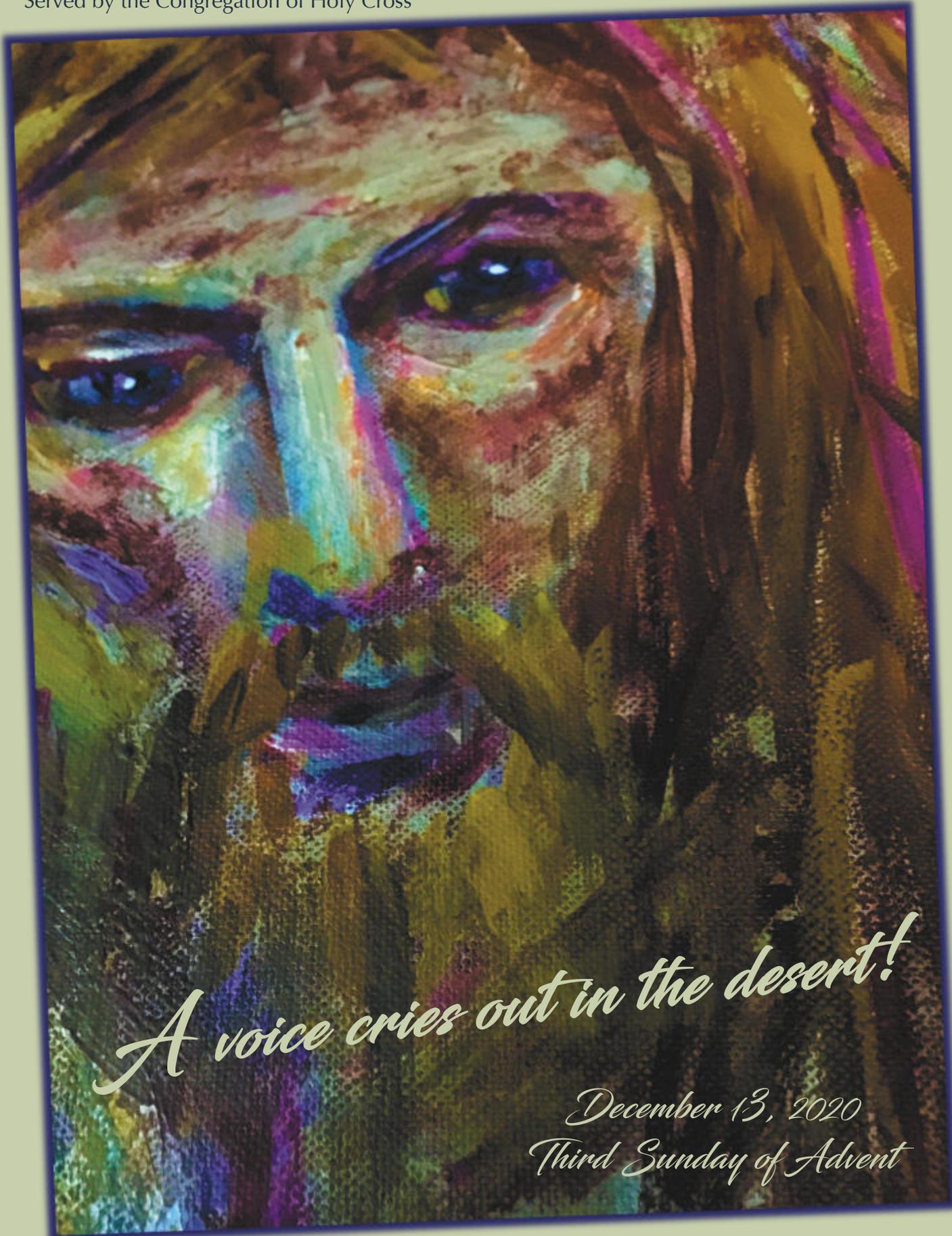


Served by the Congregation of Holy Cross



A voice cries out in the desert!

*December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent*



Dear Followers of the Long-Awaited-One,

We wait for the promised Light of Christ. This Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called, "Gaudete Sunday," which means, "Rejoice." We do not pretend to wait for Jesus to be born today, because he has already done so. We rejoice because it is half-way to Christmas, the feast of the Incarnation, God-Made-Flesh. We know that Jesus Christ is the long-awaited-one, the Messiah, the Prince of Peace. We rejoice because we already know that redemption and forgiveness are from Christ Jesus. We rejoice because we are redeemed in his passion, death and resurrection.

