

Sacred Heart Church



260 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060-1404

Telephone: 609-267-0209 • FAX: 609-267-9293 • Website: www.parishofsacredheart.org

Office Hours: Mon. - Sat. 9:00am - 5:00pm (Closed for Lunch 12:00pm-1:00pm)

Evening Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 6:00pm - 9:00pm • Sunday 8:30am - 1:00pm

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:30pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am & 7:00pm

Weekday: Mon.-Fri. 7:00am & 8:30am

Saturday: 8:30am

Confessions

Saturday: 3:30pm - 4:00pm

(Reconciliation Rooms are to the right of the Eucharistic Chapel)

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. John P. Czahur ext. 308

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Roberto Padilla

Residence: Christ The Redeemer Church
113 South Avenue, Mt. Holly
(609) 261-0181

Deacons: Deacon Jim Casa
fisherking13@comcast.net
Deacon John Hoefling
Deacon Stan Orkis
Deacon William Rowley

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Michele O'Toole ext. 301

secretary@parishofsacredheart.org

Business Manager: Mrs. Deneen Thomas ext. 303

accountant@parishofsacredheart.org

Cemetery Manager: Mrs. Paula Pietrow ext. 304

cemeterymgr@parishofsacredheart.org

Coord. of Ministries: Ms. Merry Marcellino ext. 305

ministry@parishofsacredheart.org

Parish Maintenance Mr. Jason D'Entremont ext. 319

jasonmd@parishofsacredheart.org

Sacred Heart School

250 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Telephone: 609-267-1728

Email: schooloffice@sacred-heart-school.org

Website: www.sacred-heart-school.org

Principal: Ms. Kathryn Besheer ext. 340

Admin. Assist. Margo Lihvarcik ext. 316

Sacred Heart Religious Education

Telephone: 609-267-6319

Email: rel.ed@parishofsacredheart.org

Director of Rel. Ed: Mrs. Jessica Donohue ext.307

Admin. Assistant: Mrs. Amy Raimondi ext. 324

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 9:00am – 2:00pm

Fall Program Class Times

Grades 1st - 8th Tuesday: 5:30pm to 6:45pm

Grades 1st - 8th Wednesday: 5:30pm to 6:45pm

Parish Registration

Our Parish family warmly welcomes new members. Please register at your earliest convenience by stopping by the Parish House during the office hours.

The Sacrament of Baptism

We welcome new life into the Church through the sacramental sign of Baptism which is celebrated **every Sunday of the month at 1:00pm** with the exception of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We encourage parents who wish to have their child baptized to call the Parish Secretary, Michele O'Toole, at 609-702-1848 ext. 301 or stop in and pick up a Baptism packet.

Once the Baptismal Preparation class is attended, the form completed and the Godparent Eligibility Certificates are turned in then a date for your child's Baptism will be set.

Baptismal Preparation

Catholic Godparents are required to complete an Eligibility Certificate and have the certificates signed by the pastor of the parish where they are currently registered and practicing their faith.

We offer a Baptismal Prep Class for parents as a way of preparing them for their child's journey of faith. Classes are scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm. Please contact the Parish Secretary to register.

Sacramental Sponsorship Letter

This is a form required to be a Godparent or Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. To receive this form the following requirements must be met:

- If married, be in a valid marriage according to the laws of the Catholic Church.
- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Completed the Sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
- Be a registered, active participant of a Parish.

The Sacrament of Marriage

Couples wishing to celebrate and consecrate their love in the Sacrament of Marriage are asked to call the Parish Secretary, Michele O'Toole at 609-702-1848 ext. 301.

Arrangements are to be made with the Pastor a year in advance of the requested date. At least one person should be a registered member of the parish. All couples are required to attend preparation sessions.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Any Catholic who is seriously ill, advanced in age, or who feels the need for the comforting presence of the Church's sacramental prayer life may be anointed. Please contact the Parish Office at 609-702-1848 ext. 301 during office hours. In the case of an emergency, please call and follow the instructions listed on our telephone message.

