

Be Watchful! Be Alert!
May He not come suddenly and find you sleeping.

Mark 13:33-37

HOPE



**Sacred Heart Parish
The First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023**



SACRED HEART CHURCH

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CLERGY

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Reverend Christopher Cooke,
Weekend Assistant
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HOLY CROSS REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Mrs. Theresa Healy, Principal
thealy@holycrossregionalschool.org
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MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil: 4:15 PM
Sunday: 8 AM and 10 AM
Daily Mass: 8 AM (M-Sat)

Rosary Recitation: 7:30 AM (M-Sat)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Monday - Saturday, at 7:30 AM
Saturday at 3 PM and by appointment by calling
(610) 948-5915.

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Today, with the beginning of Advent, we begin a new liturgical year! The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas.

What better way to focus more closely on our Lord than to be part of the celebration of Mass each week.

The Ministry of Altar Servers is a liturgical role in the Catholic Church. Altar servers are lay assistants to members of the clergy during Christian liturgies. They perform supporting tasks at the altar such as fetching and carrying, ringing the altar bell, helping to bring up the gifts, and bringing up the liturgical books, among other things.

The Ministry of Altar Servers is important in the Church, and an altar server who performs their responsibilities with knowledge and prayerfulness helps to facilitate the prayerfulness of the assembly.

As an altar server, you are involved in the holiest and most sacred events of Catholic worship. As you assist the priest, so you make worship more reverent, efficient, and beautiful. Your service is very important! At the altar, your service is directed firstly to God, secondly to help the clergy, and thirdly as assistance to the people who are gathered by God for worship. Your actions are visible and public, but you are never a performer. A good server is not only skilled in craft or duty at the altar, but also a humble and sincere person. The good server is a member of a team working together in harmony with others, serving for the glory of God. The good server is careful and reverent.

Altar serving developed out of the temple servers of the Old Testament and as the church evolved, developed from the order of the acolyte. When there were not enough deacons to assist the bishop or priest in the Mass, their role was deputed to acolytes. Altar serving is part of a noble tradition that has developed in the Church and is a serious responsibility.

I invite families to encourage their children to participate in this significant ministry. Our parish is a vibrant faith community. Even though there is no parish school, there are still boys and girls who could help with altar serving. Serving is not limited to grade school boys and girls. High school boys and girls should not consider themselves too old to participate.

I look forward to training our youth in this beautiful ministry. I ask our boys and girls to respond generously and encourage parental support.

Rev. Tadeusz Gorka



Today is the annual appeal for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. For many generations, the Catholic Church has been richly blessed by the ministries of consecrated men and women in religious congregations. They have tirelessly dedicated their lives to helping others. Your gift to the fund helps provide medications, nursing care, and health assistance in the later years. Please support the **Retirement Fund Collection**. It is an opportunity for us to give back to those who have selflessly given so much. (excerpt from letter from Archbishop Pérez)

Deacon Thoughts with Dave

Today, the First Sunday of Advent, begins a new Liturgical Church calendar year for us. I was asked by our Pastor, Fr. Gorka, to resume my column in the Parish Bulletin, "Deacon Thoughts with Dave."

Over the course of the next several months we will be exploring and reflecting upon the 7 Sacraments of the Catholic Church. I will begin with an introduction and then proceed looking at each Sacrament more in depth.

How do you communicate your love to someone? We're physical beings living in a physical world, so we communicate in physical ways. We experience life through our senses, and we communicate through our senses, too.

We can experience love, and love is real, but it's not a physical object. Our expressions of love aren't the same as love, but we communicate our love through them. Words, gestures, and physical objects become signs of love.

Jesus realized that as physical beings, we need physical signs to comprehend the incredible reality of his love. When Christ uses physical signs - symbols we can sense and observe - to work in us, the Church calls it a Sacrament.

I invite you to pull out your Bibles this week and reflect on the following Scripture readings which will show you a few ways Jesus used the physical world to help his followers understand his profound love for them. As you read and reflect, consider writing down or journaling the way each reading shows this.

Matthew 8:1-3	Mark 10:13-16
Luke 9:12-17	John 9:6-7
John 11:35-36	John 13:4-5
John 20:21-22	

Wishing you a blessed start to a new Liturgical Church Year. Have a wonderful week everyone.
Deacon Dave



Please pray for the sick of our parish and those that care for them.

Kevin Schurr, Steven DiGuiseppe, Garrett Rogers, John Slanga, Kitty Heebner, Baby Briana, Tara Clarke, Aria Gessner, Dan Dordea, John Hoff, Max Good, Johanna McLaughlin, Helen Gallagher, Dex Volpe, Eileen Barone, Hank Edleman, Alex Stadelmaier, Jake Dailey, James McManus, Lauri Ronan, John Durante, Heather Murphy, Cecelia Ricci, Charlotte Cody, John Breslawski, Ed Reynolds, Steve Cull, Jackie Zabicki, Alyson Layser, Charles Crowder, Keith Garnett, Grace Giuffre, Patricia Berner, Elizabeth, Caroline, and Tommy Cummings, Orville Otis, Nancy McNamara, Patricia McMinn, Anna, Mary Jane Durante, Josephine, Madison D'Annunzio, Casey Glennon, the Gonzalez Family, Jimmy D'Annunzio, Annalies Frisco, Taylor O'Neill, Marissa and Enzo Fuentes, Mike Mehle, Genevieve Tuski, Deirdre Magolon, Rosemary Buchanan, Adrienne Eisenhauer, Doug Dunn, Sara Nyce, Moira Randazzo, Jim Bob and Barbara McEwen, Andrea and Jim McManus, Connie Udicious, Maureen Yust, Alfred DePaoli, Susan Krepps, and all the sick and suffering of the parish.

