

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." - Mt 11:11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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SACRED HEART CHURCH

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Sunday Mass @ St Cecilia has been moved to 4pm for the winter months.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT
LA TEMPORADA DE ADVIENTO

Liturgical Schedule Update

Dec 24th, Wed, Christmas Eve Vigil/Children's Mass- St. Cecilia 4:00pm
Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - Sacred Heart 6:30pm

Dec 25th, Thursday, Christmas Day Mass - St. Cecilia 8:15am
Sacred Heart 10:15am

*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 SACRED HEART'S CHURCH & COMMUNITY'S MISSION:

In the example, imitation & guidance- of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - our Divine Patron, we will strive to fulfill the Catholic Church's mission, that is, to evangelize; which means to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all, ultimately seeking to lead everyone to a deeper relationship with God . In this mission, we will embody Christ's love through service, teaching the Catholic faith, and foster the salvation and sanctification of our brothers & sisters, which we will devotedly & zealously manifest in the ongoing efforts to serve the poor, the marginalized, and all those in need in our community.

THE ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH & COMMUNITY'S MISSION:

In the example & intercession of our Patron Saint: St. Cecilia - a Virgin & a Martyr- we will strive to fulfill the Catholic Church's mission, that is, to evangelize; which means to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all, ultimately seeking to lead everyone to a deeper relationship with God . In this mission, we will embody Christ's love through service, teaching the Catholic faith, and foster the salvation and sanctification of our brothers & sisters, which we will devotedly & zealously manifest in the ongoing efforts to serve the poor, the marginalized, and all those in need in our community.



The Sanctuary Lamp at Sacred Heart burns this week in loving memory of Stella Taboleski, given by Tony & Lorrie Stellato.

† Wine & hosts for the altar at **Sacred Heart** for the month of **December** have been graciously sponsored in loving memory of Peter & Virginia Szyjkowski, by Lorrie & Tony Stellato.

† Wine & hosts for the altar at **Saint Cecilia** for the month of **December** have been graciously sponsored in loving memory of Sal Furnare, by his wife Michelle & family.

AMASS SCHEDULE

Sat. Dec 13, 4:00 pm (SH) - 1.) † Blessings for Kimberly Bilins & family, requested by her mom, Barbara.

2.) † In loving memory of Barbara Vertucci, requested by Alan & Lucy Abele.

Sun. Dec 14, 9:00 am (SC) - 1.) † In loving memory of Alex & Betty Adesse, requested by their daughters.

2.) † Birthday remembrance of Emily Wray, requested by her son, Jim.

Sun. Dec 14, 4:00 pm (SC) - For the people of the parish.

Tues. Dec 16 thru Sun. Dec 12, 2025

Tue. Dec 16, 8:00 am (SH) - For the people of the parish.

Wed. Dec 17, 8:00 am (SC) - Health, healing and blessings for Jim Wray, requested by the Furnare family.

Thurs. Dec 18, 8:00 am (SH) - For the people of the parish.

Fri. Dec 19, 8:00 am (SC) - † Loving birthday remembrance of Katherine Minney, requested by Pat & George Galeazza.

Sat. Dec 20, 4:00 pm (SH) - † In loving memory of Helen & John Rajter, requested by Alan & Lucy Abele.

Sun. Dec 21, 9:00 am (SC) - 1.) † In loving memory of Karen Ford, requested by Joey & family.

2.) † In loving memory of Bailey Alexandria Field, requested by Mom, Dad & Sammy

Sun. Dec 21, 4:00 pm (SC) - For the people of the parish.

Second Collections

Dec 14 (SC) Fuel/Heat

Dec 21 (SC) Cemetery Support

Dec 25 Christmas

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Dec 14, 2025 - Third Sunday of Advent - Matthew 11:2-11

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

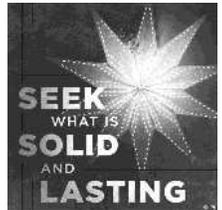
What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?

