

*Third Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**

The image features four lit candles in the center, set against a dark purple background with a subtle starburst pattern. The candles are three purple and one red, all with bright yellow flames. They are placed on a festive wreath made of green pine needles, red berries, and white beads. The overall mood is warm and celebratory.

**Sacred Heart of Jesus**  
**December 15, 2024**

**Sacred Heart of Jesus**

**Pastor: Fr. John Bateman**

**Parochial Vicar: Fr. Samuel Dubois**

**Permanent Deacon: Thomas Ballinger**

**Church:** 146 North Main St., Spring Grove

**Parish Center:** 1031 Sprenkle Rd., Spring Grove

**Office at Partner Parish:** 219 S. Beaver St., York

**717-225-1704**

**www.sacredheartsg.com**

Email: SHJSG@hbgdiocese.org

Mass Times & Location

Saturday 4:30 pm (Church)

Sunday 9:30 am (Parish Center)

Weekday Mass (Parish Center)

Tuesday and Friday 12 noon

Confessions: Saturday 3:30-4:00 pm or by appointment

Director of Family Faith Formation :

Karen Bruskwicz—kbruskwicz@hbgdiocese.org

Parish Council:

Music Society:



Knights of Columbus Council 14349:

*K of C Meets- 4th Tuesday of the Month  
7PM*

Prayer Circle:

Marianne Harbold, peace777.1@gmail.com

Spring Grove Chapter of AA meets every Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. at the Parish Center.

**Mass Intentions**

Sat 12/14	+Mary Smith Trimble	4:30pm
Sun 12/15	+ Audrey Robinson	9:30am
Mon 12/16		
Tues 12/17	+Dawn Serge	12 Noon
Wed 12/18		
Thu 12/19		
Fri 12/20	+Faye & Andrew Jeannett	12 Noon
Sat 12/21	+Georgia Melhorn	4:30pm
Sun 12/22	+ Jessica Becker	9:30am

The Knights of Columbus have set up a Mitten Tree again this year to help families in need.

**Weekly Reflection:** “What should we do?” This can be a loaded question! Sometimes it is simply a matter of mulling over two attractive choices for a night out at the movies. Sometimes the question is prompted by a perplexing situation to resolve, for example, the gift tags that were on the Giving Tree that hadn’t been taken. Sometimes, like in today’s Gospel, the question comes when we are faced with changing our behaviors. How we answer the question has life-giving consequences.

John’s clear and unequivocal answers to “What should we do?” give direction to people’s lives. He challenged the crowds, tax collectors and soldiers to change their behavior, to make other people their focus and care. John’s good news, however, went beyond merely telling the people how to behave toward each other, but also instilled expectation in them. His answers indicated that something new is happening. His good news pointed to the One who is all Good News, “a mighty savior” who is in our midst, who is near. The Good News is not a message but a person—Jesus.

“What should we do?” The Gospel gives a simple challenge: make Jesus the center of our lives. Make how He responded to people the way we respond to people. Make His fire well up in our hearts. Make our answer to the question one that leads us to preach to others the same Good News Jesus preached to us. And we must preach in the same way He did: not simply with words, but with deeds.

Traditionally, this is “Gaudete,” “rejoice,” Sunday, named after the Introit antiphon in the Roman Missal. The second reading also refers to rejoicing and suggests to us that the cause of our joy is Christ and Christ alone. When we say “The Lord is near,” we mean not that Christmas is almost here, but that Christ is always being enfleshed in our midst. “What should we do?” to celebrate this Presence already and always so near to us? John tells us, and so does Jesus: All we need to do is answer the question by the quality of how we live.

**Women and men religious offer gratitude.** “Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next,” says Sister Teresa Korycka, 81, of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).



**Harvest of Hope Food Pantry**

February 11 Tuesday 4—7 PM

5-6 volunteers needed for each Sacred Heart work day.

To volunteer, please call Lee Johnson at 717-487-6031.

Prepare the way  
for the Lord...

Advent  
Penance Service

**Deanery Confession Penance Services:** The parishes of York Deanery have coordinated to provide many different opportunities to celebrate the

Sacrament of Penance / Confession / Reconciliation prior to Christmas. We try to schedule different days of the week and different times of the day to provide ample opportunities. Here is a listing of all the Penance Services in our Deanery during December:

Monday, Dec 16, 6pm	St. Rose of Lima, York
Wednesday Dec 18, 6:30pm	St. Patrick
Saturday Dec 21, 10am	St. Joseph, East York
Monday Dec 23, 7pm	St. John the Baptist, New Freedom

**Christmas Schedule:** To help you prepare to celebrate Mass for Christmas and the New Year Holy Day, here is the schedule for Sacred Heart (nearly identical to past years):



**Christmas Eve, December 24:**

4pm at the Parish Center  
6pm at church on Main Street

**Christmas Day, December 25:**

9am at church on Main Street

**Holy Day: Mary, Mother of God:**

December 31: 6pm at the church on Main Street  
January 1: 12 noon at the Parish Center




**Family Faith Formation**

**Sat., Dec. 14: 10am-12pm, Parents Morning Out!**  
Brenner Hall Sign up to leave your children 3-10 yrs. with certified Daughters of the King and their adult supervisors, for time away.  
Sign your children up: 

**1st grade and 6th grade students** from Family Faith Formation will be presenting "The True Meaning of Christmas" on **Sun., Dec. 22**. Those students who would like to participate will need to attend both Family LIFTs at St. Patrick's Dec. 15 and 22 to practice. Let Karen know if your 1st &/or 6th grade students would like to participate so we can plan accordingly. All families and parishioners are invited to attend the presentation at 10am Dec. 22.

**ADVENT**  
It's More Than The Countdown To Christmas



**Advent Turning Point & "O" Antiphons:** As we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent we specifically begin to look toward "the one who is to come." This week we shift our focus from the Second Coming of Christ to His First Coming at His birth. This suggests that we cannot really separate the comings of Christ; the incarnation is already a judgment. This Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday; a day of rejoicing that the coming of the Savior is near.

**"O Antiphons."** We all know the familiar Advent hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" with each verse beginning with "O" ... something. Where does this come from? Well, these are the ancient "O Antiphons" that are recited (or chanted) before the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours (Evening Prayer). They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, December 17-23. The exact origin of the "O Antiphons" is not known. Boethius (c. 480-524) made a slight reference to them, thereby suggesting their presence at that time.

At the Benedictine abbey of Fleury (now Saint-Benoit-sur-Loire), these antiphons were recited by the abbot and other abbey leaders in descending rank, and then a gift was given to each member of the community. By the 8th century, they are in use in the liturgical celebrations in Rome. The usage of the "O Antiphons" was so prevalent in monasteries that the phrases, "Keep your O" and "The Great O Antiphons" were common parlance. One may thereby conclude that in some fashion the "O Antiphons" have been part of our liturgical tradition since the very early Church.



The importance of "O Antiphons" is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: O Sapientia (O Wisdom), O Adonai (O Lord), O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (O Key of David), O Oriens (O Rising Sun), O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), and O Emmanuel. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

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According to Professor Robert Greenberg of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a definite purpose. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one - Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia - the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, meaning, "Tomorrow, I will come." Therefore, the Lord Jesus, for whose coming we have prepared in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us: "Tomorrow, I will come." So, the "O Antiphons" not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation but bring it to a joyful conclusion.



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