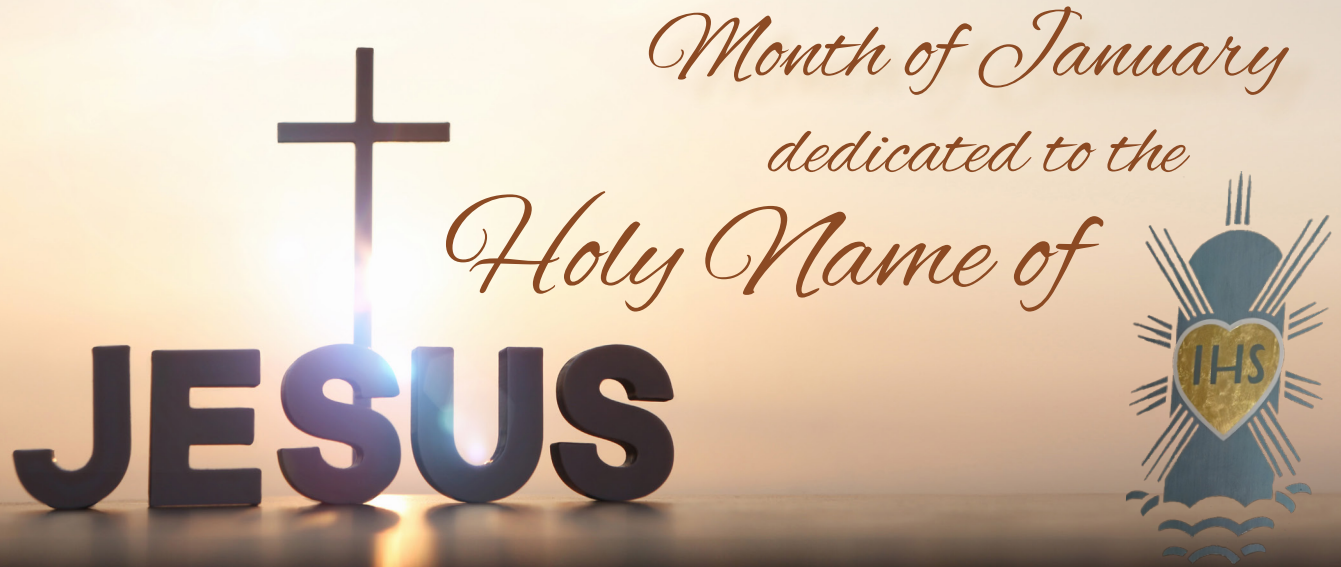


Month of January
dedicated to the
Holy Name of
JESUS



“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth.” - Philippians 2:10

Each month of the year is dedicated to a specific devotion within the Catholic faith and is based on historical events or aspects of the liturgical calendar. **January 3rd, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus**, so it is the perfect time to strengthen our connection to the glorious name of our Lord. The name “Jesus” mean “God saves”, reminding us of the purpose of His existence and the blessing of salvation. Let us always give great honor to the Holy Name of Jesus.



What's happening at Sacred Heart Parish?



Sacred Heart parishioner Mary Del Olmo received consecration to a life of virginity for women living in the world at St. Patrick Cathedral by Bishop Michael Olson on November 22nd, becoming the diocese's first consecrated virgin. See back for more details and photos.

A BIG thank you to all who volunteered their time, talents and treasures to the Sacred Heart Parish Thanksgiving Picnic, held on November 19th. This annual event would not be successful without all of the helping and generous hands of those in our community. This year, we served 1,375 turkey dinners and brought in a total of \$125,290 in funds raised for the parish. See inside for the financial report and more photos.



A Note from Father Joe

Happy 2024 to all! It's been nearly 2,024 years since Our Lord Jesus Christ came to dwell among us, to bring us salvation and to offer eternal life to mankind. It's fitting that we reckon our years according to the birth of Christ, the King of the Universe, the one through whom all things were made.

The arrival of January each year gives us the chance to reflect on the graces of the year behind us and look forward in hope to blessings in the year ahead.

Many of us will make new year's resolutions (I've got a few of my own!) and set goals for ourselves. I think this is a great exercise, as long as we have some spiritual goals in the mix. After all, our human tendency is to slide into sloth, which is a serious sin that basically means spiritual laziness.

