

SACRED HEART CHURCH

PRAY † TEACH † SERVE

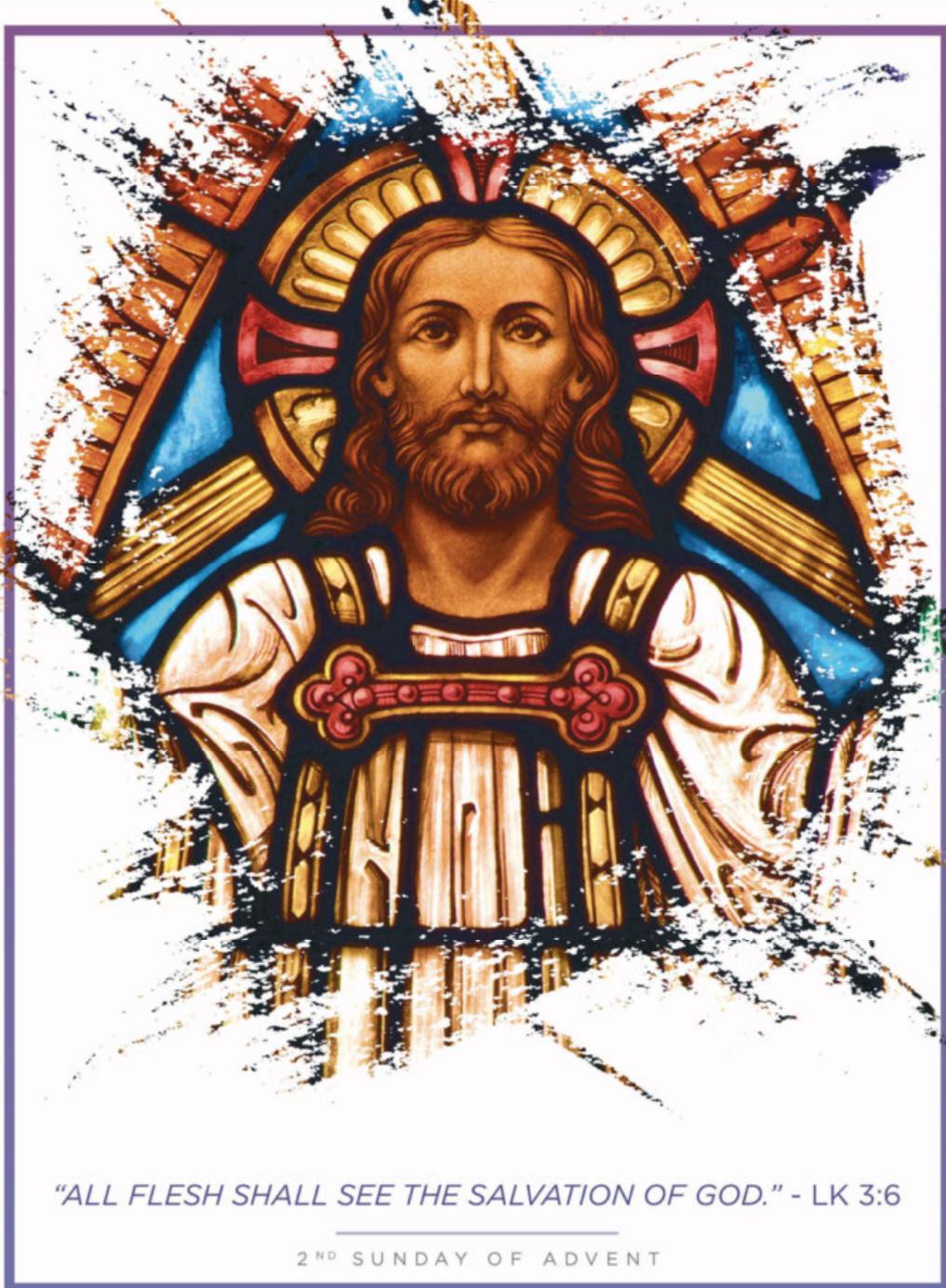
December 5th, 2021

2nd Sunday of Advent

Mission Statement

We are a Eucharistic Community which recognizes and values the dignity of each person by responding to the Gospel.

We are called to
Pray, Teach and Serve.