Funerals

In all cases, the family of the deceased parishioner should contact the funeral home directly. They will contact the Church to make further arrangements. For information regarding our Parish Cemetery, please call the Cemetery Office at 609-702-1848 ext 304

Care of the Sick, Homebound and Elderly:

The sick, the homebound and the elderly are valued members of our parish. Please call the Parish House at 609-267-0209 ext. 305 for a visit.

Bulletin Articles

Articles for the Bulletin need to be submitted **No Later than Friday** to appear the next weekend (**9 days prior**). Articles can be emailed to

bulletins@parishofsacredheart.org

December 2 – December 3 2017
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
December 4th– December 10th

MONDAY

7:00am **Ann Marie Altavilla** Req. By
Jeff & Teresa Redder

8:30am **Gisela Harrell** Req. By Toni Rudd

TUESDAY

7:00am **Rebecca Bozarth** Req. By The Legion
of Mary

8:30am **Raquel Hernandez** Req. By The
Surrency Family

WEDNESDAY

7:00am **The Special Intentions of John &
Marcella Hilkevich** Req. By The
Redder Family

8:30am **Virginia Dries** Req. By Her Family

THURSDAY

7:00am **Robert Voorhees** Req. By Eleanor &
Family

8:30am **Jim Finnerty** Req. By Mary Ellen
Cronin

5:00pm **Maryellen Connor** Req. By Allan &
Rita Pelcak

FRIDAY

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00am **Maria Trojak** Req. By The Parish
Staff

8:30am **Maria Conkhitas-Paguia** Req. By Her
Family

12:15pm **Paul Daly** Req. By Eleanor Voorhees
& Family

7:00pm **Charles Scherer** Req. By His Family

SATURDAY

8:30AM **David Eldridge** Req. By His Family

Alexander Capps Req. By The Tarter
Family

4:30PM **Jenny Chew** Req. By Stella Polyak

SUNDAY

7:30am **Doris Evans** Req. By Sandy Roth

9:30am **Helen Ferrara** Req. By Tom & Barbara
Fox & Family

11:30am **Oliver Brock** Req. By His Friends of
the Parish

7:00pm **Jack McMullen** Req. By Dave & Joelle
Wentz

& The People of the Parish

*The Devotional Candle in the
Chapel of the Two Hearts*



*Will Burn in Loving Memory of:
Kathy Mancini-Gore*

Eucharistic Adoration – Come and spend
time in the quiet with Our Lord in the Chapel of
the Two Hearts located next to the Parish
House.

Our Chapel is open for you and Jesus to spend
some time during the following hours:

Monday through Friday 9:00am to 8:30pm

Saturday 9:00am to noon.

Readings for the Week

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

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

SUNDAY OFFERING

Weekly 11/18 – 11/19 \$ 13, 440.04

**Special Collection for Human
Development \$ 1, 453.00**

Weekly 11/25 – 11/26 \$ 15, 328.06

*Thank you for the faithful and generous support
that you continue to give to our Church.*



Be Watchful! Be Alert!

December 2 – December 3 2017
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**SACRED SILENCE BEFORE AND DURING THE
LITURGY**

Article #45 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal states:

“Sacred silence also, as part of the celebration, is to be observed at the designated times. Its nature, however, depends on the moment when it occurs in the different parts of the celebration. For in the Penitential Act and again after the invitation to pray, individuals recollect themselves; whereas after a reading or after the Homily, all meditate briefly on what they have heard; then after Communion, they praise God in their hearts and pray to Him.

Even before the celebration itself, it is a praiseworthy practice for silence to be observed in the church, in the sacristy, in the vesting room, and in adjacent areas, so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the sacred celebration in a devout and fitting manner.”

In the light of this directive from the General Instruction, all Music Ministers have been requested to conclude any rehearsing or teaching of new music 10 minutes prior to the beginning of Mass. The purpose of this is to allow the congregation, including the Music Ministers, time for prayer and preparation in silence before Mass. We also allow for a few moments of sacred silence immediately preceding our Gathering Song, in the Penitential Rite, and before the Opening Prayer (Collect). A longer period of quiet reflection occurs after the First Reading, the Second Reading, the Homily and after the reception of Holy Communion.