John the Baptist is back in the center of our conversation this weekend. John came to testify to the Light, the radiant splendor of Jesus Christ. John still helps us all depend on the Light to find our way out of the darkness and into a place of generativity and justice. John is the mouthpiece of hope and opens the pathway to divine beauty and love in the face of Jesus. Jesus is radiant in forgiveness and justice, his face shines from the glory of heaven. I pray we may find out who we are as followers of Christ, so that we may shed our darkness and learn to follow him.

If we are to hear John's plea of testimony to the Light, we must first befriend the darkness that surrounds us. This is where our personal prayer comes in. We are all tempted during this season to stray from our own prayer. Even in pandemic, we are busy preparing for Christmas. We are invited to prepare for Christmas by first exploring what it means within our hearts. Every year, I watch parents in particular, struggle to make ends meet and wind up on Christmas Eve, exhausted and frustrated. They feel completely spent and angry. There is nothing left within them. They have given everything to their children and there is nothing left in their own relationship with Jesus Christ.

Along the way of Advent, we all need to create a life of deeper prayer. It is not worth the effort to show our children that Christmas is all about stuff we accumulate so to look better than a neighbor or relative. Maybe this year in the pandemic, we could finally take some new realities to heart. I know so many families are so stressed out because our isolation has been so long. However, I believe we still have lessons to learn. I know Jesus, who is among us, shall not leave us empty on Christmas. We must first muster the courage to be with him in our anguish and in our questions about life.

Perhaps we can take a time out. A time to honestly be alone with God. Not a time in which we plan our table decorations for Christmas Eve or what to give a lost uncle as a gift. I mean a time to face the true reality of life. Put the kettle on, brew some tea, light a candle and find your way to a chair in which you can pray. Sit in the shadows of darkness in your space, see the flicker of light, sip from the cup that warms you. Here, sort through all you have been through during these past months.

For any of us to rejoice, we must first cultivate our need for Jesus. I don't know about you, but I need God more than ever in the questions that swirl within me. I find a new depth of need in this ongoing pandemic, when I face my own loneliness of heart, when so many people are distant, when it becomes difficult to speak to friends and to feel their touch. We all must settle into the desire to find Jesus in this Advent season. Rouse desire for hope. Raise awareness of the gifts God gives. Befriend the desire in others who long to be heard, recognized and who most especially long to belong in this world. Be grateful for the life that is yours and not the life you think you should have now. Gratitude leads to much rejoicing.

So how can you settle into the warmth of rejoicing? How does the cold world teach you to rely even more on your relationship with Christ Jesus? Hold up to the Light the longing for your teen to be sober. Hold on to your cousin's request for healing from cancer. Listen to your little one who struggles to learn online. Find in your heart the beauty of God across the globe, those who need you more than ever. Feel your own life and breath, your own body that is alive in this world.

John says that he is not worthy to untie the sandal strap of the Master. I hope we can come to Jesus with such humility and dependence. Jesus calls us deep into the mystery of Advent waiting to satisfy our human hunger and to heal our human hurts. Advent is a unique opportunity to be at-home in God. For this, I rejoice.

God give you peace,
Fr. Ron Raab, CSC, Pastor

Join us for Mass!

Saturday, Dec. 12th: 4 pm at Holy Rosary Chapel; 5:30 pm at Sacred Heart Church
Sunday, Dec. 13th: 7:30, 9 & 11:30 am at Sacred Heart Church; 8:30 & 10:30 am in the Parish Center Gym; 5 pm at OLPH

Sign up for Mass on our website www.sacredheartcos.org

Front cover and inside original art by Fr. Ron Raab, CSC

Reflection

We spend so much of our time in front of screens and monitors these days. Some folks, like my parents, have not been to church in months and watch Mass online.

My parents told me that when our Sacred Heart Saturday Vigil Mass stopped working halfway through Fr. Ron's homily last week, they started over again with the next online Mass that was prompted by their computer. And that's how they wound up praying with an English-speaking church community in Malaysia for the Second Sunday of Advent this year!

Praying while watching a Mass online reminds me of a teaching I heard once from an old monk, updated now for the cyber age. Is it appropriate to watch television while you're praying? No. But it is always appropriate to pray while you're watching TV!