Weekend Mass

Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:30 AM
10:00 AM

Daily Mass

Monday 7:00 AM
Tuesday 7:00 AM
Wednesday 7:00 AM
Friday 7:00 AM
Saturday 8:30 AM

Communion Service

Thursday 7:00 AM

Confession

Monday 7:30 AM
Tuesday 7:30 AM
Saturday 9:00 AM
4:30-5:15 PM

Adoration

Friday 7:30 AM Exposition
8:30 AM Benediction

Baptism

Please call the parish office to make arrangements for baptism at least 2 months in advance.

Matrimony

Please call the parish office to make arrangements for marriage at least 6 months in advance.

Pastor

Reverend Bruce Ludeke

Permanent Deacon

Ken Funk

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Pray

Mass Intentions

Mon. 12/6	7:00 AM	† J. Mark Beaty
Tues. 12/7	7:00 AM	† Gladys Baumann
	5:30 PM	† Jack & Connie Fritz
Wed. 12/8	7:00 AM	† Irene Miloch
	5:30 PM	† Carley Harrielle
Thurs. 12/9	7:00 AM	Communion Service
Fri. 12/10	7:00 AM	† Irene Miloch
Sat. 12/11	8:30 AM	For the Conversion of Christians
	5:30 PM	† Dick Taylor
Sun. 12/12	8:30 AM	† Frances Clark
	10:00 AM	Sacred Heart Parishioners

Sanctuary Lamp In memory of Larry Lubbs

Prayer before Communion

Dear Lord, may I receive you in this communion with open arms and a loving, contrite heart, so that I may be filled with your grace, for my good and Your glory! Amen.



Thanksgiving After Holy Communion

I thank you, Eternal Father, for giving me as the food of my soul, the Body and Blood of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. May this Divine Food preserve and increase the union of my soul with you. May it purify me by repressing every evil inclination. Grant that it may be to me a pledge of a glorious resurrection on the last day. O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I love you with all my heart. I am sorry for ever having offended you, and I desire never to offend you again. Amen.

St. Michael Prayer

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin

On December 8, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. (This feast is also a holy day of obligation for dioceses in the United States.) On this feast, we celebrate Mary's conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. So, too, does every human life begin at the moment of fertilization, when it is lovingly knit together by God the Father.



Gianna's House

Gianna's House is need of new or gently used winter sleepers/pj's size newborn to toddler. Donations can be dropped off to Gianna's House enclosed front porch 24/7. For questions call/text Colleen 815-213-0290.

Teach

Dear Sacred Heart Community,

This Liturgical year we will be focusing on the Eucharist and Mary in our spiritual readings in the bulletin. It is my hope that you will find them spiritually informative, uplifting, and inspiring. May this year be a time of growth in our knowledge and love of the Eucharist as well as drawing closer to the Blessed Virgin Mary. May God shower many blessings upon you and your family this year!
Father Bruce

Catholic Activity Advent and the Eucharist

DIRECTIONS

The season of Advent prepares us for properly celebrating the birth of the Redeemer. We remember the birth of Christ over 2000 years ago, but unless Christ is also born in our own souls the event will mean nothing to us. The Church encourages our focus to be on a deeply spiritual level, with the Year being "intensely Eucharistic; in the *Sacrament of the Eucharist* the Savior, who took flesh in Mary's womb twenty centuries ago, continues to offer himself to humanity as the source of divine life." (John Paul II)

The Eucharist is a mystery of Light. Throughout the season of Advent the Church points to the coming of the Light of the World. We are awaiting the birth of the Messiah. The Liturgy commemorates salvation history, the prophets and the people of the Old Testament, waiting in darkness to see the Light. Mary was the first tabernacle, carrying Christ in her womb. She is "woman of the Eucharist" and our model. By putting Holy Mass and the Eucharist at the center of our lives, and being "taught" by Mary, we will enter more deeply in Christ's coming, and God prepares our souls for the coming of His Son. During Advent, add some spiritual activities, such as attending Mass, visiting Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and keeping Sunday holy. To help reinforce the Year of the Eucharist in teaching the children in our home, here are some other highlighted activities and recipes. The Advent Wreath: This is the most popular Advent tradition, with a strong emphasis on the coming of the Light of the World. More candles are lit the closer we come to Christmas, and the closer we are to receive Him in our hearts and in Holy Communion. Jesse Tree, Old Testament Salvation History: The Jesse Tree is one way to commemorate the memorial of salvation history, prefigured in the Old Testament, including types of Christ and prefigures of the Eucharist. December 13: St. Lucy, Feast of Light Lucy, or Lucia means Light: Her feast originally coincided with the winter solstice, which marked the shortest day of the year. With her feast day we watch for the Light of the World to come, and many of these feast day customs bring home the mystery of Light. Christmas Wheat Also known as "St. Lucy's Wheat": is a Hungarian custom of planting wheat seeds. The symbolism points back to the Eucharist, the Bread of Life. Lebkuchen or Lifecake: An excellent recipe that points back to the Bread of Life. Breads of Christmas Bread: always points back to the Eucharist. The baking for these Christmas breads occurs during Advent, reminding us of the expectation of Jesus, the Bread of Angels. Oplatek or Bread of Angels: This is an old Polish custom of exchanging large oval-shaped wafers with figures imprinted on the front reminds us of our daily bread and the Bread of Life who came into the world.