Many people have expressed their appreciation for these periods of quiet prayer and reflection in order to better prepare for and participate in the celebration of Mass.

Please remember in your prayers:

Connie Vazquez, Vinnie Vazquez-Garcia, Josephine Dowches, Vickie Robles, Megan Dezur, Richard Dow, Fred Hammer, Stephanie James, Eric Wall, Nicholas Gonzalez, Dawn Vota, Betty Doviak, Ed Ciletti, Karen Tusim, Michael Dow, Don McGhee, Marie Chierico, Karen McDonald, Melissa Currie, Janice Staff, Christine Taintor, Pat Adornetto, Nadia Nieves, Trey Nieves, Talia Rosko, Bobby Sumanga, Garrett Schwab, Frank Anton, Christopher Pierce, Renate Conners, Freddie J. Faber, III, Arleen Bishop, Maria Wolfe, Matthew Ottenwess, Tracy & Erica Schwab, Matthew McDonald, Kristal Faber, Alice Farkas, Justin Beckett, Robert Lally, Tonya DeMaio, Olga Aponte, McKenzie Hunter, Gail Reilly, Alva Marino, Wayne Potts, Stephanie Martin, Corey Kaiser, Stella Grundahl, Daniel DeMaio, Doris Gallo, Matthew Wernoch, Kay Weiss, Casey Davitt, Fredrick Naphys, Margaret Brock, Clara Hynes, Herbert Cucchini, Daniel Toussaint, Zoey Reed, Mason Damico, David McCoy, Lois Pedrick, John Rubino, George Sampson, Evan Martinez, Sabrina Kaiser, Camila Doris Perez, Celeste Bunn, Annabelle Ochipinti, Arthur Netti, Loretta Minakee, Christine, Patricia Parker, Wilma Peterson, Morgan Ackerman, Raymond Bishop, Jenny Hand, Patricia O'Connor, George Schneider, Marie Donahue, Peggy Stewart, Dylan Crespo, Sharon Carroll, Don Hartman, Mary Hartman, Michelle Schafle Reed

As a parish family we remember all who are struggling or suffering in mind, body, or spirit, especially those who have requested our prayers.

Please pray for the men and women now serving in the military, especially the loved ones of our parishioners who are serving overseas:

TSgt. Paul J. Stoshak U.S.A.F.
Capt. Robert J. Boccio, U.S.A.F.
Michael Bakker, Isaac Paredes
Douglas Schwenck, Army Reserve
Richard DeLorge U.S.M.C.
Peter Liedman, Dorinia Dibuono
Capt. James Rankin U.S.M.C.
SSgt Daniel E. Naro, Sgt. Alison Lyport
Sgt. Stephanie Robertson, U.S. Army
Sgt. Russell Norton, NG Army
Sgt. Marshall Norton, U.S.M.C.
Corporal Maxwell Hughes, U.S.M.C.
Lt. Matthew Carr, U.S.M.C.
Lt. Victoria Holbert, U.S.M.C.
Capt. Anthony D'Errico II, U.S.A.F.

December 2 – December 3 2017
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
MASS TIMES**

THURSDAY DECEMBER 7TH 5:00pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8TH

7:00AM, 8:30AM, 12:15PM and 7:00PM



BLESSING OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Advent is a time of quiet waiting and prayerful expectation before we celebrate the birth of Jesus. At the **9:30am Mass** on Sunday, **December 17th** we invite all expectant mothers to be present for a special blessing. Please call Merry Marcellino at 702-1848 ext. 305 or email her at ministry@parishofsacredheart.org if you would like to take part in this brief ceremony. Friends and relatives of parishioners are welcome.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to assist with the expenses of decorating our Church for Christmas, please mark your offering "Christmas Flowers." If you use weekly collection envelopes one is provided in your packet. Your envelope may be placed in the collection basket or you may bring or mail your donation to the Parish House.