We pray that God will bless you all with His healing hand.

When your loved one recovers, please notify the Parish Office so we can offer a prayer of thanks!

Mass Intentions

MON, Dec 4		Saint John Damascene - <i>Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>
8:00 AM		Marjorie B. and Raymond J. Broderick Requested by The Broderick Family
TUES, Dec 5		John Slanga, Sr. Requested by Vince Slanga
8:00 AM		Anne Vaughan Requested by Mary Beth Carr
WED, Dec 6		Saint Nicholas - Bishop
8:00 AM		Patrick McBride Requested by Chris McBride
THUR, Dec 7		Anticipated Mass of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00 AM		MaryKay Gvodas Requested by Tracy Dougherty and Sons
FRI, Dec 8		Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00 AM		Colleen Murray Requested by Rita Dougherty
6:30 PM		Cecilia Ralston Requested by Your Friends at Ursinus
SAT, Dec 9		Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
8:00 AM		Joan Milnamow Requested by Mary and Ann
4:15 PM		Michael Taylor and Mark McNeil Requested by The Campbell Family
SUN, Dec 10		Second Sunday of Advent
8:00 AM		Araceli Calle Requested by Friends from Sacred Heart
10:00 AM		Palma Lelli Requested by The Jucker Family



Please Pray For Those Serving

In The Military

U.S. AIR FORCE

Airman Nicholas Dougherty
Airman Nathan Hennessey
1st Lt. Daniel Jucker
2nd Lt. Kira Zeller

U.S. AIR FORCE SPECIAL FORCES

Captain Ian Gardocki

U.S. ARMY

Private Samuel Burns
2nd Lt. Nicholas Gardocki
SSG Daniel A. Manildo
2nd Lt. Michael McCormick
Tom Miller; National Guard



U.S. MARINE CORPS

Sergeant Justin Solorio

U.S. Navy

Marty Miller; Seabees
PO2 Ryan Wheaton

December Decade-A-Day Rosary Group
Prayer Intentions

For the month of December,
we pray for peace on earth as
we celebrate the birth of our
Lord, Jesus Christ.

Sacred Heart
Renewing our Faith



Next Adult Faith Formation Meeting:
Led by parishioner, Ed Kashmere.

Join us for a casual discussion in the Café to
discuss and reignite our passion for our Faith.

Dec 13: 6:30pm



Please join us this Season of Giving in providing
Christmas food and gifts to those in need.

The list of families from St. Martin de Porres and other information is now
available in the Café after all Masses. Join with others from Sacred Heart
or your own family to provide food and gifts for a family in need.

Gift/Food Drop Off:

at the Gym on Friday, December 15th
between 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Truck Arrival/Load Up:
at the Gym on Saturday, December 16th
between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please celebrate this beautiful
Solemnity with us in person.

Mass Schedule:

Thursday, 12/7:

• Vigil Mass at 4:15 p.m.

Friday, 12/8:

• Mass at 8 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.



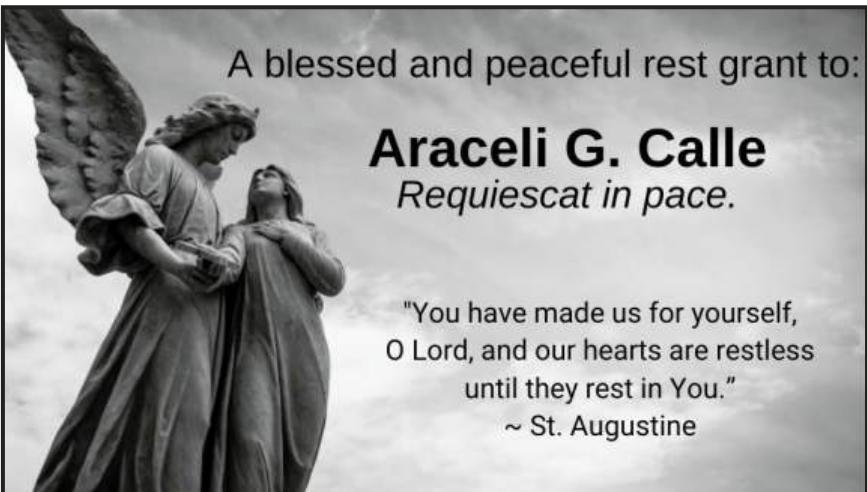
December's prayer intentions are for
Deacon Dave Kubczak.