Serve

Diocesan Stewardship Appeal 2021-22

Goal: \$34,212
Donated to date: \$21,995.00
Amount at this date last year: \$25,260.75



Thank you to those who have given to the 2021-22 Diocesan Appeal. If you have not donated there is still time to do so.

Exciting News!!!

Sacred Heart Church High School Youth Group



When: December 19, January 30, February 27, March 27, April 24
Where: Sacred Heart Church basement, 2224 Ave J, Sterling, IL
Time: 11 AM-12:15 PM
Contact Melinda Hutchinson for more information.
Bring your friends and come check it out!!!

Sacred Heart Church Middle School Youth Group



When: December 12, January 16, February 13, March 20, April 10
Where: Sacred Heart Church basement, 2224 Ave J, Sterling, IL
Time: 11 AM-12:15 PM
Contact Melinda Hutchinson for more information.
Bring your friends and come check it out!!!

New Missalettes

Our weekly missalettes are available for you to pick up for following along in Mass or when participating in Mass at home. Missalettes can be purchased this weekend or pick one up during office hours. Mon-Fri 9 AM-3 PM for a \$5.00 donation.



Job opening at Sacred Heart Church

Sacred Heart has a job opening for a Director/Coordinator of Music & Liturgy. This position will be part time and salary is commensurate with experience. We would like to have this person start ASAP. Applications and a detailed position description can be found online at www.sacredheartparish.net. Contact Julie in the parish office for more details: 815-625-1134.

Amazon Smile

Do your holiday shopping and earn money for Sacred Heart Church! Go to Amazon Smile and search for Sacred Heart Church in Sterling, IL. You will be giving a percentage of your purchase directly to Sacred Heart Church!



Happy Birthday from Fr. Bruce and the Sacred Heart Staff!

Dec 6th Lisa Bringer Cassie Hubbell Madison McMahon	Dec 8th Michelle Grummert Rita Thorngren	Dec 10th Ava Rivera Shelly Siegmund
Dec 7th Kathryn Boyle Justin Hutchison Carolyn Strong Haylie Zolli	Dec 9th Dr. Angel Blazquez Dr. James Grunauer Kevin McCarthy Ginny Propheter	Dec 11th Natalie Eddinger Melisaa Troye
		Dec 12th Karen Toth

Military Prayer List

2nd Lt. Ryan Arndt, 2nd Lt. Connor Brown, Dominic Burke, Jacob Burke, PFC John M. Clark, Staff Sgt. Adam Hodge, Captain Zach Passini, Joshua Sweeney, Eric Thom, Andrew Valentino
Almighty God, We stand before you in supplication, asking Your Divine mercy and protection, to envelop with Your invincible armor, our loved ones in all branches of the service. Give them courage and strength against all enemies, both spiritual and physical, and hasten their safe journey back to their homes and families. Amen.



Christmas Giving Tree Ministry



This year's Giving Tree will be the same as last year. There will not be any trees in the narthex with the tags. To get a tag you will go to the SignUpGenius website and click on the Giving Tree Tag option. There you will sign up for whatever present you choose to purchase. The tags are available now on the SignUpGenius website. Please write the child's name and tag number on the gift tag you put on the present. (For example: Dalton A4) We ask that you return the presents to the church, no later than **December 12th**. If you are interested in delivering presents to a family, please call the office. Thank you for all you do for our community!