Of course, you can substitute TV with anything. It is always OK to pray while you're doing absolutely anything else. That's what our second reading today tells us. *Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks. (1 Thes. 5:16)*

Whether we are watching a ball game, or a movie; whether we are in a crowd (after COVID!) or by ourselves; whether we are having fun playing with the dog, or consoling someone who is in grief over some loss – we can and should bring all of these times into our prayer. There is nothing we do that we cannot bring before God. Sometimes we pray with a cry for help or assistance. Sometimes it's a note of thanksgiving for our blessings.

"Praying always" doesn't mean to stop what we're doing to pray. It means to bring God into everything we do, whether online or in person!

—Fr. Randy Rentner, CSC, Associate Pastor



Christmas Update: Reserve seating is now full for Christmas Eve and Day Masses at all three of our churches. All are invited to join us for the live-stream of the 7 pm Christmas Eve Mass at Sacred Heart Church on our website www.sacredheartcos.org.

As a reminder, Christmas is celebrated as an octave in the Catholic Church, meaning Christmas is one liturgy celebrated for eight days from Dec. 25– Jan. 1. We encourage you to consider attending Mass on one of those days if you were not able to sign up for Christmas Eve or Day Mass. You don't need reservations for the 8 am Daily Mass at Sacred Heart, however seating is limited to 50 people. The Christmas Season continues until the Baptism of the Lord on January 10, 2021. Please remember that during this time, ***all the faithful are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days.***

Also, please note that if El Paso County moves to "level purple" on the COVID-19 dial, all Masses will be canceled at Sacred Heart Parish, including Christmas Eve and Day Masses. We will continue to offer the live-stream of the 7 pm Christmas Eve Mass and the weekly live-stream of the 5:30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Church. Check the bulletin or our website for updates.

Sacred Heart Food Pantry is officially open!



The Sacred Heart Food Pantry reopened on Dec. 3rd. Special thanks to our new Food Pantry Coordinator Bill Johnson and Co-Coordinator Kate Gioglio who have worked diligently to ensure our pantry and volunteers safely resumed service. Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Parish News

There is a **second collection this weekend, Dec. 12 & 13**, for the Retirement Fund for the Religious. Thank you for your support.

The **Giving Tree ends this weekend at all three of our churches**. This year we are collecting monetary donations to benefit charitable organizations. Sacred Heart Church's Giving Tree will benefit El Centro de Los Pobres in Avondale, CO, Fostering Hope in Colorado Springs and La Puente in Alamosa, CO. Holy Rosary's Giving Tree will benefit the Myron Stratton Home and OLPH's Giving Tree will benefit a needy family in the Manitou School system.

Drop off donations at Mass or mail them to the Parish Office, 2021 W. Pikes Peak Ave. 80904.

Join Fr. Ron during the Advent Season as he **reflects on the daily gospels**. He is providing a daily audio reflection on his blog www.ronaldraab.com and on our website www.sacredheartcos.com. Fr. Ron is reflecting on the theme **Advent: On the ground of hope**.

We are not having Advent Vespers this year. Instead, we are offering **Advent Reflections** by different parishioners in the bulletin each week. This week features Tony Cichello. There are also Flocknote videos of the parishioners reading their reflections sent each Saturday. We hope you enjoy these reflections.

Important Year-End Reminder!

To qualify as a 2020 charitable contribution, your donation must be received in the office by **Thursday, Dec. 31** (if mailed, your donation will be deductible as long as it is post-marked by Dec. 31, even if we don't receive it until January). Donations are considered "effective when received"—checks placed in the offertory in Jan. will **NOT** be deductible for 2020, even if written in 2020 or backdated. To request a 2020 contribution statement, please call the office at 633-8711. Your statement can be sent either by email or mail. Note: if you participated in Online Giving, you can print your statement online.

Christmas Face Mask Sales this weekend: OLPH is offering hand-made face masks decorated for Christmas, perfect for Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers during COVID. One of our OLPH parishioners has hand stitched each cloth mask, and they come in three sizes: Large, Medium, and Children's sizes. They will be available after all Masses for any contributions over \$10, and the money will be added to our Building Fund for OLPH's upcoming handicap access ramp project.

There are still some OLPH vigil candles available for \$20 donations as well. Call the Parish Office at 633-8711. If you would like to give directly to the OLPH Building Fund, give online at our website or on OLPH's GoFundMe page at <https://gf.me/u/yzsjcm>. Thank you for your support!

