



ILLUSTRATION BY PATT ILLLOULI

Sacred Heart Church

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916-452-4136
[HTTPS://SACREDHEART.CHURCH](https://sacredheart.church)
OFFICE HOURS: M - F, 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

PARISH STAFF

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PAUL SUNDERMAN, YOUTH MINISTER, 916-456-1576
DR. DONALD KENDRICK, MUSIC DIRECTOR, 916-847-0424

LITURGY SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASSES:

SATURDAY VIGIL 5:30 P.M.; SUNDAY 8, 9:30,
AND 11 A.M. (MUSIC WITH SCHOLA CANTORUM)

WEEKDAY MASSES:

M - F: 8 A.M.; SAT 9 A.M.
FIRST FRIDAY: 8 A.M. AND 12 NOON
HOLY DAYS: PLEASE SEE BULLETIN
NATIONAL HOLIDAYS: 9 A.M. (NO 8 A.M.)

RECONCILIATION: SATURDAY 4-5 P.M.

BAPTISM: PLEASE CALL RECTORY

MARRIAGE: PLEASE CALL RECTORY SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

As God's Children, We Serve

The Responsorial Psalm continues the theme of serving the Lord in His holy dwelling place. This same idea is found in today's Gospel, where Jesus calls the temple in Jerusalem, his Father's house. The psalm speaks of making pilgrimage to the Lord's house, the one place where we find ourselves at home and where we can experience God's love unconditionally. Jesus came into the world that we could experience His love here, in His presence. When we dwell in Him, He is our home. • The Second Reading, from St John, speaks of the great dignity the Lord has bestowed on us, not as slaves but as God's children. He treats us with the same respect He treats His only-begotten Son, Jesus. He calls us to share His love and mission here on earth, and His glory in heaven where we shall be like the One we love, not only sharing in His image and likeness but truly one with Him. We know we are God's children when we keep His commands, living moral, giving lives. The commandments are not rules that imprison, but guidelines to help us choose what is right and good. They teach us virtue and generosity, especially if we live the greatest law, that of love. • The Gospel scene shows Jesus at age twelve (*when He discerned that He was both human and divine*) among the teachers in the temple. It is at this time that Jesus declares that His Father is God in heaven. His three-day absence can be seen as preparation for Our Lady who would be without Jesus again for three days, after He died and was buried. Now, as then, she learns to trust that He must be about His Father's business. As God's children and with His grace, may we always turn our minds and hearts to Him in trust.

Prayer of the Week

O Jesus, look graciously upon our family here before you. Once more we consecrate ourselves before

Faith First

you--our trials and joys--that our home may ever be the shrine of peace, purity, love and faith. Protect and bless all of us, both absent and present, and be merciful to those departed. • O Mary, loving Mother of Jesus, and our Mother, pray to Jesus for our family, for all the families of the world, to guard the cradle of the newborn, the schools of the young and their vocations. • O Joseph, holy Guardian of Jesus and Mary, assist us by your prayers in all the necessities of life. Be present at the pillow of the sick and dying so that we may all be united to Jesus and Mary and you for all eternity. Amen.

New Year's Mass Schedule

Friday, December 31

Mass at 5:30 pm

Saturday, January 1

Mass at 9:00 am

No 5:30 pm Mass on New Year's Day.

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, December 31 and Monday, January 3.

January 1

Mary, Mother of God

In reflecting on the identity of Jesus, the early Church, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, taught that Jesus is *one* divine person who has both a human nature and a divine nature. Further, the early Church

taught that Jesus was divine from the very first moment of his conception. Thus, at the Council of Ephesus (AD 431) the Church solemnly taught that Mary is "mother of God" (*Theo-tokos* = "bearer of God"). • By being the mother of Jesus, Mary is truly the mother of God. It is most appropriate for Christians to address Mary with the lofty title: Mother of God. • But Mary is also our mother, the Mother of the Church. As he hung dying on the cross, Jesus gave his mother to all people everywhere to serve as their spiritual mother. "This is your mother," he said (John 19:27). Mary is the new Eve who fully cooperated with the Holy Spirit to bring Christ into the world and the world to Christ. By giving Mary to us as our mother, the Lord wishes the Church to learn what God does for those he loves. The Church also has a maternal role. As such the Church can learn much from Mary, the perfect model of faith, obedience, fidelity, compassion, and prayerfulness. Mary is the model of Christian holiness and an image of God's love for his people.

In Our Prayers

Daily Mass Intentions December 26 -- January 2

Sun	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	Lily Fuentes (+)
	11:00am	John McCormick (+)
Mon	8:00am	Nita York (+)
Tue	8:00am	Margaret Mayer (+)
Wed	8:00am	Jose, Anna & Lucy Oliveira (+)
Thu	8:00am	Leonarda Estolas (+)
Fri	8:00am	Herbert Kerins (+)
	5:30pm	Arthur F. Schmidle (+)
Sat	9:00am	Marie Lucas (+)
	No 5:30 pm	No Mass
Sun	8:00am	For the People of the Parish
	9:30am	Int...Rosemary Kirrene
	11:00am	Thomas More Pereira (+)

In Memoriam

David "Dave" Anthony • November 21, 2021

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon him.