Bambinelli Blessing

Below is a little background on the Bambinelli blessing tradition from an article published by Aleteia.com: St. John Paul II began a tradition early on in his papacy where he invited the children of Rome to assemble in St. Peter's Square on the Third Sunday of Advent during his Angelus address. He asked them to bring their little statue of the baby Jesus that would be placed in their Nativity set at home. John Paul II blessed the figurines of those present and told them to assemble before the manger scene with their family in a spirit of prayer. Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued the tradition, and in recent years it has started to expand to other places outside of Rome. It is a beautiful Advent tradition, one that sanctifies the home with the baby Jesus and makes his arrival in the manger scene an even more joyous event. We are happy to continue this tradition at Sacred Heart Parish on Saturday, December 12th at the 5:30 PM Mass.



Parish Office

Hours.....Monday - Friday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Phone 815-625-1134
 Fax.....815-625-1138
 Rectory, *Emergency Only*815-625-0631

Parish Staff

Pastor

Rev. Bruce Ludeke.....ext. 3
 Email.....sheartpastor@gmail.com

Permanent Deacon

Ken Funk.....815-778-4866
 Email.....sheartdeaconken@gmail.com

Business Manager

Julie Massey.....ext. 2
 Email.....jmassey@rockforddiocese.org

Coordinator of Religious Education

Melinda Hutchison
 Email.....sheartreligioused@gmail.com

Coordinator of RCIA

Gonzalo Reyes
 Email.....sheartRCIA@gmail.com

Executive Assistant

Lupe Larson.....sheartoffice@gmail.com

Prayer Chain for Special Intentions

Call.....815-625-1134
 Email.....sheartoffice@gmail.com

Weekly Collection

Your Gift to God last weekend was:

Amount Required Weekly	\$5,711.54
Envelope & Loose Collection	\$3,457.00
Online Giving	\$2,287.00
Weekly Total (11/28/2021)	\$5,744.00
YTD Required	\$125,653.88
YTD Collected (Week 22)	\$115,701.51
Total Envelope Holders	529
Envelopes Used	94
% Contributed	18
Tithing 5%	\$260 Sterling Tw. Thanksgiving Groceries

Raffle Winner Jean Cogdall \$100.00

Schedule of Ministers

Saturday, Dec 11th & Sunday, Dec 12th

Lectors:

5:30 PM Susanna Riley
 8:30 AM John Clark
 10:00 AM Shawn Hanlon



Ushers:

5:30 PM Gary & Denise Mosher
 8:30 PM Jeff & Brenda Gould
 10:00 AM Raul & Raquel Reyes

Servers:

5:30 PM Colin & Guiliانا Messer
 10:00 AM Raul Reyes, Jr. & Aiden Mackay

Please contact Lupe Larson at 815-625-1134 or sheartoffice@gmail.com if you can help out in these roles!

Liturgical Ministers Needed for Christmas Eve/Day

Ministers in all roles are needed for the following Masses for Christmas Eve/Day:

Friday, Dec. 24th: 6:00 PM, 10:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 25th: 5:30 PM

Please sign up on the sheets in the narthex or contact Lupe Larson at 815-625-1134 / sheartoffice@gmail.com.

Free Live Nativity at Newman High School



Join us in celebrating The Reason for the Season or a free live nativity drive thru in the circle drive at the high school on Saturday, December 11th at 5:30-8 PM. Free will donations will be accepted and given Directly to our Local Churches' "GIVING TREES".

Nativity Pageant 2021



Revised Practice Schedule:

Dec. 5th-4:00 PM

Dec. 19th-4:00 PM

Dec. 12th-4:00 PM (dress rehearsal)

All practices are in the church at Sacred Heart. Please contact Melinda Hutchison at 815-625-1134 or sheartreligioused@gmail.com with any questions.

Simbang Gabi 2021

St. Mary Catholic Parish in Morrison, IL is inviting everyone to join them in celebrating a traditional Filipino Advent novena Mass and fellowship after (with Filipino food) on December 17th at 6:30 PM.

Forget your envelope?

Use Online Giving to keep up on off offertory. Go to **www.**

sacredheartparish.net and click on the Online Giving link, it's quick and easy. Your support during times away from the parish helps to sustain us. Thank you!



2nd Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon Isaiah 30:19, 30

O people of Sion, behold the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First Reading Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship. Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the torrents in the southern desert. Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, They shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading

Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel

Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: *A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*bow*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man (*rise*). For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Petition Response: Lord, may your kingdom come.

Communion Antiphon

Baruch 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

The Rockford Diocese is still mandating that everyone must wear a mask when attending Mass. Please follow this request for your safety and for those around you regardless of your vaccination status. Thank you.



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