



December 10, 2023

Sacred Heart Of Jesus Catholic Church

Established 1966
4736 Lyba Street
Shreveport, LA 71109-0467

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MISSION STATEMENT

We, the parish of Sacred Heart, are committed to enriching the Spirituality of the parish family, the Christian community, and all brothers and sisters created in God's divine image and likeness. We are called by the Holy Spirit, under the leadership of our Bishop and Pastor, to assist others through the development and promotion of various ministries. We pray for Divine guidance that we may serve others with truth, courage, forethought and compassion.
Parish Council 1998

BAPTISM: Call the office three months prior to anticipated birth to schedule a preparation class after which a Baptism date can be scheduled.

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION: Please contact Aga Chandler, Coordinator of Religious Ed.

MARRIAGE: Contact the office six months prior to anticipated wedding date. Pre-Cana is required for all engaged couples and should be attended at least three months before the wedding.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & MINISTRY OF CARE: If you or someone you know is seriously ill, hospital or home bound, and would like the Anointing of the Sick, please call the Church office to make arrangements to have a priest come and visit. The Eucharist can also be brought to homebound parishioners by an Extraordinary Minister.

WE WELCOME YOU AND INVITE YOU

to fill out a form to become a member of our special Little Church with the Big Heart. The green census forms are located in the back of the Church. You may put the completed form in the collection basket, mail it to the office, or bring it in during office hours. We welcome you to our family.

MASSES ARE AS FOLLOWS

Saturday — 6:00 p.m. and Sunday — 10:30 a.m.
with Rosary recited 30 minutes before Saturday Mass

WEEK DAY MASS

Wednesday — 10:00 a.m. in the Church
9:00 a.m. Adoration and Benediction
Anointing of the Sick is the First Wednesday of Each Month

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION MASSES

12:05 p.m. Day of the Holy Day

Reconciliation

Sunday: 10:10 a.m. before 10:30 am Mass
Wednesday: 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. before 10:00 am Mass

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday — 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Pre K 3 through High School — Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
September — May

O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

For those interested in exploring the Catholic Faith
Sunday at 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. September — May

BULLETIN NOTICE DEADLINE

— **MONDAY 1:00 PM for the following Sunday's bulletin** —
Please email your request to libbyac@sacredheartshreveport.org
You can drop it off at the church office or place your written announcement in the collection basket on Saturdays or Sundays.

Thank you.

BIENVENIDO A LOS RECIÉN LLEGADOS!

Por favor rellene un formulario de censo situado en el vestíbulo de la Iglesia. Usted puede poner el formulario en la cesta de la colección, enviarlo por correo a la Oficina o llamar a su información a la Oficina de la parroquia durante las horas de oficina.

Nosotros le damos la bienvenida a nuestra familia.



Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023

“ Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

Matthew 3:3

Masses for the Week

| | | | |
|------------|------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/09 SAT. | 6:00 p.m. | † | CHRIS & EUNICE EBARB |
| 12/09 SAT. | 6:00 p.m. | † | RAYNETTE SEPULVADO |
| 12/09 SAT. | 6:00 p.m. | † | JÉAN PAUL & RANDY BROSSET |
| 12/10 SUN. | 10:30 a.m. | † | MARY KAY JONES |
| 12/10 SUN. | 10:30 a.m. | † | KIMBERLY S. CARROLL |
| 12/10 SUN. | 10:30 a.m. | † | FAY CUNNINGHAM |
| 12/13 WED. | 9:00 a.m. | | ADORATION, BENEDICTION AND CONFESSION (IN RECTORY CHAPEL) |
| 12/13 WED. | 10:00 a.m. | † | FR. DANIEL JOSEPH O'SULLIVAN, SMA |
| 12/13 WED. | 10:00 a.m. | † | LORNA MORTON |
| 12/16 SAT. | 6:00 p.m. | | PARISHIONERS OF SACRED HEART & ST. MARY OF THE PINES |
| 12/16 SAT. | 6:00 p.m. | † | JIM HEARD |
| 12/17 SAT. | 6:00 p.m. | † | FAY CUNNINGHAM |
| 12/17 SUN. | 10:30 a.m. | † | LORNA MORTON |

