love and joy to your family and all the world.

This year, we will have the Christmas Eve Vigil Masses at different times for both Churches this year, and then the Midnight Mass at St. Charles. The Christmas Season extends through to January 8, 2024, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

We wish you a wonderful and **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

December 26th through 30th is the Regular Daily Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 30, 2023

Sacred Heart Church
3:00-3:45P.M. Confessions
4:00P.M. Vigil Mass

St. Charles Borromeo Church
4:30-5:15P.M. Confessions
5:30P.M. Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Sacred Heart Church 7:30 A.M. St. Hedwig Chapel 9:15 A.M. St. Charles Borromeo Church 10:00 A.M., 4:00P.M.
*9:00P.M. New Year's Eve Mass with Holy Hour and Social at St. Charles.

THANK YOU! Please accept my grateful appreciation for your generous support of our parishes through your consistent use of your Weekly Church envelopes, online giving, your special Christmas offering, and your donation to the Annual Stewardship Appeal of Treasure (the former Block Collection). May God reward your goodness! *Parishioners who are preparing their taxes may wish a record of their contributions for the year 2023 by calling or emailing the rectory offices after January 15th and request a copy of your contributions for 2023.* **YEAR END GIVING:** It is never too late to make an end of the year tax deductible contribution to one of our Partnering Parishes or the Parish Memorial Fund in memory of a deceased loved one.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed Happy New Year of 2024!
Monsignor George A. Majoros, Pastor

Say the Word



"What are all those gifts for?" I was meeting with the children preparing for First Holy Communion after Mass and they were distracted by a line-up of gift bags left by parishioners for the Giving Tree. I explained that the parish collected gifts for families that didn't have money to buy gifts for their children. One of the children wanted to know all the organizational details of name and address collecting and distribution, but another had a very simple solution. "Why don't the parents just ask Santa Claus for presents?"

We had two visitors to our parish this week. Saint Nicholas visited our PREP classrooms on Monday and we had Breakfast with Santa after Mass on Sunday at SCB. Both are examples of generosity and we tried to emphasize that with the children. On Monday morning, a mom brought in three little kids to the Parish Office to drop off some gifts for the Giving Tree. Each of them was carrying a gift for a child around their age. Mom said she wanted to have them be the ones to give the gift. That's a great lesson in generosity



Prayers for PREP

We thank you, Lord, for the many blessings You have given us. May we in turn share these blessings with others, imitating Your generosity. Please show me someone I can help today. Amen.

Masses For The Week

Sacred Heart Church

4:00PM Anne Pontarelli Of John Perfetti and family

Sunday, December 17

7:30AM Salute, Lesniak, & Cavanaugh families Of Family

Monday, December 18

8:30AM Al Randazzo Of Marge Lagana

Tuesday, December 19

8:30AM Living & Deceased of Sacred Heart

Wednesday, December 20

8:30AM Karen Flower Of D'Orazio family

Saturday, December 23

4:00PM Thomas McGehrin Of Family

Sunday, December 24

7:30AM Madelin & Frank Sarceno Of Vince & Leona Papale

4:30PM Vigil Pamela Valentine Of Family

St. Hedwig's Chapel

Sunday, December 17

9:15AM Catherine & Walter Kowalski

Sunday, December 24

9:15AM Nancy Tokarowski



Candles for the Month of December Sacred Heart

Ernesto Lelii & Tina Mori

Thomas McGehrin

Michael Richard Grassa

St. Hedwig

Joseph Bush & Stephen Ruggieri

The Brzezicki Family

Benjamin & Sophie & Henry & Blanche Dychala

Flame of Love Holy Hour



Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30PM at
Saint Charles Borromeo Church

All are welcome to join as we pray for
the intentions of the Immaculate Heart
of Mary.

092-3

Mass Celebrants Weekend of December 16-17

Sacred Heart

4:00PM Msgr. Majoros

7:30AM Msgr. Majoros

St. Hedwig's Chapel

9:15AM Fr. Stenson

St. Charles Borromeo

5:30PM Fr. Stenson

10:00AM Msgr. Majoros

4:00PM Fr. Anderson



Mass Celebrants Weekend of December 23-24

Sacred Heart

4:00PM Fr. Stenson

7:30AM Fr. Stenson

St. Hedwig's Chapel

9:15AM Fr. Stenson

St. Charles Borromeo

5:30PM Fr. McGowan

10:00AM Fr. McGowan

4:00PM Msgr. Majoros



Vigils for Christmas Sunday, December 24

Sacred Heart

4:30PM Fr. McGowan

St. Charles Borromeo

5:30PM Fr. Stenson

The faithful are bound to observe the obligation of Holy Mass for a Sunday as usual for the Fourth Sunday of Advent with attendance at the Anticipated Mass or on Sunday morning. The faithful are bound to observe the obligation of Holy Mass for Christmas at the Vigil Mass or on Christmas Day. Thus, the faithful have two obligations back to back. **Please see the full informative information from the Office of Clergy that appears on our Parish Website.**

The Sacrament of Penance Advent 2023

Regular Saturday Confessions

Sacred Heart Church: 3:00-3:45pm

St. Charles Borromeo Church: 4:30-5:15pm

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

St. Charles Borromeo Church

1:30-2:30pm

7:00-8:00pm

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Sacred Heart Church

1:30-2:30pm

7:00-8:00pm

Saturday, December 23, 2023

St. Charles Borromeo Church

10:30-11:30am

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Prayerfully consider your Offertory Gift as your act of praise to God for all HE has given you.

