

SACRED HEART—VALLEY PARK | 17 ANN AVENUE



The Nativity of the Lord

Wishing you a joy-filled, holy Christmas!

DECEMBER 25, 2022 | PARISH BULLETIN

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3])/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-1



Patricia Boyer
 Jayne Catanzarro
 Brian & Katherine Combs (& Family)
 Tim & Gretchen Cox (& Family)
 Jose & Lisa Gonzalez
 Mary Anne Jones
 Jonah & Sarah McKeown (& family)
 Nicholas Reinagel

IN LOVING
 MEMORY

Art Lenz
*(Husband of Sheila and
 father of Kim Trockey)*

Patricia Henricks
(Parishioner)

“... through the mercy of God,
 rest in peace. Amen.”

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 26

6:30a Priest Intention

8:00a Priest Intention

Tuesday, December 27

6:30a Fr. John Mansoo Kim +

8:00a Janie Alison Denzel +

Wednesday, December 28

6:30a Special Intention

8:00a Tom & Kathy Gerard +

Thursday, December 29

6:30a Tom & Kathy Gerard +

8:00a Special Intention

Friday, December 30

6:30a Tom & Kathy Gerard +

8:00a Mariano Bello +

Saturday, December 31

8:00a Joseph Pohl +

5:00p Special Intention

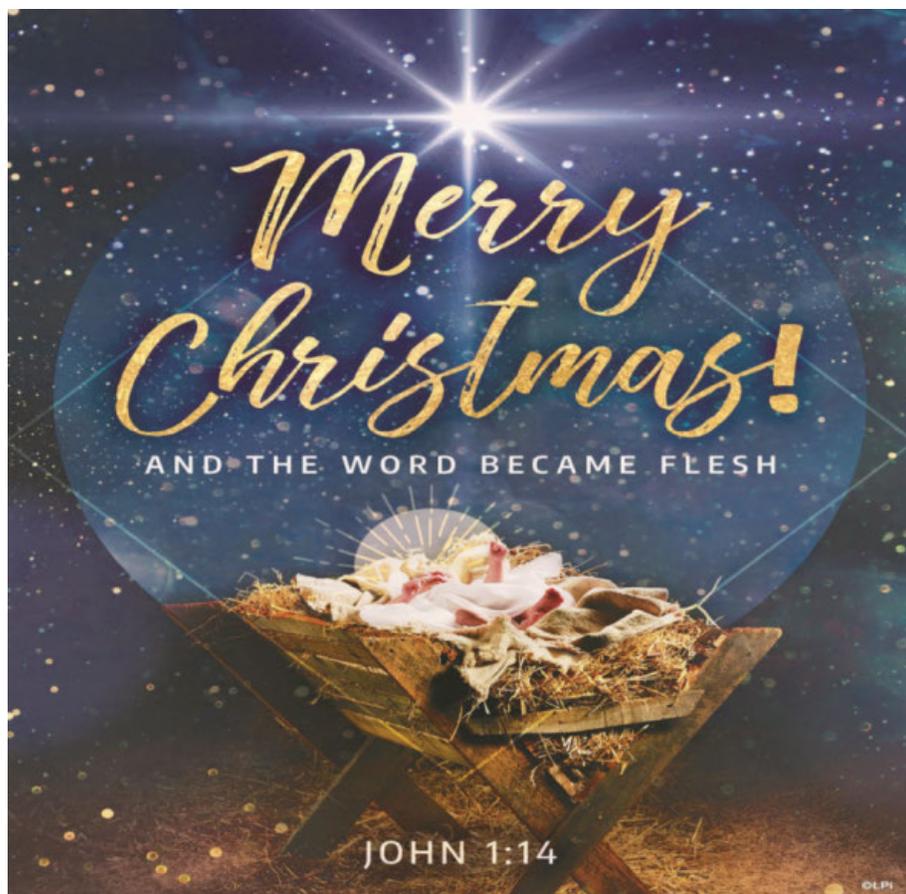
Sunday, January 1

7:30a Special Intention

9:30a Tom & Kathy Gerard +

11:30a Special Intention

5:30p Parishioners



From Our Pastor

Dear Missionary Disciples of Christ,

At Christmas, we often spend a lot of time searching for the right gifts for loved ones. We put in long, sometimes late, hours to create, assemble, or purchase Christmas gifts. Why? Well, often, we give because we love.