A candle burns this week next to the
Saint Joseph statue

for **Peter Morgan**

Requested by The Santos Family



A blessed and peaceful rest grant to:
Araceli G. Calle
Requiescat in pace.

"You have made us for yourself,
O Lord, and our hearts are restless
until they rest in You."

~ St. Augustine

St. Andrew Christmas Novena

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the
Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at
midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that
hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear
my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of
Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother.

Amen

The St. Andrew's Novena - which begins on this Apostle's feast day - consists of a short, beautiful prayer that is recited fifteen times a day in honor of Our Lord's Nativity. It is not a novena in the literal sense of the word, because it begins on November 30th and finishes on Christmas Eve, which makes it 25 days long. (If you're a numbers person, that means this novena prayer is recited a total of 375 times!)

The tradition is of uncertain origin, but possibly began in Ireland about a century ago and has become immensely popular.

Like most novenas, it is not only a sincere act of devotion, but also a way to offer God the intentions that are close to your heart.

It is piously believed that those who pray this novena faithfully will receive what they ask. You can pray the fifteen iterations all at once, rosary-style, or you can break them up throughout the day.

Visit our website for information about Advent; including history, prayers, blessing of an Advent Wreath, videos and activities for families! www.sacredheartroyersford.org/advent





The Sacred Heart Pro-Life Group will NOT have a December meeting. Meetings will resume in the new year starting January 10th, 2024.

Giving TREE

Sacred Heart will once again be providing assistance to those in need this Christmas!

This year we will assist St. Mary's Shelter, Birthright, My Brother's Place, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the form of gift cards.

If interested, please take an ornament from the Christmas tree located in the Fellowship Café and purchase a gift card in denominations \$25 or less, to the store indicated on the ornament.

Gift cards may be placed in the collection basket at Mass or dropped off or mailed to the parish office.

The deadline for donations is Sunday, December 17th.

Questions? Contact Michelle Palumbo
484-213-0449

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Silver Liners Senior Circle

Please join us for our

Christmas Luncheon!

DECEMBER 11TH

11:00 A.M.

IN THE CAFÉ

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!



FREE FOR MEMBERS - \$15 NON-MEMBERS

Other News and Events

- Advent Day of Recollection, "The O Antiphons":** Dec 16th, 9am-3:30pm. Drexel Hall, Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia (free parking available). All are welcome, lay, religious and clergy; Contact Sr. Gabrielle Mary to register at sr.gbraccio@archphila.org or 215-587-3795.
- Living Drive-thru Nativity:** Dec 16th, 7:00-9:00pm. Free! On the grounds of Nativity of Our Lord Parish. 605 West Street Rd., Warminster, PA 18974. More info: Ann Marie Gervino, agervino@noolp.org
- Come & See Discernment Opportunities:** Online and in person for men who are considering a vocation. Visit the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary to see what seminary life is like and explore a possible call to the priesthood. To register, go to: heedthecall.org/comeandsee, or contact Fr. Friel, Vocation Director: fr.dfriel@archphila.org
HIGH SCHOOL MEN: January 20-21, 2024
- St. Patrick's All Year Reunion:** March 23, 2024, 6 - 10 PM. Embassy Room. 1489 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell. \$50 per person includes roast beef, meatballs, penne, dessert, beer and soda. Bring your own wine! Reserve Your Ticket: Santangelo1@verizon.net and mail checks to: Barbara Santangelo 1202 W. Elm St. Norristown, PA 19401.



We wait with hope during Advent.

Holy Cross will begin the Advent season with our Student Council leading us each Monday morning with a prayer service. Our prayer service takes place in the school gym so that all grades can participate. It's a beautiful way to prepare our hearts and minds for the Lord coming to each of us leading up to Christmas day.

SAVE THE DATE: Our 7th grade students will present the *Christmas Tableau* which will take place after the **9:00 am** school Mass at **St. Eleanor Church, Collegeville, on Friday, December 22nd**. We are truly preparing spiritually for Christmas.



**COMING SOON - JANUARY 2024!
REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024-25
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Stay Awake. Be Ready!



During this season of giving, How can I give?

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Holy Cross Regional Catholic School.

Donating is easy, visit our website at

www.hcrc.school/advancement-fund, or

mail your check to school:

701 Locust Street, Collegeville, PA 19426

Contact: Advancement Director, smollahan@hcrc.school.

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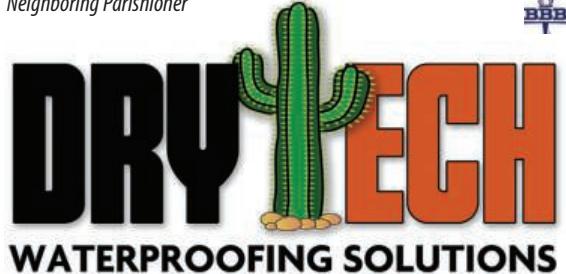
Robert W. Strunk, Jr. F.D.
Supervisor, Parishioner of St. Joseph

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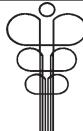
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