Sacred Heart– December 10, 2023

Sunday Envelopes	39	\$1,275.00
Loose		<u>132.00</u>
Total		1,407.00
Loose		56.00
Maintenance		985.00
Christmas Flowers		135.00

St. Hedwig - December 10, 2023

Sunday Envelopes	13	\$935.00
Loose		<u>225.00</u>
Total		1,160.00
Maintenance		135.00
Retired Religious		60.00

Sacred Heart—Immaculate Conception

Holy Day Envelopes	30	\$406.00
Loose		<u>126.00</u>
Total		532.00

St. Hedwig —Immaculate Conception

Holy Day Envelopes	3	\$40.00
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Thank you to all who have given so generously
as we struggle to make ends meet .

Regular Weekend Schedule for Saturday & Sunday, December 30th and 31st

Sunday, December 31, 2023 - New Year's Eve
Sacred Heart Church
7:30 A.M.

St. Hedwig Chapel
9:15A.M.

St. Charles Borromeo Church
10:00 A.M., 4:00 P.M.
Special 9:00 P.M. Mass and Holy Hour for the New Year
(followed by a social in St. Charles Rectory)



The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy
Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2024
New Year's Day

Sacred Heart Church
8:30A.M.

St. Charles Borromeo Church
10:00A.M.

Christian Initiative Preparation “Becoming Catholic” Baptism, Confirmation, First Holy Communion

For more information contact Sr. Theresa Marie
srtheresam@scbdh.org 215-983-9462

2024 HOLY SPIRIT RETREAT

All are invited to Malvern Retreat Center for the 2024 Holy Spirit Retreat on the weekend of **January 26-28, 2024**. Check-in begins on Friday at 5PM. Retreat concludes on Sunday morning with the celebration of Mass. Retreat director is Fr. Tom Heron. Theme: “This is the time of fulfilment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.” (Mark 1:15). Please register at www.malvernretreat.com/events/holy-spirit-2024/ The donation amount being asked this year is \$275. If you need help, we are happy to assist you in registering. Contact Carlo Borgia: 610- 544-6369

Annual Stewardship Appeal (Block Collection)

Thank you to all those who have already responded to our Stewardship/Block mailing This Appeal is **most** important for our Parish. Thank you for all the good works you do and for the financial support of your parish

Please prayerfully consider your donation

Winter Lotto ~ January 1, 2024 to Ash Wednesday

Sacred Heart chances are \$25.00 each. You choose a 3-digit number of your liking and watch the evening PA Lottery Drawing to see if you are a winner. These make a great Christmas or Birthday gift! **Thank you for supporting all the fundraisers at Sacred Heart, St. Charles Borromeo and St. Hedwig's Chapel. It is a great help!**

Extra forms in the church vestibule!

Candles for the month are \$20.00

Mass Intentions for 2024 \$10.00

Call the Rectory at 610-623-0409 if

Christmas Wafer

Oplatki will be available in the Church Only

\$2.00 per pack

Please see Mark, our sexton, following Mass.

Special Thanks

**To our parishioners who helped to decorate
Sacred Heart for Christmas.**

Our Church always looks so beautiful!

Third Sunday of Advent



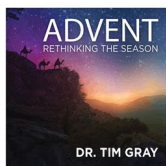
Our week begins with "Gaudete Sunday." Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday.

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 often used at the Eucharist.

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.

FORMED



Advent is an odd season. Unlike most other seasons, it's a season that isn't about itself, but is instead about preparing for Christmas. But that reality often gets lost in the shuffle and stress of trying to find all the right gifts, decorations, and dinner ingredients. In this Lighthouse Talk audio presentation, Dr. Tim Gray uses storytelling and the readings of the Old Testament to explain that we need to live the 'pre-season' of Advent well, so we can be prepared to welcome and receive the greatest gift God the Father wants to give us at Christmas: His Son, Jesus.

Advent Series with Father Paul Stenson

To help your spiritual journey this Advent, Father Stenson will explore the writings of Lisa Piccarreta on Living the Divine Will.



When: Friday December 22
Time: 1:30—2:30pm
Where: St. Charles Borromeo Rectory

All are welcome!

Holiday Food Drive at St. Hedwig's



We will be accepting donations of non-perishable items for our food drive for **CHRISTMAS**.

Please see Phil or Gina for more details



Giving Tree Thank You!

We wish to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to all who participated in the Giving Tree Program this year. We are grateful for your overwhelming generosity. Your acts of love and kindness have touched many lives. Our Giving Tree families and individuals will feel the joy of Christmas because of you!