

SACRED HEART CHURCH

PRAY † TEACH † SERVE

December 26th, 2021

Feast of the Holy Family

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.



AND HIS MOTHER KEPT ALL THESE THINGS IN HER HEART.
- LK 2:51

THE HOLY FAMILY

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

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

Pray

Mass Intentions

Mon. 12/27 7:00 AM † Marian Vickrey
Tues. 12/28 7:00 AM † Jim Foley
Wed. 12/29 7:00 AM † Louise Sullivan
Thurs. 12/30 7:00 AM **Communion Service**
Fri. 12/31 4:00 PM Frances Clark
Sat. 1/01 9:00 AM † Evelyn Egan
5:30 PM † Hugh Miller
Sun. 1/02 8:30 AM Sacred Heart Parishioners
10:00 AM † Aldona Miloch

Sanctuary Lamp In memory of Frances Clark

Mary, Mother of God Masses

**Friday, December 31st : 4:00 PM
(Vigil)**

Saturday, January 1st : 9:00 AM



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.

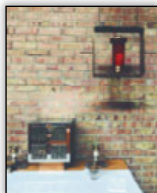
St. Michael Prayer

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.



Sanctuary Lamp Memorials

The sanctuary lamp over the tabernacle is sponsored each week either in memory of, or for the living intentions of the loved ones of our parishioners. If you would like to sponsor a week, please contact the parish office. The suggested donation is \$10.



I encourage all of you to live the joy of your mission by witnessing to the Gospel wherever you are called to live and work.

- Pope Francis
www.twitter.com/Pontifex

Teach

Christmas and the Eucharist

by Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

http://www.therealpresence.org/archives/Eucharist/Eucharist_025.htm

Of the many subjects that we could talk about on Christmas day, I thought the most appropriate would be to speak on Christmas and the Eucharist. There are many aspects to their relationship, but I believe that there are mainly three: (1) both Christmas and the Eucharist are facts; (2) both reveal a mystery; and (3) both are meant to teach us a profound and not easily learned lesson.

Christmas, first of all, is a fact of history. In a point of time and at a definable place the God of heaven and earth was born of a woman, and came to live among us as man. It is a fact that the infinite God became, unexplainably, a finite creature. It is a fact to which historians attest but which we know is no mere statistic of history; it is, rather, a fact planned by God from all eternity. This is the fact of Christmas: the Word actually became Flesh. What is the fact of the Eucharist? It is that the same Jesus Who was born on earth not only became man but remains man.

He not only came into the world, He is in the world. In a word, He came to stay. *The Eucharist is Christmas prolonged*, because faith tells us that once God became man, He decided to remain man. From all the reaches of past eternity, God had only been God. But having once taken on human flesh, into now the future reaches of eternity, God will always remain man. And this God-Man is here; Bethlehem is wherever there is a Catholic Church or chapel in which Christ is present. These are the two facts that we commemorate on Christmas day.

But Christmas and the Eucharist are not only facts, they are also mysteries. What is the mystery of Christmas? The mystery is the humanly incredible reality of why God became man. He did not have to. God did not even have to make the world, and within the world, He did not have to make us. Except for the love of God, we are all empty unoccupied spaces on earth. But, having decided to make the world and to make us, God also decided that once man had sinned, He would redeem man. God might have redeemed man by an act of His divine Will; He chose not to do so. He chose, rather, to become man, so that as man He might not only, by some *fiat* of His human freedom redeem us, but might have a mortal flesh and a soul capable of suffering. In a word, the mystery of Christmas is the mystery of God's love that chose to take on our human form in order to show His love for us by suffering.

The only ultimate reason for Bethlehem is Jerusalem; the only reason in God's mind for becoming a Child was so that He might, as man, die on the Cross. In a word, the mystery of Christmas is the mystery of God's unfathomable love that wants to suffer. God took on human flesh so that He might be able to endure pain. That is the mystery of Christmas, the mystery of God's love, in order that loving, He might endure the Cross.