Christmas Cards Sold Out: Due to an overwhelming response, the Knights of Columbus have sold out of their Christmas cards featuring a picture of the outdoor nativity set at OLPH. Thank you for your tremendous support. All proceeds have gone to the OLPH Building Fund to help build the handicap accessible ramp and bathroom at OLPH.

Adult Faith Formation: The next meeting for our new series "**What does that even mean?!**" via ZOOM is this **Tuesday, Dec. 15 from 6:30-7:30 pm** to discuss "What does it even mean to love one another?" Email Roberto for the ZOOM meeting link at formationdirector@sacredheartcos.org.

AmazonSmile: Sacred Heart Church is still participating in AmazonSmile, a program operated by Amazon that lets customers purchase Amazon products and give back to charitable organizations of their choice by donating 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products directly to the charitable organization. **Visit smile.amazon.com before you shop**, and enter Sacred Heart Catholic Church as the charity of your choice. (Be sure to pick the Colorado Springs location.) You will be redirected to Amazon's website to shop and make your purchases like you normally would. Thank you for your support!

As our gift to you, we are offering free 2021 Catholic calendars this weekend at all three churches. One per family.

Food Pantry Updates:

The Food Pantry will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24 and open on Thursday, Dec. 31.

The next **Food Pantry Volunteer Interest Meeting** will be on **Monday, Dec. 21 at 10 am** in the Parish Center gym. All those interested in volunteering who didn't attend the previous meeting in November should attend. RSVP to Bill at 598-4933.

The Food Pantry has officially reopened and requests **donations of plastic and paper grocery bags**. Thank you to everyone who has already made a donation. Bring donations to Mass or arrange to drop them off at the Parish Office, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-3 pm. As a reminder, **we are no longer accepting parish donations of pill bottles, egg cartons or pots and pans**.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can drop off donations at Mass in the collection basket (be sure to mark the donation for the Food Pantry), give online to the Food Pantry at our website www.sacredheartcos.org or mail donations to Sacred Heart Parish Office, 2021 W. Pikes Peak Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

A parishioner's request for support

OLPH Parishioner Michael Parrish is returning to Jocotepec, Mexico to Villa Infantil Orphanage on December 15th. Your generous donations last year helped feed and clothe the children in the orphanage for 8 months. Two nuns care for 42 children that were abandoned on the streets of Guadalajara or were rescued from sex trafficking. The need for essentials is great. Especially diapers and formula for the 6 babies. If you can please help with a donation, it will be greatly appreciated. You can donate by going to a GoFundMe page at www.gofundme.com/f/VillaInfantilOrphanage or by check **made out to Villa Infantil Orphanage** and mailed to 825 Duclou Ave., Manitou Springs, CO 80829.

Advent Reflection By Parishioner Tony Cichello



On this third Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist explains his role as *witness to the Light (Jesus)*. He explains that he is not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet, but “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’” His message is one of hope, but also a reveille to action. John’s call to the people to be baptized is like a spiritual RESET BUTTON, a plea to realign their lives in the hope of something much greater. Just like the reset button that can restore defaults to a balky computer or restart a clogged garbage disposal, John’s call is meant to encourage a new beginning— a new perspective in our relationship with God. This is certainly relatable to our lives right now.

In the current maelstrom of this pandemic, its health concerns, isolation and financial impacts, compounded by racial and political unrest, most of us are feeling stressed, threatened and powerless. This is as difficult a time as most of us can remember. So where is that RESET BUTTON that will cut through the turmoil to give us the *hope and assurance* that we can make it through this and get to a better place??

When I look back, I recall numerous “resets” in my life— when I was full of hope and enthusiasm for what lie ahead and times when it seemed that life was conspiring against me. As a newly minted school teacher in 1971, I chose to leave behind the dreary upstate New York weather in favor of the intensely brilliant blue skies of Colorado, the metaphor for what I was sure to be my future. I enjoyed my time as a teacher, but needed more income to provide for my family.

