

heartbeat

The Pulse of Sacred Heart Parish, Moline, Illinois

Issue 48
December 2023

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT SACRED HEART

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

DEACON'S CORNER



EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Dear Parishioners,

Maybe you are aware or maybe not, we are in the middle of a Eucharistic Revival in the United States. Next summer is the high point when the Eucharistic Congress is held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Over the last year we participated in Eucharistic processions, talks, and missions stressing the importance of the Eucharist in our lives. As Advent approaches, we once again emphasize the Eucharist as we celebrate Sunday Vespers. On the first three Sundays of Advent, we have evening prayer at 4:00 p.m.

Each week a member of our congregation shares their thoughts on the importance of the Eucharist. Advent is a time when we realize we are waiting, in patience, for the coming of the Lord. There is no better way to prepare for the Lord's return than to gather for the liturgy.

The Liturgy of the Hours is a very important part of the worship of the church. If you never attended an evening prayer service, I encourage you to come and take part. Perhaps you will fall in love with this type of prayer.

May Mary, the Mother of God, pray for you this Advent season,

Fr. Mark





HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 7

5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass

Friday, December 8

6:30 a.m. Mass

8:00 a.m. Mass

6:00 p.m. Mass

Advent Communal Penance Service

Monday, December 18, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Note: There is no 8:00 a.m. Saturday Daily Mass on December 23, 2023.

Christmas Eve Day

Sunday, December 24, 2023 – Regular Sunday Mass

7:00 a.m. Mass

9:15 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. Mass

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2023

4:00 p.m. Mass

- Choir: Children's Choir

- Carols begin at 3:45 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Mass

- Choir: Sacred Sounds

- Carols begin at 5:45 p.m.

10:00 p.m. Mass

- Choir: Cantor Mass

- Carols begin at 9:45 p.m.

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2023

7:00 a.m. Mass

- Cantor Mass

10:00 a.m. Mass

- Cantor Mass

New Year's Eve Day

Sunday, December 31, 2023 – Regular Mass

7:00 a.m. Mass

9:15 a.m. Mass

11:00 a.m. Mass

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1, 2024

7:00 a.m. Mass

10:00 a.m. Mass

P.S. January 14-17, I am helping with silent directed retreats at St. Mary Monastery in Rock Island. Retreatants keep silent and meet with a retreat director once a day. Many people benefit from this type of retreat. The new year seems to be a wonderful time to reflect on our lives and pray for guidance. Mass, Reconciliation, and prayer with the Sisters is also part of this retreat. If you are interested, find more information at the Benet House website: smmsisters.org/retreats/silent-directed-retreat.

DEACON'S CORNER

Wow! Where has the past year gone?

As we enter Advent Season, we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior.

It humbles me to think and to look back over the past year, because on December 3rd Deacon Mike and I are celebrating our first-year anniversary as ordained deacons.

On November 4th, our Diaconate Class of eleven met for a few hours at the Sacré-Coeur Retreat Center in Magnolia, Illinois, where we finished our last year of formation.

I am honored and proud to address all my classmates and brothers in Christ as "Deacon!" Although we had little opportunity for much individual conversations, we did share as a group some of our experiences as the newly ordained.

I was very happy to hear of their experiences and the many blessings we received by means of our ordination, and to see how our Lord is utilizing and maximizing the charisms and talents of my brother deacons in their ministries. In another sense, it was sad to hear that some are underutilized.

It made me think of you who are reading this. You do not need to be ordained clergy to receive the grace and many blessings our Lord bestows on you for using and sharing your talents.

There is no question in my mind that our Lord speaks to us many times throughout each day, with invitations to spend time with Him. Those invites come in so many different ways. He may whisper:

- Would you like to pray the Holy Rosary?
- Would you like to converse with Me by reading your bible?

- Will you attend this year's Advent Vespers based on Bishop Robert Barron's book, *This is My Body — A Call to Eucharistic Revival*?
- Would you like to share your talents by volunteering in one of the many ministries at Sacred Heart?
- Is He inviting you to make an upcoming Cursillo?

As you know, this list could go on and on and on! We all long for "unconditional love" and "peace in our hearts." That is what our Blessed Lord wants to give to us. All we need to do is respond to His whispers!

There is no better time than now to respond. It just might turn this Advent and Christmas season into your best!

I look forward to this blessed time of year. See you at the next Mass!

"Jesus, do in me what You must, so as to do through me, what You will!"

~ Deacon Matt

COOKBOOK RECIPE CALL

As we continue to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Sacred Heart Church, we are putting together a cookbook. This cookbook is going to be more than just recipes. We are including pictures and backstories of different people, buildings, and more. As you go through your recipes for the holidays, please keep us in mind. Not only are we looking for current recipes, we hope you find recipes from your parents and grandparents to share with us. Thank you for contributing to make what may be the last printed cookbook of Sacred Heart a fun book with many memories. Keep an eye on future Heartbeat newsletters and church bulletins for more to come!



HELPING THOSE IN NEED

COOKIE WALK

The 2023 Cookie Walk is Saturday, December 9th, 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., or until the cookies are all sold. As always, we need cookies! It is impossible to have a Cookie Walk without cookies. We also look forward to the candies and different breads you bring to fill our tables. The Sacred Heart Quilters are joining us with quilts they created throughout the year for sale.

You may drop off all your wonderful items at Culemans Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 8th, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Enter through the north doors. Please do not plate or package the cookies. They are put on platters at the sale. We ask that you mark your donations with their name (chocolate chip, no nuts), so we can be sure to label the trays correctly. Thank you for your help.

This year, the proceeds go towards reducing the debt of the St. Damien Center.

Can you help at the Cookie Walk this year? There are different opportunities:

- Friday 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Please email Connie at sixverybusypeople@mchsi.com or call (309) 799-5865.