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: 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: 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 28th Judith Bartel Breanna Taylor Jack Vandermyde David Wahl	Dec 31st Carie Ramirez Morgan Smith Jan 1st Michael Anderson	Jan 2nd Kenny Boesen Adam Eberle
Dec 30th William Johnston Lyndsey Weber	Greg Schott Holly Smith Jaclyn Sprague	

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.



Garrett Ramos Memorial Fund

If you choose to donate towards this fund, it is titled Garrett Ramos Memorial Fund. Donations may be made at any Sauk Valley Bank branch location. Donations may also be made online at <https://app.autobooks.co/pay/garrett-ramos-memorial-fund>.

Recorded Youtube Masses

The following Masses will be recorded to view:
The 4 PM Mass for Dec. 24th
The 9 AM Mass for Dec. 25th
The 10 AM Mass for Dec. 26th

Basketball Free Throw Competition

It's that time once again!! Thursday, January 6th the Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual free throw contest. This contest is open to all girls and boys between the ages of 9 and 14. Trophies/certificates will be awarded to the winners in each of the 6 age groups for both girls and boys. The gym will open at 3 PM and the contests will start at 3:30 PM. Winners will advance to the next competition in Dixon.

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.

Thank You to our Church Cleaners!

A big thank you to Bob Edison who was our church cleaner for the month of December. We really appreciate your service to this ministry! The January church cleaner is Tracy Ahlers. Thank you to Michelle Johnson for cleaning the linens.

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	\$
Online Giving	\$
Weekly Total (12/12/2021)	\$
YTD Required	\$
YTD Collected (Week 24)	\$
Total Envelope Holders	
Envelopes Used	
% Contributed	
Tithing 5%	\$
Totals not available at time of publication	

Raffle Winner

\$100.00

Schedule of Ministers

Saturday, Jan. 1st & Sunday, Jan. 2nd

Lectors:

5:30 PM Kevin Nestor
 8:30 AM Beth Hollaway
 10:00 AM Peg Hoffmiller



Ushers:

5:30 PM Jan Hammes & Walter Asbury
 8:30 AM John Clark & **1 Volunteer Needed**
 10:00 AM Lyndsey Weber & **1 Volunteer Needed**

Servers:

5:30 PM Carver & Reese Grummert
 10:00 AM Eleanore Weber & Tate Downs

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

*Wishing you and
 Your loved ones a
 most blessed Christmas!*

*-Fr. Bruce, Deacon Ken and the
 Sacred Heart Office Staff*

Worldwide Marriage Encounter



Give yourselves the best Christmas present ever – take time for your marriage.

Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending the next virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on Jan. 8-9; 2022 in person Experiences on Feb. 11-13 in Madison, WI or April 22-24 in Brookfield, WI. Visit our website at: alifetimeoflove.org or call (888) 574-5653.

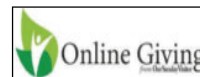
St. Vincent DePaul



SVdP is open for financial assistance on Monday thru Friday from 12:00-2:30 PM. Call the pantry at 815-625-0311 during those hours to request assistance. On Tuesday and Thursday the food distribution is from 12:00-2:30 PM. On Tuesday's only a second time for food distribution is from 4:00-5:30 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!

Need to find a Mass Out of Town?

Check out MassTimes.org to find churches and Mass times where ever you travel! The **Mass Times for Travel** app is available for iPhone at the App store and Android at Google Play. Download today!



Feast of the Holy Family

Entrance Antiphon

Luke 2:16

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

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

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins—a house raised in justice to you.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second Reading

Col 3:12-21

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love,

that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

Gospel

Lk 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

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

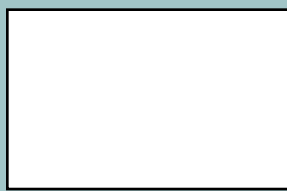
Baruch 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

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