If I could suggest one goal for every person reading this column—Catholic or not—I would urge everyone to make prayer a part of every day. St. Thérèse of Lisieux once wrote that “prayer is a surge of the heart, it is a simple look towards Heaven, it is a cry of recognition and love, embracing both trial and joy.” Now, there are many ways to pray. Some prayers are structured and methodical like Mass or the Liturgy of the Hours. Some are said by rote memory like the Lord's Prayer. Some prayers are for other people, some are for ourselves. And occasionally we need some silent time spent with God in a communication that transcends the capacity of words. One thing is for sure—our whole community would benefit if we would all take time to pray.

Reflecting on 2023, I recognize that many graces have come our way for which we should be thankful—this newsletter, for one! I hope that this monthly parish publication lifts your spirits with news of the good things God is doing in our parish.

We also had the much-anticipated completion of the bleachers and press box at Tiger Field. Once again, a huge THANKS to all the contributors to the Capital Campaign!

This year also saw us take pilgrimages to Oklahoma City and to Italy. We've blessed new homes, baptized new babies, welcomed new Catholics and greeted new neighbors. We gathered for potlucks, breakfasts, a chili cook-off, block party and Thanksgiving picnic.

We have also said goodbye to some very beloved members of our parish. We take comfort in the hope that one day we will see them again in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus said, “Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Even in the midst of grief, we find our compassionate Jesus there, who even wept for his own friend, Lazarus.

What graces have you received in the past year? What blessings have come your way? This New Year, let's take a moment to pause, count our blessings, and thank God for all the good he has done for us. Let us also look forward in hope for good things to come.

Yours in Christ Jesus – Fr. Joe

<i>2023 Sacred Heart Parish Thanksgiving Picnic Financial Report</i>		
ITEM	INCOME	EXPENSES
Cake Walk	\$ 1,336.51	\$ -
Sweet Shop	\$ 2,420.50	\$ -
Country Store	\$ 1,932.00	\$ -
Kid's Games	\$ 1,707.00	\$ 579.77
Turkey Dinner	\$ 14,395.00	\$ 3,081.79
Supper	\$ 1,300.29	\$ -
Kettle Corn	\$ 1,061.00	\$ -
Gun Raffle	\$ 6,640.00	\$ -
Main Raffle	\$ 11,674.00	\$ 3,272.33
Auction	\$ 103,215.00	\$ 2,037.00
Heritage Park	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Cash Donations	\$ 10,740.00	\$ -
Security	\$ -	\$ 560.00
Adv/Printing	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00
Starting Cash	\$ -	\$ 4,800.00
Net Results	\$ 156,421.30	\$ 31,130.89
	Gross Income	\$ 156,421.30
	Expenses	\$ 31,130.89
	Net Income	\$ 125,290.41

2023 Sacred Heart Parish Thanksgiving Picnic



Mary Del Olmo Speaks on Consecration to a Life of Virginity

Advent is a season of waiting during which we examine our souls and the space we've made (or neglected to make) for Christ to enter on Christmas. As I journeyed through this Advent, I couldn't help but reflect on my own personal season of waiting. For many years, I knew God was calling me to something, but I wasn't sure what it was. I learned to wait and trust that God was working in the waiting. I spent many hours examining my soul under the gaze of God and listening for His direction. Sacred Heart has played an integral part in that process, offering countless opportunities for sacraments, adoration, and service. I wanted to fit into a specific religious community or apostolate, but I felt a strong pull back to Sacred Heart. The love God has given me to share is too big for an earthly spouse or even for a specific religious community. When I learned about consecration as a virgin living in the world, I felt like I was living the prophesy from Isaiah 40:4 – every valley was lifted up and every mountain leveled out. My path was straight and clear. He was calling me to remain here to share His love by spending my life in prayer and service for you, my Sacred Heart family. If you have any questions about consecrated virginity and discernment, or if you would like me to pray for you in a specific way, please contact me at maryedelolmo@gmail.com.

Read the full story of Del Olmo's consecration on northtexascatholic.org

(Photo credits: NTC/Juan Guajardo and Nannette Walterscheid)



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Congregation Announcements!

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Samuel Anthony Nasche
Zyden Samuel Schilling

POSTAL CUSTOMER
MUENSTER, TX 76252

Mark Your Calendar for the Parish Potluck on Jan 28!



Kick off the new year with football, food and fellowship at our next Parish Potluck on Sunday, January 28th from 11:30am-4pm in the Community Center! Everyone's invited to bring their favorite pot of soup and/or dessert to share with friends and family. A group from the parish will be serving chili and complimentary beverages. Sunday Football will be on the big screen. Don't forget to bring your cards and/or dominoes!