Your generosity will be appreciated.

**Christmas Eve and Christmas
Mass Schedule**

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Church &
Auditorium

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Church

12:00 Midnight Christmas Eve Church

Christmas Day Church: 7:30 am, 9:30 am,
11:30 am

CONFESSIONS

Fr. John will be available to hear Confessions
in the Church on

Saturday, December 16th 9am to 9:30am and
3pm to 3:30pm

Monday, December 18th 5pm to 5:30pm

Tuesday, December 19th 12pm to 12:30pm

Thursday, December 21st 9am -9:30am

Saturday, December 23rd 3pm-3:30pm

There will be no confession times on Christmas
Eve or New Year's Eve.



Simbang Gabi 2017

December 8th through December 16th
Mass Times

Friday Dec. 8th 7:00pm (Holy Day Mass)

Saturday Dec. 9th 6:30pm

Sunday Dec. 10th 7:00pm

Monday Dec. 11th through Friday Dec. 15th -
7:30pm

Saturday December 16th 6:30pm

Children's Nativity after the Final Mass on
Saturday

Followed by Potluck Party in the Auditorium
For more information, to sponsor a Mass, or if
your child is interested in participating in the
nativity.

Please email

SacredHeartSimbangGabi@gmail.com

December 2 – December 3 2017
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SERRA VOCATION PRAYER CHALICE

Prayer for Vocations

Gracious and loving God, help the men and women of our parish to hear the call to serve in the Diocese of Trenton.

Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence.

Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, dedicated, holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons, who will spend themselves for your people and their needs.

Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance.

Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Thank you **Thank you**
for praying for vocations.

To learn more about the Vocation Prayer Chalice, please call Ann (609)-267-5836



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

The Knights of Columbus wish to thank the Parishioners and Friends of Sacred Heart Church for their overwhelming support for the Send a Hero Home Project.

Through your generosity \$ 1829.00 will be given to help Servicemen and Women from J.B.D.M.L to the Coast Guard Station at Sandy Hook travel home for the Holidays.

The Knights of Columbus would also like to Thank the Parishioners for their continued support of the Council's "Black Friday" Blood Drive.

A total of 30 pints were collected.

Santa Maria Columbiettes

The Santa Maria Columbiettes invite you to our Advent by Candlelight.

On Wednesday, December 6th, at 7:00pm Women are invited to attend this evening of reflection and fellowship. Please direct questions to email

Columbiettes1179@gmail.com



Waking Up to Ourselves

This weekend we are introduced to the beginning of the liturgical season of Advent. The theme of Advent is "Be Watchful! Be Alert!" It is a season in which we "prepare the way of the Lord." Perhaps we could take these four weeks and just take a few minutes each day to look within ourselves and ask two simple questions. How can I open my life so that the Lord may mold me into a better disciple? How can I prepare for the coming Christmas Season?

Our readings call to mind for all of us that life on earth is temporary. Ultimately, we will meet the Master Potter face to face. Each of us has the opportunity during the Season of Advent to place our lives in the palm of Our Lord's hands and to trust in His wisdom for each of our lives. It is through God's goodness that we can take all the events of our lives, whether joyful or sorrowful, and combine them into being a person of great faith. Who we become in Our Lord's kingdom is our response to His grace.

The SVDP Pantry is in need of the following:

1lb or 2lb bags of rice, Canned Potatoes, Mac & Cheese, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Meals in a Can, Canned Soup, Tuna, Baked Beans, and Canned Vegetables.

If you would like to make a monetary donation please make checks payable to:

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL
Thank you!

Sacred Heart School

Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show

December 9, 2017 9 am - 3 pm

Sacred Heart Auditorium

Sacred Heart PTA is excited to invite you to attend our upcoming "Holiday Bazaar and Craft Fair" on Saturday December 9, 2017.

