



**2ND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths."  
- Lk 3:4*

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*Deacon Joseph Cechnicki, Parish Life Coordinator  
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**O Sacred Heart, O Love Divine  
Do keep us near to Thee  
And make our love so like to Thine  
That we may holy be**

**[REFRAIN]**

**Heart of Jesus, hear  
O Heart of Love Divine  
Listen to our prayer  
Make us always Thine**

**O Temple pure, O House of gold  
Our Heaven here below  
What sweet delights, what wealth untold  
From Thee do ever flow [REF]**

**Ungrateful hearts, forgetful hearts  
The hearts of men have been  
To wound Thy side with cruel darts  
Which they have made by sin [REF]**

**Parishioners Needed for Advent Season  
Each weekend of Advent Season family/  
friends are needed to lead the prayer for the  
lighting of the Advent Candle. There are sign  
up sheets in the vestibules.**



**The 2025 Holy/Jubilee Year: 2024 - A YEAR OF PRAYER for  
the 2025 JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE**

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025. He has also announced a year of prayer in preparation for the Jubilee. The Holy Father announced its launch on 21st January 2024, the fifth annual celebration of the ‘Sunday of the Word of God’. Earlier, the Pope had written: “From now on I am happy to think that the year preceding the Jubilee event, 2024, will be dedicated to a great ‘symphony’ of prayer so as to rediscover the desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and adore him.” Recently, the Dicastery for Evangelization issued a prayer resource in Italian. “Teach Us to Pray” is now available online in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Polish. For free downloads, please visit: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/verso-il-giubileo/2024-anno-della-preghiera.html>

**Calendar of Events**

May 9, 2024 Pope Francis released the Bull of Indiction “Spes non confundit” (Hope does not disappoint)  
December 24, 2024 Jubilee Year begins in Rome on the Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord  
December 29, 2024 (Holy Family Sunday) Jubilee Year begins in local dioceses  
December 28, 2025 (Holy Family Sunday) Jubilee Year concludes in local dioceses  
January 6, 2026 Jubilee Year concludes in Rome  
\*Various Celebrations will occur throughout the year at the Vatican and in the Dioceses of the United States. For example, there will be weeks for artists, communicators, military, healthcare workers, persons with disabilities, deacons, youth, etc. For a complete calendar of these occasions, please visit Jubilee Celebration Calendar.pdf (usccb.org)

For a complete text of the Papal Bull <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/bolla.html> Several aspects of the Bull refer to liturgy and are well worth noting – Mass preparations; baptismal fonts; indulgences; the Common Date of Easter (the East and West will celebrate on the same date in 2025); reconciliation and missionaries of mercy; and more. It does not appear that local dioceses should formally have a “Holy Door,” but the Bull does encourage local pilgrimages to cathedrals and other sacred places.

VATICAN RESOURCES -- <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

Resources/Webpages available in English, Spanish, Italian, French, German, Portuguese, Polish, Chinese and Arabic.



† Altar wine at **Sacred Heart** for the month of **December** has been sponsored at the request of **Ron & Cathy Parry**.

† Altar hosts at **Sacred Heart** for the month of **December** have been sponsored at the request of **Ron & Cathy Parry**.



**Sat. Dec 7, 4:00 pm (SH) - 1.)** † In memory of Francis Opalka, requested by her daughter Barbara.

**2.)** † In memory of Patricia Buchanan, requested by Deb Swarczewski.

**Sun. Dec 8, 9:00 am (SC)-** † In memory of Alphonso Mancini, requested by Secular Franciscan Order, St Thomas More Fraternity.

