**SACRED HEART PARISH**

Sacred Heart Parish Founded 1814, The First Catholic Parish in the STate of New Jersey

Sacred Heart Church, 343 South broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608

Holy Cross Church, 233 Adeline Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08611

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

 Whatever your present status in the Catholic Church, whatever your current family or marital situation,

 Whatever your past or present religious affiliation, whatever your personal history, age, background, or

 race, whatever your own self-image or esteem, you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and

respected at the Parish of the Sacred Heart.



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ~ DECEMBER 3, 2023**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, December 2**

4:00 pm~ Shelby Rowe and Ronald A. Brodowski

5:15 pm SHC ~ Helen Beckett and Nancy Koerwer

**Sunday, December 3**

9:00 SH ~ Altar Rosary Society and Raymond Kostura

10:00 HCC ~ Intentions of the People of the Parish

11:15 SHC ~ Anthony Burzachiello

12:00 HCC Polish ~ Stanislaw Pasek

 and Malgorzata Gawron

**Monday, December 4**

8:00 am HCC ~ Mary and Stanley Stoj

12:10 pm SHC ~ Marie and Herold Feyl

**Tuesday, December 5**

12:10 pm SHC ~ Eileen Kostrzewa

**Wednesday, December 6**

12:10 pm SHC ~ Philomena and William Cracker

**Thursday, December 7**

8:00 am HCC ~ Stanislawa Pasek

**Friday, December 8 ~ Immaculate Conception**

8:00 am HCC ~ T. Salay

12:10 pm SHC ~ Lee Lugossy

12:10 pm HCC ~ Rita Mich

6:00 pm SHC~ Maria Tagliaferri and Antonio Vasquez

**Saturday, December 9**

4:00 pm~ Dolores Krysztofik and Mieczyslaw Konecki

5:15 pm SHC ~ Ken and Lucille Fisher

**Sunday, December 10**

9:00 SH ~ Hoch & Ridorfino Families

 and Holy Name Society

10:00 HCC ~ Intentions of the People of the Parish

11:15 SHC ~ Alice Feehan

12:00 HCC Polish~ Stanislaw Tylutki & Grazyna Brown

**OUR SICK LIST**

Mary Sokolowski, Rocco, Robin Haynes, Lorraine Wargo, Robert Paci, Mrs. Loatman, David Carver, Jennifer Lyons, Grace Profy, Steve Jurczynski, Cornell Hess, Ruby Covington, Judith Santigo, Ching Kukis, Dan Breese Jr, Brenna Kennedy-Moore, Dawn Chia, Mark Friedman, Alexander A. Ladnyk, Kelly Nitti, Lauren Clayton, Joseph Edralin, Margie Tiongson, Kevin, Vincent Cooper, Jr., Gail Ladnyk, Leo Genovesi, Sloane Donnelly, Richard Buckley, Tony Ragolia, Barbara Burrows, Charles Burrows, Dorothy Amoroso, Maryann Sullivan, Regina Friedman, Stanley Winowicz, Greg Schafer, Jack Hardiman, Amy Birk, Julia Grazioli, Matt Tydryszewski.

**OUR DECEASED**

Susan Cuniglio, Carmella Staub, and our friends at South Village, Riverside Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Mill House and Waters Edge**.**

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

(subject to change)