Why did the Second person of the trinity become enfleshed? (Certainly to save us.) Why does

God give us this great gift of the Son of God to **save us**? Because he loves us, infinitely.

Our Lord offers us the gift of eternal life, offers us salvation.

“We can lose this priceless gift, as St. Paul indicated to St. Timothy: ‘Wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By

rejecting conscience, certain persons have made shipwreck of their faith.’ To live, grow and **persevere** in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase of faith; it must be ‘working through charity,’ abounding hope, and rooted in the faith of the Church.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church 162*)

The Source and Summit of the Christian life is the Mass.

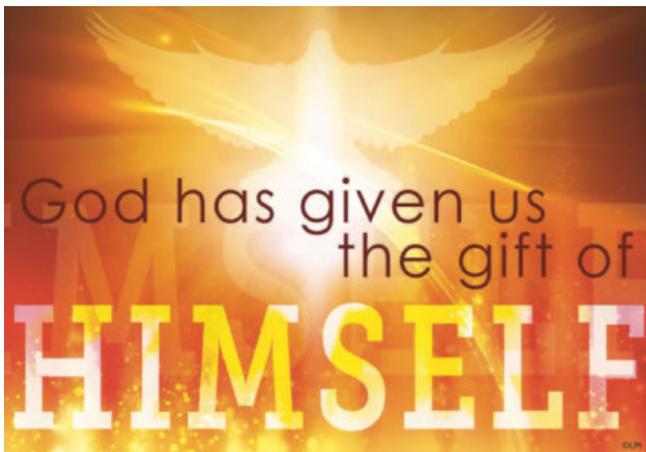
Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day.” (*John 6:53-54*)

Our Father did not just say I love you, but loved us in the doing, in the giving. . .our Lord still loves us in the doing, sustaining us, loving us. It can be easy to say, “I love you.” Anyone who loves believes in love not just because of words but of what the person does (i.e., doing). Love is action. We are all lovable and loved by God. Many of us probably find this hard to accept or believe. Our Lord’s love for us was His gift to us as infants — by being born, suffering, and dying on the cross.

In each Mass, our Lord again loves us. Jesus Christ becomes present in the Eucharist and becomes a gift to us once again in what was bread and wine. At Mass, the sacrifice of Calvary is made present to us. What does Jesus Christ ask of us but to love? What is one of the most preeminent ways to love the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? By participating in the Mass (doing). Not just once in a while, but every Sunday and Holy Day. Attending Mass is the best way to receive our Christmas gift.

Peace,

Father Maassen



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday (Vigil) 5 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
and 5:30 p.m. (LifeTeen)
(unless otherwise noted)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word:
Sunday 9:30 a.m. (during Mass)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday-Friday 6:30 and 8 a.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.
(unless otherwise noted)

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Vigil Mass 5 p.m.
Day 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 7 p.m.
(LIVE Stream 8 a.m. Mass)
* unless otherwise noted

CIVIL HOLIDAYS

Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. on
Martin Luther King Day,
President’s Day, Memorial Day,
4th of July, Labor Day,
& Thanksgiving Day
(unless otherwise noted)

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION

Sunday after 5:30 p.m. Mass
through Monday 11 a.m.,
(unless otherwise noted)

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation During Ordinary Time:
There are weekly celebrations of the
Sacrament of Reconciliation in
church every Saturday morning
shortly after 8 a.m. Mass and at
3:30 p.m.; on Sunday from
8:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.;
and by appointment
(call the Parish Office)

Weddings:

Arranged six months
in advance.

Baptisms:

Sundays 12:30 p.m.
(prior instruction required)

Funerals:

Contact the Parish Office
636-225-5268
or visit

sacredheartvp.org/planning-a-funeral



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f) 314.792.7842
www.archstl.org

Christmas 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wish you, your families, and your loved ones joyful greetings at this special time of year!

