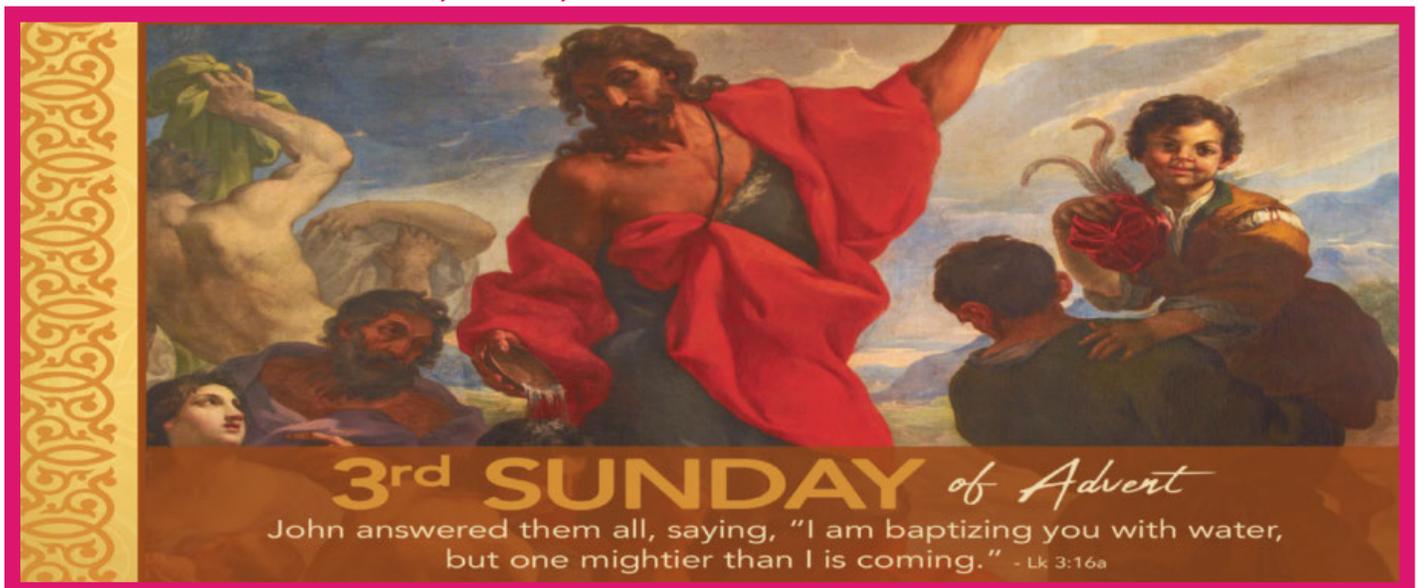


Sacred Heart Church

332 North Oak Street, Pratt, Kansas 67124



DECEMBER 12, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GOSPEL MEDITATION : *“From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!” St. Teresa of Avila*

We’ve all heard the adage, “Laughter is the best medicine.” In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, “Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace.” Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God’s gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven’t laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God’s power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. “Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter.” (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)

Pastor: Fr. Charles Atuah
Emergency number:
409-960-1933

Email: frcharles@sacredheartpratt.com

Church Secretary:

Erin Sluss

Email: ecrouch@sacredheartpratt.com

Cell Phone: 388-9024

Church Office: 672-6352

Open Monday - Fridays,

9am-5pm

Lunch taken: 12pm-1pm

Religious Education:

Tonya Kiley

Email: tkiley@sacredheartpratt.com

Cell phone: 388-1455

Church Website:

www.sacredheartpratt.com



Weekend Mass Times: Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

Sacraments

Penance: 4:30pm on Saturday and 8:00am on Sunday

Baptism: Contact the church office at 672-6352

Marriage: Diocesan policy requires a minimum of a four month preparation period. Please make early arrangements.

Anointing of the Sick: By appointment.

Important Dates

No Mass Dec. 14/15th, Father is gone.

Wed. 15 - Christmas program & Supper afterwards, starting at 6pm in the school with a meal to follow

Dec. 19th Decorate the Church @ 2pm

Dec. 19th 5:30pm Youth Group Christmas Party

Formed.org

A free and easy way to go online and learn about your Catholic faith. Use Sacred Heart Parish, Pratt, KS to sign in.

Readings for the week of December 12, 2021

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30

Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Saturday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Bulletin deadlines for December

Dec. 26th bulletin is due noon on Dec. 15th

Jan. 2nd bulletin is due noon on Dec. 21st

VISION STATEMENT: As Disciples in Christ, we are called to know, love, and serve God and each other in celebrating and living the message of the Gospel.