**Saturday, December 2**

4:00pm HCC ~ Fr Charles L. D. Manger Em. M. Herpel

5:15 SHCMsgr. Dennis L. C. Hernandez Em. J. & K. DiBenedetto

**Sunday, December 3**

9:00 SHC Msgr. Dennis L. K Valentino Em. G. Mowenn & K. Myers

10:00 HCC ~ Fr. Charles L. D. Wilson Em. O. Nnadi

11:15 SHC ~ Msgr Dennis L. B. Allaire Em. M. Tovar & A. Woloff

12:00 HCC Polish ~ Fr Marian Anna, Mieciu

**Friday December 8 ~ HOLY DAY**

8:00 am HC Msgr Dennis

12:10 HC Fr. Visitor L M Herpel

12:10 SH Msgr Dennis

6:00 SH Msgr Dennis

**Saturday, December 9**

4:00pm HCC ~ Msgr. Dennis L. V. Zielinski Em. A. Lennon

5:15pm SHC ~ Msgr. Dennis L. L. Seabrook Em. S.&K. Farruggio

**Sunday, December 10**

9:00 Msgr. Dennis L. M. Komjathy Em. O. Nagbe & E. Wengryn

10:00 HCC ~ Msgr. Dennis L. R. West Em. V. Kamah

11:15 ~ Msgr Dennis L. J. Blizard Em. K. Parasimo & B. Allaire

12:00 HCC Polish ~ Fr Marian Gosia, Ewa

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Last weekend’s collection amounted to $8, 126.00 and the weekend of November18th and 19th amounted to $7,744.00 Thank you for your continued support of our parish.

**2023 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE**

Goal: $33,000.00 :

Pledged: $46,442.00 (141% of Goal)

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**First Week of Advent
Sunday** Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37
**Monday** Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

**Tuesday** Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

**Wednesday** Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday** Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
**Saturday** Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

**PROMISE TO PROTECT**

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the norms of the U.S. Bishop’s Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by anyone representing the Catholic Church, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org. Allegations are reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

**ADVENT MEDITATION BOOKLETS**

The Magnificat Advent Companion devotional booklets are available in the vestibule of our Churches. Advent begins this weekend December 2nd and 3rd. Please take one per family.

**2024 CALENDARS**

Our 2024 Calendars have arrived and are available in the vestibule of our Churches.

**TABLE OF REMEMBERANCE**

Thank you to all who shared a picture your deceased loved one with us during this month of November, dedicated to all Souls. As the month comes to an end we ask that you please take the picture home with you this weekend. Be assured of our prayers.

**ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY**

All future people of our parish are warmly welcomed to join us on Sunday, December 3, 2023, 9:00 am Mass celebrated at Sacred Heart Church.  The Rosary will be prayed before Mass.  Following Mass a meeting will take place at Toomey Hall.  Come meet the members and enjoy light refreshments. We are a group of dedicated Catholic people who serve our Blessed Mother, our Parish. Wishing everyone a Blessed, healthy, safe, Christmas Season.  Any questions, please call Joan Buckley at 609-396-7063.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE**

During the Season of Advent, a few of the local parishes will celebrate an Advent Penance Service together, giving you the opportunity for confession. This year the service will be held at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Ewing, on Saturday, December 9th at 10:00AM.

**OUR GIVING TREE PROJECT**

All gifts are due back next weekend December 9th/ 10th The color of the tag indicates the agency to receive the gift. Please wrap the gift and secure the tag to the gift. All gifts will be picked up by the agencies on Monday morning December 11th

So please be sure to return the gift. Thank you for sharing your Christmas Joy with the needy in our greater Trenton area.

**HOLY DAY ~ IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Friday, December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, it is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Church at 12:10 noon and at 6:00PM. Mass will be celebrated at Holy Cross Church on at 8:00 AM and 12:10 noon The Parish office will be closed on Friday.

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION**

Next weekend, December 9th and 10th a second collection will be taken up for the Religious Retirement Fund. We ask for your generosity with this non-diocesan collection which will benefit those priests, sisters and brothers who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church.

**BLOOMIN’ 4 GOOD PROGRAM**

Sacred Heart’s Food Outreach Program has been selected by Stop & Shop to benefit from the Bloomin’ 4 Good Program. Our food pantry will receive $1 from every specially marked $10.99 Bloomin 4 Good bouquet sold during the month of December 2023 at the Stop & Shop located at 800 F Denow Road, Pennington NJ.

**UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
AND BAKE SALE**

The Sisterhood at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church is hosting a Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale on Fri. Dec 15 from 12 noon to 6pm and Sat. Dec 16, from 10am to 1pm. \*Potato with Cheese Pierogis, \*Stuffed Cabbage, \*Pastry rolls – Poppyseed, Apricot, Cheese, Apple, Nut, Lekvar, Raspberry, \*Holiday Cookies – Raspberry, Lekvar, Apricot, Nut, Mixed, \*and other baked goods and a gift table with holiday items for purchase.

**BLESSING OF THE INFANT JESUS**

On Sunday, December 17th we ask that all of the Children of the parish attend the Family Mass at 11:15am Sacred Heart Church. We ask that they bring the baby Jesus from your nativity set so that the Infant may be blessed. If you do not have a nativity set please be creative with your children and make one with them or bring in a picture.