-Father John Muir

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Lector/Eucharistic Ministers

Dec 13 (SH)	Kathy Avery Volunteer	Dec 20 (SH)	Katherine Downing Mark Caffre4y
Dec 14 (SC)	Dianne Kierpiec Andrea Moran	Dec 21 (SC)	Kathy Marcais Bill Quinn

Counters Schedule

Dec 15 (SH)	Noreen Brownell Deb Swarczewski	Dec 22 (SH)	Kathy Avery Barb Bilins
Dec 15 (SC)	Sandy Hayes Kathy Marcais	Dec 22 (SC)	Flo Stanton Margaret Smith

Food Pantry



Dec 23 (Tue) (SC)	Andrea Moran Margaret Smith Michele Furnare
Jan 7 (SH)	Jamie Lemiszki John Nigro



Sunday Mass at St. Cecilia: The Sunday Mass at St. Cecilia has been moved to **4pm** for the winter months.

Mass Cancellations, Winter Protocol: During the winter months, if FFCS has a delay or cancelation, Mass will be canceled on that day.

Sacred Heart Cookie Sale: Our annual cookie sale will be held on **Saturday, December 20**—after the 4pm Vigil Mass. Boxes of assorted cookies will be \$10. each, great for the holiday table and also for gifts. We need bakers. If you would like to participate, please bring your cookies to the church hall by 1:00pm the day of.

Food Pantry Donations: With the holiday season upon us, the need for food is even greater. There are baskets in the vestibule of each parish, placed there for food donations for the pantry.

Sacred Heart Pie Raffle: Our weekly pie raffle has returned, just in time for the holidays. Purchase your tickets in the vestibule before Saturday's Vigil Mass

Sunday Raffle at St. Cecilia: We will gladly accept donations as we continue our Sunday raffle. As always, we appreciate your support.

Faith Formation Bottle Drive: Donations for our Faith Formation Bottle Drive will be set up at the Fultonville Redemption Center through the month of December. You may also drop your bottles at the hall of St. Cecilia.

Christmas Eve Children's Pageant: We need volunteers to perform in the Christmas Eve Children's Pageant. Please see Deb Parslow or Alison Wallace if your child is willing to be a part of this beautiful performance.

Christmas Eve / Christmas Day Masses: Choir singers and altar servers (both children and adults) are needed for both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.

Giving Tree: Our Giving Tree tags are due this weekend (Dec 13/14). If you didn't bring them today, please make arrangements to get them to the church on Monday.

*150th Anniversary Commemoration of Sacred Heart Parishioners
~Dec 14th thru Dec 27th~*

Baptisms

12/15/1974 *Hondo Lane Carpenter*
12/15/1990 *Elizabeth Ann Wallace*
12/17/1978 *Michael James Russo*
12/19/1971 *Matthew Daniel Guiffre*
12/21/1986 *Raymond Michael Ludwin JJ*

Deaths-Funerals

12/15/2024 *Gloria Twardzik*
12/18/1984 *Elizabeth Brumester*
12/20/2012 *Monica G. Treis*
12/21/2010 *Clara Buanno*
12/22/1970 *Elizabeth Casey*
12/27/2010 *Gloria Nelli*

Thank You!



Your church relies on your contributions 52 Sundays per year and the second collections to pay bills. We are thankful for your contributions in support of our parish.



2025-26 Diocesan Appeal: We will begin tracking our contributions in January. Both parishes have a \$5,000. assessment. Your gift helps our parishes and our diocese, serve others and spread the Gospel in meaningful, lasting ways.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Priest: Our response is "Oh God, give us joy".

Family: Lord, through your prophets you have promised us your joy. You have declared good news to those who are

oppressed. We continue to place our hope in your promise, O God, to bind our broken hearts. We depend upon your promises, Giver of Joy; your promise of freedom to all captives. R.

Priest: Lord, we wear our baptismal garment; help us to know that our only garment is You. We take comfort in your promises to us and await you with joyful and expectant hearts. R.

***Assigned Family Lights First, Second and Third Advent Candles**

Family: Father, as we begin our Advent pilgrimage, we light a Candle of Joy. Grant my Family (mention your names) and all of us the grace of inner & outer Joy. **All: Amen.**

Priest: God of the Good News, the promise of your joy draws us to the manger. As we approach Jesus' birth, let us kneel and adore him. Let us bow down before the mystery of Emmanuel —God with us.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen



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