Our goal is to provide the highest quality show for both our vendors and shoppers. Our Vendor's will have booths stocked with inventory for a cash and carry show. We are asking all business owners and crafters to donate one of their items to be included in the door prizes that we are offering. Please email Danielle Cliggett at bornred12@aol.com for more information, or if you wish inquire about a booth.

December 2 – December 3 2017
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



This year, on December 10, the Sacred Heart Conference of Saint Vincent dePaul is inviting the parents of children 17 or under that currently receive food assistance from St Vincent dePaul to our Christmas Gift Distribution Program to choose Christmas gifts for their children. We currently have more than 400 children on our rolls and we would like to provide at least two gifts for each child. For many of our children these gifts may be the only Christmas presents they receive. Any gifts appropriate for infants through 17 years would be appreciated. Gift cards to local stores such as Wal-Mart, Target, and Kohl's are also all good choices. Cash donations are also always acceptable. (We have volunteers who love to shop.)

Your unwrapped gifts, gift cards, cash, or checks may be brought to the SVDP Center on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11 am to 1 pm, or Monday and Thursday evening from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. (Please place your gift cards, cash or checks in an envelope marked SVDP Christmas Gift Distribution.) If these times are inconvenient, your gifts may also be placed in the bins by the Christmas Tree at the back of the Church after all of the Masses. Your gift cards, cash, or checks may also be dropped off to Merry Marcellino at the Parish House during their operating hours. Please do not place gift cards, cash, or checks in the bins.

We would also like to thank the Altar Rosary Society for their generous donation to St. Vincent de Paul of all of the gifts that they receive in exchange for the ornaments on the Christmas tree in the Church vestibule.

We will be collecting gifts from November 26 to December 10, 2016

So, have fun shopping for a good cause. You will be blessed for your efforts.

For more information or if you would be interested in helping with our setup (December 9) and/or the distribution of gifts (December 10) please call Laurie at 609-332-7479 or e-mail to Laurieann50@gmail.com

Altar Rosary News



ANGEL TREE

Be an ANGEL this Christmas season. The Altar Rosary Society will once again sponsor an "Angel Tree" with the gifts, along with our love, going to St Vincent DePaul Society for families who need special love during this beautiful season. The small tree will be put up in the church vestibule on Saturday, November 25, 2017 and remain until December 9, 2017.

Please feel free to take an ornament from the tree and bring an UNWRAPPED NEW gift and place in box under the table. The gifts will be collected by St. Vincent DePaul members who will distribute them on December 10, 2017.

Gifts are to be for infants to age 17 years old. Suggestions for gifts could be new clothing, puzzles, books, games, art supplies, hats, gloves, coats, scarves, sports gear, gift cards, sleepwear, CD's, DVD's.

Thanking you in advance for being an "ANGEL" and making someone's Christmas bright and loving. Sacred Heart Altar Rosary Society members wish all our Parish families a loving holy Christmas of rejoicing in the birth of Jesus.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Joelle Wentz, 609 267 0061.



KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!



In our home music collections, how many “holiday” tunes are sacred Christmas carols? Are we handing down traditional Christmas carols to our children, grandchildren, godchildren, etc? There is a great opportunity to do so...

Parish Christmas Carol Festival
December 17th – 3:00 PM
Sacred Heart Auditorium

Caroling & refreshments (free event)

Ask your family & friends to come!
Children may come dressed as shepherds.

OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishops’ 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 a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via e-mail at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Just as we celebrate Thanksgiving by gathering together with family. Why not celebrate your Marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend? It’s a positive, simple, common sense, private experience between husband and wife that revitalizes your marriage.

Make your reservation now!

The next weekend date is Dec 8-10. Call 609-741-8012 for information or email

applications@wwme-southjersey.org Visit our website: wwme-southjersey.org.



Offerings at Francis House of Prayer

Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center
Box 392 • Rancocas, NJ 08073

609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net

Please check www.FHOP.org for directions and for our other offerings!