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2023**

**SACRED HEART CHURCH**

**Saturday, December 23**

5:15 PM Vigil Mass

**Sunday, December 24**

10:00 AM

**The Nativity of the Lord ~ CHRISTMAS EVE**

4:15 PM Christmas Presentation

in Word and Song

5:15 PM and 12:00 Midnight Mass

**Monday, December 25 ~ CHRISTMAS DAY**

9:00 AM and 11:15 AM

**Tuesday, December 26 No Mass**

**HOLY CROSS CHURCH**

**Saturday, December 23**

4:00 PM Vigil Mass

**Sunday, December 24**

10:00 AM and 12:00 Noon Polish

**The Nativity of the Lord ~ CHRISTMAS EVE**

4:00 PM

**Monday, December 25 ~ CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:00 AM Gospel and 12:00 Noon ~ Polish

**NEW YEAR SCHEDULE**

**SACRED HEART CHURCH**

**Saturday, December 30** 5:15 PM Vigil Mass

**Sunday, December 31** 10:00 AM

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God ~**

**NEW YEAR’S EVE**

**Sunday, December 31** 5:15 PM

**Monday, January 1 ~ NEW YEAR’S DAY** 10:00 AM

**HOLY CROSS CHURCH**

**Saturday, December 30** 4:00 PM Vigil Mass

**Sunday, December 31**

10:00 AM and 12:00 Noon

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

**Sunday, Dec. 31 NEW YEAR’S EVE** 4:00 PM

**Monday, January 1 ~ NEW YEAR’S DAY**

10:00 AM Gospel Mass

 12:00 Noon Polish Mass

**BLESSING OF HOMES**

The Blessing of Homes will take place this year during the month of January. The Blessing includes a prayer that God will protect your family during the coming year. Your home will sprinkled with holy water and the initials of the Three Kings who visited and worshipped the Infant Jesus in Bethlehem are written above the lintel of the main door with blessed chalk (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar). The Blessing of Homes will begin the second week of January. If you are a registered parishioner and wish to have your home blessed, please complete the form below and return it in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office.

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_City\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Cell or phone number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ADVENT PRAYER**

Lord God, we adore you because you have come to us in the past.
You have spoken to us in the Law of Israel.
You have challenged us in

the words of the prophets.
You have shown us in Jesus

what you are really like.

Lord God, we adore you because

you still come to us now.
You come to us through other people and their love and concern for us.
You come to us through men and women who need our help.
You come to us as we worship you

with your people.

Lord God, we adore you because you will come to us at the end.
You will be with us at the hour of death.
You will still reign supreme when all human institutions fail.
You will still be God when our history

has run its course.

We welcome you, the God who comes.
Come to us now in the power of

Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ADVENT**

The word *“Advent”*comes from the Latin word [*“adventus,”*](https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=advent) which means *“a coming, approach, arrival.”* When we expect guests to arrive at our homes, we turn the lights on; we anticipate their arrival and welcome them with joy. In Advent, we prepare our homes and churches as we joyfully anticipate His arrival, and the light also gets brighter as we near Christmas day, the day on which the *Light of the World* was born. St. Gregory of Nyssa wrote,

“Today, the darkness begins to grow shorter and the light to lengthen, as the hours of light become fewer. […] Do you see that the beams of light are more intense and the sun higher than it has been? Realize that the true light is now here and, through the rays of the Gospel, is illuminating the whole earth.”

Advent wreaths and candles are commonly seen in Catholic churches during the liturgical season. Many people also display Advent wreaths in their homes and light a candle each Sunday as families. Read more to learn about the history, traditions, and symbolism behind Advent wreaths and candles and how you can celebrate Advent at home with family and friends.

The Advent wreath is a centuries-old Christian tradition. Potentially overlooked by the candles it holds to light the way for the birth of Jesus, the Advent wreath itself symbolizes many themes and beliefs central to the Christian faith. In parishes, Advent wreaths are placed anywhere on the altar, on a side table, or even hung from the ceiling. In the home, you might place your Advent wreath on an entry or dining table or another location where you, your family, and your guests can enjoy the wreath during the Advent season.