MISSION STATEMENT: We are a faith community who recognizes and acknowledges individuals' gifts and talents, encouraging spiritual growth.

Bulletin Entries

The deadline for bulletin submissions is Monday at noon for the following week's bulletin. If your submission is not on time, it will be held for the following week's bulletin. Please carefully proofread your entries for the bulletin, as they will be published exactly as received. Do not send attachments. All submissions must be emailed to: sacred_heart_bulletin@live.com

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Please pray for the following:

Rita Haen (sister in law of Ruth Menzer), Madison Hunt-continue prayers for health, Doug Will – health concerns; Michelle Jochems-anaemia, Lyola Hatfield-health issues; Elton Bowman-health issues; Barbara Agnew - health issues; Connie Grizzell-health concerns, Dawnetta Park (Linda Johnson cousin)-health issues, Tom Wenrich, Ann Souza-health issues, Aquina Stonestreet-health concerns, Teri Simpson's twin granddaughters, Chandler and Chloe: in hospital with RSV, Jim Kiley-healing from surgery, Becky Ellis-health issues, Judy Barker (Pinki Liska's sister)-lung cancer, Matthew Egging-heart issues, Tristin McDonald-loss of child, Larry Conkle, Jeff Jochems-prostate

Stewardship of Treasure for the Weekend of Nov. 28, 2021 Number of Envelopes - 63

Envelopes	\$5,980.00
Offertory	241.00
Votive Lights	22.25
Christmas Flowers	65.00
Online giving	<u>200.00</u>
Total	\$6,508.25
Required Budget	<u>7,200.00</u>
Net Deficit	<691.75>
Year to Date	
Total Receipts	\$163,237.20
Required Budget	<u>158,400.00</u>
Net Surplus	4,837.20

The Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be by Dec. 12, 2021 at 2pm with a Spanish Mass by Fr. Ted Skalsky. All are invited to the school cafeteria afterwards for a meal. Please bring a dish to share.

Christmas Eve Mass: 5:30pm and 11:00pm in Pratt

Christmas Day Mass: 8:30am in Pratt

Please attend Christmas Masses and weekend Masses as well. They are two different liturgies and two different obligations.

Roses for Expectant Mothers: ARE YOU EXPECTING A BABY or KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS EXPECTING.....and would like a rose placed in the vase on the wall next to Our Blessed Virgin Mary? As a parish, we would like to pray that you will have a healthy pregnancy and a safe and blessed delivery. After your baby is born, you will receive your rose from the vase and keep as a memento from our parish, the day your baby is baptized. If you are expecting a baby and would like a rose placed in the vase so our congregation can pray for you, please call Marla Stucky, 620-672-6178 or email [sstucky@cox.net](mailto:ssstucky@cox.net).

- The red roses in our vase represent our current expecting families in our parish.
- The white rose reminds us to pray for life from conception to natural death.

Hanging of the Green

We will be preparing the church for Christmas December 19 at 2 pm. If you have questions call Chris Himmelwright (672-8100)

All are welcome.

Christmas Choir: We are trying to put together a choir for Christmas Eve Masses. Please let Erin or Patrice Egging know if you are interested. Thank you.

Wednesday, December 22nd we will have a **Penitential Service** with Adoration at 6pm and Fr. McKinney will be present to help Fr. Charles. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

No Masses Dec. 14 and 15th, Father Charles is at a meeting.

Thank you to Ruth Menzer, Susan Pixler, Marilyn Alberg, Donna Huff, Jim Pecinovsky, Linda Fletcher and Kim Evert for helping with the Newsletter.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) **INQUIRY SESSIONS**

If interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, please call the office.

We are still in need of more servers, Eucharisti ministers, Rosary leaders, and ushers on Saturday. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The Well That Never Dries Up

Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. "Rejoice always," he tells us. Well, if your football team is poised to win this weekend or next, maybe you're really feeling this vibe. But if you've got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. "Rejoice always? Always? When I'm tired? Cranky? When I'm sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul. I'll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow's morning commute."

When we feel this way, we know it's time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And not just any water — living water, water that moves. God's strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It's water you can keep coming back to. It's water that never dries up.

Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to 'rejoice always.' To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties.