by: The Family
by: Cindy McGowan
by: Mardie & Les Brosset (Mom & Dad)
by: Tim & Elaine Smith
by: Tim & Elaine Smith
by: Danny & Teresa Pizzolato

by: Yen Khang Van
by: Bill & Sharon Farrar

by: The Family
by: Tim & Elaine Smith
by: Bill & Sharon Farrar

SAT., DEC. 9 - 6:00 PM

SUN., DEC. 10 - 10:30 AM

SAT., DEC. 16 - 6:00 PM

SUN., DEC. 17 - 10:30 AM

Reader 1
Reader 2

Dardanella Powell
Lucy Rivero

Mary French
Joe Glorioso

Dan Feeney
Andrea Feeney

Rey Pangatungan
Marlyn Pangatungan

EMHC1
EMHC2

Marilyn Crosby
Deacon Clary Nash

Jean Woods
Darlene Cain

Mary Kay Efferson
Deacon Clary Nash

Jennifer Callicoatte
Barbara Lichtfuss

Altar Server A
Altar Server B

Walt Recker

Annabelle Callicoatte
Aubrie Gallion
Joe Callicoatte

Richard Guzman

Eva Callicoatte
Stacey Pangatungan
Jaicee Harris



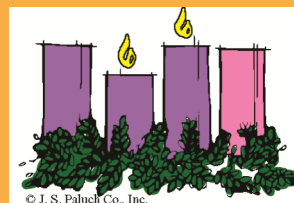
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

You are invited to remember your loved ones with a donation to the Christmas Memorial Flower Fund. If you use the envelope system, there is one in your November box of envelopes or you can use the envelopes from the small white basket in the Narthex of the Church. There will be a Memorial Flower Insert in the bulletin for Christmas. Please put your list of names in the envelope with your name or how you want it signed on the insert on the outside of the envelope. All envelopes need to be returned to the Church Office by Monday, December 18, 2021, so that we can have enough time to get your loved ones listed on the insert that will be in the bulletin. If you would like, you can place them in the collection basket. That is the easiest way to get them to the office. Thank You Very Much

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

We are having our Advent Reconciliation Service on Monday, December 18th at 5:30 p.m. at S.H. Church.

There are Advent Books from “The Word Among Us” in the Narthex of the Church to use for the Advent Season. Please use these booklets for your daily meditations. The booklets are from Dec. 3 to Dec. 31, 2023.



SAINT VINCENT de PAUL

Is there a neighbor or friend of yours who is in temporary need because of a loss of a job or an illness? Please leave a message for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul....we want to help! We can be reached Monday - Friday between the hours of 9 am to 11 am & between 1 pm to 3 pm at 318-865-7807.

1-888-411-1333

Free. Confidential. 24 Hours

SUICIDE HOTLINE — 1-877-994-2275

If you are out of town and would like to find a mass near you. Go to www.MassTimes.org or call 734-794-2100.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BY: FR/ JOSEPH MADDALA

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

A patient called up her doctor. Something is wrong with her; she needed emergency treatment in her house. "Can you have somebody fetch me because my car broke down today?" the doctor said. "My husband and my children are here," the patient replied. "All of them can drive but I can't allow them to get you because I'm afraid of their safety. Besides, my car is brand-new. It might be carjacked or be dented from an accident. Why don't you just flag down a taxi so that you can come here?"

The doctor got a taxi and set out to his patient's house. Immediately he checked her up. "You have a serious case of hypertension; your blood pressure is very high. Unless you do something drastic about your condition, you will die," the doctor said. "Can you take this medicine regularly?" "I can't," was the patient's reply. "I'm a busy person. I have many other things to do."

"Can you refrain from eating fatty foods and have a low-salt diet?" the doctor asked her again. "I can't because they are my favorite. And how can I have appetite for food lacking in salt?"

