

Month of December,
dedicated to
Advent



“Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.” - Pope Francis

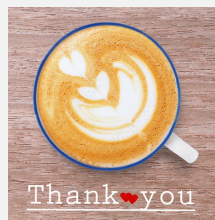
The month of December is dedicated to Advent, as it is a time for us to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year, as we begin the year renewed by His birth. This year, Advent starts on Sunday, December 3rd. Holy Days of Obligation this month are the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Friday, December 8th and Christmas, the Nativity of our Lord, on Monday, December 25th.

What's happening at Sacred Heart Parish?



To honor the exemplary lives of our saints and remind children of the call to sainthood, Sacred Heart parishioners and youth dressed up as their favorite saint for the All Saints Day Vigil Mass on October 31st. The children's choir and other 'Saints' led a special procession into Church and were treated with bags of candy following Mass.

Father Joe took a group of Sacred Heart Parishioners on a Pilgrimage to Italy this fall. See inside for more photos and to read about their travels.



Thank you to all who came to the Parish Breakfast & Fellowship at the Community Center after 8am Mass on November 5th. We hope you all enjoyed the homemade cinnamon rolls, donuts, muffins, and German sausage. We were pleasantly surprised to have over 200 parishioners in attendance and plan to have more food at the next parish breakfast event.



A Note from Father Joe

Advent.... Each year, the Church marks the changing of times and seasons in order to sanctify not only the places we inhabit, but the times in which we live. Advent is a holy season distinct from Christmas—it is a time of

preparation before a great celebration. The consumerist world wants us to call December “the Christmas season” and then to discard it all with the used wrapping paper on December 26. But for us Catholics, Christmas begins on the night of December 24 when Christ was born and finishes with the celebration of Jesus’ baptism in early January (this year, January 8).

So, this December, use the season of Advent to fast a little, so that the feast may be all the more joyful. Go to confession, so that you can receive both the Eucharist and the Baby Jesus with a pure heart at Christmas Mass. Prepare well, for the greatest Guest of all is on the way.

Yours in Christ Jesus – Fr. Joe



Congregation Announcements!

Congrats to our Sacred Heart parishioners who recently received Holy Sacraments for the first time!

BAPTISM:

William James Olsen
Parents: Jeffrey & Lauren Olsen

HOLY MATRIMONY:

Blake DeBinski & Nathalie D’Hennezel

Sacred Heart Pilgrims in front of the Pieta by Michelangelo in Saint Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican in Rome



Father Joe recounts Pilgrimage to Italy with Parishioners

This October, a group of 45 pilgrims from Sacred Heart traveled to Italy to walk in the footsteps of one of our most influential Saints—St. Benedict of Nursia. St. Benedict is known as the “founder of Western monasticism,” which is to say that he set the standard for how Christian monks would work and pray together for centuries to come. His order and his way of life—called the “Rule of St. Benedict”—came to safeguard Christian tradition in the very turbulent times following the collapse of the Roman Empire.

We visited the places where he was born, where he lived as a hermit, and even his resting place. We also saw the stomping grounds of other Saints like Francis and Clare of Assisi, Rita of Cascia, and several of the Roman martyrs. We ended our trip in the place where the Roman Catholic Church was founded, the city of Rome, where we visited the catacombs, the tomb of the Apostle Peter, and even the Holy Relics of Christ’s Passion.

What a gift it was, not only to walk the same streets as the Saints, but also to get to know their stories and to be encouraged on this pilgrimage of life towards our Heavenly destination. All thanks be to God for a safe return!



Group at the Obelisk of Piazza Navona at the Church of Saint Agnes in Agony



Mass with Fr. Joe at the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino



SH Pilgrims tour Pompeii- Mount Vesuvius near Naples



Swimming in the Bay of Naples, an arm of the Mediterranean Sea



Double rainbow over Saint Peter's Basilica at the Papal General Audience



Group at Sacred Cave of Saint Benedict at Subiaco



Cliff and Cody Sicking at the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels in Assisi



Pope Francis greeted SH pilgrims, spoke on the passion for evangelization, reconciliation, unity and peace and blessed their religious articles



SH Pilgrimage group outside the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi



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Mass Times for Upcoming Holy Days of Obligation

**FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

(Thursday, December 7th)

- 6:00 pm Vigil Mass

(Friday, December 8th)

- 8:00 am Mass

- 12:00 pm Mass

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Masses:

(Sunday, December 24th)

- 5:00 pm Vigil Mass

- 12:00 am Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Mass:

(Monday, December 25th)

- 9:00 am Mass