**Mon. Dec 9 thru Sun. Dec 15, 2024**

**Mon. Dec 9, 12:15 pm (SH) -** Healing & blessings for Stephen Hladik, requested by the people of the parish.

**Mon. Dec 9, 6:00 pm (SC) -** For the people of the parish

**Tue. Dec 10, 8:00am (SH) -** For the people of the parish

**Wed. Dec 11, 8:00 am (SC)-** † In memory of Alphonso Mancini, requested by Pat & George Galeazza.

**Thurs. Dec 12, 8:00 am (SH) -**No intention requested

**Fri. Dec 13, 8:00 am (SC) -** † In memory of Alphonso Mancini, requested by Michele Furnare.

**Sat. Dec 14, 4:00 pm (SH) - 1.)** Blessings for Kimberly & family, requested by her mom Barbara.

**2.)** † In loving memory of Larry Hladik, requested by Ron & Cathy Parry.

**Sun. Dec 15, 9:00 am (SC)- 1.)** † In loving memory of Emily Wray, requested by James Wray.

**2.)** † Birthday remembrance of Sean Thomas, requested by Kim Egan & Pete Knapik.

**3.)** † In loving memory of Alex & Betty Adesse, requested by their daughter.

**COLLECTIONS TOTALS - NOV 30/DEC 1**

COLLECTIONS:	SH	SC
WEEKLY COLLECTION	508.00	687.00
XMAS FLWRS	262.00	341.00
OTHER	170.00	188.00
<b>PARISH TOTAL</b>	<b>940.00</b>	<b>1216.00</b>

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

**December 8, 2024 - Second Sunday of Advent**

In the year 1995, in the seventeenth year of my life, when Fife Symington was governor of Arizona, Bill Clinton was president of the United States, Chuck Keiffer was pastor of St. Theresa parish in Phoenix, Arizona, and Ron and Mary were my parents, the word of God came to my youth minister Eric and through him I started to see the salvation of God. Soon, Christ came into my life never to leave. I'm thankful beyond words.

Why am I being so specific, you ask? Because in the Gospel this week we hear the specific names of people holding civic and religious authority in first century Palestine when "the word of God came to John the Baptist." Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, Annas, Caiaphas, and Zechariah. All this is meant to help us see that God breaks into our history, into real human events. Jesus is no mere myth. He is the Word-which-breaks-in, in concrete moments, you might say. And now we anticipate his coming once again in our specific situations.

Advent challenge: Name as many civic and religious leaders who are in authority currently in your life. Now, name who the potential John the Baptists may be. A spouse? A friend? A podcaster? A work colleague who brings God's word to you? Spend a moment considering that this comprises the concrete, historical setting into which Christ wishes to come. Then, with these specifics in mind, pray: "Come, Lord Jesus. Come."

-Father John Muir

©LPi

**Lector/Eucharistic Ministers**

<b>Dec 7 (SH)</b>	Katherine Downing Chris Caffrey	<b>Dec 14 (SH)</b>	Mark Caffrey Cathy Parry
<b>Dec 8 (SC)</b>	Ann Mahon Michele Furnare	<b>Dec 15 (SC)</b>	Ken Stuff Andrea Moran

**Counters Schedule**

<b>Dec 9 (SH)</b>	Deb Swarczewski Noreen Brownell	<b>Dec 16 (SH)</b>	Katherine Downing Barb Bilins
<b>Dec 9 (SC)</b>	Lorna Quinn Flo Stanton	<b>Dec 16 (SC)</b>	Sandy Hayes Kathy Marcais

**Food Pantry**

<b>Dec 23 (SC)</b>	Flo Stanton Marjorie Savoie Lori Simonds
<b>Dec 30 (SH)</b>	Jamie Lemiszki John Nigro



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** Mass for the Holy Day of Obligation will be held Monday Dec 9  
**Sacred Heart –12:15pm**  
**Saint Cecilia –6:00pm**

**Parishioners Needed For Advent Season:** Families/Friends are needed for each weekend of Advent Season to lead the prayer for the lighting of the Advent Candle. There are signup sheets in the vestibules. If you have already volunteered for a weekend, please sign up on the sheet.

**Sacred Heart Bakers Needed:** We are looking for bakers willing to bake Christmas Cookies which will be made in to cookie trays to raise funds for our 150th Anniversary Celebration. Please bring your cookies to the church hall by 1:00 pm on Saturday December 21.

**Saint Cecilia Weekly Raffle:** Through the month of December (beginning Dec 1) we will be alternating a raffle weekly for baked good or a \$20 gift certificate from a local establishment. Raffle tickets will be \$1 per chance and will be available at the church entrance.

**Sacred Heart Gingerbread House Competition :** On Sunday December 15 , we will hold our first annual gingerbread house competition. Sign-up sheet is in the vestibule.

**Saint Cecilia Bottle Drive:** We will be collecting bottles/ cans at St. Cecilia. There will be a receptacle in the parking lot near the rectory entrance and also in the hall.