"Can you at least do some exercises?" you really need to lessen your weight and improve your blood circulation," the doctor said. "I can't because I just want to relax, eat and sleep."

"Then there is one thing I can do," the doctor said. "What is that?" asked the patient. "I will contact funeral parlor and advise its agents that you will be dead any day from now. I might get a bigger commission this time! The doctor replied.

Just like this doctor who gave an advice to his patient on what to do, today's gospel talks about Saint John the Baptist who proclaims baptism of repentance which leads to the forgiveness of sins. Saint John the Baptist has a message to tell to us about Jesus Christ. Who is John the Baptist? Why is he important to us especially in this season of Advent?

John the Baptist is a messenger. He is a messenger because he applies the Old Testament prophecies to Jesus. His life, however presents still a much greater message for it foreshadows the implications of loyalty to God's work: simplicity of

lifestyle and fearlessness in preparing the path for the coming of God's kingdom. John is part of the good news through faithfulness to his mission.

We too can be messengers. Has it ever occurred in our minds that we are where we are now because God wanted us to be there or here? Maybe we go to another place because of financial reasons for our family but have we ever considered that we are where we are now because of God's plan? Nothing happens by accident for those who love God. We are where we are now because God has a mission for us to do there.

John the Baptist is a man of prayer. He is a man of prayer and therefore, he is closed to God. He knew that if we want to change the world, we have to start with ourselves. He led a simple life.

In order to experience God who is with us, we need to go for a desert experience like Saint John the Baptist and that is to be alone with God and pray. But to pray one requires certain aids. First is *simplicity*. In an urban life, we are easily enchanted by what is pretty, plastic and superficial. In order to pray, we have to get rid of this excessive baggage because it blocks our way to Christ and to seeing things as they are. The second aid is *silence*. We need to be still, to be healed of our disturbed spirits. We need a place of quiet in order to calm our tingling nerves and hear God speak. The third aid is *solitude*. We cannot allow ourselves to be driven all the time by an instinct to perform, to produce and to do many things. Sometimes we have to stand in solitude to discover who we are and who our God is.

John the Baptist is an authentic person. He lives what he preaches. By his lifestyle, his dressing and eating habits, he shows that the meaning of life is not to be found in the abundance of material possessions but in relationship with God. Simplicity of life and detachment from unnecessary cares and worries of social life frees the heart for a personal relationship with God. To go into the desert is the first step in true repentance. It means abandoning our usual hiding places and putting ourselves in a situation where God can easily reach us. He is authentic because there was nothing shady about him. He was genuine through and through. His lifestyle lent credibility to his preaching. He did not take up a collection; he did not enrich himself from his preaching.

Like Saint John the Baptist, let us be authentic too. Is there something of Saint John the Baptist in us at all: a messenger, a man of prayer and an authentic person?

NEW HORIZONS
PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD
by: Fr. Mark Watson, Pastor

Our first reading is taken from the section of the Book of Isaiah called Second Isaiah which was written about 550 BC. In Second Isaiah, the people of Judah are in exile and the prophet tells the people that God is about to set them free. The message is one of comfort, hope and expiation of sin. Judah's long wait in exile is finally coming to an end.

The prophet of Second Isaiah had an Advent imagination. To a people trapped in a sad and desperate present, far from their homeland, he offered a vision of a future full of hope. The prophecy of Isaiah promises a new action of God, who will make a victorious way through the wilderness. Isaiah exhorts the people to be prepared as a new day is dawning since God will soon rescue them from captivity.

“In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!” (Isaiah 40:3).

They were to remove any obstacle that would prevent God's approach and flatten out anything that would obstruct their view of seeing God come in glory and in power. He gave a rousing call to live in watchful expectation of a God who had not forgotten them.

Suddenly at the very end of the reading, there is a dramatic change in image, from proclaiming a God of might “who rules by his strong arm” to proclaiming a God of great tenderness. The prophet suddenly says:

“Like a shepherd he feeds his flock.
In his arms he gathers the lambs,
Carrying them in his bosom,
And leading the ewes with care” (Isaiah 40:11).