Along with successes were failures and losses, when it took all I had to keep going. This was the case when in 1979 I found myself with mortgage payments on two houses, unplanned medical bills, my family in a very vulnerable state and just beginning a new job— all at a time when high interest rates were killing the real estate market. I was on the verge of bankruptcy, but not without hope. Through good times and bad, I always felt that I was being guided by something greater than my circumstances (grace) and that it was ultimately for a good purpose. This belief allowed me to reset my resolve to work my way out of this and know things would improve; and they did. It was no small miracle that a cash buyer for one of my homes came along just at the right time. These guideposts, hunches, people and opportunities were there if I was open to recognize them. I believe that still.

So at this time, I think John is beckoning us to pause what we are doing and consider something new that can help us make sense of things. It is a simple but persistent call to attention:

The awareness of who we truly are as children of God.

Jesus, the Light, is with us, as a testament to God’s love for us.

By the gift of free will, we can choose to believe this.

Baptism and the life we live demonstrate our belief.

This is our faith and hope. This can be the RESET BUTTON we need. Faith can help us reframe our perspective of the challenges we face and give us hope for the future. Now, more than ever:

We can appreciate that we are in these struggles together.

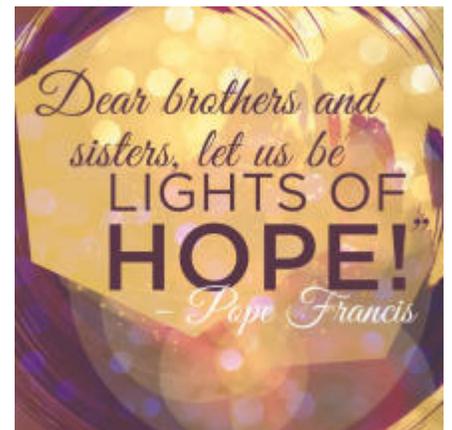
We can be grateful to the brave providers of essential services.

By prayer and opening our hearts, we can reveal our role in this.

Recognize there is a higher purpose and lessons to be learned in this.

So, I would suggest taking a walk in the sunshine and consider John’s message of hope to us. God is walking with us. Things will improve— perhaps in ways we don’t expect. His love and guidance will see us through. Reset.

Tony Cichello, Sacred Heart Parishioner



Prayer

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass times:
Thursday, Dec. 31st, 5:30 pm at Sacred Heart Church
Friday, Jan. 1st, 9 am at Sacred Heart Church
Sign up on our website www.sacredheartcos.org.

Presider Schedule and Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 12

- 4:00 pm Holy Rosary- Presider: Fr. Randy
For reconciliation among family members
- 5:30 pm Sacred Heart Church- Presider: Fr. Ron
For those fleeing persecution and war

Sunday, December 13

- 7:30 am Sacred Heart Church- Presider: Fr. Ron
†John Ross by the Ross Family
- 8:30 am Parish Center Gym- Presider: Fr. Randy
Michael Greene Jr. by the Greene Family
- 9:00 am Sacred Heart Church- Presider: Fr. Ron
†Jane Floersch by Sue Gerlach
- 10:30 am Parish Center Gym- Presider: Fr. Randy
For the ministry of Westside CARES
- 11:30 am Sacred Heart Church- Presider: Fr. Ron
For the people of Sacred Heart Church
- 5:00 pm OLPH- Presider: Fr. Ron
For those preparing for Baptism

Monday, December 14

- 8:00 am Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Randy
†Ernestine Fagan by Sue Gerlach

Tuesday, December 15

- 8:00 am Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Randy
For the Sisters at Mt. St. Francis by Claudia
Deats Rodgers

Wednesday, December 16

- 8:00 am Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Randy
†Richard Bowsky by Lydia Bowsky

Thursday, December 17

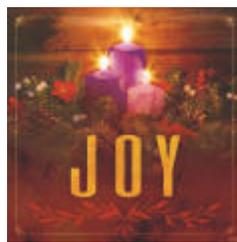
- 8:00 am Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Ron
†Gloria Aguilar by the Aguilar Family

Friday, December 18

- 8:00 am Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Randy
†Charles Padgett by Kathleen Eisinger

Saturday, December 19

- 8:00 am Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Ron
For those suffering from the effects of COVID-19
- 4:00 pm Holy Rosary- Presider: Fr. Randy
For those in abusive situations
- 5:30 pm Sacred Heart Church- Presider: Fr. Ron
For safety and welfare of first responders



LIVE THE LITURGY -
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK
What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stum-

bled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean's horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.

Please pray for our brothers & sisters...