PERSONAL RETREAT DAY

Wednesday, December 6

9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Take a day away from the busyness of your life to rest a while in the Lord and experience God’s presence. Come to Francis House for silence, personal prayer and optional spiritual direction. The day begins and ends with a brief prayer together. Donation: \$10; \$40 with spiritual direction. Please bring a bag lunch.

SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT WEEKEND

December 15-17 7:00 PM Fri. to 1:00 PM Sun.

Due to the frantic pace of contemporary life, it is essential for our spiritual and physical health to take time to pray. A weekend directed retreat offers you the opportunity to experience the graced rhythm of life in which silence and rest restore your body and God revives your soul. Liturgy, spiritual direction and optional contemplative prayer periods are included. Donation: \$130/\$50 non-refundable deposit with registration.

BE BORN IN ME - MAKE MY HEART YOUR BETHLEHEM

Wednesday, December 20 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

This retreat morning will allow you the time and space to celebrate Christmas spiritually, as most of us do not have that opportunity on the day itself. Spending this time with God makes a huge difference in the final days before Christmas, as you continue your preparation for the feast and will enhance your entire Christmas Season. Donation: \$20, lunch included.

To register, call 609-877-0509. Please check www.FHOP.org for our other offerings!

Living the Good News Today

"May He not come suddenly and find you sleeping."



As we begin the season of Advent, we become aware of the many changes taking place around us: houses being decorated with lights and colorful decorations; crowds of people out shopping; people dressed up in holiday costumes greeting us in many places; and many other secular activities that are ever increasingly geared towards "the holidays." As Christians, though, our focus should be on the Center of our faith, Jesus Christ, who wants us to be watchful and alert for the Lord of the house: *"May He not come suddenly and find you sleeping!"*

When I was growing up, my mother had a great devotion to St. Anthony, the Franciscan friar and doctor of the Church, who was known as an eloquent preacher. Receiving the monthly *St. Anthony Messenger* magazine, she would share stories with us that inspired us and reinforced what we were learning in school about God's love and goodness. After my husband Jeff and I were married, we made our own subscription to this wonderful family magazine and kept up Mom's tradition of cherishing what is good about our faith with our four children and our grandchildren.

A regular contributor to *St. Anthony Messenger* is Sr. Rose Pacatte, a religious from the Daughters of St. Paul congregation, who shares her talents with the Church by reviewing movies and shaping the influence of Catholic media. In the November issue of the magazine, in addition to providing her customary three pages of reviews under *"Reel Time,"* she also wrote a full feature article called *"Following The Star."* There were two parts to her article:

- An insightful appreciation for the 30-year old Catholic director/ animator Timothy Reckart's esteem for art as a vocation. Young adult ministry at work! ☺
- Highlights of the movie *The Star* and its talking animals, part of the wondrous Nativity story. ♥

Reckart wanted to tell the Christmas story to show the value of sacrifice and even suffering in a less literal way, remarking: *"Using talking animals is not just for children or adults, but occupies a space in between so families can connect with the heart of the story, which is love."* In the movie, the animals and the Magi are very aware of the bright star that appears in the heavens, and they wonder what extraordinary promise is happening. They are watchful and alert, not sleeping while God is at work! They want to participate in it!!!

On the Friday after Thanksgiving, we took our grandchildren and their little friend to see *The Star*. After

eating a delicious supper together, I was concerned that it was taking too long to get everyone together for the theater and that we would not be seated together or uncomfortably sitting too close to the screen. Arriving about 10 minutes before show time, we were surprised to see that we were only one of about four families seated in the theater. As the commercials and then the previews began to play, a few more families entered, but the theater felt like a private movie showing to us. Was this yet another effect of Black Friday and "the holidays"? What does it take to interest families in the greatest story every told, the Good News of Jesus Christ: God so loved the world that His only begotten Son (the Word) became human (Flesh) to dwell among us and show us His love? What brings us awe and wonder anymore?