This past year has been a year of consultation and unceasing prayer as we continue in this journey to make All Things New in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. This strategic pastoral planning process is about revitalizing our parishes and ministries, and providing a more vibrant future for Catholic communities throughout the Archdiocese.

This Christmas, I ask you to pray for vocations and for all our priests and seminarians. I also ask you to be generous in your donation to the Christmas collection at your parish, which helps ensure that our seminarians receive the education and formation they need to grow closer to Christ each day. Your support is a source of inspiration for the seminarians and helps to build up the Church in St. Louis. Together, we can encourage our future priests to walk the path of holiness as they seek to configure their hearts to the Heart of Jesus Christ.

I look forward to celebrating the joy of the Christmas season with all of the faithful of the Archdiocese. Please be assured of my prayers for you during the season of Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis

Formation Commission Update

As part of the parish pastoral plan, the Formation Commission is working toward Forming Missionary Disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Formation Five catechetical series began earlier this fall. These videos, created by the priests and parishioners of Sacred Heart, offer a brief reflection on coming to know Jesus Christ personally and sharing His Good News with others. The Formation Five is information on what we Catholics believe and why we believe it - how to become and how to be formed as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. It is imperative that we live the Gospel as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ so all of us can live the joy of the Gospel now and share in the ultimate joy of the Resurrection.

Father Maassen is asking all meetings of Sacred Heart groups to watch the short video or reflection questions at some point during the meeting (after prayer is suggested). Either on a shared screen, or on individual phones/computers, participants should pull up the video located on the parish website (<https://sacredheartvp.org/formation-five>) to see that month's video or access any printed material. The option of group discussion or further reflection is left up to the group. Videos from the previous months can be accessed at that site.

Formation opportunities

In the first part of 2023, there are several options to join with Catholics from the parish and beyond.

Men's ACTS retreat: Following a successful women's retreat this fall, the men's ACTS retreat will be held March 2-5, 2023, at LaSalle. See the parish website for more information or to sign up.

SEEK 2023: The national SEEK 2023 conference, presented by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, will be held Jan. 2-6 at America's Center Convention Complex in downtown St. Louis. The conference includes tracks for college students, ministry leaders and parishioners and will feature Catholic speakers, dedicated prayer time, fellowship and entertainment. On the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 4, all are invited to join SEEK for keynote talks by Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, and Father Josh Johnson, followed by adoration and prayer time. There is no cost to attend the Jan. 4 event, but reservations must be made in advance. For more information, visit <https://stlreview.com/3DO9LeX>. For information about the SEEK conference, including archdiocesan price discounts for the other days of the conference, visit www.archstl.org/seek.

Catholic Men for Christ: This conference, for men only, will be held Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023 at SLUH. There will be speakers, sacraments and an opportunity to share the faith with other Catholic men. Registration is \$40 for the day's programming, with early bird pricing of \$30 through Jan. 18.

Catholic Women for Christ: This conference, for women only, will be held Saturday, March 12, 2023 at SLUH. There will be speakers, sacraments and an opportunity to share the faith with other Catholic women. Registration is \$40 for the day's programming.



EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION

Eucharist Adoration is always available 24/7 in the church as Jesus is present in the Tabernacle. On Sunday after 5:30 p.m. Mass, we expose the Blessed Sacrament on the altar in the monstrance for exposition. We would like one person there at all times, but prefer two. Please call Trish Trueblood at 314-608-1475 if you would like to become an adorer. **Please note: we will not have Eucharistic Exposition during Christmas weekend.**



WISHING YOU A VERY
BLESSED AND MERRY

CHRISTMAS!

From the Students, Faculty, and
Staff at Sacred Heart School



Sacred Heart Men's Club
Mouse Races and Casino Night

Save the Date

Saturday, January 28 in the Parish Center



Are You Saved?