The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It's a sign of His commitment — so let us, in turn, be committed to Him.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Please join the PSR students in: Our 2nd - 6th grade classes are practicing and preparing a Christmas sing-a-long and meal for our last class on Dec. 15th. The sing-a-long will begin at 6pm. After we sing please join us for dinner. The Religious Commission will provide chicken and noodles, chili with all the fixings and cinnamon rolls after the pageant. The show will be in the gym with the meal and gathering in the cafeteria immediately following. All are welcome to attend.

The parish office will be closed Dec. 23, 24, and 31 for the holidays.

Anniversary Celebration Dinner

We honored six couples on Saturday, December 4th, beginning with 5:30 mass and followed with a special meal for them and family guests. We served approximately 37 meals. The meal was planned & prepared by some of the Women of Sacred Heart. The tables were set with white tablecloths and decorated with a lovely Christmas centerpiece and candles. Each couple had a table setting of china and their own personal anniversary cake.

The guests started with a glass of wine and fellowship. Then everyone was served a spinach-cranberry salad. Their main course consisted of slices of pork tenderloin, rosemary potatoes, and roasted asparagus. Everyone ate, drank and shared in this wonderful time to honor these couples. The couples for this year were Karen & Charlie Kumberg, 30 yrs; Laurie & Darrell Stroda, 40 yrs; Patrice & Mike Egging, 50 yrs; Kay & Tom Schnittker, 50 yrs; Trevlyn & Lonnie Detmer, 65 yrs; Nancy & Marvin Schmidtberger, 66 yrs.

As Father Charles put it, "...all the anniversaries with 5's and 0's were welcome. I am already looking forward to next years anniversary group to be honored!

I would like to extend a special thank you to all the ladies that helped make this celebration extra special! It took some special planning and many hands to execute this celebration. First, to Angela Gillig for helping me decide on a menu, then preparing the tenderloins. Second, to Marilyn Alberg and Joan Day for helping set-up the tables, unpack the china, and set the tables to look so beautiful. Finally, to the kitchen and serving crew, Angela Gillig, Stephanie Becker, Jenny Lamatsch, Marla Stucky and an extra helper, Kelley Maydew.

I am so glad Father Charles gave us the go-ahead to honor our anniversary couples with fellowship and food. We are lucky to witness these couples, and many others in our parish that continue to live the commitment of marriage. May God always be at the center of their union, and may their love and communication always be a key to their success.

I am happy to have been able to help with this celebration, as well!

Your WSH chairperson, Kim Evert



Calendar of Events
December 2021

Mon. 13

Tues. 14

No Mass in St. John

Wed. 15

4-5:45pm 3yr-1st grade CGS

No Mass

6pm PSR Sing a long in the gym with a soup supper at 6:30pm. All are welcome.

Thurs. 16

8:00am Mass

6:30pm Pastoral Council

Fri. 17

8:00am Mass

7pm Spanish Prayer/Rosary

Sat. 18

4:30pm Confession

5:30pm Mass

Sun. 19

8:00am Confession

8:30am Mass

10:45am Mass in St. John

2pm Decorate the Church for Christmas

5:30pm Youth Group Christmas Party



14 No Mass

15 No Mass

16 Charles Rinke by Curtis & Annette Adelhardt

17 Charles Rinke by Trevlyn & Lonnie Detmer

18 Pro populo

19 Pratt - Linus Gaider by Mary Miller

St. John - Ethel Warren by Darren & Jill

Hodgkinson

New to the Parish?

We would like to welcome you to Sacred Heart. Please fill out this short form and drop it in the collection basket or in the mail slot at the rectory. Someone will contact you to help you complete your registration.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
best time to call _____

Thank you for helping us include you here at Sacred Heart.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

December 2021
Week 3

SATURDAY, Dec. 18th, 5:30 p.m. MASS

Lector: Ed Barrett, David Borho
Commentator: Kim Evert
Servers: Daniel Ellis
Michelle Jochems, Joseph Kiley
Euch. Ministers: Don Himmertzheim
Gifts: Kim Evert & Family
Ushers: Roger & Kris Adelhardt
Sacristan: Linda Fletcher
Rosary Leader: Pam Ellis

SUNDAY, Dec. 19th, 8:30 a.m. MASS

Lector: Gene Cannata, Erin Sluss
Commentator: Josie Conkle
Servers: Adrian Tresner
Sarah Lamatsch, Lena Hampton
Euch. Ministers: Mike Koler
Gifts: Lamatsch Family
Ushers: Gerald Bowman, Harold Voss
Sacristan: Robin Langford
Rosary Leader: Kay Jean Bowman
EM to the Sick: Not at this time

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