The parish provides many resources and activities to make our Advent special (e.g., the Angel Tree collection, Simbang Gabi, and the Christmas Carol Festival). The love of God is first revealed and cherished in our family life. During his interview with Sr. Rose, Reckart talked about growing up as the second oldest of six children in a faith-filled Catholic family: *"Our parents knew that teaching us the faith was their job and that they couldn't hand catechesis off to someone else."*

On December 17th, our parish will again have our annual Christmas Carol Festival at 3:00 PM in Sacred Heart auditorium. There have been radio stations (and stores) playing Christmas carols since Halloween. The lyrics to some of the secular songs talk about sleeping and waiting for visions of sugar plums, white snow, and Santa's arrival. At our festival, we have a chance to slow our lives down and come together to sing carols that tell the wonder of the Nativity. While we watched *The Star*, I found myself really appreciating the background Christmas carols that played during certain scenes of the movie because they were truly full of awe and wonder. Families can choose to set aside an afternoon to gather as a community and experience the nearness of God in our caroling. All that it takes is to make this activity important to us--putting God first in our lives. We can choose to be more mindful of Christ.

One year while distributing Advent spiritual materials to the men at the jail, I showed them how to follow the daily Scripture readings from the liturgical calendar and how they can help us to prepare the way of the Lord. This year, even though we have the shortest Advent (since the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve are on the same day), Scripture passages from the Prophet Isaiah will be proclaimed 13 of the 22 days of Advent. As we get an early start on our preparations for Christmas, Isaiah offers us simple advice: *"Would that we were mindful of You [God] in our ways."*

Teresa S. Redder, OFS

**December 2 – December 3 2017
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

WEEKLY PLANNER

SUNDAY December 3rd



First Sunday of Advent
Family Youth Group 2:00pm-4:00pm
Mass Music Practice 6:30pm Church No
R.C.I.A Adults LIB
Mass Music Practice 6:30pm

MONDAY December 4th

Cub Scouts 5:00pm PHMR
Basketball 6:30pm AUD

TUESDAY December 5th

Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm
High School Youth Group 7:00pm AUD
Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR
SVDP 7:00pm Center

WEDNESDAY December 6th

Feast of St. Nicholas
Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm
Baptism Prep Class 7:30pm Church
Advent by Candlelight 7:00pm AUD
OLPH 7:15pm Chapel
Daisy Troop Meeting 6:00pm-7:30pm PHMR

THURSDAY December 7th

Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception
5:00pm
KOC Basketball 8:00pm AUD

FRIDAY December 8th

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed
Virgin Mary
Mass Times
7:00am, 8:30am, 12:15pm and 7:00pm**
Simbang Gabi Begins (@ 7pm Holy Day Mass)

SATURDAY December 9th

Sacred Heart School Bazaar 9:00am to 3pm
Mass Music Practice 3:30pm
Simbang Gabi 6:30pm Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY December 10th



Second Sunday of Advent
Mass Music Practice 6:30pm Church No
R.C.I.A Adults LIB
Mass Music Practice 6:30pm
Simbang Gabi 7:00pm

MONDAY December 11th

Cub Scouts 5:00pm PHMR
Basketball 6:30pm AUD
Simbang Gabi 7:30pm Church

TUESDAY December 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day
No Religious Ed. Classes
Sacred Heart Sch. Christmas Play 7pm AUD
Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHMO
SVDP 7:00pm Center
Knights of Columbus 7:30pm PHMR
Columbiettes 7:30pm LIB
Simbang Gabi 7:30pm Church

WEDNESDAY December 13th

No Religious Ed. Classes
Basketball 6:30pm AUD
OLPH 7:15pm Chapel
Simbang Gabi 7:30pm Church

THURSDAY December 14th

Basketball 6:30pm AUD
Simbang Gabi 7:30pm Church

FRIDAY December 15th

Sacred Heart Pre-School Play 9:30am AUD
School Half day
M. S. Youth Grp 6pm-9pm LIB, PHMR-CR
Simbang Gabi 7:30pm

SATURDAY December 16th

Mass Music Practice 3:30pm
Simbang Gabi 6:30pm Church & AUD