You may have heard that question before. God wants everyone to be saved. Salvation is absolutely a gift. Faith is a gift, and how we live our lives in response to accepting that gift matters as well. Jesus says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven,* but only the one who **does** the will of my Father in heaven." (Matt 7:21)

In the Gospel of John 3:36, we read: "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him."

St. Paul (1 Cor 6) talks about those who will not inherit the kingdom of God.

In his book, The Drama of Salvation: How God Rescues You from Your Sins and Delivers You to Eternal Life, author Jimmy Akin, a convert to the faith and a Catholic apologist writes: "However, the basic elements needed to enter a state of grace (salvation) under ordinary circumstances are repentance, faith, and baptism. Those needed to reenter it after a fall into mortal sin are repentance, faith, and confession.

I would say we need to do the "will of the Father" which means to live our Catholic faith, repentance, faith, baptism, reconciliation, worshipping weekly at Mass being a necessary part of living or doing our Catholic faith.

~ Father Maassen



Have a very happy and a blessed Christmas. Remember to keep Christ the main focus of your Christmas celebration! Our family has the tradition of reading the story of the first Christmas from the Gospel of Luke before opening any gifts. What will your family do?

Evangelization or Winning an Argument?

Many of us have been in situations where the subject of faith comes up in conversation and you start out trying to evangelize but end up trying to win an argument. Afterward, you realize that you didn't help the person draw closer to Jesus and you may have actually pushed them farther away.

Here are some things to keep in mind the next time this happens:

Mercy/Compassion – your attitude can set the tone for how the conversation will go. We all have baggage, no one is perfect. We all need some level of healing. Don't focus on people's mistakes. Try to establish a tone of mercy and compassion, regardless of how hard someone may be trying to argue. Remember "slow to anger." This is not a game that you are trying to win. Rather, this is a soul in need of transformation.

Build Relationship – look at the conversation as an opportunity to build a friendship and not as a one-time event. Someone questioning the faith may mean they are still open and curious about the faith. It may be their way of asking for help. People have a fear of being wrong, of being humiliated or looking stupid. Recognize that their words may be harsh on the surface but not really what is in their heart. Building a relationship takes time, patience and forgiveness. Offer to accompany them on their quest for understanding.

Humility – friendship is based on trust. The seed of trust is humility. When we take off our masks and reveal to each other what is on our heart, friendship blossoms and grows. Unfortunately, our pride and ego gets in the way. Exercise humility, be a good listener – listen to understand and clarify, and not to give the "right" answer or box someone into a corner.

Common Ground – don't assume you know what someone is thinking just because they aren't actively living their Catholic faith. Making judgments escalates arguments and diminishes true understanding. Ask good questions – ask them why they believe what they believe. What sources of information do they refer to? Keep asking "why" to get to the root cause. Encourage critical thinking and not just rely on second hand information that is heard in a sound bite. Archbishop Rozanski says, "We want to open a door rather than push them through a door."

Share Your Story – no one knows your relationship with the Holy Trinity better than you! No one can argue with you on how you came to believe what you believe. Share your trials, pain and suffering, as well as the love, joy and peace. Remember, there is no resurrection unless there is death - we must "die" to our old ways before we can "rise" in a new life with Jesus.

Truth – today, many people say the "the truth for me is..." They see truth as a concept that is adaptable to justify their current lifestyle. Introduce to them to the idea that the Truth is really a person – Jesus ("I am the way and the truth and the life"). Truth is not relative, it is absolute – it is true for all of us, over all of time. People are influenced by culture. People follow that little voice in their head (which may be evil spirits disguised as good). Or, people may not know that God is an option. Truth leads people to Jesus.

Pray – offer to pray with them and let them know that you will continue to pray for them. Prayer builds hope and combats despair. We are not responsible for convincing people, but we are responsible for presenting the Truth. We plant the seeds and the Holy Spirit does the work.

