

Additional Bulletin Information for Sunday, December 8, 2024

Dear Church Family:

Second Sunday of Advent and The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated on December 8th, is always a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States. When December 8th falls on a Sunday, the Second Sunday of Advent. Its observance is transferred to Monday, December 9th, which is the case this year. In October 2024, the Holy See clarified that both the observance of the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception and the obligation to assist at Holy Mass are transferred to Monday, December 9th. Because this notification from the Vatican came late, Archbishop Nelson Perez, upon consultation on the matter and in accord with Canon 87, p1, dispenses from the obligation to assist at Holy Mass on Monday, December 9th this year. This dispensation is not to minimize the importance of this Solemnity in the life of the clergy and faithful. In fact, Mary, under this title, is the Patroness of the country. Rather, the Archbishop grants this dispensation due to the shortness of time to instruct on this change in observance, with the recognition that most calendars are in place without the possibility to properly observe the obligation and, most of all, to ease the consciences of the faithful. **Therefore**, the Mass Schedule to observe the transferred Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary for both parishes this year will be:

Monday, December 9th

Sacred Heart Church: 8:30A.M. Morning Mass

St. Charles Borromeo Church: 12Noon Mass; and 6:00P.M. Evening Mass

My health—I have been sick with an upper respiratory virus for over two weeks now. I have been under doctor's care and trying to rest. I am grateful that Father Stenson has been well. It seems we have been tag-teaming on health issues lately. I am finally on an antibiotic and hopefully on the way to full recovery. On November 1st, my doctor offered to give me the RSV vaccine for people 65 years and older who may be at risk. I wanted to think about it. In hindsight, I should have taken it. Once in a better way, I will take it. I highly recommend everyone in my age bracket and with health issues should get it. Consult your doctor and learn a lesson from me.

Parish Pastoral Council

At the most recent meeting (November 21, 2024) of the Parish Pastoral Council, comprised of representatives of both Parishes, I gave an update of St. Hedwig Parish Project 5298R—that relates to the sale of the parcel of property which includes the former Rectory, Old School, Convent, and garages at the corner of W 4th Street and Hayes Street, Chester. After a long process, the sale has been approved and the final papers will be signed on January 16, 2025. The disinterment and reinterment of the mortal remains of the two former Pastors that were buried by the outdoor Grotto to Our Lady still must take place. I am working with William Lombardo Funeral Home to help in this sacred process. Once this is completed, I will begin another lengthy process of requesting the relegation and alienation of the Church and that parcel of land. Please pray for the people of St. Hedwig and for me.

Another important issue of adjusting the Mass Schedule at St. Charles Borromeo Parish was presented. After a lengthy discussion about the present schedule, attendance at the Masses, the ability to provide a quality liturgy with all the liturgical ministers, the health and wellbeing of our priests, the members saw the merits making some slight changes to our Mass Schedule. So, it was decided that moving forward with the 2025 Mass Book Schedule, starting in January 2025, there will no longer be a Saturday evening 5:30P.M. Anticipated Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church. We will finish out all the scheduled Saturday 5:30P.M. Masses in December 2024. The Sacrament of Penance (Confessions), normally celebrated prior to the 5:30P.M. Anticipated Mass, from 4:30-5:15P.M. will be celebrated at St. Charles Borromeo Church on Saturday mornings from 9:30-10:30A.M. This change affords another time for the Sacrament that is different from our neighboring parishes. The morning time still enables us to have a Saturday Funeral Mass. **Please be clear, nothing is changing at Sacred Heart Church: Confessions 3:00-3:45P.M. and the 4:00P.M. Anticipated Mass remains the same.**

**2025- Weekend Confession and Mass Schedule will be
St. Charles Borromeo Church:
8:30A.M. Saturday morning Mass; 9:30-10:30A.M. Confessions**

**Sacred Heart Church:
3:00- 3:45P.M. Confessions; 4:00P.M. Anticipated Mass**

A Change to the Holy Day Schedule: In addition, the Council agreed that the Holy Mass scheduled for 7:00P.M. Vigil Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church be eliminated since only a handful of people came to those Masses.

**2025 Holy Day Mass Schedule will be
St. Charles Borromeo Church:
4:00P.M. Vigil of the Holy Day Mass; 8:30A.M. Morning of the Holy Day Mass**

**Sacred Heart Church
12Noon Mass on the Holy Day
7:00P.M. Mass on the Holy Day**

Both changes result in two Masses at each parish for the weekend and Holy Day Mass schedule.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and adjustment to accept these changes in a true spirit of charity for the good of both churches.

God bless,
Monsignor George A. Majoros