Founded in 1833, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a worldwide organization of lay Catholics, following Christ's call to serve the poor, the suffering, and the deprived.

Our founding activity, practiced today by the Sacred Heart conference of St. Vincent de Paul, is the home visit. Through these visits, Vincentian members establish personal relationships with our neighbors in need, not only providing material assistance for rent, utilities, and other basic needs, but also offering friendship, understanding, and prayer.

Through your generous donations, we helped 32 people in 14 households with rent, utilities, and personal needs in the amount of \$3,952.

If you are a parish member or someone in Moline who needs assistance, please call the parish office at (309) 762-2362.

If you want to help others in need through our mission, place your donation in an envelope marked St. Vincent de Paul and drop it in the collection basket at Mass. You can also mail your donation to the Lee Parish Center, 1608 – 13th Street, Moline, IL 61265. Please make checks payable to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

If you have any questions or would like to join this ministry, call Anjie Rule at (309) 236-7009.

Thank you for your support!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

Family Event

Family fun for everyone! On October 29th, the Pre-K through 6th graders enjoyed time with family as they created fall time crafts. The 7th graders helped out our AMAZING teachers with their station of activities. Our 8th graders worked on the Mass of Remembrance candles and put treat bags together for the children. Snacks were provided by the families and it was a great time. Our next family event is during Lent.

Our Program

Our Religious Education Program (RE) can only happen with the support and guidance of Father Mark DeSutter, the support of the Religious Ed parents and our Sacred Heart Parish Family. In these times where churches are struggling to have RE programs, we are very blessed, and this happens because of the teachers giving their time to pass on the faith to the children of Sacred Heart Parish.

I cannot exclude the Children's Liturgy of the Word program; we are fortunate we have it at almost every 9:15 a.m. Mass from September to May. Again, Father Mark supports this program and Amy Mack leads this wonderful experience for our young parish members.

Without these Parish Members, where would we be? Thank you to:

- Mandi Stout - Pre-K/Kindergarten
- Veronica Kaufmann and Andrew Camper – First Grade
- Sarah Rockwell – Second Grade
- Kathy Hoegner and Jan Ward – 3rd Grade
- Rebecca Galuska – 4th Grade
- DeAnn Gandia – 5th Grade
- Rachel and Kaitlyn Rockwell – 6th Grade
- Sarah Chavez – 7th Grade
- Amanda Tidwell – 8th Grade



There are so many others who help: Wenndie Kline, Angelina Vallejo (our bilingual support), Dana Ralston, Vera Noe, our young adults, Nataly Vallejo, Grayce Kline, Lily Tidwell, Bianca Meyer. Thank you to all who make our Religious Education program possible!

Operation Homebound

Our students bring joy to those who are unable to attend Mass. Our RE program sends birthday and holiday cards signed by the 110 RE students. At Christmas and Easter, our 7th and 8th graders put together a gift for delivery. This is Christ in action!

RCIC – Rite of Christian Initiation for Children

This program is for children who are past the normal age for the Sacrament of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation. This year we have 12 young people who are working toward receiving their sacraments. This program happens only through the guidance of Debbie Schwiebert. It is offered Tuesday nights at the Lee Parish Center.

As our program continues to grow, we need more hands and hearts to continue to make this program successful. If you would like to take part in this wonderful ministry, or if you know of anyone who needs to receive their sacraments, please call Debbie Patronagio, DRE at (309) 762-2362.



UPCOMING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EVENTS

December 10, 2023, Our Lady of Guadalupe

Come and celebrate this miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe at our 9:15 a.m. Mass. This is a Religious Education student-led Mass with the reenactment of the visions of Our Lady to Juan Diego. Bring your statue of Mary from your Nativity, or any statue of Mary for a special blessing during Mass. After Mass come and share fellowship in the St. Damien Center for treats from the Hispanic Ministry. Children also receive a bag of activities about Our Lady of Guadalupe to take home.

December 24, 2023, Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 p.m.

This is a children-led Mass. You are invited to bring your Baby Jesus statue to Mass for a special blessing.

ADVENT VESPERS: A TIME OF REFLECTION

It is so easy to get swept up into the Christmas excitement when Christmas songs and Christmas decorations appear earlier every year, when they fill department stores along with supermarkets as well. But amidst all the tinsel and too-early cheer of the secular world, are you preparing your heart for the Lord?

The season of Advent is one of waiting and preparation for His coming. Even as we prepare for the joy of His Nativity, we must remember that He came to die for us, for our sins. This realization lends sobriety to our preparation amid all the hustle and bustle that surrounds us. One way to prepare our hearts is to contemplate joining us on the Sundays in Advent as we prepare for the coming of Our Lord.

This year our Advent Vesper Service focuses on the book *This is My Body*, written by Bishop Robert Barron and is in union with the Eucharistic Revival Year. Each guest attending the Vesper Service receives a copy of this book. Join us on December 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 4:00 p.m. in the church as our guest speakers share their thoughts and enjoy the reflective music setting the tone for the coming of our Lord's birth.

Our guest speakers are:

- December 3rd, 4:00 p.m. – Greg & Kathy Schneider
- December 10th, 4:00 p.m. – Denise Maynard
- December 17th, 4:00 p.m. – Aaron Graf

Concert following Vespers by Grace Notes Flute Trio in the church.



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SACRED HEART

CATHOLIC CHURCH
MOLINE, ILLINOIS

1608 13TH STREET
MOLINE, IL 61265

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Please check the bulletin for any updates.

Mass:

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday - Friday: 6:30 a.m.
Monday - Wednesday, Friday, Saturday:
8:00 a.m.
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. School Mass

Confessions:

Saturday: 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the
St. Damien Center

Adoration:

Wednesday: 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
First Fridays: 7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.