

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 24, 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

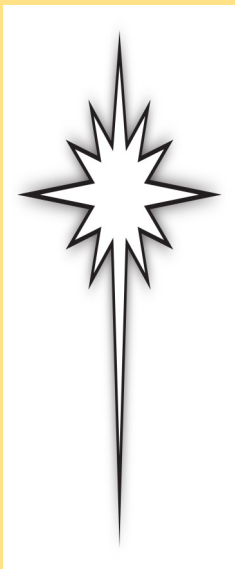
Sacred Heart Church
316 East Broadway Avenue
Clifton Heights, PA 19018

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 Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2023

Sacred Heart Church
4:30P.M.

St. Charles Borromeo Church
5:30PM Vigil Mass and 12Midnight 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 Evening Mass on Christmas Day)

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

Saturday, December 30, 2023

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

St. Charles Borromeo
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 9:15A.M.

St. Charles Borromeo Church 10:00 A.M., 4:00P.M.
*9:00P.M. New Year's Eve Mass with Holy Hours and
Social at St. Charles.

Masses For The Week

Sacred Heart Church

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

Monday, December 25

7:30AM Gary Schnell, Romeo D'Orazio & Karen Flower

12:00 Noon Stephen Pyfer Of Pyfer Family

Tuesday, December 26

8:30AM Special Intention for Ida Muller

Wednesday, December 27

8:30AM Michael Richard Grassa Of Henry Grassa & Family

Saturday, December 30

4:00PM Alexander Oleykowski Of Alexandra Danicki

Sunday, December 31

7:30AM Living & Deceased of Sacred Heart

St. Hedwig's Chapel

Sunday, December 24

9:15AM Nancy Tokarowski

Sunday, December 31

9:15AM Catherine & Walter Kowalski



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.

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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

Midnight Msgr. Majoros

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

Sacred Heart

7:30AM Fr. McGowan

12:00 Noon Fr. Stenson

St. Hedwig's Chapel

9:15AM Msgr. Majoros

St. Charles Borromeo

10:00AM Fr. McGowan

Mass Celebrants Weekend of December 30-31

Sacred Heart

4:00PM Fr. McGowan

7:30AM Fr. McGowan

St. Hedwig's Chapel

9:15AM Msgr. Majoros

St. Charles Borromeo

5:30PM Msgr. Majoros

10:00AM Fr. Stenson

4:00PM Fr. Stenson

9:00PM Msgr. Majoros



Celebrants Are Subject To Change

New Year's Eve, Sunday December 31, 2023 The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Vigil Mass)

St. Charles Borromeo Church New Year's Eve

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

Monday, January 1, 2024 -New Year's Day

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Sacred Heart Church

8:30A.M.

St. Charles Borromeo Church

10:00A.M



In Sympathy

Please remember the soul of the late, **Dorothy Rich** who passed away to the Lord. May she find happiness with the Lord and her family and friends find consolation in Him, too.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Sacred Heart– December 17, 2023

Sunday Envelopes

Loose

Total Will appear in a future bulletin

St. Hedwig - December 17, 2023

Sunday Envelopes

Loose

Total Will appear in a future bulletin

**Thank you to all who have given so generously
as we struggle to make ends meet .**

Please pray about what you might be able to do, given your own needs, to continue your parish support by mailing in your weekly offerings or use the electronic giving in order to keep our parish operating.

If you have questions about electronic giving or have no online access, please call the Rectory Office so we can provide an answer to your questions or help you set it up for yourself.

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 fulfillment. 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!

Little Sisters of the Poor

Holy Family Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) is a Long Term facility that is dedicated to caring for the elders.

Holy Family Home is responsible for the care, comfort, and safety of our residents in all activities of daily living. Holy Family is dedicated to treating our residents and each other as family, as well as, ensuring we provide comfortable and friendly place to work. Holy Family Home is looking for an amazing full time Activity Director to join our family team to work from 9AM-5PM Monday through Friday (some Saturdays and holidays) We require you to be up-to-date with vaccinations. Please email:

phumanresources@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

Or call 215-729-5153.

Save The Date

Sacred Heart will take down the Christmas decorations on **Monday, January 8, 2024, The Baptism of the Lord**



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

The normal routine of most high school days includes the morning announcements. Usually one member of the administrative team does the task.

It always involved the basic needs for clarity and accuracy, lest a whole community fall into disarray.

I know from personal experience that delegating a student for the job is risky at best. When I once had the assignment of moderating the students in the TV studio from which the announcements were broadcast at a certain high school, they were for the most part good kids. But one day immaturity punctured the soul of one such student, and he made a pre-planned prank that angered the administration and me. I wore the red face of embarrassment for a while. Clarity and accuracy were replaced by nonsense. The students may have gotten their "jollies" over the incident. I did not.

Raising our minds to the gospel level, we note that the word "annunciation" means an announcement. When we spell that word a capital letter, in religious circles it defines this marvelous meeting of heaven and earth, when an archangel named Gabriel, called such because of the import of his message, visited a beautiful young Jewish girl to tell her something earth shattering. The incident has been described as an "announcement" simply because the presumption of a positive answer from Mary proved to be a guarantee.

Mary, we must remember, was perfectly free to say "No." That would be understandable when one considers a pregnancy brought on by the Holy Spirit. Add to that the fact of the Baby's divine nature as God's Son. Nor can we forget the sudden change to the romance with her beloved Joseph. There was certainly clarity present and the highest of accuracy as well. This really became the most important announcement ever made.