~ David Baranowski
Stewardship Awareness and Leadership Development
Archdiocese of St. Louis



On behalf of all the members of the Sacred Heart St. Vincent de Paul Society, we want to thank you for your overwhelming generosity and congratulate you for allowing our ministry to have such a huge impact on so many lives within our community. Over the last year, your contributions have enabled us to help 473 families including 403 children. In addition, we provided assistance to 106 homeless people who came seeking help. As you can see, our reach is wide and deep. We would not have been able to accomplish this without your love and generosity over the year.

Annual Mass FOR *Racial Unity*

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023 at 7:00 PM

ALL are welcome to attend Mass celebrated by

Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski

Music by the choirs of

St. Augustine

St. Cecilia

St. Catherine Laboure



St. Catherine Laboure Church

9740 Sappington Rd

St. Louis, MO 63128

Livestream: sclparish.org

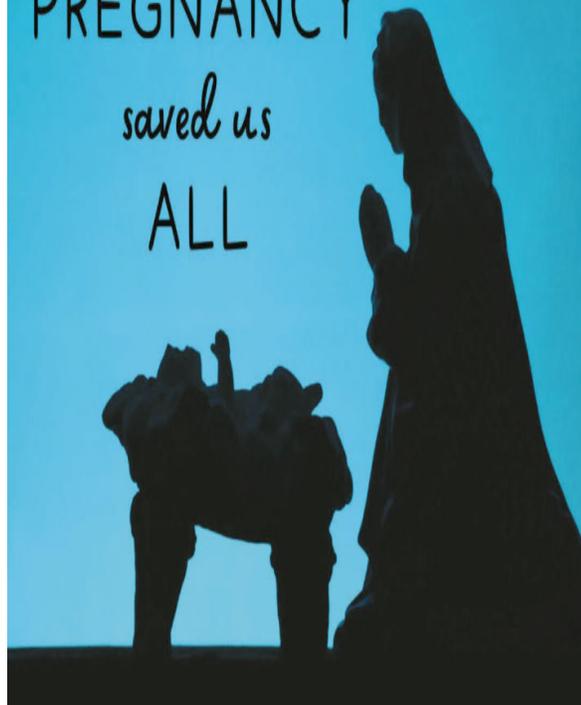


**Join us for
Simple Steps
Bereavement Group
Next Session
Begins January 19**

Simple Steps Bereavement Group meetings held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. and also weekly on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to Noon. Both groups meet in the Sacred Heart Room. Our gatherings include a video followed by prayer, discussion and fellowship. We welcome anyone who has had a loss of a parent, spouse, sibling, child or other relative. For more information, call Suzie at 636-343-1131.



ONE
unplanned
PREGNANCY
saved us
ALL



December is Handwashing Awareness Month. As we gather with family and friends this Christmas season, regular handwashing is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs to others. Regularly washing your hands or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water aren't readily available helps keep you and those around you healthy.

I wish all of you a very healthy, happy and blessed Christmas.

Sally Adams, RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

SHVP WE HEART HOCKEY BLUES

NIGHT AT THE BLUES GAME

St. Louis Blues vs. Arizona Coyotes
Saturday, Feb. 11 at 7p



\$39 ONLINE TICKETS

Scan the QR to purchase
<https://fevo.me/shvp23>



**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS
OUR MILITARY VETERANS AND
THOSE WHO CURRENTLY SERVE.**

SACRED HEART Youth BASKETBALL Academy 2023 Registration

The Sacred Heart Basketball Academy is back! We are now offering our instructional program to all Kindergarten through 2nd grade boys and girls. The purpose is to introduce young players to the basics of basketball in a non-competitive environment. The cost is \$50 and includes six one-hour sessions and a Sacred Heart Basketball T-Shirt.

Registration is currently open and closes Friday January 13, 2022
<https://sacredheartvp.org/youth-basketball-registration>

Sessions will be held on the following Saturdays at the times below.