In our Gospel, John the Baptist is a “voice...crying out in the desert” (Mark 1:3) to the people of his day: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths” (Mark 1:3). John calls people to a change of heart and speaks of the stronger one who will exceed his preaching and baptism.

If John the Baptist was with us in this church, he would challenge us to make the rough ways smooth in our lives. He would challenge us to turn from sin and to remove all obstacles which get in the way of our relationship with Christ. John would call us to follow Christ more faithfully. Advent is not only about waiting for Jesus to be born but also it is about deepening our relationship with the risen Lord.

CONCLUSION

In the Gospel, John the Baptist prepares people for the coming of the Lord. This Advent may we prepare our lives for the coming of Christ now and in the future. What are the rough ways that I must make smooth so that the Lord may enter my life and I may follow Christ more closely? May my Advent practices lead to the abundant life with which Christ desires to bless me.



Dec 10—Family of Faith
 Dec 12—Cat. Women's League Luncheon—Regr. 9 am—Mtg @ 10:30 am
 Dec 17—Parish Christmas Party after Sun. Mass and Christmas Play
 Dec 18—Advent Reconciliation service at 5:30 pm
 Dec 23—Mass at 6:00 pm
 Dec 24—Mass at 10:30 am
 Dec 24—Christmas Eve Mass—6:00 pm
 Dec 25—11:00 am—Christmas Mass—Office Closed
 Dec 26—Office Closed
 Feb 10—Valentine Dance, 2 to 6 pm at S.H. (Jan. planning meeting to be announced)



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

*The "Little Church with the Big Heart"
 always applies throughout the entire year*

December 10: Second Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor box will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God's love this Christmas.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

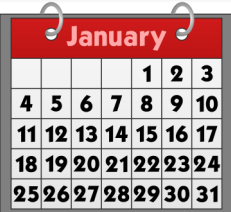
Lucky Calendar Numbers 2023 Winners

November 19 - November 25, 2023

| Date | Amt. | No. | Winner | Sold by: |
|------------|----------|-------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 11/19 Sun. | \$ 50.00 | # 651 | – No Winner | |
| 11/20 Mon. | \$ 25.00 | # 087 | – No Winner | |
| 11/21 Tue. | \$ 25.00 | # 987 | – John W. (SMOP) | sold by John Walker |
| 11/22 Wed. | \$ 25.00 | # 795 | – Renee R. | sold by BeBe Sanchez |
| 11/23 Thu. | \$100.00 | # 798 | – April Y. | sold by Libby (Thanksgiving) |
| 11/24 Fri. | \$ 25.00 | # 391 | – Aga C. | sold by Aga |
| 11/25 Sat. | \$ 35.00 | # 126 | – Heather Q. | sold by BeBe Sanchez |

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS

Hope you got your 2024 LCN's before the drawing this weekend. Still selling tickets. So just call Walt @ 318-525-2654 or Cathy @ 318-286-6275 or send an email to cbflynn2586@aol.com and I will make arrangements for you to get your Lucky Number.



2024 SACRED HEART CALENDARS

The Ladies Guild will be selling calendars again this year for \$2.00 each as a service project. We will begin selling them the weekend of Dec 2nd and 3rd and continue until all are sold. There are a limited amount of them, so get yours early. For any questions, please call Cherie Breffelh at 780-0009.



