



**4TH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."
- Lk 1:45

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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]**

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 (uscbb.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.

Please note: The Church relies on 52 Sundays a Year and our four major collections to pay its bills: Easter, Insurance, Fuel and Christmas. We appreciate your donations in support of our parish.



Sat. Dec 21, 4:00 pm (SH) - 1.) † In loving memory of Mary Winney, requested by Janice DeJulius.
2.) † In memory of our friend Adam Koch, requested by The Healy Family.
3.) For the David Grandy family. Requested by the family of Gerald Grandy.
4.) † Birthday remembrance for Rosemary DiMaio, requested by Beth DeRosa.

Sun. Dec 22, 9:00 am (SC) - 1.) † In memory of Alphonso Mancini, requested by Helen & Wayne Carpenter.
2.) † In loving memory of Bailey Alexandria Field, requested by Mom, Dad & Sammy.
3.) † In loving memory of Karen Ford, requested by Joey & family.

Tues. Dec 24 thru Sun. Dec 29, 2024

Tue. Dec 24, 4:00pm (SH) - For the children of our parishes.

Tue. Dec 24, 7:00pm (SC) - † In loving memory of Winfield Wray, requested by James Wray.

Wed. Dec 25 9:00 am (SH) - For the people of the parish

Wed. Dec 25 10:30 am (SC) - For the people of the parish.

Thurs. Dec 26, 8:00 am (SH) - Healing for Brian Cope, requested by his Sacred Heart family.

Fri. Dec 27, 8:00 am (SC) - † In loving birthday remembrance of Katherine Minney, requested by Pat & George Galeazza.

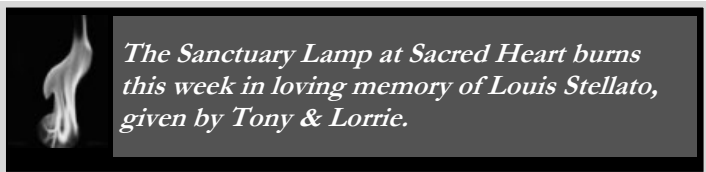
Sat. Dec 28, 4:00 pm (SH) - **1.)** † For the holy innocents of abortion, starvation and war.

2.) † In memory of Helen & Steve Pawloski, requested by Barb Minch & family.

Sun. Dec 29, 9:00 am (SC)- **1.)** † In loving memory of Donald R. Thum, requested by his wife Loretto, his children Chrissy & DJ and his grandchildren.

2.) † In memory of Theresa Vacek, requested by Pat & George Galeazza.

3.) † In loving memory of Leo Perry, requested by Marcia & his family.



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE
December 22, 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary “blessed” for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady’s belief that “there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord” (Luke 1:45). Mary is “blessed” entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.

So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our “motherly” contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plague us. We become blessed, happy, and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.

Advent challenges: 1.) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you. 2.) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus’ presence. Pray: “Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me bear you faithfully to him/her.”

-Father John Muir
 ©LPi

Lector/Eucharistic Ministers

Dec 21 (SH)	Kathy Avery Tony Stellato	Dec 28 (SH)	Cathy Parry Theresa Kovian
Dec 22 (SC)	Ann Mahon Bill Quinn	Dec 29 (SC)	Dianne Kierpiec Dave Marcais

Counters Schedule

Dec 23 (SH)	Kathy Avery Wendy Hall	Dec 30 (SH)	Noreen Brownell Deb Swarczewski
Dec 23 (SC)	Lorna Quinn Flo Stanton	Dec 30 (SC)	Sandy Hayes Kathy Marcais

Food Pantry

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



† 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*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sacred Heart Parish Council Meeting: Our next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday December 19th. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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.

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.

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!

Saturday, Dec. 21 – Parish Christmas Potluck Dinner and cookie tray sale following the Vigil Holy Mass at Sacred Heart

Sunday, Dec. 22 – Parish Christmas Potluck Breakfast following Sunday Holy Mass

Tuesday, Dec. 24 – 4PM Vigil Christmas Children’s Mass for Both SCC and SHC at Sacred Heart with blessing of the Christmas

Manger

Tuesday, Dec. 24 – 7PM Mass at St. Cecilia blessing of the Christmas Manger

Wednesday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Mass –

9AM Sacred Heart / 10:30AM Saint Cecilia (subject to change)

Tuesday, Dec. 31 – Vigil Mass for New Year 2025 & Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – 12NOON Saint Cecilia / 6PM Sacred Heart

Tuesday, Jan. 7– 6PM PASTORAL PLANNING with Tom Cronin.

PPC, Trustees, Officers & Members should plan to attend.

Venue: St. Mary’s Church Hall, Amsterdam

COLLECTIONS TOTALS - DEC 14/15

COLLECTIONS:	SH	SC
WEEKLY COLLECTION	566.00	1207.00
CEMETERY SUPPORT	N/A	298.00
OTHER	639.45	185.00
PARISH TOTAL	1205.45	1392.00
ATTENDANCE	63	82



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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