Schedule

Saturday, January 7th (Boys 8:00 AM and Girls 9:15 AM)
Saturday, January 14th (Boys 8:00 AM and Girls 9:15 AM)
Saturday, January 21st (Boys 8:00AM and Girls 9:15 AM)
Saturday, January 28th (Boys 8:00 AM and Girls 9:15 AM)
Saturday, February 4th (Boys 8:00 AM and Girls 9:15 AM)
Saturday, February 11th (Boys 8:00 AM and Girls 9:15 AM)

Please direct any questions to Doug Kerr at:
Basketball@sacredheart-vp.com

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Doug Bullerdick
Patricia Kohlberg
Kimberly Lakamp
Doris Rueter

Please note: Names will only be kept on the list for four weeks unless renewed. Please email bulletineditor-vp.org to add a name. Please ensure the person wants to be added to the list.



Help is needed for the St. Patrick Women's Center Night meal program for January 5. Any group interested in serving the meal in January can email Patricia Woodward at awoodwd@swbell.net.



World Marriage Day Mass Save the Date!

On Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., Auxiliary Bishop Mark S. Rivotuso will celebrate a Mass for World Marriage Day at the Cathedral Basilica. A reception will follow in Boland Hall. All married couples are invited to attend and celebrate the gift of marriage. World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family – the basic unit of society. It emphasizes the faithfulness, sacrifice and joy of daily married life. World Marriage Day began in Baton Rouge, La., in 1981 and was later adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Jeffrey A. Maassen
pastor@sacredheart-vp.com

Associate Pastor

Rev. Ryan Truss
fr.truss@sacredheart-vp.com

Deacons

Deacon Joe Mueller
joe.mueller@sacredheart-vp.com

Deacon Gary C. Peterson
Deacon Charles R. Snyder

Coordinator of Formation and Evangelization

Mrs. Fran Hanson
fran.hanson@sacredheart-vp.com

Parish School Principal

Mr. Patrick Holley
principal@sacredheart-vp.com

Business Manager

Mrs. Michele Bottila
businessmanager@sacredheart-vp.com

Youth Ministry Coordinator

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lindsay@sacredheart-vp.com

Office and Record Coordinator

Mrs. Monica Wilken
monicawilken@sacredheart-vp.com

Communications Coordinator

Mrs. Beverly Basler
communications@sacredheart-vp.com

Maintenance Coordinator

Mr. Vic White

Music Coordinator

Susan Boden
sboden6@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICES

Phone: 636-225-5268 / Fax: 636-225-6969
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
sacredheartvp.org

Parish School & Preschool Office

Phone 636-225-3824 / Fax 636-225-8941

Religious Education Office

Phone 636-225-0341

Faith Formation Classes

Monday/Tuesday 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Athletic Association

Co-Chairs—Chissy Curran/Doug Kerr
shaa@sacredheart-vp.com

Board of Education

President—Susan Baltz
smbaltz@outlook.com

Finance Committee

Chair—Lisa Good
finance@sacredheart-vp.com

Green Team

Chair—Karen DuBrucq
greenteam@sacredheart-vp.com

Home & School

homeandschool@sacredheart-vp.com

Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight—Dan Vogel
danvogel777@gmail.com / 314-954-0842

Ladies Auxiliary

President—Mary Henke
davemary92@sbcglobal.net / 314-606-5768

Ladies Club

President—Deborah Peluso
jjpdjp@att.net

Men's Club

President—Chris Glosemeyer
cwglose1@gmail.com

Parish Council

President—Christian Briggs
parishcouncil@sacredheart-vp.com

Peace & Justice Committee

Chair—Jeff Schulenberg
peaceandjustice@sacredheart-vp.com

Prayer Request

communications@sacredheart-vp.com

Respect Life

Chair—Amber Mueller
respectlife@sacredheart-vp.com

St. Patrick's Cassrole Program

jacalynmarquart@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Helpline

636-825-2097

Simple Steps Bereavement Group

Suzie Henke 636-343-1131

Stewardship Committee

Chair—Holly Robinson
hollynponder@yahoo.com

BULLETIN REQUESTS

All bulletin submission requests should be emailed to: the bulletin editor at bulletineditor@sacredheart-vp.com by Monday at Noon for the upcoming weekend. If you are unable to email, please feel free to drop off your request to the parish office. All photos should be .jpg or .png. All text should be in Word. No PDFs please.

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