†Tom Waugh	Tom O'Donnell
Marie and Ann Puterbaugh	Jerri Knoll
Barbara Crane	Gerald Donohue
Martha Tafoya	Paige Kyle
Sr. Roberta Westrick	Carol Peterson
Bill Evans	Jerry Fitzpatrick
Carol Sperry	Scott Defebaugh
Jim Johnson	Michael Ortega
Jeff Somers	Lea Zorn
Albert Gonzales	Philippe DeBernay
Sheri Mauro	Penny
Matt Aragon	Nicole Thompson
Jonathan Knorr	Elizabeth Lambert
Jeanne Flanagan	Jeannie Wellmann
Fran Rodden	Mickey Zay
Ann McDonald	Sharon Oates
Patsy Aragon & Family	Laura C.
Jerry Banks	John Wilson

Readings for the Week of Dec. 13, 2020

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28 **Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27 **Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32 **Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23 **Thursday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17 **Friday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25 **Saturday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25 **Next Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Mission

Mass Times:

Sacred Heart Church in Colorado Springs, CO—
Daily Mass: Monday– Saturday, 8 am, no reservations required.

Weekend Masses: Saturday, 5:30 pm;
Sunday, 7:30, 9 & 11:30 am in the church;
8:30 & 10:30 am in the gym.

Reservations required.

Confessions: Saturday, 9-10 am or by appointment,
call the Parish Office at 719-633-8711

Holy Rosary Chapel in Cascade, CO– Saturday, 4 pm. Reservations required.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Manitou Springs, CO– Sunday, 5 pm. Reservations required.

All attendees are required to wear a mask.

Pastoral Team

Fr. Ronald Raab, CSC, Pastor

EXT. 110 / rraab@sacredheartcos.org

Fr. Randall Rentner, CSC, Associate Pastor

EXT. 103 / AssocPastor@sacredheartcos.org

Roberto Chavez, Faith Formation Director

Ext. 105/ formationdirector@sacredheartcos.org

Grace Donnelly, Communication, Volunteer & Safe Environment Coordinator

Ext. 111 / gdonnelly@sacredheartcos.org

Sue Gerlach, Director of Music Ministry/ Liturgy Coordinator

Ext. 102 / sgerlach@sacredheartcos.org

Jimmy Gibson, Maintenance Technician

Ext. 101 / maintenance@sacredheartcos.org

Kristin Gustafson, Music Director for Holy Rosary & Our Lady of Perpetual Help

hrolphchoir@gmail.com

KC Krumpak, Business Manager

Ext. 106 / business@sacredheartcos.org

Mary Superata, Parish Office 719-633-8711

Ext. 100 / office@sacredheartcos.org

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Our Mission Statement

As a **prayerful** Catholic community of **service** following Jesus Christ's message of **hope and salvation, we make God known, loved, and served.**

Contact Us

2021 West Pikes Peak Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

The Parish Office is not open to the public, however the office is open Monday– Thursday, 9 am– 4 pm. Closed 1– 2 pm for lunch.

Call (719) 633-8711 Fax (719) 633-1859

Sacramental Emergency Phone: (719) 659-9481

Email Address: office@sacredheartcos.org

Website: www.sacredheartcos.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tricomunity

Sustaining Our Mission

Please remember... the parish depends on your financial contribution, even if you can't attend Mass in person.

Current Fiscal Year: July 1, 2020– June 30, 2021	SH	OLPH	HR
Offertory budget	\$ 600,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000
Offertory year-to-date	224,443	17,853	20,969
OCT. OFFERTORY TOTALS:	\$ 53,440	\$ 4,101	\$ 4,014
Sunday collections	32,428	1,149	2,504
Online giving	21,012	2,952	1,510
JULY– OCTOBER 2020			
<i>Revenue (see note below)</i>			
General Revenue	\$274,655	\$ 22,312	\$ 25,864
Restricted Gifts/	1,723	0	1,372
<i>Expenses</i>			
Operating Expenses	(184,492)	(22,354)	(21,640)
Parish Support of Diocese	(44,104)	(3,874)	(4,313)
Over (Under)	\$47,782	(\$3,916)	\$1,283

NOTE: Gifts restricted for capital improvements, insurance claims for capital repairs, and all capital expenditures are not included here and will be reported at the end of the fiscal year.

10% TITHES: 4% to parish tithing and 6% to diocesan charities. *Our parish tithes are disbursed by the Pastor based on the recommendations of the Tithing Committee.*



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