The Angel Tree is Up in the Narthex. Once again Sacred Heart through the ministry of St. Vincent De Paul has an Angel Tree. Please help these children (*our little angels*) celebrate the joy of Christmas by choosing a name off the tree and buying them their desired gifts and clothing. **When you return the unwrapped gift, please make sure you return the angel also. The deadline for returning your Angel Gift is Sunday, Dec.**

10th. We appreciate everything you do to help the children that need a Christmas Gift under their tree from Santa. Please do not take an angel if you cannot fulfil the child's wishes. If you find you cannot take care of it, please return the angel to the tree or bring it back to SVdP so they can take care of our little angel.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY AND CHRISTMAS PLAY



Our Sacred Heart Christmas Party is Sunday, Dec. 17th after the 10:30 am Mass. There will be singing and joyful fun after Mass in Gabriel Hall. The meat will be provided by the church and we ask that everyone bring a dish to pass by following

this tried and true method of your last name. If your name begins with A-M bring a dessert or vegetable and those that begin with N-Z bring a salad or casserole. Put it on your calendar so that you won't forget. We heard Santa and the Mrs. will be paying us a visit.

Second Sunday of Advent Prepare the Way of the Lord

Saint Peter shows us a characteristic of God that we normally do not think about. He tells us that for God, "a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day" (2 Peter 3:8). Somehow, God is not restricted by time as we are. Taken literally, that seems to violate the laws of physics. Of course, God made those laws, so if anyone can ignore them, God certainly could. More likely, because early Christians sometimes complained that Jesus' second coming had been delayed, Peter is trying to tell us that what seems like a long time to us is nothing to God.

Like the early Christians, we may wonder how long it will take for God to answer our prayers. We may be praying for someone who is looking for a job, a sick relative, an end to abortion, or world peace. Some prayers just take time to be answered, especially if a large number of people need to change their hearts to make it happen. Some prayers require us to change, and we may not be ready.

What Peter means is that a thousand years is not too long for God if someone needs that long to repent. God is far more patient than we are. If someone had been fighting me for months or years, I would probably give up on them. But God can wait till we are mature enough to face our sins and be sorry for them. In the same way, God has been "waiting" over two thousand years for us to preach the gospel to all nations. God has been waiting for millennia for people to give up war as a means for solving our problems. God has been waiting since the beginning of the human race for us to learn how to love our neighbor.

We might not be as patient as God but we can help. Saint Peter says that we are not just waiting for the Lord's return, we are hastening it. When we make a choice that is based on faith rather than selfishness, we make it a little easier for people to believe in God. Jesus is the light of the world; he asks us to let our light shine, so that people can see Jesus in us. May our light "prepare the way of the Lord" (Mark 1:3). **Tom Schmidt**

Family of Faith Gatherings have resumed. All families are warmly welcome to join us. The goal of this program is to encourage and equip you to live and teach your children the Catholic Faith at home. The meetings will take place in Gabriel Hall from 9:00 am till 10:15 am every 3rd Sunday of the month.

**Scripture Readings
For the Week of December 10, 2023**

Sun: Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Mon: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tue: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wed: Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thur: Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Fri: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19

Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sun: Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

There is a 2nd collection for "The Retirement Fund for Religious" this weekend. Please be generous.

Weekly Collections

Weekly Collection Needed

\$ 4,772.00

Regular Collection — Dec. 25 & 26, 2023

\$ 3,357.00

(Regular collection includes on-line giving)

Children's Collection—Nov. 26, 2023

\$ 5.00

Total Collection—Nov. 25 & 26, 2023

\$ 3,362.00

Attendance: Nov. 25 & 26, 2023 — 139

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE LUNCHEON/MEETING

The Ladies of Holy Trinity, Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament and BAFB (Holy Family) Catholic Churches will host the luncheon/mtg. on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. Registration will start at 9:30 am and the meeting will begin promptly at 10:30 am. It will be held at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church Hall at 1558 Buena Vista St., Shreveport, LA 71101.

The cost of the luncheon is \$12.00 per person. Please bring an un-wrapped toy for either a Boy or Girl for Christmas to be donated to the drive for "Toys for Tots".

Canned goods and used clothing items will be collected for the host Church charity of their choice. Please bring your "White Elephant" items in a gift bag. They will sell for 50 cents.

Fr. Mark and Deacon Clary are invited to attend. It is a regular meeting with a Very Special Guest, lunch as usual and door prizes.

Call your representative, to RSVP by Tuesday, December 5, 2023, Elaine Smith at 318-453-4145.