In all truth, our very salvation as the human race hung in the balance with the virgin Mary's answer. Would any negative reply from Mary provoke God's wrath? There is no need for such speculation. The pivotal moment came and went, and we as a race remain ever grateful for it. World history would see God's plan unfold. Christianity would be its lasting effect, although other faiths would remain, each with its own goodness, but incomplete and imperfect.

The formula for the best relationship between God and man was clearly spelled out for those who could accept it. All because a beautiful Jewish teen-aged girl said "Yes" to God!

In these final hours of Advent, as Christmas preparation goes into high gear, such thoughts, I believe, provide a spiritual antidote to any commercial invasion of the facts. God love you all, and my wish for you and yours to experience a blessed Christmas 2023!

Say the Word

St. Joseph: In the name of heaven, please give us some shelter. My wife is weary and cannot walk.

Innkeeper: Go on your way! We will not open the doors for strangers.

St. Joseph: Please, would you open the door? I am a carpenter from Nazareth; my wife and I are tired from our long journey.

Innkeeper: We don't care what your trade is or where you are from. We will not open the door.

St. Joseph: Would you give one night's shelter to my wife?

Innkeeper: Why is she out in this freezing night?

St. Joseph: My wife, Mary, has traveled with me through this night.

Innkeeper: You are Joseph and your wife is Mary? Let us welcome you into our poor dwelling.

St. Joseph: May God reward you, and may Heaven fill you with joy.

Innkeeper: Blessed is the house that shelters this day the beautiful Mary as she awaits the birth of her child.

These lines, from the Knights of Columbus "Journey to the Inn: An Advent Celebration" were used at our Christmas PREP-eration Celebration this year. As we take this final leg in the Journey to the Inn, let's open the door of our heart to Mary and Joseph and welcome the child Jesus to be at the center of our life.

Prayers for PREP

May our Parish families journey closer to You, Lord Jesus, during this Christmas Season. Amen.


Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent—the shortest Advent can be—and this evening we begin the **CHRISTMAS SEASON** which extends through to January 8, 2024, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. with the Vigil Masses for Christmas.

THANK YOU! I am very grateful for all the many helping hands that cleaned, decorated, and prepared our Churches: Saint Hedwig, Sacred Heart, and St. Charles Borromeo, for Christmas! May the Lord bless you for your hard work.

The Christmas season brings joy and gladness for many people for obvious reasons. For some, it is a time of sadness because of the burdens of daily living, the loss of a loved one who is not here, financial struggles, physical and mental illness and depression. It is a very sad time for the members of the Saint Hedwig family as they come to realize that there will be no more Sunday Masses in their beloved Church after December 31, 2023. They have much to be proud of with their steadfast faith and love for their Polish heritage. May they bring this same faith and spirit to wherever they will attend.

Jesus knows and understands our burdens, struggles and sufferings. He came down from heaven to take on our humanity—with all its wounds and brokenness—so that we may be clothed in His divinity and share in His eternal life. Born in a messy stable, He became the Bread of Life, the Light of the world, the gate to heaven, our Redeemer, Savior, and Lord, the Way, the Truth, and the Life to the Father. As we continue to deal with the challenges of living our faith in these times, come, let us adore Him, God-with-us, mystically present in Word and Sacrament, and grow to become more like Him, as we journey from this life to eternity, caring, sharing, and helping each other, as He calls us to do!

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



Celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ enables us to proclaim the truths of our faith. We believe that God so loved the world that He sent Jesus, His Only-Begotten Son, to save us from sin and eternal death.

What does the name Jesus mean? Given by the angel at the time of the Annunciation, the name means “God saves.” The name expresses His identity and His mission “because he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). Peter proclaimed that “there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

Why is Jesus called “Christ”? “Christ” in Greek, “Messiah” in Hebrew, means the “anointed One.” Jesus is the Christ because He is consecrated By God and anointed by the Holy Spirit for His redeeming mission. He is the Messiah awaited by Israel, sent into the world by the Father. Jesus accepted the title of Messiah, but He made the meaning of the term clear: “come down from heaven” (John 3:13), crucified and then risen, He is the Suffering Servant who gives “his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). From the name Christ comes our name as Christians.

Why did the Son of God become Man? For us and for our salvation, the Son of God became incarnate in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. He did so to reconcile us sinners with God, to have us learn of God’s infinite love, to be our model of holiness and to make us “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4).

What does the word “Incarnation” mean? The Church calls the mystery of the wonderful union of the divine and human natures in the one divine Person of the Word the “Incarnation.” To bring about our salvation the Son of God was made “flesh” (John 1:14) and became truly man. Faith in the Incarnation is a distinctive sign of the Christian faith. Jesus is inseparably true God and true man in the unity of His divine Person. As the Son of God, who is “begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father,” He was made true man, our brother, without ceasing to be God, our Lord.

A Christmas Prayer

Dear Jesus, You have come to save! As we celebrate Your holy birth, help me to magnify the light of Your love in the lives of everyone I meet, especially the poor and forgotten. May I be ever ready to walk with neighbors in their suffering, mindful of both spiritual and material needs, to restore hope for their tomorrows. May I never fail in thanksgiving for the countless blessings You have bestowed on me, especially the gift of salvation won for all through Your Passion, Death and Resurrection. I pray, come and be Emmanuel for me, now and forever, Amen.

Monday, January 1, 2024 -Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Sacred Heart Church
8:30A.M.

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