Please Pray for the Sick

Rosemary Kirrene, Fr. Dan Looney, Tom Slakey, Bill Blucher, John O'Connor, Pam Milchrist, Valerie Hoag, Hope Harrington, Diane Peters, Michael Kelly, Brian McKenna, Patrick Valenzuela, Dick Grutzmacher, Rick Barbaria, Margarita Enriquez, Robert McAleese, Diana Zuniga, Dale Wooldridge, Nancy McGarry, Gary Pepe, William Daniel Reed, Stephanie Merenda, Victoria Generoso, Jim Collins, Robert Arkebauer, Libby Basurto, Dena Foster-Cook, Josephine Haddock, G.R. Gurley, Darren Stewart, Marge Mugartegui, Angel Curiel, Phillip Worth, Sonia Damiano, Ava Grace Arnold, Karen Amnon, Mary Terese Henriksen, Pamela Saenz, Stan Boyd, David Hunn, Addison Parker, Brett Stover, Norma Clark, Robert Clark, Jr.

Open our hearts, O Lord,

Advent Giving Tree

Thank you for making our Sacred Heart Parish Giving Tree a success. Our community has brightened the holidays for local men, women, and children. The recipients of your generous gifts are deeply grateful.

Children's Faith Formation Program

The CFF program will go on Christmas vacation after their December 14 classes, and will resume classes on January 4, 2022. If you have any questions please contact Tila Madrigal, Program Coordinator, at <tilamadrigal@gmail.com>.

Choirs on Leave

Schola Cantorum and Vox Nova will take a break from singing at Mass until after the first of the year. The choirs have found it difficult to continue to stay healthy and protected, given constraints of the corona virus and its variants. Despite members being vaccinated and observing all precautions, several singers tested positive. We will miss their beautiful voices, especially during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Accepting Applications for 2022-2023 School Year

Sacred Heart Parish School is now accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Families who wish for their student to join us in TK (Transitional Kindergarten) must be 4 years old by September 1, 2022. Students who are applying for Kindergarten must be 5 years old by September 1, 2022. This policy holds true throughout the grades at Sacred Heart: students must be age appropriate for each grade. Applications are available on the school website at: <www.sacredheartschool.net>

• If you have questions please feel free to call the School Office at 916-456-1576.

Be still and know that I am God. -- Psalm 46:10

Retreat for Men/Women

We encourage men and women of the parish to make a retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center in Citrus Heights for dates through April. Do not miss out on this wonderful experience of spiritual and physical renewal. • Contact Jim or Kim Paquette or go to the Retreat Center's website at <www.christthekingretreatcenter.org> to make a reservation. Check out the welcome handbook on the table below the literature rack in the church vestibule.

Meetings & Events

The Christmas Season

The Christmas Season begins with Christmas which celebrates the mystery of the Incarnation, God-made-man. Christmas proclaims *Emmanuel!*, "God is with us."

Christmas Day

For the Church, Christmas Day begins not at midnight, but with the celebration of Mass following sunset on Christmas Eve. This follows the ancient Jewish way of keeping liturgical time. (This way of marking "sacred time" is also the reason we can attend Sunday Mass on Saturday evening).

Octave of Christmas

An *octave* extends the celebration of a feast or solemnity for eight days. During the Octave of Christmas, for example all the readings and prayers during Mass are related to the birth of Christ. Octave celebrations got their start in the Church way back in the fourth century. The "octave day" (eighth day) of Christmas is January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Amazon and other retailers run "12 Days of Christmas" sales during the twelve days leading up to Christmas, but traditionally the twelve days of Christmas begin on December 26 and end on January 6, the traditional date of Epiphany. (Since 1970, Roman Catholics have celebrated Epiphany on the first Sunday after the Octave of Christmas, that is, the first Sunday after January 1.)

Christmas Season

Roman Catholics mark the end of the liturgical Christmas season with the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on the Sunday after the Feast of the Epiphany (usually the second Sunday of January). Ordinary Time begins the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

whole church, "walking together." In the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, this process is one of deep listening to all members of the church so that together we will come to a fuller understanding of our church's responsibility to serve

A Synod of Bishops on Synodality

On October 28, 2021, Pope Francis formally opened a two-year process called "A Synod on Synodality." Synodality is the experience of the people of God, the modern-day world. Synodality creates a wide space for sincerely and attentively listening and sharing among the participants. This "listening with the ear of the heart" is more than collecting opinions or running surveys. It is an invitation to have conversations in every diocese throughout the world so that together we can read the signs of the times and respond with justice, mercy and compassion. • Over the next 6 weeks, continue to look in the bulletin for details on the Sacred Heart Listening Sessions and how you can participate.

Consider Making An End-of-Year Gift

Many parishioners make a special end-of-year gift to the Parish. This is very much appreciated, enabling the Parish to meet the growing expenses of Parish operations. Such a gift has the added benefit of being tax deductible. You may want to designate your gift to *Sacred Heart Building Fund* for the maintenance and preservation of our church, rectory, and parish hall or to *Sacred Heart Parish School Endowment Foundation* for school families needing tuition assistance or to *Sacred Heart Church* for general operations. • We are most grateful for our parishioners'

regular and special donations to second collections throughout the year. • If you are not contributing on a regular basis, please consider doing so. If you have not increased your weekly/monthly contribution in some time, and your financial circumstances allow you to do so, please consider increasing your contribution. Like your household expenses, parish expenses continue to increase. • Thank you for considering this end-of-year appeal.

Father Brian Casey OFM

Check out the YouTube channel of Fr. Brian Casey, Breaking in the Habit, for an interesting discussion on Catholics and Catholicism from the viewpoint of a young Franciscan priest at. <https://www.youtube.com/c/BreakingInTheHabit>>.



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24 Hour National Pregnancy HELP HOTLINE:
1-800-712-HELP (4357) or www.optionline.org



Sacred Heart Parishioners seeking In-Home female aide for Autistic daughter.
M-F 2:30-6:30 + other shifts
\$20/hr. COVID-19 protocols req.
Contact Susan Mendez:
skmendez@comcast.net

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