**NO CARDS IN DECEMBER -St Cecilia Card Party :** Due to extenuating circumstances, our card party will be canceled for December. We will keep you posted.

**Memorial Angel Ornaments:** Purchase an angel ornament in memory of a loved one. Ornaments will be displayed on our Memory Tree in the church during Advent. Personalized ornaments are \$10 each. Order forms are in both parish vestibules. Any questions, please contact Jamie @ 518-774-4892 or jlemisz@nycap.rr.com

**Giving Trees:** Our Giving Trees sponsored by the Secular Franciscan Fraternity, will benefit families served by Catholic Charities. Please make your selections from tags on the tree and bring the unwrapped gifts (including your tag) to church by Sunday, December 15. Thank you for your generosity during this holy season.

**Spaghetti Dinner for 10th Grade Confirmation Class :**  
The 10th grade Confirmation class is selling tickets for a Spaghetti Dinner at Checkers Out on Rte 30A. Tickets are \$12 each and include spaghetti, two meatballs, and a salad. Tickets can be purchased now through January 12th and can be redeemed on **ANY DAY FROM JANUARY 2nd THROUGH THE 31st** (closed Mondays). Dine in or call 518-736-4630 for takeout. You can purchase tickets from any 10th grade Confirmation student or text/call Angela Yetto at 315-439-4659 or angyetto@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support!

**Advent Penance Service:** The parishes of St. Stanislaus, Our Lady of Mt Carmel, St. St Stephen, St Mary, St Cecilia & Sacred Heart are invited to attend the Communal Advent Penance Service at Our Lady of Mt Carmel on Wednesday December 11th at 6:00 pm.



For most of us, faith life begins at home. We teach our children their first prayers, take our family to Mass each week, and incorporate holiday rituals and traditions we hope will be passed on from generation to generation. Sometimes, however, in this busy world, it can be challenging to figure out ways to slow down and focus on the beauty of Advent amid the rush of the secular version of the Christmas season. There are so many fun and beautiful ways to celebrate the weeks leading up to Christmas. Why not try something new this Advent and start a tradition of your own?

### Favorite Advent Traditions

**Read about St. Nicholas** and leave small gifts in your children's shoes on his Feast Day on Dec. 6

**Celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 9** by baking spice cookies

Whip up a batch of Mexican Hot Chocolate to celebrate the **Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12**. Enjoy it as you read A Prayer to our Lady of Guadalupe with your family.

**Learn about the legend of St. Lucy** and bake a special batch of Santa Lucia buns and take a drive to see all the Christmas lights

**Take tree trimming back to its roots.** The Christmas tree wasn't always decorated with glass bulbs and string lights, but with apples, nuts and Marzipan cookies. You can bake cookies and string popcorn and cranberries with your loved ones to hang on the tree. This is especially handy if you are a new homeowner or recently out on your own and don't have a collection of ornaments yet.

**Create an Advent Jesse Tree.** This ancient tradition, based on Isaiah 11:1, helps children learn the Christmas story and related Scripture. Search the internet for background information, instructions, and required materials.

**Set up a small manger** in a prominent place in your home, and invite the kids to place a piece of 'hay' in it for every act of kindness or sacrifice they make to prepare a soft bed for the Christ Child

**Listen to an Advent playlist** rather than Christmas carols

**Advent Wreaths & Calendars** - Advent wreaths made of evergreen branches represent God's endless love and Eternal Life. The wreath is outfitted with four candles, three purple and one rose meant to represent hope, love, joy and Peace. Place an Advent wreath on your table and light the candles every time you sit down to eat. If you have kids, you can make your own wreath as a family craft. And don't forget to bless the wreath.

Take it a step further and forage for Advent wreath decorations. You can collect branches, dry flowers, citrus fruits and berries, and snip evergreen branches and holly berries to decorate your wreath. On the first Sunday start with the plain pine branches and slowly add more and more decorations each week, by Christmas, you will have a beautifully decorated wreath. After adding the decorations, bless and light the wreath.

**Use an Advent Calendar to count down the days till Christmas** - have everyone share one thing they are grateful for before opening each door or practice works of mercy on the journey towards Christmas. You can even download a calendar to print!

**Download Desktop & Phone Backgrounds** - Change your phone or computer background to an image that reminds you to prepare the way of the Lord!

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