The origin of the Advent wreath has been traced back to Germany, though the exact dates are unknown. Historians have [suggested](https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-history-of-the-advent-wreath.html) that pre-Christian Germanic peoples would light candles around wreaths in the dark winter months in anticipation of the warmer, lighter months in springtime. This tradition likely evolved into an “Advent wreath” at some point during the Middle Ages, transforming the pagan tradition into a Christian one. Rev. William Saunders [explained](https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-history-of-the-advent-wreath.html) that “By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.” Ultimately, the Advent wreath tradition spread beyond Germany and into other areas of the world, namely throughout the western Church.

The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes God’s infinite love for us – it is never-ending, just like the true Light of the World, Jesus, who leads us into eternal life with Him. The materials of the Advent wreath similarly lead us to reflect on the everlasting nature of God; traditionally, Advent wreaths have been made of evergreen leaves, such as pine or fir, which maintain their green color beyond the season in which they are collected. Nowadays, there are many modern interpretations of Advent wreaths that still help us celebrate the traditional meaning of the wreath: preparing the way for the Light of the World, Jesus. Battery-operated/LED wreaths are a good example of this as they simulate the four candles but don’t require lighting each week.

**BLESSING OF OUR HOME ADVENT WREATH**

The blessing of our Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. All make the Sign of the Cross.

The leader begins:
Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: **Who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always needing salvation by our God. Around this wreath, we shall remember God's promise.

Let us listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing. **The word of the Lord.** All:**Thanks be to God.**

All join in the Lord's Prayer: **Our Father.**

Leader: Let us now pray for God's blessing upon us and upon this wreath. After a short silence, the leader prays:

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation; may he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. All:**Amen.**

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**~ THE FIRST CANDLE ~**

The winter months are here. The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting longer. We need the light of Jesus to fill us with his warmth, love and joy. And so we gather around this wreath in preparation, anticipation and hope in his coming as God-Man. (Light one purple candle)

O Lord, you watch over us through darkness and light, and through each season of the heart. We praise you and thank you for your watchfulness. By the light of this wreath, we shall wait in patience for your Son. We are confident that he will give comfort to our sorrows and bring hope to our world. May praise and glory always be on our lips now and forever. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

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**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**~ THE SECOND CANDLE ~**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the path! We hear the voice of John the Baptist calling us to prepare our hearts to greet the Lord. “Reform your lives, the reign of God is at hand,” he says. In other words, straighten out your crooked ways and make your rough places smooth. You too are a herald of God’s reign. Make peace, give comfort, be patient. Cry out with your deeds: “Our God is coming! Prepare the way.” (Light two purple candles.)

Scripture: “May God, the source of all patience and encouragement, enable you to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the spirit of Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and voice you may glorify God”

Prayer: Jesus, you are the light of the world. May the fire of your love burn away our sins. May it help us to prepare the way for you by being kind, forgiving and fair. Response: Come, Lord Jesus!

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**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**~ THE THIRD CANDLE ~**

Rejoice! Here is your God! As the feast of Christmas draws closer, we are reminded that the Lord is with us even now. Jesus came to give sight to blind and life to the dead. Christ’s reign is among us through our deeds of love and generosity. Let us not grow weary, but steady our hearts and rejoice, for Lord is close at hand! (Light two purple and one pink candle)

Scripture: “Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again. Rejoice! Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord is near”

Prayer: Jesus, you are the light of the world. May your light shine brightly so we can see you everywhere. Help us to spread your light and joy by giving freely and happily to all we meet. Response: Come, Lord Jesus!

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**~ THE FOURTH CANDLE ~**

Reflection: The angel announces to Mary, “You shall bear a son whose name will be Emmanuel,” which means, God is with us. With Mary, we are called to be Christ bearers. With her we wonder, “How can this be?” As Christmas draws near, let us open our hearts in trust to the power of the Holy Spirit who comes upon us. Let us join Mary in saying, “Be it done unto me according to your will.” (Light all four candles.)

Scripture: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus...Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord’s word to her would be faithful”(Luke 1:42,45).

Prayer: Jesus, you are the light of the world. Yet you were born in the darkness of night, in a cold stable with only the animals to warm you. Let the light of your love shine on us so we can see you today in all the helpless children, in all who have no home. Teach us how to love you in them. Response: Come, Lord Jesus!